
As Amended and Approved by the Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners on Wednesday, April 1, 2026

Project Requests

- The FY27 appropriations project proposal submission request:
 - Request **\$3,000,000** for emergency response and recovery investments to protect the public in the event of a natural disaster, including acquisition of four (4) high water rescue vehicles, procurement of a 1kW portable generator, significant modification to the Emergency Operations Center stormwater drainage system to address major flooding risks revealed in the 2025 storm season that jeopardizes the safe and full functioning of the facility during a state of emergency, and resiliency improvements to county fire stations to provide additional hardening of this vital public safety asset. *Recommended by Fire Rescue Department*
 - Request **\$3,000,000** towards construction of the One Water Program, designed as a long-term solution to deliver reliable, resilient, and sustainable water and wastewater services to meet the demands of the approximately 145,000 residents who live and are moving into the South-Central service area of the County. *Recommended by Water Resources Department*
 - Request **\$2,500,000** for BayCare to support the Proton Therapy Center at St. Joseph's Hospital Cancer Institute. *Recommended by Commissioner Hagan*
 - Request **\$3,000,000** for the construction of the Hillsborough County African American Arts and Cultural Center. *Recommended by Commissioner Gwen Myers*
 - Request **\$1,800,000** for Feeding Tampa Bay to support a Fresh Food Center. *Recommended by Commissioner Gwen Myers*
 - Request **\$2,000,000** for Moffitt Cancer Center Tampa to support the Digital Pathology program by expanding required IT infrastructure and increasing high-resolution, high-capacity digital scanning capability. *Recommended by Commissioner Boles*
 - Request **\$5,000,000** to support environmental restoration and stormwater mitigation efforts at Wolf Branch Creek Nature Preserve. Funding will support ecological restoration and ongoing site maintenance, including the eradication of invasive exotic plants, as well as the acquisition of adjacent property to address stormwater challenges and improve watershed resilience. *Recommended by Commissioner Boles*

Policy Requests

Housing & Land Use

- **Support** efforts to expand the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit, which is the nation's largest and most successful tool for encouraging private investment in the production and preservation of affordable rental housing.
- **Oppose** federal pre-emption of local authority, particularly relating to preservation of the County's authority over local Rights of Way [ROW] and the ability to assess fees for the use of ROW.

Natural Resources & Environmental Preservation

- **Support** the efforts of the National Park Service to continue the implementation of a study authorized by the Little Manatee Wild and Scenic River Act [H.R.43/ S.5283] at the behest of the Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners.

Finance, Infrastructure, Economic Development & Security

- **Support** a long-term reauthorization and reform of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) to improve affordability, mitigation assistance, flood risk mapping and program administration.
- **Support** funding for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and other related programs through the annual appropriations process and supplemental appropriations.
- **Support** federal funding of projects aimed at facilitating transportation, and economic development, particularly through the opportunities presented by the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE), and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) that have a direct nexus to economic growth.
- **Support** legislation providing funding in the form of federal grants and loans to facilitate septic to sewer projects where it is shown that septic systems are contributing to public health risks or environmental degradation of significant resources.
- **Support** the preservation of tax-exempt status of municipal bonds.

Criminal Justice

- **Support** Federal Legislation that provides funding and resources for Human Trafficking prevention, survivor services, and enhanced community awareness on the risks of human trafficking.

Emergency Management

- **Support** legislation creating the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Transparency Public Assistance Dashboard, a publicly available tool for applicants to track the status of their grants in the event of a major disaster.

Miscellaneous

- **Support** efforts to include local funding for rural development projects, and funding for county-administered federal programs in the Farm Bill reauthorization, as it applies to Hillsborough County.
- **Oppose** federal pre-emption of local authority that would limit the ability of counties to play a role in telecommunications infrastructure decisions, including the American Broadband Deployment Act of 2025 (H.R. 2289).
- **Support** policy positions of the National Association of Counties (NACo) that are in alignment with Hillsborough County BOCC goals.

***Background**

Low-Income Housing Tax Credit: The low-income housing tax credit (LIHTC) program is the federal government's primary policy tool for encouraging the development and rehabilitation of affordable rental housing. The program awards developers federal tax credits to offset construction costs in exchange for agreeing to reserve units that are rent-restricted for lower-income households. The credits are claimed over a 10-year period. Created by the Tax Reform Act of 1986, Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) program gives State and local agencies the budget authority to issue tax credits through a competitive process to construct or rehabilitate affordable rental housing to lower-income households. Affordable housing developers rely on the credit for a variety of projects, including the production of new units and the preservation of public housing units.

Rights of Way [ROW]: HR 3557 - American Broadband Deployment Act of 2023 would enact new restrictions on a variety of state and local land use and zoning authorities pertaining to the deployment of telecommunications infrastructure and it imposes limitations on the ability for counties to negotiate and renew cable franchise agreements. It deprives citizens and their local governments of the ability to preserve property rights and maintain public safety. Specifically, it would preempt local authority to manage our public rights-of-way and public lands' use for telecommunications infrastructure by empowering providers to install facilities where they choose regardless of local zoning, thus eliminating the ability of local government to balance providers' and neighbors' interests.

Little Manatee Wild and Scenic River Act [H.R.43/ S.5283] Sponsored by Congressman Vern Buchanan and U.S. Senator Rick Scott, the Act passed during the 117th Congress with broad bipartisan support. The Little Manatee Wild and Scenic River Act aims to designate the approximately 51-mile-long segment of the river, beginning at its source in southeastern Hillsborough County flowing downstream to the point at which the river enters Tampa Bay, as a scenic river. The three-year study officially began in April 2024. Members of the National Park Service are working along with Hillsborough County staff and community stakeholders to identify the information needed to determine whether the Little Manatee River can be designated as a wild and scenic river. Currently, Florida has two nationally recognized Wild and Scenic Rivers Systems; The Loxahatchee River and the Wekiva River.

National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP): As stated on the Hillsborough County website: Emergency Management – Flood Information, “Flooding is the most costly and repetitive natural disaster affecting Hillsborough County.” The NFIP ensures more Americans are covered by flood insurance by making insurance more affordable to low-and-moderate income policyholders. Congress is required to renew the NFIP's statutory authority. If the NFIP's authorization lapse, FEMA would still have authority to ensure the payment of valid claims with available funds. However, FEMA would stop selling and renewing policies for millions of properties in communities across the nation. Without NFIP authorization, the sale of home and business properties would be negatively impacted. Currently, the program has been authorized through a short-term extension that is set to expire on March 14, 2025.

Disaster Relief Funding (DRF): In 2024 alone, Hillsborough County was impacted by Hurricane Helene on September 26th and Hurricane Milton on October 9th. The back-to-back hurricanes caused significant flooding, power outages, property damage to homes and businesses, and a major debris removal “campaign” that required significant amounts of financial and manpower resources. On December 20, 2024 Congress passed and President Joe Biden signed into law a continued resolution [CR] that averted a government shutdown. As part of the CR, \$110 billion was allocated to disaster relief, including \$29 billion for the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Disaster Relief Fund. Well-funded programs such as the \$29 billion for FEMA's response, recovery, and mitigation activities related to Presidentially declared major disasters, such as Hurricanes Milton and Helene, are vitally important to the stability of the county.

Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE), and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL):

RAISE allow project sponsors at the State and local levels to obtain funding for multi-modal, multi-jurisdictional projects that are more difficult to support through traditional DOT programs. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)—also known as the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)—is a \$1.2 trillion investment in repairing and modernizing the nation’s infrastructure that was signed into law on November 15, 2021. It includes billions in reauthorizations and existing programs and \$550 billion in new federal infrastructure funding over five years to repair, rebuild, and modernize America’s bridges, transit systems, water infrastructure, and more. While more than half of the bill’s funding is for transportation infrastructure—including surface transportation, airports, zero-emissions school buses, electric vehicle (EV) charging, ports, public transit, railways, and more—it also provides significant funding for broadband, the power grid, water infrastructure, resilience, and legacy pollution. Hillsborough County has received funding from RAISE and BIL.

Septic to Sewer Conversion: Working with our Congressional delegation and their support through Community Project Funding [CPF] requests, Hillsborough County has received federal funding to support projects to convert septic or low-pressure systems to the County’s central collection system, referred to as septic-to-sewer projects. The septic-to-sewer program is a long-term plan that aims to replace all septic and low-pressure systems within the County’s urban service area, starting with conversions in areas of highest vulnerability and environmental impact. The Septic-to-Sewer program aims to protect groundwater and improve the quality of the region’s natural systems by eliminating septic tanks and low-pressure sewer systems in areas around the bay.

Tax-Exempt Status of Municipal Bonds: “Tax-exempt bonds were written in the first tax code in 1913 and are a well-established financing tool. They are predominantly issued by state and local governments for governmental infrastructure and capital needs purposes. The debt issued for capital projects help governments pay for public projects, such as the construction or improvement of schools, streets, highways, hospitals, bridges, water and sewer systems, ports, airports and other public works. Without the tax-exemption, counties would pay more to raise capital, a cost that would ultimately be borne by the taxpayers.”

Human Trafficking Prevention: Human Trafficking, under both federal and Florida law, is defined as the transporting, soliciting, recruiting, harboring, providing, or obtaining of another person for transport; for the purposes of forced labor, domestic servitude or sexual exploitation using force, fraud and/or coercion. Hillsborough County established the Commission on Human Trafficking with the purpose to achieve full integration of community stakeholders to participate in the development of comprehensive resources that guarantees an accelerated decline in Human Trafficking. Federal funding and resources would enhance their ability to move towards these efforts.

Farm Bill Reauthorization: The U.S. Farm Bill helps counties make critical investments in infrastructure, economic development, workforce training, nutrition and conservation within some of our nation’s most underserved communities. Preserving the law’s programs is key to the strength and stability of our local, regional, state and national economies. Overall, the Farm Bill’s twelve titles help strengthen local infrastructure, support rural economic development initiatives, protect our nation’s food supply, increase access to healthy food for low-income populations, and promote environmental stewardship and conservation. As part of the December 20, 2024 Continued Resolution, Congress passed a one-year extension to keep the 2018 Farm Bill in place through 2025; however, a long-term solution is preferred.

*Multiple sources used to define Background information.