



Manatee Board of County Commissioners

2025 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



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Manatee County Government's mission is to provide efficient, effective, responsive government that is always mindful of our sensitive natural environment while achieving the Commission's vision for the County: A premier place in which to live, work and play.

The Board's 2025 platform reflects the legislative priorities that will help Manatee County better achieve its mission and serve our residents and visitors.





Bowlees and Pearce Drain Physical Map Revision

These watersheds were studied back in 2017 when we had significant flooding from an unnamed storm in August 2017. We now need to update the areas that were left with lesser or approximate methods to satisfy FEMA requirements. The updated studies will provide the public with a much more accurate picture of 100-year flooding in the watershed as the current study is over 30 years old. This information is also useful for land development, flood mitigation analysis and CRS credits through FEMA to maintain our flood insurance discounts.

FUNDING REQUEST

■ **\$300 Thousand appropriation** in Fiscal Year 2026 to conduct necessary updates to map revisions.



Obtaining Bathymetric and LiDAR to Update FEMA Flood Maps

Manatee County applied for a Brennan Grant but was denied this year due to it not being considered coastal enough. In light of what happened with Hurricane Debby and the release from the dam and updated studies, updated maps are needed to provide the public with a much more accurate picture of the flooding potential of the Manatee River.

FUNDING REQUEST

■ **\$1 Million appropriation** in Fiscal Year 2026 to obtain these systems to update the FEMA flood maps of the Manatee River.

2025 Federal Legislative Priorities



Veteran Connections Hub

Manatee County is seeking funding to construct the Veteran Connections Hub, a comprehensive resource center in Manatee County to support veterans and their families. Guided by principles of holistic support, community unity, and veteran empowerment, the Hub will provide services such as career counseling, mental health support, entrepreneurial training, and community engagement. Key offerings include assistance with VA benefits, job support, education and training, health and wellness programs, housing resources and legal aid.

FUNDING REQUEST

- **\$5 Million appropriation** in Fiscal Year 2026 to construct the Veteran Connections Hub.



Gateway Greenway Trails

Manatee County is seeking funding to complete planning, design, permitting and construction of Gateway Greenway Trail segments connecting Lincoln Park in Palmetto to Parrish along County road rights-of-way, Florida Power & Light utility corridors and railroad track right-of-way. Only 1 in 3 residents in this HUD-designated area have access to an automobile, and this trail investment will help provide safe access to employment, goods and services for the transportation-disadvantaged. This trail segment will allow for an eventual dedicated off-road trail connection between Lincoln Park to Ola Mae Sims Park in Parrish, with connections to Parrish Community High School, State College of Florida - Parrish Campus and the Florida Railroad History Museum.

FUNDING REQUEST

- **\$2.9 Million appropriation** in Fiscal Year 2026 to complete planning, design, permitting and construction of Gateway Greenway Trail segments connecting Lincoln Park in Palmetto to Parrish.



Reservoir Expansion



Manatee County is seeking funding for the design of a new reservoir for potable water production. Manatee County is evaluating options to increase the supply yield to meet projected future potable water demands. One option the County is considering is to construct a reservoir in-line with, or adjacent to Gilley Creek. The County is considering purchasing a parcel of land along Gilley Creek that may be suitable for the construction of a reservoir.

FUNDING REQUEST

- **\$10 Million appropriation** in Fiscal Year 2026 for the design of the project.

2025 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

SUPPORT

- Affordable housing initiatives
- Affordable childcare initiatives
- Broadband expansion initiatives
- Increased funding for Public Safety
- Economic Development initiatives
- Housing empowerment initiatives
- Federal transportation funding legislation that increases formula fund allocations and reduces reliance on discretionary grant programs.

OPPOSE

- Local government preemption
- Regulatory burdens
- Increased taxes and fees



MANATEE COUNTY IN ACTION



MANATEE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



**Commissioner
Carol Ann Felts
District 1**



**Commissioner
Amanda Ballard
District 2**



**Commissioner
Tal Siddique
District 3**



**Commissioner
Mike Rahn
District 4**



**Commissioner
Dr. Bob McCann
District 5**



**Commissioner
Jason Bearden
District 6 - At Large**



**Commissioner
George Kruse, Chair
District 7 - At Large**

CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

Representative Vern Buchanan (District 16)
Senator Rick Scott
Senator Marco Rubio

MEMBERSHIPS IN LEGISLATIVE ALLIANCES

Florida Association of Counties
National Association of Counties
Sarasota-Manatee Metropolitan
Planning Association

Florida Department of Transportation
Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council
Florida Gulf Consortium
Manasota League of Cities



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MANATEE COUNTY
Florida

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