

## Draft 2025 North Port State Legislative Priorities

(red denotes sourced proposed additions to 2024 priorities which are set forth below in black)

### 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

OPPOSE further limitations and regulations regarding review and issuance of building permits (*Director Alaina Ray*)

OPPOSE preemption of local control regarding long-range planning, land use, development, affordable housing, and procedures for review and approval of same (*Director Alaina Ray*)

### 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
- Regional development of upstream reservoir for stormwater management (*Commissioner Langdon*)
- Long-range planning, resiliency, and protection of natural resources (*Director Alaina Ray*)
- New Police Headquarters (*Chief Todd Garrison*)

### 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.

### **Evacuation Orders**

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

### **Environmental** (*all priorities below mirror County priorities – support voiced by Vice Mayor Emrich*)

SUPPORT efforts to reduce harmful algae blooms in the Gulf of Mexico and bay waters

SUPPORT efforts to reduce the use of pesticides that directly or indirectly affect native pollinators

SUPPORT ban on offshore oil and gas exploration, hydraulic fracturing, and drilling in Gulf of Mexico

SUPPORT continued funding for derelict vessel removal

OPPOSE preemption of local fertilizer ordinances

OPPOSE limitations on the ability to regulate wetlands and mitigate impacts to wetlands, or the protection of natural resources, including native habitats and trees

### **Parks, Recreation, And Natural Resources** (*all priorities below mirror County priorities – support voiced by Director Sandy Pfundheller*)

SUPPORT regional trail and The Legacy Trail connectors grant funding requests through SunTrail and other state funding sources such as the Florida Department of Environmental Protection Recreational Trails Program

SUPPORT state funding for removal and control of nuisance invasive vegetation and animals on public lands including the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Upland Invasive Removal Program

SUPPORT land acquisition programs that prioritize conservation of land for wildlife habitat, focused on land that improves corridors and habitat for threatened plant and animal species

SUPPORT funding of the Florida Forever program for purposes including land preservation programs within the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, water management districts, and Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program

SUPPORT continued funding for Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission boating access improvement projects on coastal and inland waters