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REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES 2026

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2026 REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Infrastructure

Urban, transitioning and rural local governments in Northeast Florida need the investment in infrastructure to meet growing demands. This includes 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 the ability to 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 Plans
- 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



ONGOING SUPPORT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE FLORIDA MUSEUM OF BLACK HISTORY IN ST JOHNS COUNTY