Legislative Update Panel Discussion

Moderator:
David Dee, Gardner, Bist, Bowden, Bush, Dee, LaVia & Wright, P.A

Panel:
Rebecca O’Hara, Florida League of Cities
Keyna Cory, Public Affairs Consultants
Session began on January 9 and ran for 60 consecutive days

3,192 bills filed in House and Senate combined

200 bills passed (6%)
According to Florida Constitution, the Legislature has only have one obligation ... pass a balanced budget

**HB 5001** was the final adopted pre-veto budget totaling approximately $88.7 billion, which is the largest budget ever for the state of Florida. The budget is a $630 million increase over last year. The budget represents $32.4 billion from general revenue and $56.3 billion from trust funds.

- The Governor’s veto list totals just over $64 million.
CS/CS/HB 1149 (Payne) addressed reclaimed water, recycling, wastewater utilities and state environmental resource permits.

Required local gov’t recycling contracts for collection and processing (entered or renewed on or after July 1, 2018) to address “contamination” in residential recycling.

Contracts required to define “contaminated recyclable material”.

Recyclable materials collector or facility could not be required to collect, transport or process “contaminated recyclable material”, as defined by the contract.

VETOED BY GOVERNOR
Interruption of Solid Waste and Telecommunications Services

CS/CS/HB 971 (Fine) and SB 1368 (Mayfield)

Would have required a municipality or private solid waste provider to issue refunds to customers if solid waste collection service was not provided within four calendar days of a regularly scheduled service – even if the missed service is attributable to a natural disaster or the customer.

The Senate bill died in committee. The House bill was poised for a vote by the full House but was temporarily postponed by the bill sponsor and died on the House calendar.
Recovered Materials & Solid Waste

CS/HB 879 (Toledo) and SB 1326 (Baxley) would have:

- Expanded the statutory definition of “recovered materials” to include wood, asphalt and concrete.
- Required local governments to suspend exclusive contracts for storm-generated debris or solid waste if a local government “reasonably” determined the contractor would not be able to provide the contracted level of service.
- Prohibited exclusive contracts for storm-debris collection, hauling, staging or disposal after March 1, 2018.

Both bills died in committee.
Beverage Container Deposits

SB 1856 (Rader) would have required payment of deposit fees on specified beverage containers at point of sale. It established requirements and registration processes for the operation of beverage container redemption centers by local governments, nonprofit agencies and others for refunding deposits and arranging for the recovery and recycling of the containers.

The bill died in committee.
Plastic Bags & Containers

**SB 348** (J. Rodriguez) would have authorized certain coastal municipalities to establish a pilot program to regulate or ban disposable plastic bags.

**HB 6039** (Richardson) & **SB 1014** (Stewart) would have removed the existing state preemption on local government regulation of auxiliary containers, wrappings, or disposable plastic bags.

All three bills died in committee.
House Select Committee on Hurricane Response and Preparedness

Chaired by Speaker Pro Tempore Jeanette Nunez

Held seven meetings and created report on the following areas:
- Vulnerable Populations Residing in Health Care and Residential Facilities
- Shelters and Vulnerable Populations
- Evacuations
- Hardening and Restoring Florida's Electric Grid
- Restoring our Communities
- Mitigating Future Damage
House Select Committee on Hurricane Response and Preparedness

Recommendation 60 - Local governments should review current policies and consider:

- Prohibiting tree trimming and discontinuing non-containerized yard waste collection service 72 hours prior to hurricanes
- Discontinuing collection service 48 hours prior to hurricane/tropical storm. This would allow time to get solid waste management employees off the street so they can prepare for the storm and make sure materials in trucks have time to dispose of items and landfills have time to process.
Recommendation 60 – continued ...

Prioritizing services post storm, i.e. suspend recycling and yard waste to remove municipal solid waste as quickly as possible.
Suspending bulk pick up for a period of time after storm.
Requiring roll off containers to be covered prior to storms
House Select Committee on Hurricane Response and Preparedness

Recommendation 61

Create a way for law enforcement to recognize solid waste management workers as “second responders” with special signage; making sure they are in uniform with safety vest.
A collaborative statewide recycling education campaign, “Rethink. Reset. Recycle.”, was announced at the Florida Recycles Day at the Capitol celebration. The campaign is a joint effort between the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the Florida Recycling Partnership, Waste Management, MARPAN, Waste Connections, Single Stream Recyclers, LLC, and several statewide recycling coordinators to decrease recycling contamination and encourage proper curbside recycling techniques.
• Using the new website www.FloridaRecycles.org recycling coordinators and other will be able to use materials provided to help educate residents and customers on what should go into the recycling bin and what doesn’t belong.

• We need to RETHINK what we recycle and RESET our behavior to focus on what we RECYCLE.
**Program Overview**

The [Wrap Recycling Action Program](#) (WRAP) is a national public awareness initiative—led in part by the Flexible Film Recycling Group (FFRG)—that promotes recycling of plastic wrap, film and bags (aka “film”) through existing store takeback programs. It is designed to empower motivated stakeholders to contribute to a common goal: to make plastic film packaging a commonly recycled material with a strong and ever-growing recycling rate. FFRG is a self-fund group of the American Chemistry Council’s Plastics Division whose members represent the entire polyethylene (PE) film value chain.
WRAP seeks to work through collaborative efforts involving government, retailers, industry and NGOs using a multi-pronged approach and educational initiatives. A successful Florida WRAP campaign could increase the volume of plastic film recycled in the state through effective public education and outreach to consumers and businesses on what and how to recycle PE film while supporting end-use markets for this material. Significantly, increasing the recycling of PE film through a return-to-retail approach for consumers is expected to reduce the amount of this material observed in existing curbside recycling programs.
Elections - 2018

November Ballot will include candidates for the following offices:

- US Senator
- 27 Congressional Seats
- Governor and Lt. Governor
- Attorney General
- Chief Financial Officer (CFO)
- Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services
- 20 or more Florida Senate seats
- 120 Florida House seats
- 13 Constitutional Amendments
Elections - Senate

40 members of Florida Senate – 4 year terms

20 are up for election every two years

2 term limited

Two Special Elections that will take place at the same time as the regular election:

- Senate District 23 – Senator Greg Steube (running for Congress)
- Senate District 25 – Senator Joe Negron (retiring)

Open seats:

- Senators Denise Grimsley; Rene Garcia; Jack Latvala; Greg Steube and Joe Negron
Elections – House of Representatives

120 Members – 2 year terms

19 members term limited and cannot seek re-election

9 members have decided to seek different office

5 members decided not to seek re-election due to personal reasons
Election Dates

- **June 22**: Last day to File for Office
- **Aug. 28**: Primary Election
- **Nov. 6**: General Election
- **July 30**: Last Day to register to Vote in Primary Election
- **Oct. 9**: Last Day to register to Vote in General Election
Any Questions?