



**2014**

**Governmental Affairs Agenda**

## Local Agenda Items

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**City:** St. Pete. Beach, Treasure Island, Madeira Beach, Redington Beach, North Redington Beach, Redington Shores, Indian Shores, Indian Rocks Beach, Belleair Beach, Belleair Shores.  
**Agenda Item:** Crosswalks

**Agenda Item Description:** Pedestrian safety is a hot topic across the county. Florida is consistently recognized for the highest number of pedestrian fatalities per capita. Promotion and education of the crosswalk system along state road 699 (Gulf Boulevard) is a major concern to businesses and leaders.

**Current Status:** The TBBCoC supports the promotion and education of crosswalks throughout Gulf Boulevard. WalkWise initiated a campaign to educate the local community. Last year, the TBBCoC completed phase one of an educational campaign directed toward the people actually using the crosswalks along Gulf Boulevard, the visitors. Phase one introduced educational pieces in hotels along the beaches to direct transient visitors on how to use the new crosswalk systems as a pedestrian. Phase two is planned for 2014 and will introduce educational pieces into the rental cars to direct transient visitors on how to use the crosswalks as a driver.

**Useful Resources:**

- More Information: <http://walkwisetampabay.com/>
- TBBCoC Advocacy Website: [http://www.tampabaybeaches.com/chamber/government\\_affairs.aspx](http://www.tampabaybeaches.com/chamber/government_affairs.aspx)

**Action:**

- The TBBCoC is seeking sponsorship to fund education campaign at rental car locations.
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**City:** Madeira Beach  
**Agenda Item:** Madeira Beach Water Quality

**Agenda Item Description:** Federal law prohibits the discharge of untreated sewage from vessels within navigable waters. However, no one is enforcing this law. The fecal count in the intercostal waterways has reached dangerously high levels. Truly

**Current Status:** The TBBCoC supports protecting our waterways and quality of life. The Government Affairs Representative connected Commissioner Poe with County Commissioner John Morroni, Representative Peters and Senator Brandes for support on this important issue.

**Useful Resources:**

- Madeira Beach Commissioner, Elaine Poe: 727-391-5591
- TBBCoC Advocacy Website: [http://www.tampabaybeaches.com/chamber/government\\_affairs.aspx](http://www.tampabaybeaches.com/chamber/government_affairs.aspx)

**Action:**

- Contact County Commissioner John Morroni: (727) 464-3568, [JMorrone@pinellascounty.org](mailto:JMorrone@pinellascounty.org)
  - Contact Representative Kathleen Peters: (850) 717-5069, [Kathleen.Peters@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:Kathleen.Peters@myfloridahouse.gov)
  - Contact Senator Jeff Brandes: (850) 487-5022, [Brandes.jeff.web@flsenate.gov](mailto:Brandes.jeff.web@flsenate.gov)
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# County Agenda

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## **Agenda Item: Beach Renourishment**

**Agenda Item Description:** Over time our beaches have suffered a major loss of beachfront as a result of storms and hurricanes. In the past, the federal Government had split the cost of renourishment with the county. The Army Corps assessed the cost of renourishing the beaches after the damage was incurred. However, there is always a possibility that our beaches might not receive the necessary funding for beach renourishment.

**Current Status:** The TBBCoC supports county funding towards beach renourishment. Beach renourishment is essential for protecting our award-winning beaches and maintaining a strong and prosperous local economy. The Pinellas County portion of the funding comes from the Tourist Tax. One half of 1% of the 5% tax is set aside annually for beach project. This Tourist Tax dedication guarantees that no local tax dollars are spent on beach nourishment. If the federal government splits the cost with Pinellas County, the county only has to spend half the amount of money.

### **Useful Resources:**

- More Information: [www.VisitStPeteClearwater.com](http://www.VisitStPeteClearwater.com)
- TBBCoC Advocacy Website: [http://www.tampabaybeaches.com/chamber/government\\_affairs.aspx](http://www.tampabaybeaches.com/chamber/government_affairs.aspx)
- Contact [Beaches@PinellasCounty.com](mailto:Beaches@PinellasCounty.com) for specific questions.

### **Action:**

- The TBBCoC will work closely with county and local officials to assure the completion of this project.
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## **Agenda Item: Gulf Boulevard Beautification**

\*This is a local issue that is decided by the county

**Agenda Item Description:** Gulf Boulevard has long been an area attraction for tourists accessing the County's beaches. Gulf Boulevard Improvements Project developed and adopted by Board of County Commissioners in 2001. Program included undergrounding of utilities, streetscape enhancements, and pedestrian safety improvements.

**Current Status:** The TBBCoC is advocating for undergrounding of utilities, streetscape enhancements, and pedestrian safety improvements along Gulf Boulevard which will allow for the following.

- Improve businesses, visitors, and residents quality of life.
- Unification of the eleven beach communities through common amenities and streetscape improvements.
- Elimination of visual blight caused by overhead utilities.
- Development of an attractive roadway experience to spur tourism and economic development.

### **Useful Resources:**

- More Information: [http://www.pinellascounty.org/bcc-agenda/2012\\_07\\_10/supplement-16.pdf](http://www.pinellascounty.org/bcc-agenda/2012_07_10/supplement-16.pdf)
- TBBCoC Advocacy Website: [http://www.tampabaybeaches.com/chamber/government\\_affairs.aspx](http://www.tampabaybeaches.com/chamber/government_affairs.aspx)

### **Action:**

- The TBBCoC will work closely with county and local officials to assure the completion of this project.
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## **Agenda Item: Tourist Development Tax (Bed Tax) Enforcement**

**Agenda Item Description:** Enforcing residents that rent their properties to tourists pay the Tourist Development Tax. This is essential to promote our destination, attract visitors, and support the tourism Industry. Enforcing residential rental properties to pay the Tourist Development Tax will create fair and equitable funding opportunities for all rental properties and legitimate businesses.

**Current Status:** The TBBCoC supports the enforcement of the Tourist Development Tax collection. Residential rental properties are required to pay their fair share of the Tourist Development Tax. However, some rental properties might not be paying the Tourism Development Tax. In some cases, municipalities don't allow residential properties to be rented and therefore don't pay the Tourist Development Tax. The tax of 5 cents per dollar is supposed to be levied not just on motel or hotel stays, but on all "transient accommodations" of six months or less. That includes vacation or seasonal stays at townhouses, condominiums, timeshares, single-family homes, mobile homes, beach cottages and rooming houses.

### **Useful Resources:**

- More Information: <http://www.pinellascvb.com/cms/index.php?id=6>
- TBBCoC Advocacy Website: [http://www.tampabaybeaches.com/chamber/government\\_affairs.aspx](http://www.tampabaybeaches.com/chamber/government_affairs.aspx)

### **Action:**

- TBBCoC is working with County and State officials to find a solution.
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## **Agenda Item: Tourist Development Tax (Bed Tax) Preservation**

**Agenda Item Description:** Preserving the Bed Tax for its intended purpose is essential to promote our destination, attract visitors, and support the tourism Industry. Preserving the Bed Tax for its intended purpose will create fair and equitable funding opportunities for all events.

**Current Status:** The TBBCoC supports preserving the Bed Tax for its intended purpose. However, recent amendments to the bill present the precedence for other entities to make changes as well. This could result in funds being appropriated for things that don't meet the sufficient requirements which will take away from the intended purpose, attracting visitors to our area. The Bed Tax is a five percent tourist tax collected on accommodations rented for less than six months. The tax is used to strengthen the local economy and increase employment through the ongoing promotion and development of tourism, Pinellas County's major industry.

### **Useful Resource:**

- More Information: <http://www.pinellascvb.com/cms/index.php?id=6>
- TBBCoC Advocacy Website: [http://www.tampabaybeaches.com/chamber/government\\_affairs.aspx](http://www.tampabaybeaches.com/chamber/government_affairs.aspx)

### **Action:**

- TBBCoC is attending all TDC Meeting to stay informed
  - TBBCoC is speaking with PCC to guarantee they fully understand the preservation of these funds
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**Agenda Item: Transit**

**Agenda Item Description:** As ridership on Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority buses along the beaches have been reaching record highs, the county's transportation budget has been cut. A proposed light rail system connecting Clearwater to the Gateway area and St. Petersburg, supported by an improved network of buses will ensure that the growing demand of the PSTA services are met. Due to the cut in funding, it is essential that Pinellas County transit system gains revenue to ensure it remains an intricate part of our beach community. The county is proposing a one cent sales tax to help recover the loss of funds brought about by the budget cut.

**Current Status:** The TBBCoC is in favor the proposed sales tax for transit in order to support the proposed light rail system connecting the surrounding area to our award winning beaches and creating an improved network of buses to keep up with the growing ridership. PSTA sought feedback from the beach communities and other areas on what the focus should include in PSTA's proposed Pinellas Community Bus Plan. Once complete, it will be a major part of Greenlight Pinellas, a campaign to educate residents on bus and rail plans they will vote on in a November 2014 referendum. PSTA is seeking a one cent increase in the county's sales tax to fund growing transportation demands. Greenlight Pinellas is designed to bring all the different forms of transportation into one website, allowing for a forum to discuss and create a more unison structure.

**Useful Resources:**

- More Information: [www.GreenlightPinellas.com](http://www.GreenlightPinellas.com)
- TBBCoC Advocacy Website: [http://www.tampabaybeaches.com/chamber/government\\_affairs.aspx](http://www.tampabaybeaches.com/chamber/government_affairs.aspx)

**Action:**

- The TBBCoC is working with PSTA to conduct Greenlight Pinellas presentations at each municipality along our beaches.

# State Agenda

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## **Agenda Item: Beach Renourishment**

**Agenda Item Description:** Over time our beaches have suffered a major loss of beachfront as a result of storms and hurricanes. In the past, the state government had split the cost of renourishment with the county and federal government. The Army Corps assess the cost of renourishing the beaches after the damage is incurred. However, there is always a possibility that our beaches might not receive the necessary funding for beach renourishment.

**Current Status:** The TBBCoC supports state funding towards beach renourishment. Beach renourishment is essential for protecting our award-winning beaches and maintaining a strong and prosperous local economy. If the federal government splits the cost with Pinellas County, the county only has to spend half the amount of money.

### **Useful Resources:**

- More Information: [www.VisitStPeteClearwater.com](http://www.VisitStPeteClearwater.com)
- TBBCoC Advocacy Website: [http://www.tampabaybeaches.com/chamber/government\\_affairs.aspx](http://www.tampabaybeaches.com/chamber/government_affairs.aspx)
- Track House Bills: <http://bit.ly/1j4JSz>
- Track Senate Bills: <http://bit.ly/1bOItE7>
- Download the Florida House App: <http://bit.ly/10YQ4nM>
- Download iCitizen App: <http://www.icitizen.com>

**Action:** Build a strong relationship with whoever wins C.W. Bill Young's 13<sup>th</sup> District Congressional seat because he was the driving force for our beach renourishment projects.

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## **Agenda Item: Corporate Lease Tax – HB. 11, SB. 176**

**Agenda Item Description:** Regardless of the size or complexity of a commercial lease transaction, the state of Florida requires sales tax to be paid on certain lease-related charges. Florida is the only state that imposes a specific sales tax on commercial real estate leases. This excessive tax is hampering economic recovery for employers and especially small businesses; subjecting Florida businesses to disproportionate regulatory burdens; creating instances of double taxation; and sacrificing our competitiveness in securing more corporate headquarters and other employers into the state—ultimately costing Florida jobs.

**Current Status:** TBBCoC opposes the corporate lease tax in order to create a fair and level playing field for all businesses. Imposing more taxes on our industry discourages job creation in a time when job creation is essential. Florida needs to pass legislation that will get rid of unfair double taxation, specifically tenants paying sales taxes on property taxes paid as part of their leases. In addition, the removal of this tax will help put Florida businesses on a level playing field with other retailers.

### **Useful Resources:**

- TBBCoC Advocacy Website: [http://www.tampabaybeaches.com/chamber/government\\_affairs.aspx](http://www.tampabaybeaches.com/chamber/government_affairs.aspx)
- Track House Bills: <http://bit.ly/1j4JSz>
- Track Senate Bills: <http://bit.ly/1bOItE7>
- Download the Florida House App: <http://bit.ly/10YQ4nM>
- Download iCitizen App: <http://www.icitizen.com>

### **Action:**

- Urge Florida State elected officials to oppose the Corporate Lease Tax.
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**Agenda Item: E-fairness – HB. 1415, SB. 196, SB. 202**

**Agenda Item Description:** Online retailers are not required to pay sales tax which creates an unfair price advantage over brick-and-mortar businesses. As their customers naturally gravitate to perceived lower prices online, small local businesses are forced to cut their workforces, prices, or wages to keep their businesses open. This cycle is dragging down our small business economy. By closing this massive loophole, Florida will be more competitive and save small business jobs.

**Current Status:** TBBCoC supports the E-fairness bill and its efforts to create a fair and level playing field for small businesses whether they sell online or on Main Street. The E-fairness Bill empowers Florida to collect taxes that are already on the books. No new tax is included in this bill.

**Useful Resources:**

- More Information: <http://bit.ly/11uUTbe>
- TBBCoC Advocacy Website: [http://www.tampabaybeaches.com/chamber/government\\_affairs.aspx](http://www.tampabaybeaches.com/chamber/government_affairs.aspx)
- Track House Bills: <http://bit.ly/1jJ4JSz>
- Track Senate Bills: <http://bit.ly/1bOItE7>
- Download the Florida House App: <http://bit.ly/10YQ4nM>
- Download iCitizen App: <http://www.icitizen.com>

**Action:**

- Urge Florida State elected officials to support E-Fairness.
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**Agenda Item: Expansion of Gaming - SB. 98**

**Agenda Item Description:** Florida is a premier location to live, work, learn, and raise a family. For a more competitive Florida, we must protect Florida's unique quality of life by ensuring our state remains one of the most family-friendly places to live and work. Casinos are not family friendly, and bringing them to Florida would only drive our family friendly tourists to other locations. Once one casino comes to town, the rest of the casinos will follow.

**Current Status:** The TBBCoC opposes the expansion of gaming in Florida. The Gambling Impact Study showed that several kinds of generally unavoidable costs associated with expanded gambling: crime of all sorts, health problems associated with pathological or problem gambling, political corruption, personal bankruptcies caused by problem gambling, and more. Vegas-Style casinos are all inclusive. All the restaurants, shops, and entertainment are self-contained within the casinos. This takes away from the mom and pop businesses, ultimately running them out of business.

**Useful Resources:**

- The Gambling Impact Study Report: <http://bit.ly/17tSiQc>
- TBBCoC Advocacy Website: [http://www.tampabaybeaches.com/chamber/government\\_affairs.aspx](http://www.tampabaybeaches.com/chamber/government_affairs.aspx)
- Track House Bills: <http://bit.ly/1jJ4JSz>
- Track Senate Bills: <http://bit.ly/1bOItE7>
- Download the Florida House App: <http://bit.ly/10YQ4nM>
- Download iCitizen App: <http://www.icitizen.com>

**Action:**

- Urge Florida State elected officials to oppose the Expansion of Gaming.
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**Agenda Item: Film Florida – HB. 983, SB. 1640**

**Agenda Item Description:** Pinellas County has benefited from two major feature films (Dolphin Tale and Dolphin Tale 2) and several independent films, spending more than \$5 million in the last three years. During the 2013 legislative session, Florida’s Entertainment Industry Financial Incentive program was not allocated additional tax credits and there are presently no tax credits available in the program through FY2015/2016.

**Current Status:** The TBBCoC supports Film Florida’s mission insuring the success of Florida’s Film Industry. In order to insure the continued success of Florida’s Entertainment Industry Financial Incentive program, the film, TV, commercial & media production industry asks for your support of the following priorities for our industry:

- Additional funding for the remaining fiscal years of program
- Additional long-term commitment to the program in the form of additional years or no sunset
- Adequate funding for the Office of Film & Entertainment
- Contract with Film Florida to create a public-private partnership that will provide consistent leadership for Florida’s entertainment production industries by 1.) marketing the State’s industry resources; 2.) aligning and building the State’s regional industry clusters and ; 3.) insuring that steps are being taken to protect Florida’s investment in the entertainment production industries.

**Useful Resources:**

- TBBCoC Advocacy Website: [http://www.tampabaybeaches.com/chamber/government\\_affairs.aspx](http://www.tampabaybeaches.com/chamber/government_affairs.aspx)
- Track House Bills: <http://bit.ly/1jJ4JSz>
- Track Senate Bills: <http://bit.ly/1bOItE7>
- Download the Florida House App: <http://bit.ly/10YQ4nM>
- Download iCitizen App: <http://www.icitizen.com>

**Action:**

- Urge Florida State elected officials to support Film Florida.
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**Agenda Item: Flood Insurance Reform – HB.581, HB.879, SB.542**

**Agenda Item Description:** The Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 was passed July 6, 2012 in an attempt to stabilize the National Flood Insurance Program. Subsequently, Florida families are facing foreclosure because of drastic rate increases on their flood insurance policies. We need a Florida solution that addresses this problem and provides some stability while preserving consumer protections in our state.

**Current Status:** The TBBCoC supports framework for a private marketplace in Florida for flood insurance. Allowing for private market flood insurance solutions will provide more options for policyholders that fit their individual needs. Florida needs more flexible options for policyholders to choose so they can reach an affordable level of coverage for their property.

**Useful Resources:**

- TBBCoC Advocacy Website: [http://www.tampabaybeaches.com/chamber/government\\_affairs.aspx](http://www.tampabaybeaches.com/chamber/government_affairs.aspx)
- Track House Bills: <http://bit.ly/1jJ4JSz>
- Track Senate Bills: <http://bit.ly/1bOItE7>
- Download the Florida House App: <http://bit.ly/10YQ4nM>
- Download iCitizen App: <http://www.icitizen.com>

**Action:**

- Urge your state legislators to support the framework for a private marketplace in Florida for flood insurance.
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**Agenda Item: Mandated Leave**

**Agenda Item Description:** The mandated leave will increase costs for businesses. These additional regulatory burdens will make Florida less competitive and scare away companies looking to relocate to Florida. If regulations are warranted, they should be uniform across the state and should be as minimally invasive and as cost effective as possible. Employers should be able to decide their own leave policies and not be forced to comply with unreasonable government mandates.

**Current Status:** The TBBCoC opposes mandated leave. Florida needs legislation preempting local and county governments from adopting policies governing terms of employment and other wage related issues. Job creators and potential employees should determine conditions of employment, including paid leave. Local and county referendums and mandates will only impose further burdens on businesses and job creation.

**Useful Resources:**

- TBBCoC Advocacy Website: [http://www.tampabaybeaches.com/chamber/government\\_affairs.aspx](http://www.tampabaybeaches.com/chamber/government_affairs.aspx)
- Track House Bills: <http://bit.ly/1jJ4JSz>
- Track Senate Bills: <http://bit.ly/1bOItE7>
- Download the Florida House App: <http://bit.ly/10YQ4nM>
- Download iCitizen App: <http://www.icitizen.com>

**Action:**

- Urge Florida State elected officials to oppose Mandated Leave.
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**Agenda Item: Regulation Reform**

**Agenda Item Description:** Excessive regulations increase costs for businesses. Regulatory burdens will make Florida less competitive and scare away companies looking to relocate to Florida. If regulations are warranted, they should be uniform across the state and should be as minimally invasive and as cost effective as possible. An Overwhelming amount of regulations is holding back businesses and economic development. Regulations have become unbalance and unmanageable. 4,000 new regulations are created every year. The government needs to be more transparent and have the public involved.

**Current Status:** The TBBCoC supports regulation reform in order to create a competitive business climate which is paramount to our efforts to return Florida to the number one job creator in the nation. Job creators and potential employees should determine conditions of employment. Local and county referendums and mandates will only impose further burdens on businesses and job creation.

**Useful Resources:**

- TBBCoC Advocacy Website: [http://www.tampabaybeaches.com/chamber/government\\_affairs.aspx](http://www.tampabaybeaches.com/chamber/government_affairs.aspx)
- Track House Bills: <http://bit.ly/1jJ4JSz>
- Track Senate Bills: <http://bit.ly/1bOItE7>
- Download the Florida House App: <http://bit.ly/10YQ4nM>
- Download iCitizen App: <http://www.icitizen.com>

**Action:**

- Urge Florida State elected officials to support Regulation Reform.
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## **Agenda Item: Reliable and Effective Energy Solutions**

**Agenda Item Description:** Considering Florida's current economic conditions, as well as future economic growth, Florida needs to achieve a stable, reliable and diverse supply of energy. Energy policy requires a stable, predictable regulatory and business climate while promoting energy resources that further fuel source diversification through the deployment of existing and alternative energy sources. Florida must renew its commitment to energy resources and technologies which result in the creation of new jobs within the state. Florida also needs to remain committed to consumer education on energy while continuing to modernize and expand existing energy infrastructure to ensure it is ready for the challenges of the 21st century.

**Current Status:** The TBBCoC supports an energy policy that puts the long-term over the short-term and rests on reliable, cost effective energy sources to grow the economy. This type of policy will increase energy independence and promote the use of domestic energy sources. It would also include advanced technologies and pave the way for sustainable economic growth. Recognizing Florida's current economic conditions, as well as future economic growth, the Florida Chamber of Commerce is working to make sure that Florida's needs are met with an energy policy that responds to new technology and changes in the market while bringing in new capital for investment and increasing energy security.

### **Useful Resources:**

- Learn More: <http://www.flchamber.com/?s=alternative+energy&x=33&y=24>
- TBBCoC Advocacy Website: [http://www.tampabaybeaches.com/chamber/government\\_affairs.aspx](http://www.tampabaybeaches.com/chamber/government_affairs.aspx)
- Track House Bills: <http://bit.ly/1jJ4JSz>
- Track Senate Bills: <http://bit.ly/1bOItE7>
- Download the Florida House App: <http://bit.ly/10YQ4nM>
- Download iCitizen App: <http://www.icitizen.com>

### **Action:**

- Urge Florida House of Representatives support Reliable and Effective Energy Solutions.

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## **Agenda Item: Unemployment Compensation**

**Agenda Item Description:** Florida has been burdened with double-digit unemployment rates for several years. Florida needs to focus on reducing the impact of unemployment compensation taxes on employers and business owners, ultimately lowering unemployment compensation rates. Florida's unemployment compensation system wasn't built to sustain high levels of unemployment, and the unemployment comp taxes that our entrepreneurs face continue to threaten business expansion and job creation.

**Current Status:** The TBBCoC supports lowering the cost of the unemployment compensation tax increase on Florida employers. The Florida Chamber is working to reduce the impact of these tax increases on Florida's business community. We need to continue to monitor the impact of unemployment compensation rates on Florida businesses as economic conditions warrant.

### **Useful Resources:**

- Learn More: <http://www.flchamber.com/?s=Unemployment+Compensation&x=20&y=14>
- TBBCoC Advocacy Website: [http://www.tampabaybeaches.com/chamber/government\\_affairs.aspx](http://www.tampabaybeaches.com/chamber/government_affairs.aspx)
- Track House Bills: <http://bit.ly/1jJ4JSz>
- Track Senate Bills: <http://bit.ly/1bOItE7>
- Download the Florida House App: <http://bit.ly/10YQ4nM>
- Download iCitizen App: <http://www.icitizen.com>

### **Action:**

- Urge Florida State elected officials to lower unemployment compensation rates.

# Federal Agenda

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## **Agenda Item: Beach Renourishment**

**Agenda Item Description:** Over time our beaches have suffered a major loss of beachfront as a result of storms and hurricanes. In the past, the federal Government had split the cost of renourishment with the county. The Army Corps assess the cost of renourishing the beaches after the damage is incurred. However, there is always a possibility that our beaches might not receive the necessary funding for beach renourishment.

**Current Status:** The TBBCoC supports federal funding towards beach renourishment. Beach renourishment is essential for protecting our award-winning beaches and maintaining a strong and prosperous local economy. If the federal government splits the cost with Pinellas County, the county only has to spend half the amount of money.

### **Useful Resources:**

- More Information: [www.VisitStPeteClearwater.com](http://www.VisitStPeteClearwater.com)
- TBBCoC Advocacy Website: [http://www.tampabaybeaches.com/chamber/government\\_affairs.aspx](http://www.tampabaybeaches.com/chamber/government_affairs.aspx)
- Track Legislation: <http://thomas.loc.gov>
- Download iCitizen App: <http://www.icitizen.com>

**Action:** Build a strong relationship with whoever wins C.W. Bill Young's 13<sup>th</sup> District Congressional seat because he was the driving force for our beach renourishment projects.

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## **Agenda Item: Flood Insurance Reform**

**Agenda Item Description:** The Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 was passed July 6, 2012 in an attempt to stabilize the National Flood Insurance Program. Subsequently, flood insurance rates started increasing across the county. The exorbitant rate increases are affecting properties that have never flooded and that were built in accordance with all FEMA required elevations and applicable codes at the time of construction. These properties are now considered to be out of compliance, through no fault of the property owners or local government, due to new or proposed flood mapping by FEMA.

**Current Status:** The TBBCoC supports delaying implementation of the Biggert Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 until the affordability study can be completed and legislators can reach an achievable solution to drastic increases in flood insurance premiums.

### **Useful Resources:**

- TBBCoC Advocacy Website: [http://www.tampabaybeaches.com/chamber/government\\_affairs.aspx](http://www.tampabaybeaches.com/chamber/government_affairs.aspx)
- House Bills: HR.3312 & HR.3370
- Senate Bill: S.1926
- Track Legislation: <http://thomas.loc.gov>
- Download iCitizen App: <http://www.icitizen.com>

### **Action:**

Urge your Congressional delegates to support delaying the implementation of the Biggert Waters Flood Reform Act of 2012 so an achievable solution can be reached.

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## **Agenda Item: Immigration Reform**

**Agenda Item Description:** Legal immigration is critical to Florida's economy, and current immigration restrictions have had a negative economic impact. Florida is uniquely dependent upon foreign trade, travel, and investment. State-based immigration reform measures have the potential to harm our economy and undermine our key industries of agriculture, construction, and tourism. We need comprehensive immigration reform for the country as a whole.

**Current Status:** The TBBCoC is in support of immigration reform and securing Florida's future. We need a federal policy of immigration enforcement that doesn't add unreasonable burdens on employers or harm Florida's economy or reputation in the international community. Florida is uniquely dependent upon foreign tourists, investors and trade, and therefore should not jeopardize its relationships with other nations through harsh anti-immigration laws. Florida needs to lead the nation in private-sector job creation and is well positioned to capitalize on its vast resources and geographical advantages to remain competitive in the global marketplace.

### **Useful Resources:**

- Learn More: <http://www.flchamber.com/?s=immigration+reform&x=35&y=20>
- TBBCoC Advocacy Website: [http://www.tampabaybeaches.com/chamber/government\\_affairs.aspx](http://www.tampabaybeaches.com/chamber/government_affairs.aspx)
- Track Legislation: <http://thomas.loc.gov>
- Download the Florida House App: <http://bit.ly/10YQ4nM>
- Download iCitizen App: <http://www.icitizen.com>

### **Action**

- Urge elected officials to support Immigration Reform.
-