

THE 2020 LEGISLATIVE **PRIORITIES** OF THE CITY OF NAPLES



ADOPTED BY THE
CITY OF NAPLES
Mayor Bill Barnett
Vice-Mayor Gary Price
Councilor Reg Buxton
Councilor Ray Christman
Councilor Terry Hutchison
Councilor Michelle McLeod
Councilor Ellen Seigel

THE CITY OF NAPLES LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION

Senator Kathleen Passidomo, District 28
Representative Bob Rommel, District 106

Preface

The primary interest of the City of Naples is to meet the needs of the public through high-quality efficient governmental services.

The issues and comments reflected in the 2020 Legislative Program for Naples are intended to protect, promote and benefit programs important to providing services to the citizens of Naples.

The City of Naples is appreciative of all of the support and efforts that will be provided on our behalf and pledge to give our best effort to stand with the Governor's Office and the Legislature.

Priorities for the 2020 Legislative Session

Naples submits the following Legislative Priorities and Policy Proposals for consideration by the Governor, Cabinet Members, Members of the Florida Legislature, the Leadership within State Agencies and, other local, state, and federal interests that might be supportive of Florida's communities.

- **Provide Support for key Infrastructure** –Water Quality, Wastewater and Stormwater Projects.

Naples recommends the following

- Additional partnership opportunities with the South Florida Water Management District and Florida Department of Environmental Protection to complete local water related projects;
 - Additional funds applied to the projects already permitted and designed to improve the Caloosahatchee Waterway and corresponding watersheds that impact Naples Bay and the Gulf of Mexico.
- **Meaningful Local Involvement in State Actions Relating to Local Communities** – Naples requests that state agencies provide “Meaningful Local Involvement” when establishing rules or developing agency actions that impact the local community or its neighboring communities.
Meaningful local involvement includes:
 - Notifying local officials of agency actions;
 - Providing opportunity for local input;
 - Providing for a “full cost disclosure” and a complete analysis of impacts;
 - Provisions for local government to express support or opposition to proposed actions.
 - **Establishment of incentives for businesses entering the market for recycled materials in Florida.**
 - **Provide Special Project Infrastructure Funding:** Naples requests special funding to address special infrastructure and local projects including Water, Wastewater and Stormwater Projects.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT AND FISCAL POLICY PROPOSALS

Local Ordinance Decision on Smoking in Public Places

- Provide local government decision making authority by ordinance to regulate smoking at public places like beaches, piers, parks and athletic fields.

Cost Shifts and Increasing Costs

- Oppose the shifting of program costs to the local level.
- Oppose legislation that shifts administrative or un-funded responsibilities to local governments.

Affordable Housing

- Maintain and protect the existing state housing trust funds for affordable housing programs, specifically preserve the Sadowski Trust Fund to be used solely for building affordable housing.

Liability Issues

- Maintain Sovereign Immunity Limits and the current process for resolving claims.
- Evaluate and revise the legislation pertaining to presumption relating to Police and Firefighters to ensure claims are in fact job-related.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT POLICY PROPOSALS

Water Projects

- Provide funding for Sewer and Water Line Hookups and Storm Water Projects including Innovative Water Supply Initiatives and other local infrastructure project needs.
- Consider increasing the amount of funding and the flexibility of the program to increase State partnerships with local governments to ease the burden of septic to sewer system conversions.

Coastal and Marine Impacts

- Continue to support and increase funding for research and program initiatives that will ascertain the causes and provide for remedies relating to Red Tide, algae blooms, forms of water pollution and other related environmental degradation occurring in Florida's coastal waters.
- Initiate comprehensive programs to offset the economic impacts that Red Tide, Hurricane Damage, and Coastal Water quality problems have on all elements of Florida's marine and tourism industries.

Growth Management

- Ensure that growth management proposals are not one size fits all, overly burdensome and do not limit local control.
- Oppose the pre-emption of local ordinances regulating short term rentals.
- Full funding for the Florida Forever Program

TRANSPORTATION AND ROAD POLICY PROPOSALS

State Road Capital Improvements

- US 41/Tamiami Trail right-of-way design to be fully vetted with the Naples community prior to any design amendments to number of travel lanes.

APPROPRIATIONS REQUESTS

Naples Bay/Red Tide Mitigation Project Phase 2:

Planning, Design and Engineering – \$1,100,000 (PD&E Reimbursement)

There are approximately 930 properties that remain on failing septic tanks within the Goodlette Frank and US 41 corridor. The total estimated construction cost to install a sanitary sewer system is \$14.7 million. The design cost is estimated to be \$2.2 million. The residents receiving the benefit of the sanitary sewer system will pay for the system through special assessment. Continued grant funding will reduce property owner's assessment cost.

Design of the next phases will begin in early 2020 completed in late 2020 with construction to begin in 2021. It is estimated that construction will last for at least 6 to 7 years.

More information may be found at the following link:

<https://www.naplesgov.com/citymanager/page/design-phase-ii-%E2%80%93-93-naples-bay-red-tide-septic-tank-mitigation-project>

Gulf of Mexico Beach Stormwater Outfall Pipe Removal & Water Quality Project:

Construction (2020) – \$5,000,000

Total cost – \$10,000,000

In 2012, FDEP required the City to develop a plan to remove stormwater outfall pipes from the recreational shoreline of Naples' beaches to allow beach renourishment work to be permitted. After significant planning and design, the City plans to begin construction to remove stormwater and outfall pipes from shoreline of the Gulf of Mexico in April 2020. The project, as permitted, will improve water quality through lake treatment (remove nutrients, ultra-violet light treatment to eliminate bacteria, and a series of bar screens for debris removal), then pump stormwater through an underground pipe that will discharge clean fresh water 1,100-feet offshore through a spreader system. This project will significantly improve water quality and shoreline habitat (sea turtles), reduce flooding and beach erosion, and remove man-made obstructions (pipes and piling supports) from the natural beach.

More information may be found at the following link:

<https://www.naplesgov.com/citymanager/page/gulf-mexico-beach-stormwater-outfall-pipe-removal-water-quality-project>

Naples Supports Collier County Government Projects

Freedom Park Veterans Memorial Pedestrian & Bicycle Overpass:

Planning, Design and Engineering – \$600,000 (PD&E);

Construction – \$6,000,000

Fred W. Coyle Freedom Park is a 50-acre passive park that features boardwalks over lakes and wetlands designed to treat upland stormwater. The Park is frequently visited by pedestrians and bicyclists; however, it is isolated from several other destination points by a busy 6-lane highway with no nearby opportunity for safe crossing. The construction of a pedestrian and bicycle overpass would provide for safe and efficient crossing thereby connecting Freedom Park to the Gordon River Greenway. The Greenway provides for pedestrian and bicycle connectivity to other important destination points including the Conservancy of Southwest Florida, the Naples Airport, the Naples Zoo, Baker Park and Naples Beaches.

Belle Meade/Golden Gate Canal Project:

Total Cost – \$32,000,000

Shoreline modifications and extensive canal construction for urban and agricultural drainage has changed the timing and quantity of freshwater inflows to coastal waters. These changes have dramatically affected water quality and quantity of many of Collier County's estuaries. Collier County and the City of Naples developed the Golden Gate Watershed Improvement Program Initiative with the goal of fostering the implementation of recommended projects based on environmentally sustainable management system strategies aimed at protecting, preserving, and restoring the resource in areas that have experienced the highest impact due to human activity, while encouraging efficient urban development in areas with the highest existing and potential urban development in the County.

Specifically, this project would build pump stations that would draw water from the Golden Gate Canal System and spread that water over several hundred acres of land within the Belle Meade region of the Picayune Strand State Forest, thereby rehydrating former wetlands and recharging the underground water supply aquifer. At the same time and equally critical, this project reduces pollutant loading and freshwater inundation of Naples Bay, thereby enhancing estuaries and wetlands.

NAPLES CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information regarding the items within the Naples 2020 Legislative Priorities please find the available contacts below:

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