MEMORANDUM

Date: October 9, 2025

To: Honorable Mayor and Commissioners

Via: Brian L. Barroso
City Manager

From: Todd Stoughton
City of Key West

Subject: **(File ID: 25-4471) FY-2026 State and Federal Legislative Agenda**

Introduction

Staff is requesting the City Commission consider the approval of FY-2026 Legislative Agenda for both State and Federal Lobbying priorities.

Background

The City of Key West has recently hired a new State Lobbying firm (The Southern Group) that will also add Federal Lobbying Services for the first time in the FY-26 budget. Lobbyists from the Southern Group have met with staff and elected officials to draft this year's priorities for State and Federal lobbying and have provided recommendations to staff for FY-26 lobbying efforts.

The development of the City's state and federal agenda is an ongoing initiative that will be updated throughout the fiscal year. In contrast to previous years, staff has taken a more hands on approach and will work on legislative issues year-round.

Each year, the Commission establishes and approves legislative priorities to guide the City's advocacy efforts at both the state and federal levels. The City typically concentrates on its most pressing issues while also supporting the broader initiatives of the Florida League of Cities (FLC).

To shape these priorities, the City Commission and staff evaluate emerging trends and issues affecting City programs and services. The agenda item includes both specific priorities and general issues recommended for pursuit and support during the 2026 legislative sessions.

Financial Impact:

Currently, staff has budgeted $150,000.00 for federal lobbying and $90,000.00 for state lobbying.

Recommendation

The City Manager's Office recommends the Mayor and Commission approval of the proposed items to be included in the City's 2026 State and Federal Legislative Agenda. Staff requests Board approval of the recommended items for inclusion in the City's 2026 State and Federal Legislative Program. Upon approval, staff and the City's contracted lobbying teams will advance these Commission-approved priorities, with emphasis on those identified as high-priority for 2026.