



FORT PIERCE
FLORIDA

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

2026



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2026 Legislative Priorities

This document represents the 2026 Florida Legislative Priorities of the City of Fort Pierce Mayor and Commissioners. While these priorities guide the City's advocacy efforts in Tallahassee, they are not exhaustive, and new issues may arise or evolve that will require the Commission's attention and potential amendment.

The priorities are not ranked in order of priority. Commissioners, staff, and contract lobbyists will pursue all legislative policies approved by the Commission and place appropriate priority on the issues according to opportunities that arise during the legislative process. As a matter of course, the Mayor and Commissioners affirm maintaining Home Rule authority and opposing unnecessary cost shifts or un-funded mandates.

The state legislative session will begin January 13, 2026, and end on March 13, 2026.

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City of Fort Pierce Mayor and Commissioners



Linda Hudson
Mayor



Curtis Johnson, Jr.
District 1



Arnold S. Gaines
District 1



Michael Broderick
District 2

Guiding Principles

The City of Fort Pierce is driven by core principles that promote revitalization, community collaboration, and sustainable growth. With a strong focus on inclusive planning, the city engages residents and stakeholders to shape its future. It honors its historic charm by preserving cultural landmarks and waterfront assets, while advancing economic vitality through investment and support for local businesses. Fort Pierce prioritizes design excellence, civic pride, and vibrant public spaces, all underpinned by a commitment to transparency and professional governance. These values guide the city's path toward a resilient and inclusive future.

2026 Priorities

Community Redevelopment Agencies (CRA)

The City of Fort Pierce **SUPPORTS** legislation that preserves and enhances the authority of Community Redevelopment Agencies (CRAs) to address blight and stimulate equitable development. The City **OPPOSES** any legislation that restricts CRA funding or imposes excessive oversight that limits local flexibility and effectiveness.

Florida Senate Bill 180

The City of Fort Pierce **SUPPORTS** the overarching goals of Senate Bill 180 to enhance emergency response coordination, expand medical support capabilities during disasters, and streamline the recovery process for impacted structures. We also affirm the importance of maintaining local flexibility in allocating sales tax revenues to address community-specific needs. The City strongly **OPPOSES** the bill's sweeping preemption of municipal land-use authority and planning autonomy. These restrictions undermine our ability to responsibly manage growth, protect residents, and implement long-term sustainability strategies tailored to Fort Pierce's unique challenges and vision.

Ad Valorem & Sales Tax Reform

The City of Fort Pierce **SUPPORTS** legislation that advocates for fair and equitable property tax structures that safeguard municipal revenue and ensure the continued delivery of essential services. We also **SUPPORT** maintaining local flexibility in the allocation of sales tax revenues to meet community-specific needs. The City **OPPOSES** unfunded mandates that shift financial burdens to municipalities without providing adequate resources or support.

City-Owned Utilities

The City of Fort Pierce **SUPPORTS** legislation that defends local control over utility rate-setting and reinvestment to ensure communities can meet their unique energy and infrastructure needs. We also **SUPPORT** the use of utility revenues to expand broadband access, promote sustainability initiatives, and invest in critical infrastructure. Additionally, the City **ENCOURAGES** policies that help municipalities adapt to energy transitions and support the development of electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure.

Impact Fees & Fuel Tax Modernization

The City of Fort Pierce **SUPPORTS** legislation that protects the city's authority to assess impact fees to fund growth-related infrastructure and maintain fiscal sustainability. We also **SUPPORT** efforts to modernize outdated fuel tax formulas to reflect the rise in electric vehicle (EV) adoption and declining gasoline consumption. Additionally, the City **SUPPORTS** the development of alternative funding models to ensure long-term investment in transportation and transit systems.

Homelessness & Housing Stability

The City of Fort Pierce **SUPPORTS** legislation that increases state funding for homelessness prevention, emergency shelters, and transitional housing programs to address the needs of vulnerable populations. We also **SUPPORT** flexible grant programs that are tailored to local conditions and include wraparound services such as mental health care, job training, and case management. Additionally, the City **ENCOURAGES** policies that promote partnerships with nonprofit organizations and regional coalitions to strengthen community-based solutions and maximize impact.

Youth Development & Public Safety

The City of Fort Pierce **SUPPORTS** legislation that expands funding for youth programs, mentorship opportunities, and workforce training to empower the next generation and strengthen our local economy. We also **SUPPORT** initiatives that promote safe recreational spaces, mental health support, and violence prevention strategies to foster healthier communities. Additionally, the City **SUPPORTS** investments in school-to-career pipelines and technical education to prepare students for high-demand careers and long-term success.

Affordable Housing

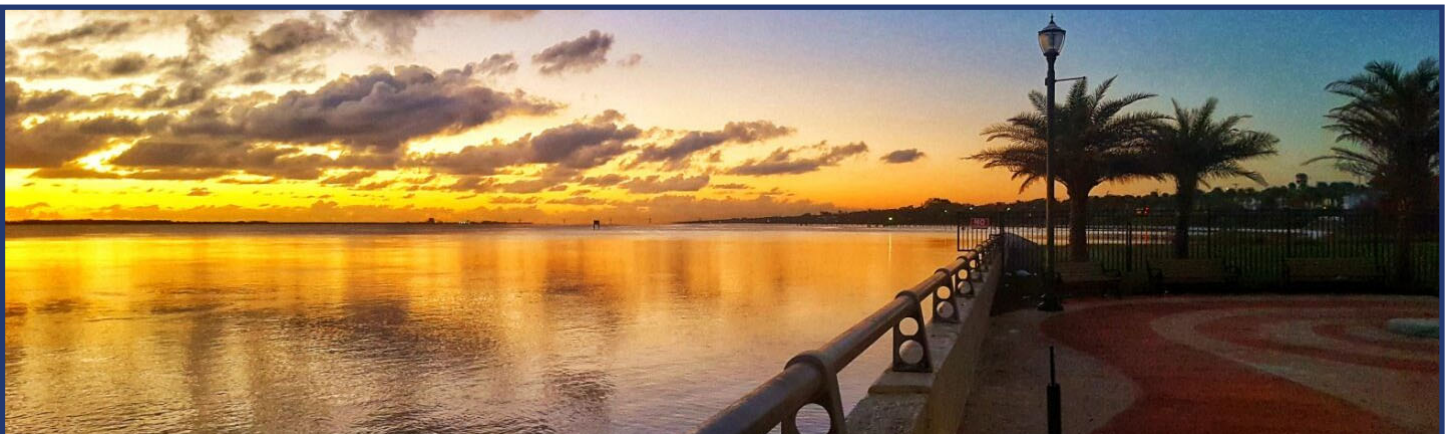
The City of Fort Pierce **SUPPORTS** legislation that incentivizes the development of affordable housing through tax credits and land use flexibility to meet the growing needs of our residents.

Resilience & Infrastructure

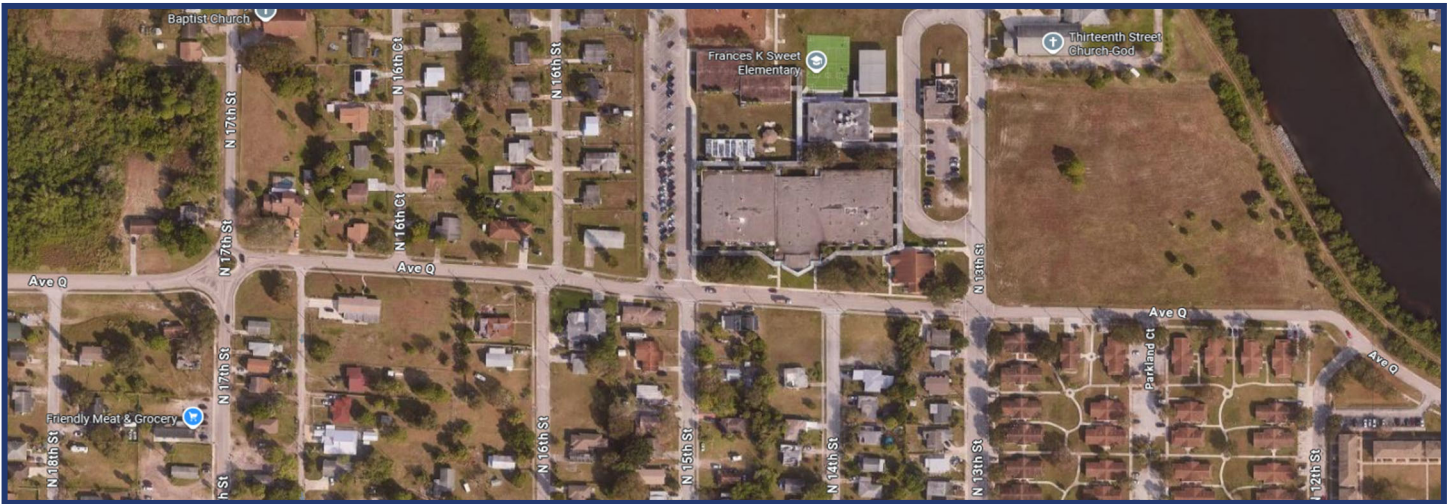
The City of Fort Pierce **SUPPORTS** increased funding for stormwater upgrades and coastal resilience projects to protect our community from climate-related impacts and aging infrastructure.

Public Health & Safety

The City of Fort Pierce **SUPPORTS** initiatives that strengthen public health and safety by investing in mental health services and enhancing emergency response programs.



Appropriation Request: Avenue Q Storm Drain Replacement (14th Street to 17th Street)



Background

The storm drainage system along Avenue Q between 14th and 17th Streets has deteriorated significantly, leading to recurring flooding, infrastructure damage, and safety concerns for nearby residents and students. This corridor includes Frances K. Sweets Elementary School, making the need for reliable drainage and safe pedestrian access especially urgent. The existing infrastructure is outdated and no longer meets current standards for stormwater management or accessibility.

Proposal

The City of Fort Pierce plans to replace 1,200 feet of failing storm drain and install eight drainage structures to reduce flooding. The project also includes curb and gutter replacement, ADA ramp upgrades, and roadway resurfacing to improve safety, accessibility, and long-term resilience.

Benefits

- **Improved Safety:** Reduces flooding and enhances pedestrian safety near Frances K. Sweets Elementary School.
- **Stormwater Management:** Upgraded drainage infrastructure will improve water flow and reduce

erosion and property damage.

- **Accessibility:** ADA-compliant ramps will ensure safe access for all residents, including children and individuals with disabilities.
- **Infrastructure Longevity:** New materials and design will extend the life of the roadway and reduce future maintenance costs.
- **Community Well-being:** A safer, cleaner, and more accessible corridor supports neighborhood stability and pride.

Funding and Construction Status

Current Phase: The project is currently in the in-house design phase.

Permitting Status: The project is shovel-ready.

Estimated Start Date: The project is included in the City's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for FY 2026–2027. If funding becomes available earlier, construction will proceed accordingly.

Estimated Completion Date: The procurement and contractor selection process is expected to take approximately 6 months, followed by 3 months of construction from the notice to proceed.

Local Funding: Stormwater Utility Fund.

Total Project Cost: \$1,300,000

Appropriation Requested: \$650,000

Local Match: \$650,000