

2025 City Of St. Petersburg State Legislative Agenda



The City of St. Petersburg is currently in the rebuilding process following the unprecedented back-to-back hits from Hurricane Helene and Hurricane Milton. In addition to damage sustained by critical city infrastructure, more than 15,000 homes, and hundreds of businesses were impacted. This year, our Legislative Agenda focuses the resources our community needs to build back stronger and support our residents throughout the recovery process. We appreciate your continued support and partnership as we navigate the process in the months and years to come.

Environment, Infrastructure, & Resilience

Resilient Florida - We encourage the Legislature to continue its robust funding of the Resilient Florida grant program. St. Petersburg has been able to make tremendous strides in improving community resiliency using these funds and is committed to completing more projects like the \$20 million Salt Creek Pump Station which has been able to expedited using these vital funds.

Water Quality - As a peninsula on the Peninsula of Florida, St. Petersburg is incredibly vulnerable to the health and economic consequences of poor water quality caused by red tide and other hazards. We encourage the Legislature to empower local governments to implement ordinances that will protect our residents from environmental hazards and keep them informed about ongoing concerns.

Disaster-Ready Workforce - Rebuilding after the consecutive impacts of hurricanes in recent years has emphasized the need for a workforce skilled at minimizing storm damage and rebuilding after the fact. In order to secure the future of our state we encourage the legislature to support programs that train workers in floodplain management, emergency preparedness, construction, and related fields.



Housing Opportunities for All

Affordable Housing - Hurricanes Helene and Milton brought significant damage to an already limited housing stock in St. Petersburg. Now, more than ever it is critical that we fully fund existing affordable housing programs and reduce red-tape to get these units online faster.

Condominiums - Condo associations and their occupants are struggling to cover the combined costs of existing structural repairs, reserve requirements, and now hurricane induced damage. As HB 1021 takes effect, we encourage the Legislature to explore ways to provide relief to Floridians facing increased housing costs as a result of this new housing standard.

Yes In God's Backyard - Houses of Worship have long played a vital role in supporting the most vulnerable members of our communities across the nation. Many faith communities want to assist our community by building affordable housing on their property. We encourage the legislature to pass legislation that creates a framework for these faith-based organizations to develop affordable housing in a streamlined and expedited manner.



Education and Youth Opportunities

K-12 Education - We encourage the Legislature to continue its support for increased teacher pay, not only for new teachers but for returning educators and support staff. Additionally, we continue to support funding for afterschool programs, literacy investments, mental health supports, and 21st Century technology that keeps our students competitive with scholars around the world.

Adult Learners - Non-traditional students and returning learners continue to be a vital component of our workforce and our community. We encourage the legislature to continue its funding of the State College system and trade certificate programs that give residents uplifting in opportunities.



Neighborhood Health and Safety

Responsible Gun Ownership - Communities like St. Pete continue to suffer from the impacts of gun violence, specifically our young people. We encourage the legislature to fund programs to encourage safe firearm storage, usage, and support law enforcement as they work to keep weapons out of the hands of dangerous and irresponsible individuals.

Criminal Justice Reform - As a city adopting innovative diversion programming, we encourage the Legislature to adopt common sense policies that will reduce recidivism and rehabilitate offenders before they reenter the community, while implementing meaningful consequences for those who continue to engage in dangerous criminal conduct.

Nutrition - A strong, productive, and resilient community starts as a healthy community. We encourage the Legislature to provide robust funding for school and summer meal programs and implement policies that incentive businesses and urban farmers working to bring healthy, nutritious food into our communities.

Healthy Cities - We commend the legislature for the historic actions taken through the passage of the Live Healthy Act. Those sweeping initiatives made significant steps towards better health for all Floridians, particularly for low-income residents and those living in rural areas. We stand ready to support additional efforts to increase access to healthcare and grow our healthcare workforce.



Business and Arts Development

Small Business Support - As we recover from Hurricanes Helene and Milton, small businesses continue to suffer from lost revenue, damage to their business, and extended closures. It is vital that the State provides support to this important part of our economy.

State Arts and Culture Grants - The arts community remains a vibrant part of the economy of St. Petersburg. We encourage the Legislature to provide substantive funding to this program, and examine ways they can support organizations who did not receive funding last fiscal year.

Blue Economy - As Florida grows and diversifies its economy we support strong investments in marine research and innovation, maritime resiliency and security, and an educated workforce and startup culture that supports these efforts. We encourage continued strong funding of state funding state institutions like USF that continue to be a vital catalyst in this space.

