

NEFRC

LEGISLATIVE POLICY COMMITTEE

Meeting



October 22, 2025
1:00 pm

Northeast Florida Regional
Hybrid Meeting
VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON



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MEMORANDUM

DATE: OCTOBER 16, 2025

TO: NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE POLICY COMMITTEE

FROM: ELIZABETH PAYNE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER 

RE: OCTOBER 22, 2025 COMMITTEE AGENDA

A hybrid meeting of the Legislative Policy Committee will be held on Wednesday, October 22, 2025 via Zoom and In-Person at the Nassau County, OMB conference room, 96135 Nassau Place, Yulee, FL 32097. See virtual link below:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://nefrc-org.zoom.us/j/83822157465>

Meeting ID: 838 2215 7465



Northeast Florida Regional Council

LEGISLATIVE POLICY COMMITTEE

A G E N D A

Nassau County, OMB Conference Room
96135 Nassau Place
Yulee, FL 32097

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://nefrc-org.zoom.us/j/83822157465>
Meeting ID: 838 2215 7465

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2025

(ADDED OR MODIFIED ITEMS IN BOLD)
(*Denotes Action Required)

TAB

1. Call to Order, Welcome, Roll Call – Chair Martin
2. Invitation to Speak – Chair Martin
Members of the public are welcome and encouraged to speak on any item brought before the Council and will be recognized during public comments.
- * 3. Approval of 9-25-25 Meeting Minutes – Chair Martin1
- * 4. 2026 Legislative Priorities Discussion – Ms. Payne2
5. Public Comment – LIMITED TO **3 MINUTES PER SPEAKER**
6. Next Meeting Date and Location: **TBD**
7. Adjournment

***Denotes Action Item**



Agenda Item

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NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCIL

Legislative Policy Committee

September 25, 2025

MEETING SUMMARY

A meeting of the Legislative Policy Committee was held virtually via zoom on Thursday, September 25, 2025 at 1:050 p.m. **Chair Martin** called the meeting to order with the following members present:

Present: Commissioner Dance, Commissioner Martin, Commissioner Renninger, Mayor Lynch, Mr. Register, Mr. Kennedy Mr. Bourre, and Mr. Conkey

Excused: Commissioner Harvey, Commissioner Murphy

Staff Present: Eric Anderson, Elizabeth Payne, Kenajawa Woody and Sheron Forde

Invitation to Speak

Chair Martin stated that members of the public were invited to speak on any item to come before the Committee.

2025 Legislative Priorities Discussion

Discussion was held on the priorities received and Ms. Payne identified possible priorities for consideration for 2025. Following discussion, the suggested Regional Priorities were identified as: **Infrastructure** (Water/Wastewater, Roadways); **Beach Renourishment**; **Amendments to SB180**; and **Property Tax Reform** (includes unfunded mandates). Also recognized were ongoing priority issues such as, **Affordable Housing** (Regional Housing Plan, Increase to SHIP funds, and Live Local Act changes); **Flood Mitigation/Resiliency Projects** (Septic to Sewer, Erosion control-living shorelines and seawalls, and Repetitive loss properties) and continued support of the **Black History Museum** in St. Johns County

Due to the early start of the 2026 Legislative Session, the priorities will be brought to the October 2nd Board meeting for approval. Upon approval, the Priorities will be printed and provided to the Members prior to, and in preparation for, the 2026 Legislative Session.

Public Comment: None. Next Meeting Date: TBD

Meeting Adjourned at 2:03 p.m.

John Martin
Chair

Elizabeth Payne
Chief Executive Officer

Agenda Item

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REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES 2026

LEGISLATIVE CONTACTS

Elizabeth Payne

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Hon. John Martin

Nassau County Commissioner

Legislative Policy Committee Chair

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2026 REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Infrastructure

Urban, transitioning and rural local governments in Northeast Florida needs the investment in infrastructure to meet growing demands. Investment in new construction, increased capacity for existing facilities, and additional funding and creation of more robust programs targeting infrastructure.

- Water and wastewater utilities
- Septic to Sewer conversions
- Roadways, both new and existing
- Broadband expansion
- Support for rural county programs - SCRAP, SCOP, CIGP, TRIP

Local Home Rule

Local control is being degraded through existing legislation that takes away the ability to plan for future development, provide housing choices in appropriate locations and pay for critical services and bear the costs of continual unfunded mandates.

- Amendments to Senate Bill 180 (Emergencies) as it relates to preemptions on growth management plans and regulations
- Amendments to Live Local Act to provide local control in selecting appropriate areas for housing
- Considerations on the impact to local governments when considering property tax reform

ONGOING PRIORITY ISSUES

Attainable Housing

Across the state, there is a lack of attainable housing for the growing workforce. Additional programs and funding are needed to help local governments, nonprofits and private interests meet the growing need.

- Develop Regional Housing Plan
- Increase in SHIP funds

Flood Mitigation Through Resiliency Projects

Northeast Florida, both coastal and inland counties, are vulnerable to extreme rainfall, storm surge, tidal flooding and the effects of compound flooding. Resiliency projects reduce risk to people and property.

- Increased funding for existing state programs, e.g. Resilient Florida Program and other related grant and match assistance for federal programs
- Provide additional resources to address erosion control through living shorelines, seawalls and beach renourishment
- Prioritize repetitive loss properties with funding for property acquisition, building elevation or relocation
- Continue programs that hardened critical infrastructure to protect during flood events and disasters

CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR BLACK HISTORY MUSEUM IN ST. JOHNS COUNTY