2022 FLORIDA LEGISLATIVE SPECIAL SESSION C UPDATE

Just prior to the start of the Florida Legislative Special Session C (what was scheduled to be a special session specifically dealing with congressional redistricting maps), the Governor, Speaker, and Senate President announced the addition of two issues on the special session call. The first was to address the future of special act-created special districts (specifically any that were formed prior to the 1968 State Constitution and not reconstituted since); and the second to eliminate the exception for companies that own theme parks from the 2021 Social Media transparency and de-platforming legislation.

The special district legislation, after being passed and signed into law, officially sunsets six special districts on June 1, 2023. Among the six that could be eliminated is the Reedy Creek Improvement District. Over the next several months, the Walt Disney Company, the Reedy Creek Improvement District, and the Florida legislature will be exploring a path forward and it will be critical that our Central Florida region, along with CFHLA and our industry partners, stays engaged in those conversations.

Additionally, on Tuesday, April 26th, the Governor issued a proclamation calling for a second Special Session D to consider legislation related to property insurance, reinsurance, changes to the Florida Building Code to improve the affordability of property insurance, the Office of Insurance Regulation, civil remedies, and appropriations.

This next special session will begin on Monday, May 23rd at 12:00pm and will extend no later than 11:59 p.m. on Friday, May 27th.

GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
On Wednesday, April 13th, the CFHLA Governmental Affairs Committee held a special meeting with State Senator Victor Torres at Visit Orlando (Thank you Casandra Matej!).

During this meeting, Senator Torres shared with the committee his perspective on the 2022 Florida Legislative Session, as well as his views on a variety of issues that are critically important to the hospitality and tourism industry today. Thank you Senator Torres for joining us and and we appreciate the your time and participation.

The next Governmental Affairs Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, May 11th at the Mall of Millenia (Thank you, Steven Jamieson!) featuring Scott Howat, OCPS Chief Communications Officer & President of the Foundation for Orange County Public Schools.

**ORANGE COUNTY'S PROPOSED TRANSPORTATION INITIATIVE**

On Tuesday, April 26th, the Board of Orange County Commissioners agreed to advance the proposed Transportation Sales Tax initiative and place it on the November 2022 general election ballot. CFHLA spoke in favor of this motion and it was approved by a vote of 4-3.

On behalf of the CFHLA Board of Directors, we are thankful to Mayor Demings and Commissioners Moore, Uribe and Gomez Cordero for advancing the proposed one-penny Transportation Sales Tax initiative forward and placing it onto the November 2022 general election ballot.

CFHLA believes that now is the time to have a discussion surrounding our long-term transportation needs as a region. Our hospitality and tourism partners have long sought a more reliable and consistent transportation system, that helps service the hundreds of thousands of employees within our industry, as well as our future guests to Central Florida. By allowing the voters of Orange County to consider establishing a new revenue source, that is separate from the Tourism Development Tax and funded by at least 51% from out-of-town guests, is a huge step forward in developing a dedicated source of funding for our current and long-term public transportation initiatives and infrastructure needs within our community.

To learn more about this transportation initiative, please [CLICK HERE](#).
To read, CFHLA’s full response, please CLICK HERE.

REGIONAL TOURIST DEVELOPMENT TAX UPDATE

Orange County

Orange County announced that the February Tourist Development Tax collection was at $28,362,00. That is a 173.9% increase over February 2021. Additionally, month-over-month, February's collections were higher than January's by $5.9 million and higher than February 2020 collections by $255,800. These were the highest February collections ever and the third highest monthly collections ever for Orange County!

Osceola County

Osceola County announced that the February Tourist Development Tax collection was at $6,200,000. This is the 5th highest monthly collections ever for Osceola County (16% higher than March 2019) and a 127% increase over January 2021. Additionally, month-over-month, February's collections were nearly a 23% increase from January 2022 and a 16% increase from January 2019.

Seminole County

Seminole County announced that the February Tourist Development Tax collection was at $583,915. That is roughly an 9% increase from January 2022! This is Fantastic News!
TEE IT UP FOR TOURISM

The annual CFHLA PAC Fundraiser - Tee It Up For Tourism Presented by Landform of Central Florida - will be held again on Wednesday, June 22, 2022 at TopGolf. The funds raised during this exciting event will provide the CFHLA Political Committees with the necessary resources to identify and support "pro-tourism" candidates for local and statewide elected office (as well as issues) during the 2022 election cycle.

Player registration and sponsorships are now open!

CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION!
June 22, 2022
TOPGOLF: 9295 Universal Blvd. Orlando, FL 32819
Come join us at TOPGOLF
5pm-8pm
Bay Play Begins at 5:30pm

**Fees:**
$1,000/bay (six golfers)
$175/single golfer
$125/spectator only

Benefitting the CFHLA Political Committee - Fees for these activities are contributions to the CFHLA Political Committee (PC). A contribution to a PC is not tax-deductible. Questions?
Please contact CFHLA Events Coordinator, Sarah Clements at sarah.clements@cfhla.org.

Central Florida Hotel and Lodging Association | 6675 Westwood Blvd. Suite 210
Orlando, FL 32821 | Phone: (407) 313-5000 | Website: www.CFHLA.org
CFHLA FUNDRAISER FOR ORANGE COUNTY MAYOR JERRY DEMINGS

This evening, the CFHLA PAC/PC will be hosting a campaign fundraiser for Orange County Mayor Jerry L. Demings and his re-election campaign, at the Hyatt Regency Orlando (thank you Brian Comes!).

We encourage our members to join us from 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM at the Urban Tide Restaurant (located within the hotel at 9801 International Drive Orlando, FL 32819). There will be complimentary Self-Parking and please enter the main lobby. Then follow the signage to the Urban Tide Restaurant, which will be located on the pool level.

There is no cost to attend, but the Suggested Contribution is $100 per person. Please make the checks payable to the Jerry Demings Campaign and the maximum contribution permitted by law is $1,000 per person or entity.
Jerry Demings
For Orange County Mayor

Cordially invites you to a
FUNDRAISING RECEPTION FOR

JERRY DEMINGS
RE-ELECTION CAMPAIGN, ORANGE COUNTY MAYOR

Thursday, April 28, 2022
5:00 PM - 6:00PM

Hyatt Regency Orlando
(in the Urban Tide Restaurant)
9801 International Drive
Orlando, FL 32819

Complimentary Self Parking and please enter the main lobby. Then follow the signage to the Urban Tide Restaurant, which will be located on the pool level.

Email robert.agrusa@cfhla.org to RSVP

Political Advertisement Paid for and Approved by Jerry Demings for Orange County Mayor (Nonpartisan)
DONATE

CFHLA MEMBERS - Please consider making a donation of $50 via the link below to the CFHLA PAC/PC. All contributions help CFHLA continue its efforts in supporting and endorsing Hospitality-Friendly candidates for local and state offices.

As a reminder, all CFHLA Board Members, PAC/PC Board Members, and ARC Board Members have committed to contributing $100 to the CFHLA PAC/PC in 2022. If you are a part of one or more of these groups, please consider fulfilling your commitment today.

IN THE NEWS
Orange County: Voters to decide on proposed sales tax hike earmarked for transportation improvements (Orlando Business Journal)

Orange County Commission greenlights Jerry Demings’ transportation tax referendum (Florida Politics)

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis calls special session to address property insurance (News 6)

Orlando International Airport announces opening date for new Terminal C (Fox 35)

Seminole County tourism surges back, thanks to leisure and sports activity (Orlando Business Journal)

Orlando leads top U.S. markets for hotel occupancy recovery (Orlando Business Journal)

Booked: Spring Breakers help pack Disney World, Orlando hotels (Florida Politics)

Hotel investment sales off to a strong start this year, with leisure markets continuing to outperform (Orlando Business Journal)

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