

**WORKSHOP ITEM SUMMARY SHEET**  
**VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING**  
**SEPTEMBER 20, 2018**

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**Agenda Item:**

2019 Village of Estero Legislative Priorities

**Description:**

The Florida League of Cities publishes its Legislative Action Agenda prior to the Florida Legislative session convening each year. The Legislative Action Agenda reflects the priorities of 412 municipalities, as prepared by the League's five legislative policy committees and adopted by the full membership. Therefore, the Village's list should be completed and provided to the Florida League of Cities by the end of October. A copy of the 2018 legislative priorities is attached to this summary. Staff is seeking input on specific issues from the Council, in addition to whether to include the items in last year's list.

The updated list will be brought back to Council for approval at the October 17, 2018 Council meeting.

**Financial Impacts:**

N/A

**Attachment:**

1. 2018 Village of Estero Legislative Priorities



November 1, 2017

## 2018 Village of Estero Legislative Priorities

(Updated at the October 18, 2017 Village Council Meeting  
and Adopted at the November 1, 2017 Village Council Meeting)

Jim Boesch  
Mayor  
District Five

William Ribble  
Vice Mayor  
District One

Howard Levitan  
District Two

Jon McLain  
District Three

Katy Errington  
District Four

Nick Batos  
District Six

Jim Wilson  
District Seven

Steve Sarkozy  
Village Manager

Burt Saunders  
Village Attorney

First, the Village of Estero is deeply appreciative of the support consistently provided by the State for our young Village government. Our commitment to better serve the needs of our residents has been and will continue to be our primary objective.

The Village Council has remained true to the objectives that we committed to the Legislature in 2015, including the notion of operating in our version of "government light". Consistent with that notion, we have continued to operate with only limited full-time staff, operating with only 6 full-time positions, while we continue to rely on contracts with private firms to provide local government services. In addition, and maybe most importantly, we have lowered the Village of Estero property tax rate, once again, from 0.7998 to 0.7798. This is now the second consecutive year with a tax reduction, representing a two year reduction from 0.8398 to 0.7798. Estero continues to have the lowest property tax rate in Southwest Florida.

To continue to improve the quality of life for Estero residents and the local business climate we respectfully request the following:

1. Support for State legislation to limit discharges from Lake Okeechobee and the negative down-stream impacts to the Gulf and Estero Bay. The Village of Estero also supports continuing funding for the C-43 reservoir project and additional efforts to move more water south of Lake Okeechobee.
2. Oppose any legislation that would pre-empt Home Rule protections including, but not limited to, mandating fertilizer standards and fracking.
3. Support State funding for projects which would advance enhanced transportation connectivity for pedestrian and bicyclists as well as design and construction of additional "complete" streets.
4. Oppose the filing of the local bill dealing with the merger of independent fire districts.
5. Provide improved flood mitigation within the Estero River basin through additional water storage areas.
6. Improve flood protection within the Estero River basin through additional water storage areas and conveyance improvements within the North branch tributary.

7. Extend the Jeff Sommer Memorial Highway designation on US 41 to the north end of the Village of Estero.
8. Support a bill for disclosure and inspection of septic systems at time of property sale.
9. Designation of Corkscrew Road, west of Alico Road and east of the I-75 interchange, as a truck free highway.