



2024 CITY OF ST. PETERSBURG FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

As the fifth largest city in Florida, St. Petersburg has officially been recognized as one of America’s fastest growing cities. Together, St. Petersburg Mayor Kenneth T. Welch and City Council, will work to make progress on these priorities during the 2024 Legislative Session. They will be led by the vision that St. Pete will be a diverse, vibrant city guided by principled progress and intentional inclusivity, where innovation, partnerships and ingenuity create opportunity for all.

Housing Opportunities For All

Attainable Housing - The City supports the Department of Housing and Urban Development’s (HUD) housing assistance programs and opposes cuts that would limit their effectiveness. The City also supports programs and policies that keep existing homeowners housed by addressing property insurance and other cost increases.

Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) - St. Pete has achieved success in using ADUs as a tool to increase housing access and affordability. The City encourages Congress and HUD to recognize their value and support their development through appropriate regulation, financing, and programmatic support.

Condo Safety - The City encourages HUD and National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) to examine their policies and programs around condos, particularly as they relate to lending practices, rehabilitation and repairs, and safety standards.



Infrastructure, Resilience, & the Natural Environment

Infrastructure - The City supports strong Congressional oversight and engagement to ensure the federal infrastructure funds are spent responsibly and directed to the communities who need them most.

National Flood Insurance Program - The City supports a long-term reauthorization of the NFIP that appropriately rates risk, provides long-term stability for the market, and ensures that low- and middle-income policy holders can maintain their policies.

Critical Research - The City supports federal research investments to help coastal communities confront ongoing natural hazards. The City also looks forward to working with the federal government as a home for the marine sciences and the future of the blue economy.

Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) - The City encourages Congress to significantly increase the funding available to the FMA and modify the program to simplify applications, decrease wait times, and make it usable for middle- and low-income homeowners.



Neighborhood Health & Safety

Personal Wellness – The City encourages continued investments in mental health resources and suicide prevention programs, particularly for young people following the COVID-19 pandemic. The City also encourages continued funding for opioid response and substance abuse treatment.

Community Policing – The City is proud to partner with the Department of Justice to ensure St. Pete is a safe place to live. Continued robust funding for DOJ programs that support innovative, community-driven safety initiatives within the city like our Community Assistance and Life Liaison (CALL) program remains a priority.

Nutrition and Agriculture – As Congress prepares to renew the Farm Bill, the City supports continued funding for nutrition programs, particularly those aiding children and seniors. The City also encourages increased investment in urban agriculture and access to credit for urban farmers, and continued investments in urban treescapes.



Equitable Development, Arts, & Business Opportunities

Small Business - Funding through the Small Business Administration, in coordination with the Community Development Block Grant, continues to allow St. Pete's small business community and the City supports robust funding and sustained community engagement from these offices.

The Arts – The City has leveraged funds through the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), and Institute of Museum and Library Sciences (IMLS). These programs support the work of artists, a vital part of our small business community.



Education & Youth Opportunities

K-12 Education – The City supports robust funding for our K-12 schools and encourage the Department of Education to focus on addressing the national teacher shortage, COVID slide, and other challenges facing our youth.

Higher Education – The City supports the doubling of the Federal Pell Grant, which would dramatically increase affordability at Florida's Public Colleges and Universities.



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WE ARE ST. PETE

