



**MEMORANDUM**  
City Manager's Office

**TO:** Honorable Mayor, Vice Mayor, and City Commissioners  
City Clerk Heather Faust, City Clerk  
Jerome Fletcher II, ICMA-CM, MPA, City Manager  
Jason Yarborough, ICMA-CM, Deputy City Manager  
Julie Bellia, Assistant City Manager

**FROM:** Todd Miles, Legislative Analyst

**SUBJECT:** 2025 Legislative Priorities

**DATE:** November 15, 2024

The 2025 Legislative session will convene March 4, 2025. A preliminary discussion of the City's 2025 legislative priorities was conducted at the September 9, 2024, Commission Workshop and a consensus was reached to continue the discussion after the 2024 elections in order to give newly elected Commissioners an opportunity to participate in formulating the City's final 2025 priorities. State Legislative committees will begin their interim committee weeks in early December and, accordingly, City staff suggests that the Commission consider approving its 2025 Legislative priorities at its December 10, 2024, meeting. The City's 2025 State Legislative Priorities after Commission approval will be promptly shared with the City's lobbyist in Tallahassee so he can keep the City informed of related bills being filed and pending committee action on such bills.

On a parallel track, the Sarasota County Commission approved its 2025 State and Federal Legislative Priorities at its August 28, 2024, meeting. These priorities were provided to the City Commission prior to the September 9, 2024, Commission Workshop and incorporated into the discussion at that meeting. Set forth below for consideration in anticipation of the December 10, 2024, discussion are summaries of staff comments and specific remarks expressed by the identified Commissioners at the September 9, 2024, workshop, and attached are the 2024 State and Federal Legislative Priorities.

After requesting input from all Directors we have received the following suggestions for your consideration as 2025 priorities:

Development Services Department:

SUPPORT grant funding for long-range planning, resiliency, and protection of natural resources.

OPPOSE further limitations and regulations regarding review and issuance of building permits.

OPPOSE preemption of local control regarding long-range planning, land use, development, affordable housing, and procedures for review and approval of same.

North Port Police Department:

SUPPORT grant funding for our Police Department Headquarters.

Parks and Recreation Department:

SUPPORT all the County priorities listed under Parks, Recreation & Natural Resources, although the last item related to shoreline would not be specific to North Port.

Fire Department:

OPPOSE state legislation (supported by County in its approved priorities) removing “mandatory” from state statutes regarding evacuation orders.

Commissioner Remarks from September 9<sup>th</sup> Workshop:

SUPPORT Limiting Sadowsky Funds to affordable housing purposes only (per Commissioner Langdon).

SUPPORT County approved environmental protection priorities (per Commissioner Emrich).

SUPPORT regional development of an upstream reservoir for stormwater management (per Commissioner Langdon).



## 2024 State Legislative Priorities

### Home rule

OPPOSE cost shifts, unfunded mandates, or preemptions of North Port City Charter authority

SUPPORTS Florida Constitution which gives local governments authority to self-govern

### Infrastructure

SUPPORTS funding resources for infrastructure including:

- Widening and extension of local roads leading to evacuation routes
- Construction of new I-75 interchanges in North Port and completion of I-75 full interchange at State Road 681
- Water quality improvements, storm water management, providing of septic to sewer conversion incentives, testing and resiliency
- Broadband internet access for all

### Mental health

SUPPORTS legislation that will provide funding for early intervention and treatment of mental health issues for all ages

### Affordable housing

SUPPORTS initiatives and incentives to support affordable housing projects that do not preempt commercial land uses

SUPPORTS amendment to Live Local Act to define minimum commercial use threshold for mixed-use residential projects

SUPPORTS use of the Sadowski Fund for local housing assistance as intended and approved by statewide voters

### Suncoast Technical College

SUPPORTS continuation of funding to ensure all facility and growing student population needs are met

### Property insurance

SUPPORTS state efforts to reform property insurance industry

### Jails, juvenile justice

SUPPORTS state funding of jail diversion and efforts to reduce juvenile detention

SUPPORTS increasing the fees provided for in Chapter 983 Florida Statutes to fund Teen Courts



## North Port Facts

- Largest city in population and landmass in Sarasota County
- North Port-Bradenton-Sarasota Metropolitan Statistical Area
- 104.1 square miles with a portion of U.S. 41 and Interstate 75
- More than 81,800 residents
- More than 80 miles of freshwater canals, from which it draws its drinking water during certain parts of the year
- Home to the Myakka State Forest; North Port is the only city in the state with an entire state forest within its boundaries
- More than 800 miles of local roads
- Two high schools, three middle schools, seven elementary schools

## North Port City Commission\*

Mayor **Barbara Langdon**

Vice Mayor **Alice White**

Commissioner **Pete Emrich**

Commissioner **Debbie McDowell**

Commissioner **Phil Stokes**

\*Seated at time of print

For more information, call **941-429-7000**  
or visit **NorthPortFL.gov**.



## 2024 Federal Legislative Priorities

### Infrastructure

SUPPORTS funding resources for infrastructure including:

- Widening and extension of local roads that function as evacuation routes
- Construction of new I-75 interchanges in North Port and completion of I-75 full interchange at State Road 681
- Water quality improvements, storm water management, providing of septic to sewer conversion incentives, testing and resiliency
- Broadband internet access for all

### Mental health

SUPPORTS legislation that will provide funding for early intervention and treatment of mental health issues for all ages

### Workforce housing

SUPPORTS initiatives and incentives to support and provide affordable workforce housing programs

### Disaster recovery

SUPPORTS efforts to:

- Receive faster reimbursement from FEMA after disasters
- Allow 120 days for debris clearance fully reimbursed by FEMA

### Emergency medical transportation

SUPPORTS increased Medicaid reimbursement funding for Public Emergency Medical Transportation



## North Port Facts

- Largest city in population and landmass in Sarasota County
- North Port-Bradenton-Sarasota Metropolitan Statistical Area
- 104.1 square miles with a portion of U.S. 41 and Interstate 75
- More than 81,800 residents
- More than 80 miles of freshwater canals, from which it draws its drinking water during certain parts of the year
- Home to the Myakka State Forest; North Port is the only city in the state with an entire state forest within its boundaries
- More than 800 miles of local roads
- Two high schools, three middle schools, seven elementary schools

## North Port City Commission\*

Mayor **Barbara Langdon**

Vice Mayor **Alice White**

Commissioner **Pete Emrich**

Commissioner **Debbie McDowell**

Commissioner **Phil Stokes**

\*Seated at time of print

For more information, call **941-429-7000**  
or visit **NorthPortFL.gov**.