

RESOLUTION 32 - 23

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF CAPE CORAL ESTABLISHING THE 2023 STATE LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM FOR THE CITY OF CAPE CORAL; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Cape Coral desires to establish a 2023 State Legislative Platform to communicate the City's position on various State legislative issues that may affect the City and or other municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the 2023 State Legislative Platform serves as a tool to communicate the City's legislative initiatives to the State Legislature and the citizens of Cape Coral; and

WHEREAS, the City Administration has prepared for Council's consideration the 2023 Legislative Initiatives as its State Legislative Platform.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CAPE CORAL, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. *STATE LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM.* The City of Cape Coral, Florida, hereby adopts as its State Legislative Platform the 2023 Legislative Initiatives attached hereto as Exhibit 1.

SECTION 2. *AMENDMENTS.* The aforementioned State Legislative Platform may be revised and amended from time to time by adoption of a Resolution.

SECTION 3. *DISTRIBUTION.* The City Manager or his designee is hereby authorized to provide a copy of the State Legislative Platform to the City's elected State Representatives and other stakeholders.

SECTION 4. *EFFECT OF ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION.* The adoption of this Resolution shall provide direction for City Representatives and stakeholders to interact throughout the legislative process to move forward the City's Legislative Initiatives for 2023 to ensure the City's fiscal, operational and quality of life interests are represented on behalf of the Citizens of Cape Coral. The identified initiatives represent the priority issues at the State level but are not meant to represent a complete list of issues upon which the City will take a specific stand. Often a piece of legislation, rule, issue or policy will require additional advocacy efforts.

SECTION 5. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CAPE CORAL AT ITS REGULAR COUNCIL SESSION THIS \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 2023.


\_\_\_\_\_  
JOHN GUNTER, MAYOR

VOTE OF MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBERS:

|          |       |          |       |
|----------|-------|----------|-------|
| GUNTER   | _____ | CUMMINGS | _____ |
| STEINKE  | _____ | WELSH    | _____ |
| SHEPPARD | _____ | WILLIAMS | _____ |
| HAYDEN   | _____ | COSDEN   | _____ |

ATTESTED TO AND FILED IN MY OFFICE THIS \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 2023.

\_\_\_\_\_  
KIMBERLY BRUNS  
CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
BRIAN R. BARTOS  
ASSISTANT CITY ATTORNEY  
res/Legislative Initiatives-State 2023

# 2023 STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

---

## HURRICANE IAN RECOVERY

**Support** any proposed legislation that provides funding to local municipalities impacted by Hurricane Ian for recovery, rebuilding, and mitigation efforts. The City of Cape Coral and our residents sustained significant damage from Hurricane Ian.

The City requests the state legislature support fiscal relief to local governments that experience revenue loss due to the catastrophic damage caused by Hurricane Ian. Revenue replacement ensures that Cape Coral and other jurisdictions have the necessary funding to address critical needs during disaster recovery.

## SUPPORT APPROPRIATIONS/GRANTS FOR CAPE CORAL PROJECTS

- 1. Northeast Reservoir Water Transmission Main and Pump Station – \$8 million**  
Regional water supply project capable of transferring about 12.5 million gallons of excess surface water stored in a privately owned reservoir in Charlotte County to Cape Coral's freshwater canal system during the dry season. The project would transfer up to 1.5 million gallons of water to Cape Coral's freshwater canal system each year, doubling the city's current surface water storage capacity.

Plans include the construction of a 4-mile-long water main and pump station beginning at the Southwest Aggregates mine in Charlotte County to Cape Coral's Gator Slough Canal. The irrigation water keeps Cape Coral's reclaimed water fire hydrants pressurized during the dry season for fire protection purposes, is used for lawn irrigation by property owners, and helps to maintain the canal levels.  
**(\$12.4 million project cost)**

Additional Information: In 2020, the Southwest Florida Water Management District issued a 20-year Water Use Permit to the City of Cape Coral. The City is working with state agencies to convert the Bond Farm (located on the east side of I-75) into a surface water impoundment area. This impoundment area will remove excess surface water from the Cecil Webb area and release it to the Yucca Pens Wildlife Management Area, which is too dry. To move the water, a flow-way is needed south of the Northeast Reservoir. The Water Transmission Main and Pump Station aids in the construction of this flow-way.



**2. Cape Coral Septic to Sewer Conversion Utilities Extension Project – \$10 million**

Convert 7,300 parcels to sewer, install stormwater infrastructure enhancements, and extend irrigation and potable water services to a portion of the northern part of the city located adjacent to the Caloosahatchee Basin Management Action Plan. This project reduces the harmful contaminants entering regional waterways and the number of private wells rapidly depleting water resources from shallow aquifers. **(\$202.5 million project cost)**

**3. Satellite Emergency Operations Center/Fire Station No. 10 Replacement – \$8 million**

The City of Cape Coral requests funds to build a satellite emergency operations center in the northern part of the city that replaces Fire Station Number 10. The fire station operates the existing station out of a single-family residential structure. Fire Station No. 10 is the only Cape Coral fire station not located in a Special Flood Hazard Area.

The new building will be constructed on City-owned property. It will provide fire protection and advanced life support services to the residents in the northern part of the city daily and function as a coordination point for emergency response and recovery activities. The facility will house public safety, public works, and utilities personnel and equipment when evacuations are necessary from other fire stations located in vulnerable areas of the city.

Station 10 will be strategically relocated near Del Prado Boulevard. This move will reduce response times for mutual aid request to the North Fort Myers Fire District. This station will allow for housing of a Lee County EMS ambulance in the future. The fire station's safe room will be utilized to host community events for the region when not in use during an emergency. **(\$15 million project cost)**



#### **4. Cape Coral Emergency Operations Center - \$20 million**

We are requesting an appropriation to engineer and construct a hardened Emergency Operations Center capable of withstanding a Category 5 hurricane. The facility would allow for efficient and effective disaster preparedness activities, inter-agency coordination, and managing disaster response and recovery services to the city's population of more than 200,000 residents before, during, and after disaster events. The facility utilized for emergency management response and recovery is non-compliant with FEMA and state Emergency Operation Center requirements due to a lack of space, restrooms, showers, and kitchen facilities and is inadequate to meet the city's growing needs. **(\$35 million estimated project cost)**

#### **5. Cape Coral Storm Athletic Complex Redevelopment Project - \$725,000**

This project aims to redevelop the Storm Athletic Complex by replacing the main playing field with a new artificial turf field, completing major renovations to the locker room and concessions building, replacing the scoreboard, and replacing the playground. The existing facilities and fields are currently outdated and in poor condition. The proposed project will modernize the entire park to increase its accessibility for youth athletics organizations and reduce maintenance costs. The project will directly serve grade school-aged students by providing access to safe, well-maintained, and engaging athletic and outdoor recreation facilities in a residential area of the City of Cape Coral. **(\$925,000 project cost)**

## **PROTECT HOME RULE AUTHORITY & OPPOSE UNFUNDED MANDATES OR COST SHIFTS**

The City of Cape Coral advocates for the protection of local home rule authority and **opposes** any legislation or policies that would impose unfunded responsibilities upon the City.

The City **opposes** any legislation that preempts municipal authority to regulate:

1. Short-term rental properties
2. Home-based businesses

## **HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS**

**Support** state initiatives that address mitigating and preventing harmful algal blooms such as blue-green algae and red tide. These blooms have a devastating effect on our wildlife, ecosystem, economy, and quality of life.



## AFFORDABLE HOUSING

**Support** continued funding of state and local affordable housing programs for persons with low and moderate incomes, including veterans, seniors, individuals with disabilities or special needs, and persons experiencing homelessness.

## NATURAL RESOURCES & ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

**Support** legislation protecting Cape Coral's unique environment and the City's investment in safe and reliable water resources, reclaimed water, and wastewater services.

Enhance water quality in the region and ensure Cape Coral residents can enjoy recreational opportunities.

**Support** the South Spreader Waterway Environmental Investment and Sustainability Program.

**Support** legislation to eliminate state consent orders concerning reclaimed water spills less than the number of gallons used per day in any municipality or county that provides reclaimed water for irrigation.

## TRANSPORTATION

**Support** legislation that preserves local transportation planning control and provides equitable funding among municipalities. Focus on multi-modal transportation design, emphasizing enhanced safety for pedestrians and bicyclists.

## EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS) REGULATION

**Support** legislation exempting a local governmental entity that provides advanced life support services from obtaining a certificate of public convenience and necessity.

## ANNEXATION

**Support** legislation requiring counties to enter into an interlocal agreement to annex enclaves. Properties annexed into a municipality after January 1, 2020, should not be subject to services provided under an existing franchise agreement except as otherwise provided for in F.S. 171.062.



FOR MORE INFORMATION REGARDING  
THE 2023 CITY OF CAPE CORAL  
LEGISLATIVE AGENDA:

JOHN GUNTER  
Mayor  
(239) 574-0440  
jgunter@capecoral.gov

ROB HERNANDEZ  
City Manager  
(239) 574-0450  
robhernandez@capecoral.gov

MAUREEN BUICE  
Assistant to the City Manager  
(239) 242-3684  
mbuice@capecoral.gov

