



MEMORANDUM

Date: Aug 27, 2025
To: Board of Commissioners
Subject: 2026 FL LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Background

City Commission to review/discuss any legislative items and/or appropriations to pursue in the 2026 FL Legislative Session. The City has historically applied for and received FL Legislative Grant Distributions through the Pinellas County Legislative Delegation, and through a contract with Shumaker Advisors. Additionally, our partners and contractor work to ensure various legislation to enhance/improve municipal services provision. The City Commission and the public continue to play a very important role in this entire process.

Discussion

The City has been utilizing the services of Shumaker Advisors, a Tampa, FL, firm, to provide professional lobbying services for State of Florida executive and legislative branch matters including favorable municipal legislation and funding for specific capital projects.

Some of the City's recent appropriations include:

1. 2022, \$1.556 million for John's Pass Dredging
2. 2023, \$0.00
3. 2024, \$100,000 for seawall repair/replacement
4. 2025, \$100,000 for Flood Mitigation

The City has previously supported legislation to protect homeowners (insurance, building protections, regulating short term rentals, etc), encourage tourism, promote resiliency and shoreline protections as well as seek appropriations for City buildings, undergrounding utilities, and flood control. Potential Appropriations and Legislative Action may include:

1. Protecting/preserving Home Rule – local control
2. Property Taxes – and all revenue protections
3. Flood Mitigation – resiliency projects
4. Generator for Recreation Center
5. 2nd High Water Vehicle
6. Fire Department Office/work area Expansion