

Priorities are in bold type followed by a brief rationale. Bullets are examples of specific policy goals.

ENERGY - Act to limit Climate Change and move to Renewable Energy

Floridians are at risk from stronger storms and sea level rise caused by climate change. Ignoring problems does not solve them; Florida must reduce its use of fossil fuels now.

- Ban Fracking and prevent the development of new fossil fuels in Florida.
- Invest in transit and provide charging infrastructure for Electric Vehicles (EVs).
- Require the use of an increasing percentage of renewable energy over time

WATER QUALITY & QUANTITY - Be as careful with our water as with our tax dollars. Prevent water pollution and over-pumping so all of us, from grandparents to grandchildren, have clean, safe, and healthy water

Florida's laws addressing water pollution are full of loopholes and offer an empty promise of restoration in 35 years. Toxic blue-green algae, red tide, and murky springs threaten our health and water-dependent businesses like commercial and recreational fishing, boating, waterfront real estate, and resorts.

- Stop pollution at its source. Regulate pollutants, including fertilizer, septic tanks, stormwater, and sewage treatment plants, with clear, enforced mandatory standards.

Groundwater supplies 93%¹ of Florida's population with drinking water, yet it is over-allocated causing springs and wells to dry up even as new developments are granted Consumptive Use Permits.

- Develop a 'water budget' based on how much groundwater is actually available, monitor use by permit holders, and limit permits to withdrawals that will not harm natural systems.

PLAN FOR GROWTH - Reinstitute state oversight of growth management for smart growth and the conservation of natural lands and resources. Failing to plan dooms the state to wasted resources, money, and opportunities.

The Florida 2070² study done by the Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services, 1000 Friends of Florida, and the UF GeoPlan Center projects that at current rates and densities, development will take up almost twice as much land by 2070, with croplands, livestock, and aquaculture losing about one quarter of their current acreage.

Growth management decisions should:

- Include the impacts of climate change and sea level rise.
- Include the availability of water, and the impact of development on water and wetlands.
- Preserve open spaces and wetlands, enhance regional wildlife corridors. Avoid fragmenting habitat.
- Promote walkable communities, infill and redevelopment, and discourage automobile dependent design by encouraging transit oriented development.
- Co-locate mass transit in existing transportation corridors and prevent sprawl.

BUDGET - Budget for essential long-term investments.

The budget is the most important planning document; what isn't paid for doesn't happen. Florida has a huge backlog of needs and prioritizing and funding them must happen if we are to see improvement.

- Use Amendment 1 dollars (Florida's Water and Land Legacy - 2014 Constitutional amendment) for the purposes intended by the voters: to acquire, improve, restore, and manage conservation and recreation lands. The Court agrees.
- Provide additional funds for water quality infrastructure: upgrades for septic systems, stormwater management, and wastewater treatment plants.
- Invest in converting state vehicles to EVs.

¹ https://pubs.usgs.gov/of/2015/1156/ofr20151156_marella-water-use-2012.pdf

² <http://1000friendsofflorida.org/florida2070/>