



**CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE**  
**City Commission Agenda Memo**  
**COMMISSION CONFERENCE**

**#25-0853**

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**TO:** Honorable Mayor & Members of the  
Fort Lauderdale City Commission

**FROM:** Rickelle Williams, City Manager

**DATE:** September 16, 2025

**TITLE:** Discuss the 2026 State Legislative Program - (**Commission Districts 1, 2, 3  
and 4**)

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**Recommendation**

Staff will use this opportunity to discuss and continue the development of the 2026 State Legislative Program. This discussion prepares staff and state contract teams (lobbyists) for the finalization and approval of the Legislative Program.

**Background**

This state Program enables staff to establish effective advocacy strategies with our state contract teams and Florida's Legislative Delegation, targeting agencies as well as the legislative and executive branches. Florida's Legislative Session lasts 60 days, commencing in January in even-numbered years and in March in odd-numbered years. For 2026, Session begins on January 13, 2026 and is expected to conclude in March 2026, preceded by Interim Committee Weeks starting in early October 2025 where lawmakers prepare and discuss relevant issues, as they may file bills up to the day before the Session officially opens.

The Program features fundamental principle statements, City Commission policy priorities, department appropriation requests, and summaries of all project funding needs. Development began on July 7, 2025, when Public Affairs Division staff invited departments to submit new or ongoing proposals via an informational template. This template mirrors the required sections found in the Florida House of Representatives Appropriations Project Request (APR) form, which must be submitted annually with sponsorship from a House member; each project or program request is subject to the Legislature's approval and gubernatorial veto. For this cycle, completed forms are due by September 30, 2025, for final review.

Public Affairs Division staff collaborate with each department to ensure submissions include a project summary, background, anticipated benefits and outcomes, financial breakdown, and staff contacts. Additionally, each proposal is assessed to ensure it is shovel-ready (for capital requests), demonstrates return on investment and a community need, provides a 50% funding match, aligns with statewide interests, and has community support.

Once approved, the program book is shared in hard and electronic copy with the City Commission, contract teams, Legislative Delegation, relevant state officials, and posted online. It serves as a foundational resource for advocacy efforts in collaboration with organizations such

as the Broward League of Cities, Florida League of Cities, and National League of Cities, provided advocacy positions remain consistent with the City's adopted State Legislative Program.

**Resource Impact**

There is no fiscal impact associated with this action.

**Strategic Connections**

This item supports the *Press Play Fort Lauderdale 2029* Strategic Plan, specifically advancing The Internal Support Focus Area

- Goal 12: Be a leading government organization, managing our resources wisely and sustainably.
- Objective 1: Ensure sound fiscal management. This item advances the Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale 2035 Vision Plan: We Are United.

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