

2022 STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



The City will seek funding through grants and other sources to assist in implementing projects to meet the needs of our citizens and improve their quality of life.

DOWNTOWN WATERFRONT RESILIENCY

As part of Imagine Clearwater, incorporate measures that will protect the Downtown waterfront park from rising sea levels and flooding, while featuring renewable energy initiatives.

1. Wave attenuation walls – \$1.2 million

Safeguard building infrastructure from catastrophic erosion by receding flood waters after a major storm event. Wave attenuating walls are being installed to shield the dockmaster's building and the new bandshell.

2. Site fill – \$1.4 million

Raise the overall elevation of the site. A large amount of site fill is included in the design to lift most of the site by several feet to protect the site and various built infrastructure pieces.

3. Engineered Stormwater Control System – \$1.3 million

Construct a comprehensive stormwater control system that includes mechanisms for the collection, conveyance, retention, and mitigation of stormwater on the site. The system is being upgraded through subterranean as well as architectural features, including a significant gutter system on the bandshell seating canopy to convey stormwater away from the event area.

4. Solar Panels – \$250,000

Install solar panels on several buildings within the park as part of the City's commitment to Greenprint 2.0, Clearwater's sustainability plan.

ISSUES TO SUPPORT

We support legislation and programs that benefit municipalities and assist in implementing services to meet the needs of our citizens and improve their quality of life including:

- Repeal the state preemption of vacation rental property laws to allow local governments to regulate such properties to protect the health and welfare of their residents, visitors and businesses.
- Allow municipalities to establish smoke-free zones within the boundaries of a city park.
- Ensure all Florida State and Local Housing Trust Fund monies are used exclusively to finance affordable and workforce housing programs and rental assistance programs.
- Preserve the statewide program that assists local governments with maintaining Spring Training facilities.
- Develop funding opportunities to coordinate state resiliency programs with those of local governments.
- Increase funding for mental health services.
- Repeal the state preemption on tree removals for residential properties to allow local governments to regulate tree preservation, removals, and replacements to protect the environment and the health and welfare of their residents, visitors and businesses.
- Provide an additional exemption that would restrict the licensed carry of concealed weapons or firearms for ticketed concert events on public property.
- Provide intergovernmental coordination that supports sustainability and resiliency efforts at the county and municipal levels, such as clean energy, land conservation, smart growth, a planned transition to 100% renewable energy goals, open space and wetlands preservation, and the impacts of climate change and sea level rise on natural resources and manmade infrastructure.
- Establish a framework for a state water infrastructure and water quality funding program that includes sustainable utility practices and intragovernmental coordination.

ISSUES TO OPPOSE

We oppose legislation that is detrimental to Clearwater and other municipalities including:

- Erosion of local self-government (Home Rule), a constitutional right Floridians supported in a statewide vote 54 years ago.
- Increased regulation of, or restrictions on, municipal operations and budgeting.
- Preemption of local government's ability to regulate Airbnb rentals, or similar marketplaces, that allow individuals to rent out unused spaces in their homes for lodging.
- Weakening existing laws related to offshore oil drilling in the Gulf of Mexico.
- Restriction or elimination of Community Redevelopment Agencies.
- Imposed consolidation of municipal and county services.
- Expansion of M-CORES (Multi-use Corridors of Regional Economic Significance) toll roads into rural Florida that would create more urban sprawl and ruin unspoiled part of the state.

In addition, the City will support the Florida League of Cities in pursuing its legislative issues. The City will strive to inform residents of legislative initiatives that will impact the city and their quality of life and encourage citizen engagement with state legislators.



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