



**Board of County Commissioners  
Leon County, Florida**

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**Agenda Item  
Executive Summary**

January 19, 2010

**Title:**

Ratification of Board Actions Taken at the October 27, 2009 Workshop on the 2010 State and Federal Legislative Priorities

**Staff:**

Parwez Alam, County Administrator  
Vincent S. Long, Deputy County Administrator  
Ken Morris, Director of Legislative Affairs and Economic Development

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**Issue Briefing:**

This agenda item requests Board ratification of actions taken at the October 27, 2009 Workshop on the 2010 State and Federal Legislative Priorities (Attachment #1).

During the presentation and discussion of the legislative priorities, the Board directed staff to refine the County's substantive priorities to the most pressing issues and to support the Florida Association of Counties in achieving its broader substantive initiatives. Based on this direction from the Board, staff has provided five substantive priorities for the 2010 state legislative session (Attachment #2).

1. Opposition of State Cost Shifts to Counties
2. Protection of State Workforce
3. Energy Reform
4. Property Tax Reform
5. Support the Florida Association of Counties

**Fiscal Impact:**

This item has no fiscal impact to the County.

**Staff Recommendation:**

Option #1: Ratify the Board actions taken at the October 27, 2009 Workshop on the 2010 State and Federal Legislative Priorities.

Title: Ratification of Board Actions Taken at the October 27, 2009 Workshop on the 2010 State and Federal Legislative Priorities  
January 19, 2010  
Page 2

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## Report and Discussion

### Background:

Each year the Board conducts a workshop with staff on the County's state and federal legislative priorities. On October 27, 2009, the Board held a workshop to discuss the legislative issues for the 2010 state and federal sessions.

### Analysis:

Deputy County Administrator Vincent Long began the workshop by introducing the County's state contract lobbyists and County staff responsible for the day to day oversight of the Board's legislative program. Staff provided the Board an oral report on the seven appropriation requests and the 13 policy statements proposed for the 2010 state and federal legislative sessions. Further, County staff and the contract lobbying team outlined the fiscal challenges facing the state in the current FY 2010 budget year and the anticipated shortfalls for FY 2011.

On October 6, 2009, the Legislature notified the public that it would not open the Community Budget Issue Requests (CBIR) system to consider appropriation requests. This forced the County to refine its appropriations requests to avoid unrealistic expectations for securing state funding for local projects. Most of the County's efforts for funding community projects in 2010 and 2011 will be through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) and the federal appropriations process including the reauthorization of Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU). However, the County's contract lobbying teams will continue to pursue funding at the state and federal levels for the following priority projects approved by the Board:

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|--|---------------|
| • Leon County/ City of Tallahassee Public Safety Complex     | \$5 million   |
| • Capital Circle NW/SW S.R. 20 Intersection Improvement      | \$15 million  |
| • Woodville Highway  | \$3.4 million |
| • Woodville Sewer  | \$500,000     |
| • Lafayette Street Pedestrian Tunnel                         | \$2.2 million |
| • Chaires Park (FRDAP Grant)                                 | \$112,000     |
| • Eastside Branch Library (State Library Construction Grant) | \$500,000     |

During the presentation and discussion of legislative priorities, the Board directed staff to refine the County's substantive priorities to the most pressing issues and to support the Florida Association of Counties in achieving its broader substantive initiatives. The Board also directed staff to revise the County's position on energy reform to support the "funding of large scale energy production programs" that reduce dependency on foreign oil and promote energy efficiency along with the use of alternative and renewable energies. Based on the direction from the Board, staff has provided five substantive priorities for the 2010 state legislative session (Attachment #2):

1. Opposition of State Cost Shifts to Counties
2. Protection of State Workforce
3. Energy Reform
4. Property Tax Reform
5. Support the Florida Association of Counties

Title: Ratification of Board Actions Taken at the October 27, 2009 Workshop on the 2010 State and Federal Legislative Priorities  
January 19, 2010  
Page 3

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The Board also directed staff to coordinate with other local government entities to determine potential partnerships and shared interests to address during the 2010 legislative session. Commissioner Desloge led this effort and set up a meeting between the County, the City of Tallahassee, and the Leon County School Board. Staff and contract lobbying teams took part in this meeting and outlined their concerns for the disproportionate effect the state's budget shortfall will have on Leon County residents if the Legislature chooses to cut services and layoff employees. This work group plans to address these concerns with members of the Leon County Legislative Delegation and meet again to conceive a plan to offset the potential reduction of the state workforce.

The Leon County Legislative Delegation meeting is scheduled for January 11, 2010 and the 2010 state legislative session will begin on March 2, 2010. Staff will prepare the Board's legislative priorities in a Quick Reference Guide to assist Commissioners and the lobbying team in advocating at the Capitol with legislators.

**Options:**

1. Ratify the Board actions taken at the October 27, 2009 Workshop on the 2010 State and Federal Legislative Priorities.
2. Do not ratify actions taken by the Board at the October 27, 2009 Workshop on the 2010 State and Federal Legislative Priorities.
3. Board Direction.

**Recommendation:**

Option #1.

**Attachments:**

1. October 27, 2009 Workshop Item on the 2010 State and Federal Legislative Priorities.
2. Leon County's 2010 Substantive Policy Issues for the 2010 State Legislative Session.

PA/VSL/KM