City of Key West

2026 State Legislative Priorities

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City of Key West annually identifies legislative priorities to guide advocacy during the Florida Legislative Session. These priorities focus on protecting the City's quality of life, supporting resilience and housing initiatives, ensuring affordable insurance, and preserving home rule authority.

The City works in coordination with Monroe County, the Florida Keys Stewardship Act partners, and the Florida League of Cities, and the Southeast Florida Climate Compact.

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Water Quality and Resilience

- Support continued State stewardship funding for appropriate projects. The FDEP Secretary indicated to Monroe County leadership that they prefer that the County spearheads the ILA between all government entities within Monroe County. That did not happen for FY-26 disbursement of funds which will be left to each municipality to enter their projects into the State portal. City recommends future distributions be managed through the County utilizing an ILA.
- Request Fire Station 3 replacement funding via any means; Request earmark (appropriations) request from Senator Anna Maria Rodriguez and Representative Jim Mooney/Request Senator Anna Maria Rodriguez to sponsor/file an appropriations project to request in Tallahassee to secure direct state dollars in the next budget cycle.
- Support all stormwater projects within the City of Key West. Stormwater project funding has been a challenge for the Utilities department. Consider utilizing State Senator to file a stormwater project as a budget request?
- Support inclusion of the Florida Keys Stewardship Act in the Land Acquisition Trust Fund for reliable funding.
- Support robust funding for the Resilient Florida Grant Program with reduced local match requirements.

Affordable and Workforce Housing

- Support expanded State funding for workforce and affordable housing, including SHIP and SAIL allocations dedicated to the Florida Keys.
- Support raising income ceilings for workforce housing.
- Support legislation allowing local governments to provide ad valorem tax incentives for affordable rental housing.
- Support local authority to regulate vacation rentals to protect workforce housing stock.
- Support affordable housing initiatives with the United States Navy, specifically the local

USN Command to support the development of 18 acres of federal property located on Sigsbee Island.

Windstorm and Flood Insurance

- Although the 10% annual cap on Citizens Property Insurance rates was disapproved, and an increase was approved in FY-25, recommend capping any annual increases.
- Support legislation addressing affordability for flood insurance under FEMA's Risk Rating 2.0.
- Support recognition of Monroe County/Key West's strong building codes in insurance rates.

Transportation and Mobility

- The City transit department relies on both Federal and State funding to operate the City's transit department that benefits the entirety of Monroe County. FTA and FDOT Grants fund over 50% of the department's operational costs. The City is reducing services to the community due to lack of funding mechanisms.
- Support transportation funding for safety, congestion relief, bicycle/pedestrian infrastructure, and transit initiatives within the City.
- Support robust funding for the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP).

Home Rule Protection

- Oppose State preemptions that limit municipal authority on land use, vacation rentals, environmental protection, and revenue sources.
- Restore authority to local communities to regulate short-term rental properties, or exempt ACSC from preemptive vacation rental regulations or legislation or allow local governments to amend and update grandfathered regulations without losing grandfathered status.

GENERAL LEGISLATIVE ISSUES/POLICIES TO MONITOR

- Support funding for Everglades and Florida Bay restoration to protect local waters.
- Support increased State investment in mental health and substance abuse services.
- Support expanded State resources for homelessness and veterans' services.
- Oppose unfunded mandates and cost shifts from the State to municipalities.

CONTACT INFORMATION

City of Key West Elected Officials

Mayor Danise Henriquez	danise.henriquez@cityofkeywest-fl.gov
Vice Mayor Donald "Donnie" Lee	donald.lee@cityofkeywest-fl.gov
Commissioner Lissette Carey	lissette.carey@cityofkeywest-fl.gov
Commissioner Aaron Castillo	aaron.castillo@cityofkeywest-fl.gov
Commissioner Monica Haskell	monica.haskell@cityofkeywest-fl.gov
Commissioner Mary Lou Hoover	mlhoover@cityofkeywest-fl.gov
Commissioner Sam Kaufman	skaufman@cityofkeywest-fl.gov

City of Key West Charter Officers

City Manager Brian L. Barroso	brian.barroso@cityofkeywest-fl.gov
City Interim Attorney Kendal Harden	kendal.harden@cityofkeywest-fl.gov
City Clerk Keri O'Brien	kobrien@cityofkeywest-fl.gov