

VILLAGE OF ESTERO, FLORIDA

PROPOSED 2016 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Priority Bills

- 1. Communications Services Tax SB 256 (Hukill)**
OPPOSE
This legislation reduces the state portion of the communication services tax (CST) rates by 2.0 percent, reducing the general state rate from 4.92 percent to 2.92 percent and the rate on direct-to-home satellite from 9.07 percent to 7.07 percent. This bill will have a negative recurring impact caused by the reduction in revenues the state share with local governments.
- 2. Location of Utilities CS/HB 416 (Flores) HB 416 (Ingram)**
OPPOSE
This legislation require local governments, and not the utilities, to bear the cost of relocating a utility's equipment if such equipment is located within a public utility easement.
- 3. Regulation of Oil and Gas Resources SB 318 (Richter) HB 191 (Rodrigues)**
OPPOSE PREEMPTION LANGUAGE
This legislation preempts the regulation of all matters relating to the exploration, development, production, processing, storage, and transportation of oil and gas; requires that a permit be obtained before the performance of a high-pressure well stimulation; requires the Division of Water Resource management to give consideration to and be guided by certain additional criteria when issuing permits.
- 4. Fertilizer Mandates (No bills have been filed yet)**
OPPOSE/WATCH
The Village Council opposes efforts to preempt local regulation of the sale or use of fertilizer.
- 5. Backyard Gun Ranges CS/HB 41 (Combee) CS/CS/SB 130 (Richter)**
SUPPORT
This legislation makes it a first degree misdemeanor to recreationally discharge a firearm outdoors in an area that the person knows or should reasonably should know is primarily residential in nature and that has a residential density of one or more dwelling units per acre. The bills specify that "recreationally discharge" includes target shooting or celebratory shooting.

- 6. Vacation Rentals** **SB 348 (Altman)**
SUPPORT
This legislation revises current law to allow local governments to adopt a local ordinance establishing minimum stay requirements for vacation rentals of up to seven days. The bill also permits grandfathered communities the ability to amend ordinances adopted before June 1, 2011.
- 7. Public Records Reform** **(No bills filed yet)**
SUPPORT/WATCH
Support public records reform to discourage or eliminate schemes designed to generate violations of public records laws as well as limit harassing or unreasonable public records requests.
- 8. Water Quality and Quantity** **(No bills filed yet)**
SUPPORT/WATCH
Support legislation that provides a recurring source of funding for local government programs and projects that protect water resources; improves water quality and quantity; mitigates pollution from onsite waste water systems; expands the use of alternative water resources, recognizing that reclaimed water is an asset paid for by utilities' rate payers; and requires all infrastructure users to pay the cost of operation and maintenance of such facilities.
- 9. Guns in Public Meetings** **HB 4031 (Steube)**
WATCH
This legislation removes provisions prohibiting concealed carry licenses from carrying a concealed weapon or firearm into a specified public meetings or into career centers.

Local Funding Projects

The Village of Estero supports state funding of the Lovers Key Environmental Education Center.