

PROPOSED ALACHUA COUNTY LEGISLATIVE AGENDA | 2026

Executive Summary

This agenda presents the critical funding and policy priorities for Alachua County for the 2026 legislative session at both the State and Federal levels. Our priorities focus on essential public safety infrastructure, economic and workforce development, environmental protection (Newnans Lake restoration), and preserving local Home Rule Authority. We seek collaborative support to enhance community safety, housing availability, and overall quality of life for all Alachua County residents.

I. State Priorities

A. Funding Request Options

(Contingent on legislative delegation support)

| Project | Specific Request | Phase / Details |
|---|-------------------------------|--|
| Newnans Lake Restoration | Funding for Implementation | Phase Two: Initial Implementation |
| Archer Road Expansion | Funding for Planning & Design | Phase Two: Complete PD&E and finalize design for Segment One |
| Alachua County Fire Rescue | Key Infrastructure | Fire Training Facility, Vehicle Maintenance Facility, Medical Support Unit (MSU) Bus |
| Alachua County Sports & Event Center | Equipment Needs | Sound Systems, Bleachers, Portable Wood Basketball Floor |

B. Advocacy Issues (Policy & Legislative Support)

Alachua County requests support and action on the following State policy issues:

- **Home Rule Protection:** Oppose legislation that impinges upon **Home Rule Authority** or creates an unfunded mandate.
- **Housing:** Support state-level initiatives for affordable and workforce housing.
- **Childcare Support:** Support innovative childcare models for first responders and public employees.
- **State Responsibilities:** Support shifting responsibilities and associated funding mechanisms back to the State.
- **Economic Development:** Support for economic development or job training initiatives that directly benefit the County.
- **PILT:** Support the concept of **Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT)** for State-owned land to compensate for public service costs.
- **Food Systems:** Support for local and regional food systems.
- **Intergovernmental Cooperation:** Support other local governments and the Florida Association of Counties (FAC) Legislative Policies as appropriate.
- **Compensation for Health Care Services for Inmates in Alachua County:** Support a local bill that limits compensation to health care providers who provide medical services for inmates in Alachua County.

II. Federal Priorities

A. Funding Request Options

| Priority Area | Grant / Program Support | Specific Request / Item |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| Fire/First Responders | Assistance to Firefighter Grant (AFG) | Training Tower |
| Emergency Response | Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) | Medical Support Unit (MSU) Bus |
| Homeland Security | Restore SHSGP Funding | State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP) |
| Newnans Lake Restoration | Funding for Implementation | Phase Two: Initial Implementation |
| Archer Road Expansion | Surface Transportation Block Grant | Complete PD&E and finalize design for Segment One |

B. Advocacy Issues (Policy & Legislative Support)

Alachua County requests support and action on the following Federal policy issues:

- **VOCA Funding Restoration:** Help pass the CVF Stabilization Act / restore funding to the **Victims of Crime Act (VOCA)** program.
- **Apprenticeship Program:** Work to incorporate an apprenticeship program under the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (**SAFER**) grant.
- **FEMA Support:** Continued, robust support for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) programs.
- **Conservation Lands:** Protect conservation lands funding in federal legislation.
- **Affordable Housing:** Continued support for affordable and workforce housing initiatives.
- **Economic Development:** Support for economic development or job training initiatives that benefit the County.
- **Childcare Support:** Support innovative childcare models for first responders and public employees.
- **Food Systems:** Support for local and regional food systems.
- **Legislation Opposition:** Object to “big trucks” in federal legislation.
- **Intergovernmental Cooperation:** Support other local government and the National Association of Counties (NACo) Legislative policies as appropriate.