

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES 2025



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2025 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Resiliency

Strengthen community resiliency programs for infrastructure (including water, wastewater and septic), beach renourishment, and flood and sea level rise mitigation projects. Proactive actions reduce long term costs to a community and risk to persons and property. This includes providing additional state funding opportunities, prioritizing mitigation programs and appropriation requests; and assisting with match requirements and capital stacking with various funding sources.

Housing

Northeast Florida lacks housing diversity, driving affordability challenges across the region. The need for additional housing options, including multi-family units, rentals, and homeownership opportunities, exists across the State. The Live Local Act is not tailored to individual counties and may not address their specific housing needs. Counties should be allowed to conduct housing assessments to identify local needs and set appropriate affordability standards for implementation.

Infrastructure

Infrastructure support for small, rural and transitioning Counties to include the SCRAP and SCOP as well as CIGP and TRIP programs with a primary focus on transportation. There is also a need for utility infrastructure funding as many municipalities in Northeast Florida struggle to keep up with the infrastructure demands tied to population growth and rising costs. There is a strain on existing resources and a need for investment in new infrastructure across the region.

Public Camping & Sleeping

Legislation passed in 2024 prohibits cities and counties from allowing any person to sleep or camp on public property. While counties and municipalities can designate property for up to one year with necessary provisions, this creates financial hardships for local governments, particularly smaller and rural communities. The statute also allows residents or business owners to file a civil action, further straining local governments resources including the burden of defending civil lawsuits. The legislature is encouraged to review this law to include exemptions for counties and municipalities without homeless shelters or resources and to provide funding for services that prevent public camping and sleeping.

**Support the recommended location for the Florida
Museum of Black History in St. Augustine, Florida**