



## City of North Port's 2019 STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

### 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 70,000 residents, median age 44, and more than 12,000 children

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, six elementary schools

### North Port City Commission

Mayor Chris Hanks  
Vice Mayor Debbie McDowell  
Commissioner Vanessa Carusone  
Commissioner Pete Emrich  
Commissioner Jill Luke

### For More Information, Contact:

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## 2019 Legislative Priorities

### Home Rule

The City of North Port seeks to strengthen and protect the fundamental concept of local self-government, and will oppose legislative efforts to impede the constitutional right of Florida citizens to govern themselves under the Municipal Home Rule Act. Additionally, the City of North Port opposes the Legislature's persistent intrusion into local finances, which are necessary to provide financial stability and essential services uniquely required by municipal residents and local businesses. The City of North Port supports ensuring that any revisions to the Communications Services Tax (CST) are revenue neutral and allow for growth. The City of North Port also supports local government control over the regulation of Sober Homes and Short-Term Rentals. The City of North Port supports any legislation that will return the control over Municipal Right of Way to municipalities. The City of North Port supports legislation to restore and preserve local zoning authority.

### Infrastructure

The City of North Port supports any available State funding for the widening of the Englewood Interchange Connector Road. This is a hurricane evacuation route for three counties: Sarasota, Charlotte and Lee. The City of North Port supports any State funding of other arterial roads and storm water projects. The City of North Port also supports new infrastructure projects to improve the City of North Port's overall quality of life, such as widening Price Boulevard and expanding the Legacy Trail. The City of North Port opposes any legislation that would mandate additional costs to local governments for the relocation of private utility equipment.

### Environmental

The City of North Port supports securing direct state funding for aquifer storage and recovery systems and storm water mitigation programs, enhancing the Myakkahatchee Creek area which includes the environmental park and greenway and obtaining financial assistance related to the protection, enhancement, and preservation of Warm Mineral Springs and its historic significance.

### Public Safety and Wellness

The City of North Port supports the elimination of the Certificate of Need process. North Port is the largest city without a hospital. The City of North Port supports prohibiting a person from recreationally discharging a firearm outdoors in a primarily residential area less than 4 acres. The City of North Port supports legislation to hold Community Development Districts and other government entities accountable for meeting property standard codes as set forth by municipalities. The City of North Port supports efforts to increase funding and programs for suicide prevention and mental health programs. The City supports State analysis of Department of Children and Families and reorganization. The City supports research into ways to prevent Red Tide and blue green algae and supports funding and improved options to address flooding issues in North Port that is impacted by surrounding counties and municipalities. Moreover, the City of North Port supports the Florida League of Cities Legislative Program, the legislative priorities of the other municipalities within the County and the legislative priorities of Sarasota County and Charlotte County unless specific issues conflict with the North Port Commission positions.