



Charlotte County 2019 Legislative Agenda Items

Appropriations Items		
Project Title	Amount Requested (if applicable)	Project Detail
Charlotte Harbor Water Quality Initiative – Phase III Countryman/Ackerman Septic-to-Sewer Conversion Project	\$2,000,000	This project includes constructing central wastewater service to 1,933 properties to replace inadequate On-Site Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems (OSTDSs), restoring the storm water conveyance system to improve removal of sediment and pollutants, and educating property owners on Best Management Practices (BMPs) when applying pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers.
William R. Gaines Jr. Veterans Memorial Park	\$1,000,000	Seeking funding for expansion of recreational facilities at the William R. Gaines, Jr. Veterans Memorial Park. This park will honor the memory of Corporal William Gaines, a local resident of Charlotte County who was killed in the line of duty in the October 23, 1983 bombing of Marine barracks in Beirut during the Lebanese Civil War. The County will seek funds through applicable state grant programs and/or appropriations.
Manasota Key 10-year Beach Management Plan	\$13,586,692	Seeking state cost share for the construction of the Manasota Key 10 year beach management plan which has become critically eroded. This is a regional project that includes shoreline from north of the Sarasota County line to the Stump Pass Beach State Park. Tropical Storm Colin in June of 2016 had severe impacts to the shoreline resulting in the condemnation of two structures. The beach was further eroded during Hurricane Irma. Total project cost for FY19/20 is \$37,064,200.
Community Action Team (CAT)	\$750,000	Seeking continuation funding to maintain the Community Action Team in Charlotte County. Charlotte County was awarded funding for a new CAT team program in the FY18 budget. CAT team show a decrease in child welfare, juvenile justice and psychiatric residential placement. Annual savings are projected between \$1M-\$8.5M annually to the state and Charlotte County based upon

		individual family needs being met through this intervention.
Firefighter Gear Decontamination	\$130,000	Seeking funding to purchase specialized equipment to decontaminate firefighter gear after exposure to fire and chemicals that are known carcinogens.
Workforce Development for Southwest Florida – Airframe & Power Plant Mechanic Program	\$1,750,000	Support funding to support the startup of an Airframe Power Plant Mechanic program that will support the rapidly growing aviation industry in Florida.
Policy Issues		
Travel Expenses		Support the repeal of a 1981 special act for Charlotte County that provided authorization for compensation of a monthly stipend for travel expenses. This provision in statute is inconsistent with current county practices and IRS rules.
Entertainment Expenses		Support the repeal of a 1963 special act for Charlotte County that authorized the Board of County Commissioners to expend funds for the entertainment, travel expenses and lodging of visiting dignitaries or public officials. This provision in statute is obsolete and inconsistent with current county policies which prohibit the use of general revenues for such expenditures.
Beach Management		Support sustainable and recurring funding for beach restoration and management state-wide. Support expansion of current revenue sources, such as the Tourist Development Tax, for coastal communities experiencing critical erosion.
Sales Tax on Remote Internet Purchases		Support legislation authorizing collection of state and local discretionary sales tax on remote internet purchases.
State Aid to Libraries		Support an increase in funding for the State Aid to Libraries grant program which provides critical matching grant funding for operations to expand the capacity of digital and print resources of local libraries. Funding through this grant program has remained at pre-1994 levels despite the increasing cost of providing new and innovative digital technologies and resources to residents.
Affordable Housing		Oppose efforts to sweep the Local Government Housing Trust Fund and the State Housing Trust Fund that provides needed funding for affordable and workforce housing.
Smart Horizons Online High School Program		Support funding for the Smart Horizons Online High School program which was designed to reengage adults into the education system and prepare them for entry into post-secondary career education and/or the workforces.
Support Issues		
Job Growth Grant Fund		Support continued funding of the Florida Job Growth Grant. This funding source provides critical funding for necessary infrastructure and workforce development to support economic development in Florida.
Emergency Shelter for Southwest Florida		Support efforts to build or increase emergency shelter options for Charlotte County and Southwest Florida.