



WINTER HAVEN

The Chain of Lakes City

2019 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

WE EXTEND OUR APPRECIATION

On behalf of the more than 42,828 residents living inside the City limits and the additional 40,000+ people residing in the Winter Haven service area, we want to thank you for your continued support. Last year, you listened to our requests and engaged the right conversations with the right agencies, and for that we are grateful. As we move forward, we ask you to keep Polk County, and specifically Winter Haven in mind as you build relationships, conduct business and make tough choices. Your decisions directly impact our success. Help Winter Haven achieve its potential by allowing it to work on behalf of its residents without unfunded mandates and the removal of legislative power. Conditions are set for unceasing success, and we depend on you as our partner to help us all thrive. It's not just about our City; it's about how Winter Haven's success can be shared throughout Florida's 67 counties. The Winter Haven community and all cities depend on you. Thank you.

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Support decision-making at the local level.

Each City is unique with different needs and services. We ask you to **support Home Rule** for local decision-making, self government and citizen-centered solutions.

Support significant transportation funding and efforts to improve mobility, vehicular and pedestrian safety, connectivity, and economic vitality.

U.S. Highway 17 Corridor Study—Funding Requested: \$500,000; City cost-share: \$100,000; U.S. Highway 17 is a heavily traveled arterial road that bisects the City and distracts from the City's major investments and efforts for community revitalization and economic development. It causes a substantial physical separation between the downtown core, neighborhoods, the chain of lakes, and the trail system. A comprehensive study of the U.S. 17 three-mile corridor would identify actions and projects to be taken by FDOT, the City of Winter Haven and private property owners to improve pedestrian safety and walkability; improve the overall economic viability, including job creation; maximize the economic development potential for property; create an economic and physical environment to stabilize property values and encourage private investment; and provide needed linkage between the downtown core and adjacent neighborhoods.

Support appropriations for the establishment of railroad "Quiet Zones."

Quiet Zone for West Winter Haven—Funding Request: \$1,500,000; The opening of the Central Florida Intermodal Logistics Terminal in the City, coupled with the shift in freight rail traffic from the "A" Line to the "S" Line to accommodate the operation of SunRail in the Orlando metro area, has resulted in an increase in trains traveling through residential areas of Winter Haven. The increased frequency and timing of trains sounding their warning horn at road crossings has created a substantial noise impact. Based on a recent consultant study, the City is interested in establishing a quiet zone designation for two different stretches of the "S" Line as it passes west and southwest of Winter Haven. The first area extends from Coleman Road to N. Lake Shipp Drive for 1.54 miles and involves five crossings. The estimated cost is \$650,000. The second extends from American Superior Boulevard to Pollard Road for two miles and involves six crossings. Improvements are estimated at \$850,000. Previous FDOT funds for quiet zones are no longer available.

Support legislation that: encourages public/private partnerships; offers incentives for little to no water resource impacts; and provides funding consistent with the Heartland Headwaters Act.

Reuse Water Interconnect Pipeline— Funding Request \$1,500,000; Estimated Total Project Budget: \$ 8,000,000; SWFWMD Funding Available: \$666,974; Alternative water supplies are being evaluated, including the use of highly treated wastewater effluent (reuse water). The project will construct 15,000 feet of reuse water main to supply reuse water for irrigation and hydrologic restoration. The City has a grant with the Southwest Florida Water Management District, but the city has to fund approximately \$5M to complete this project.

Master Force Main Replacement—Funding Request: \$2,500,000; Total Project Budget: \$10,000,000; This project will construct 20,000 feet of new wastewater force main to replace 40 year old pipe that serves 60 percent of Winter Haven. Benefits include more reliable service; less chance of environmental degradation due to pipe breakage; reduced construction cost since construction is concurrent with other work; and reduce operation and maintenance costs.

Integrated Water Management Land Acquisition—Funding Request: \$1,200,000; Estimated Total Project Budget: \$10,000,000; The City has adopted an Integrated Water Management Approach that benefits all aspects of water resources. One key component is land acquisition. Funding would assist in acquiring 250 acres for flood water storage and aquifer recharge in a highly impacted area and turn the land into a water resource nature park. (Properties are being evaluated for acquisition.) The benefits include an alternative water supply; flood protection; water quality improvement; habitat improvement; recreational and scenic benefits; and increased land values.

Winter Haven/Polk County/Auburndale Public Water Supply Interconnect—Funding Request: \$1,000,000; Total Project Budget: \$3,200,000; Winter Haven is working jointly with Polk County and Auburndale Utilities to construct a three-way potable water interconnect. This \$2,000,000 project is under design, and will allow all three agencies to share water during emergencies, as well as the sharing of alternative water supplies.

Support funding for the acquisition, development, and rehabilitation of parks, historic facilities and public lands as well as recreation infrastructure and assets through grant resources such as the Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program (FRDAP), Florida Department of State Historical Resources Division Grants, and the Cultural Arts Facility Grant program.