

Charlotte County 2024 State Legislative Session Review

March 26, 2024



CHARLOTTE COUNTY
FLORIDA

Guiding Principles

- **State and Local Governments are partners in the promotion and protection of the health and welfare of the community. To preserve this partnership Charlotte County will:**
 - **Support state policies which benefit the economic development, environmental and social health of Charlotte County and its citizens.**
 - **Oppose legislative changes or fiscal decisions which impact County revenues such as unfunded mandates, revenue limitations, trust fund diversions or cost shifts.**
 - **Support local flexibility to address problems by honoring home rule and avoiding unnecessary preemptions of local authority.**



Appropriations Requests



Appropriations Issues

Project Title	Amount Requested	HB 5001 General Appropriations Act
Charlotte Sports Park Dormitory / Pre- and Post- Disaster Volunteer Host Facility 2951 (Roach) 3367 (Albritton)	\$16,000,000	\$1,000,000 (page 404)
Charlotte Sports Park Event Plaza and Activation Space 2952 (Roach) 3316 (Albritton)	\$3,500,000	\$1,500,000 (page 360)
Flood Monitoring & Response Network 3593 (Grant) 3317 (Albritton)	\$2,500,000	\$1,250,000 (page 281)
Midway / Lakeview Septic -to-Sewer 3594 (Grant) 3429 (Albritton)	\$4,000,000	\$2,000,000 (page 281)

Appropriations Issues – Not Funded

Project Title	Amount Requested	Project Detail
Harborview Road Right-of-Way 3595 (Grant) 3569 (Albritton)	\$12,600,000	Support funding for the expansion of Harborview Road, a critical evacuation route and SIS alternative roadway for Charlotte County.
Charlotte County Sheriff's Office HQ & Public Safety Communications Center 3596 (Grant) 3347 (Albritton)	\$5,000,000	Support funding for Charlotte County Sheriff's Office HQ and Public Safety Communications Center relocation and hardening to provide redundancy in the County's 911 system.

Support Requests



Appropriations Issues

Project Title	Amount Requested	HB 5001 General Appropriations Act
Charlotte County Airport Authority (3589 Grant) (3314 Albritton)	\$5,500,000	\$2,750,000 (page 359)
Peace River Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority (3591 Grant) (3112 Albritton)	\$10,000,000	\$2,500,000 (page 286)
Boys & Girls Clubs of Charlotte County (3592 Grant) (3130 Albritton)	\$2,500,000	\$1,250,000 (page 221)
Charlotte Behavioral Health Center (3587 Grant) (3129 Albritton)	\$2,816,351	\$1,250,000 (page 221)

Funding Highlights

- Community Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services: \$1.327 billion
- Septic-to-Sewer/Wastewater Improvements: \$135 million
- Resilient Florida Trust Fund and programs: \$145 million
- Everglades Restoration: \$614 million
- State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP): \$174 million
- Affordable Housing Programs: \$234 million
- Florida Hometown Hero Housing Program: \$100 million
- Small County Outreach Program (SCOP): \$88.6 million
- Small County Road Assistance Program (SCRAP): \$26.5 million
- Transportation Disadvantaged Grants and Aids: \$62.4 million
- Fiscally Constrained Constitutional Amendment Offset: \$70.7 million
- Visit Florida: \$80 million
- Rural Infrastructure Fund: \$27 million
- Cybersecurity: \$40 million carry-forward from previous year

From Florida Association of Counties

Policy Issues

The Numbers

Statistics	Count
Bills Filed	1,957
Amendments	2,196
Votes	3,055
Enrolled Bills	325

Support Issues

- **Improvements to Real Property/PACE: SB 770** make several changes to Florida law governing qualifying improvement programs.
- **Affordable Housing: SB 328** amends provisions of the 2023 Live Local Act related to the preemption of local government regulations to expedite the development of affordable housing.
- **Public Records/County and City Attorneys: HB 103** provides an exemption from public records for personal identifying and location information for city and county attorneys, spouses and children.

Public Health & Safety

- **Impeding, Threatening, or Harassing First Responders: SB 184** prohibits a person, after receiving a warning, from approaching a first responder who is engaged in the lawful performance of a legal duty.
- **Exposures of First Responders to Fentanyl and Fentanyl Analogs: SB 718** provides criminal penalties for persons who expose first responders to such substances causing serious injury.
- **Qualifications for County Emergency Management Director: HB 1567** creates minimum education, experience, and training standards for all county emergency management directors.
- **Damage to Critical Infrastructure: HB 275** provides criminal penalties and civil compensation for the intentional damage to critical infrastructure that includes water intake structures, treatment facilities, pump stations and lift stations.
- **Cybersecurity Incident Liability: HB 473** provides that a county or municipality that substantially complies with cybersecurity standards required by Florida law or any other political subdivision of the state that complies on a voluntary basis is not liable in connection with a cybersecurity incident.

Growth Management

- **Building Regulations: HB 267** requires governing bodies to create program to expedite process for issuing residential building permits; Provides for upgrading hardware and software technology with excess carry-forward funds to assist with enforcement of the building code; Modifies provisions requiring local governments to refund permit fees; Requiring local governments to adopt standard operating audit procedures regarding private provider audits.
- **Expedited Permitting of Residential Building Permits: SB 812** requires counties that have 75,000 residents or more and municipalities that have 30,000 residents or more to create a process to expedite the issuance of building permits based on a preliminary plat and to issue the number or percentage of building permits requested by an applicant, under certain circumstances, by October 1, 2024. A local government must update its expedited building permit program by December 31, 2027.
- **Alternative Mobility Funding Systems: HB 479** mandates that local governments use recent and localized data for determination of impact fees in the authorizing study; Requires coordination of transportation impact fee calculations and collections among local governments where a city and a county impose fees on a development.

Finance, Tax, & Administration

- **Homestead Exemption CPI & Implementation: HJR 7017 & HB 7019** places a Constitutional amendment (HJR 7017) on the General Election Ballot this November.
 - Increases the second \$25,000 Homestead Exemption that applies to non-school levies to the annual change in the Consumer Price Index

FAILED

- **Tangible Personal Property Exemption: HB 1251 / SB 1560 and HB 7075 /HB 7077**

Preemptions & Mandates

- **Local Government Actions: SB 1628** exempts from the preparation of a business impact estimate county and municipal ordinances that implement development orders, development permits, development agreements, and comprehensive plan amendments and land development regulation amendments initiated by an application of a private party instead of a county.
 - The effect of the bill is to require a business impact estimate to be prepared for any ordinance that implements other growth-related activities.
- **Local Regulation of Nonconforming and Unsafe Structures: SB 1526** prohibits local governments from restricting the demolition of certain structures, except for public safety reasons, focusing on structures partially within the coastal construction control line that are nonconforming or unsafe; Allows local governments to only review demolition permit applications for compliance with specific codes, without imposing additional regulations or public hearings.

Preemptions & Mandates

- **Public Works Projects: HB 705** modifies the definition of “public works project” to also include projects paid for with local funding; preempts certain “local preferences” within the procurement phase.
- **Public Works Projects – US Iron and Steel: SB 674** provides that all government contracts include a provision that requires any iron or steel will be produced in the US.
- **Employment Regulations: HB 433** prohibits local governments from regulating the conditions of employment established by a private employer unless expressly authorized or required by state or federal law. Prohibits local governments from preferring one contractor over another based on the wages or employment benefits provided by the contractor, however a local government may require health coverage; Preempts the regulation of workplace heat exposure requirements to the state.
- **Vacation Rentals: SB 280** preempts the regulation of advertising platforms to the state, authorizes local governments to adopt registration programs for vacation rentals, and outlines registration processes and requirements.
- **Food Delivery Platforms: SB 676** expressly preempts the regulation of food delivery platforms to the state.

Preemptions & Mandates

FAILED

- County Commissioner Term Limits: HB 57 / SB 438
- Local Business Taxes: HB 609 / SB 1144
- Sovereign Immunity: HB 569 / SB 472
- County Budget Officers: HB 1553 / SB 1520
- Land and Water Management: HB 527 / SB 664
- Agritourism: HB 339 / SB 696
- Fertilizer Application Ordinances: never filed

Bill Status

<i>*as of 3/18</i>	Senate	House	Total
Bills Passed Both Chambers	110	203	313
Approved by Governor	7	3	10
Vetoed by Governor	0	2	2
Pending in Governor's Office	5	1	6
Governor has not yet Received	98	197	295