

GUIDING PRINCIPLES: COMMUNITY AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Economic Development

Economic prosperity depends on communities with dependable basic services, but also where the quality of life encourages businesses and individuals to flourish. Maintaining and enhancing the standards that Floridians expect and deserve will require more innovative cooperation between the public and private sectors. Therefore, counties need flexible tools to develop economic strategies that target local strengths, enhance and expand employment opportunities, and maintain adequate infrastructure.

- CUA 1. The Florida Association of Counties supports measures that empower local governments and provides resources to work with community partners towards the creation of quality jobs, more vibrant Florida communities, as well as an enhanced level of national and global competitiveness.
- CUA 2. The Florida Association of Counties supports legislation and appropriation that enhances the efficiency and effectiveness of the state and local government partnership in economic development through the greater use of targeted strategic investments in infrastructure and programmatic enhancements designed to induce sustainable economic activity resulting in a consistent positive return on investment for both state and local governments.
- CUA 3. The Florida Association of Counties supports state and local policies, programs, and funding mechanisms that not only preserve, but enhance, the Florida tourism and film industries.

Growth Management

The impact of growth and development in Florida during the last 30 years has brought significant benefits and costs to county government. Given Florida's expected future growth and because Florida's communities are remarkably diverse, Florida's counties must have flexibility in planning decisions to address unique local concerns and conditions. County officials must have the ability to make reasonable decisions for the advancement of the local community on zoning, comprehensive planning, transportation, and infrastructure issues without being subjected to prohibitive claims for damages for infringement on private property rights.

- CUA 4. The Florida Association of Counties supports comprehensive policies that reduce a county's risk to the impacts of coastal and inland flooding.
- CUA 5. The Florida Association of Counties recognizes and supports the critical role Regional Planning Councils play in supporting communities by coordinating intergovernmental solutions to growth problems on greater-than-local issues, providing technical assistance to local governments.
- CUA 6. The Florida Association of Counties supports policies that provide a mechanism to ensure the extra-jurisdictional impacts from large-scale development projects are adequately addressed within the impacted counties prior to development approval.

- CUA 7. The Florida Association of Counties supports retaining the full amount of dedicated documentary tax revenues to fund state and local affordable housing programs.
- CUA 8. The Florida Association of Counties supports the development and maintenance of dedicated funding of the Florida Forever Grant Program and Florida Communities Trust which provide recreational opportunities for parks, open space, greenways and trails to help meet growth challenges and protect natural resources.
- CUA 9. The Florida Association of Counties supports the distribution of land management appropriations to local governments in proportion to the percentage of public conservation lands managed within local jurisdictions.
- CUA 10. The Florida Association of Counties supports broad county authority to regulate the location and number of medical marijuana facilities within county boundaries.

Transportation

FAC believes that Florida's transportation system is a vital component in building and sustaining communities, moving people and goods, and developing competition at local and regional levels, and on a national scale. Florida's counties play a critical role in the state's transportation system. Florida's counties should be recognized as major partners in the maintenance and development of Florida's transportation infrastructure and provided levels of funding and authority that adequately reflect their role in the state's transportation system.

- CUA 11. The Florida Association of Counties supports funding for all modes of the state and local transportation infrastructure network.
- CUA 12. The Florida Association of Counties supports policies and funding that encourage and facilitate more efficient and effective use of regional transportation solutions.
- CUA 13. The Florida Association of Counties supports increased critical state funding for the Small County Road Assistance program (SCRAP).
- CUA 14. The Florida Association of Counties supports increased state funding for the Small County Outreach Program (SCOP).
- CUA 15. The Florida Association of Counties supports policies providing for Strategic Intermodal System funds to be used on roads and other transportation facilities not designated on the SIS network if the improvement relieves congestion on the SIS.
- CUA 16. The Florida Association of Counties opposes any effort to divert revenues from the state transportation trust fund for non-transportation purposes.