THE 2016 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES
OF THE
HENDRY COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

ADOPTED BY THE
HENDRY COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Commissioner Janet Taylor- District 1
Commissioner Darrell Harris-District 2
Commissioner Don Davis-District 3
Commissioner Michael Swindle-District 4
Commissioner Karson Turner- District 5

THE HENDRY COUNTY LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION
Senator Dwight Bullard, District 39
Speaker Pro Temp Matt Hudson, District 80
Preface

The issues and comments reflected in the 2016 Legislative Program for Hendry County are intended to protect, promote and benefit programs and areas of funding that are important to providing services to the citizens of Hendry County.

The members of the Hendry County Board of County Commissioners acknowledge the outstanding support that our community has and continues to receive from the State of Florida. The Hendry County Board of County Commissioners is appreciative of all of the hard work the Hendry County Legislative Delegation performs in support of our community.

MAJOR LEGISLATIVE OBJECTIVES – Hendry County supports the Florida Association of Counties and the Small County Coalition’s Legislative Program and Guiding Principles. Below you will find our specific requests, more in depth background and data materials are provided on our website www.hendryfla.net.

- Provide relief for the pending increases in costs for Medicaid resulting in a 155% increase in expenses for Hendry County.

- Wastewater Infrastructure on US27/SR80 - Phase II: Hendry County will be requesting funding for Phase II of the Wastewater Force Main from Airglades Airport to Clewiston Project. Phase I was funded in 2015 Legislative session. Technical reports will be provided as available including a formal cost estimate.

- Fund Hendry County’s infrastructure and water quality project that will support the combined four (4) Counties: Lee, Charlotte, Glades & Hendry:
  - Four Corners Stormwater/Water Quality Project: Hendry County requests funding to construct storm water improvements in the Four Corners Area (Lee/Charlotte/Glades/Hendry Counties) to the County Line Ditch in order to reduce flooding and to provide water quality. The proposed improvements to the County Line Ditch are shovel ready as they have already been designed and permitted. The estimated construction cost is $4,000,000.

- Hendry County Jail Assessment for expansion or replacement of existing jail. The expense for the assessment is $80,000.00.

- Provide Support for Key Projects.
  - DOS Bureau of Historic Preservation Grant Old Hendry County Courthouse Façade Preservation $500,000.
  - FRDAP Grant Hendry-LaBelle Regional Sports Park Complex $200,000.
  - FRDAP Grant Hendry-LaBelle Community Civic Park $200,000.
  - FDACS Grant Hendry County Fair and Livestock Show-Arena and Pavilion Upgrade $750,000.
Transportation – Local Roads:

- **Increase Funding for Small County Road Programs - Hendry County requests that funding for the Small County Road Programs be a priority of the Florida Legislature.**
  - **County Road 835 – Part I**
    Fund the design, permitting, construction and construction engineering inspection services for CR835 from 7.7-miles south of US27 to 9.1-miles south of US27 (2.1 miles) which is a farm to market road and rural collector. This road is in need of resurfacing due to cracking and settlement and the drainage pipe ends need to be extend outside the clear zone. Improvements needed to this segment of CR835 are cold in place recycling of the asphalt, installation of a geo-textile mat to prevent cracking, resurfacing, striping, signage upgrades, drainage improvements, and shoulder work. The estimated cost is **$2,200,000**.
  
- **County Road 835 – Part II**
  Fund the design, permitting, construction and construction engineering inspection services for CR835 from 5.75-miles south of US27 to 6.75-miles south of US27 (1 mile) which is a farm to market road and rural collector. This road is in need of resurfacing due to cracking and settlement and the drainage pipe ends need to be extend outside the clear zone. Improvements needed to this segment of CR835 are cold in place recycling of the asphalt, installation of a geo-textile mat to prevent cracking, resurfacing, striping, signage upgrades, drainage improvements, and shoulder work. The estimated cost is **$1,200,000**.
  
- **Hendry Isles Boulevard**
  Fund the design, permitting, construction and construction engineering inspection services for Hendry Isles Blvd from SR80 to Arcadia Avenue which is a farm to market road and the only point of ingress and egress for Pioneer Plantation. Required improvements consist of some milling and resurfacing along with replacing culverts underneath the road way. The estimated cost is **$900,000**.

Transportation – State Roads:

- Fund the Project Development and Environment Study for US27 from the Palm Beach County Line to County Road 720.
- Fund the construction for the widening of SR29 from just south of Spencer Lane to Cowboy Way. Design and permitting is underway and the required right-of-way acquisition is funded in Fiscal Year 2015/16.

Public Transportation Enhancement

- Transportation Grants for Rural Counties- remove language that creates three year restriction for grants in rural counties. Create same language as urban area grants allow.
• Improve routes to schools, training centers, health care and employment centers by expanding the Good Wheels transportation program with additional buses and recurring funding for drivers, support staff and overhead expenses.

• **Support Rural Job Creation and Protection of Rural Economic Base:** Hendry County requests a clear rural job creation strategy within the state economic development job creation plan. This strategy should include -  
  o Legislative Flexibility and Regulatory Predictability.  
  o Organizational realignment of resources in support of rural job creation.  
  o Identify and support Emerging Market Opportunities in rural areas.  
  o Protect Against Actions that impact local economic stability.

• **Rural Health Care:** Hendry County is aware of the important role that local health departments play in providing critical primary care services in rural areas. The current structure needs to be protected.

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**HENDRY COUNTY CONTACT INFORMATION**

For more information regarding the items with the Hendry County 2016 Legislative Priorities please find the available contacts below:

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FOR MORE IN DEPTH INFORMATION ON THE ABOVE PROJECTS, PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT [WWW.HENDRYFLA.NET](http://WWW.HENDRYFLA.NET)