

# **RULES OF THE BAY AREA LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION**

## **Section I – Purpose and Intent**

1. The purpose of creating and maintaining the Bay Area Legislative Delegation is to provide a forum for communication and interaction emphasizing state issues of regional significance among those elected officials of the Florida Senate and the Florida House of Representatives from the following counties in west\central Florida: Citrus, Hernando, Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, and Sarasota.
2. It is also the purpose of this delegation to allow member legislators to agenda proposed legislation, ideas, and other initiatives of regional significance, at meetings of the delegation.
3. It is also the purpose of this delegation to seek agreement among its members on regional objectives of highest priority, and where practical, create and implement cooperative strategies and plans of action that support those objectives.
4. The delegation serves as a facilitator for agreement on regional issues. As such, the development, prioritization and advocacy for achieving strategic regional goals shall be by consensus. Participation by members of the delegation is voluntary. No priorities reached by the delegation or actions agreed to by members of the delegation shall obligate other delegation members to conduct specific actions.

## **Section II - Membership**

1. The Bay Area Legislative Delegation is comprised of elected officials from the Florida Senate and Florida House of Representatives whose districts are included in the eight county west\central region of Florida which includes Senate Districts 3, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 21 and 23. The region includes House Districts 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70 and 71. Districts included in the region shall be adjusted at the organizational meeting of the delegation immediately following redistricting of the Legislature or as may otherwise be required.

### **Section III – Voting and Quorum**

1. Each member of the delegation shall have one vote. There shall be no proxies.
2. Twenty-one (21) members shall constitute a quorum.

### **Section IV – Chair and Vice-chair**

1. A delegation chair shall be elected by a majority of a quorum of the delegation members on or before the 15<sup>th</sup> day of March 2006, to serve a two-year term. At the same time, a Vice-chair shall be elected by a majority of a quorum of the delegation members. Every two years thereafter on or before the 15<sup>th</sup> day of March a new Vice-chair shall be elected by a majority of a quorum of the delegation members.
2. The current Vice-chair shall become Chair of the delegation upon the election of a new Vice-chair for a two-year term.
3. The new Vice-chair shall serve a two-year term after which he or she will serve a two-year term as Chair. In order to be eligible for election as Vice-chair a delegation member's district office may not be in the same county as the district office of the Chair. In years where a member of the Florida Senate is Chair, a House delegation member shall be elected Vice-chair by the majority of the House members present. In years where a member of the House of Representatives is Chair, a Senate delegation member shall be elected Vice-chair by the majority of Senate delegation members present. In the event an acting Chair cannot complete their term, the Vice-chair shall assume the Chairmanship for the remainder of that term and then continue as provided for in these rules.

### **Title V - Responsibilities of the Chair**

1. The Chair shall be responsible for the organization of all meetings, reaching consensus with the Executive Committee on issues to be on the agenda for delegation meetings, providing timely notice of the meetings and for providing minutes or a meeting summary to all delegation members following each delegation meeting, as well as any other activities the Chair determines are in the best interest of the delegation not governed by these rules.

## **Section VI – Executive Committee**

1. The delegation Executive Committee shall consist of the Chair, Vice-chair, and immediate past chair of the Bay Area Legislative Delegation plus the acting chairs of each county legislative delegation in the eight-county region.
2. Members of the Executive Committee will be asked to serve as the primary communicator between members of the county delegation they chair and the chair of the Bay Area Legislative Delegation. They will be asked to assist in determining the regional priorities of their delegation and to keep the Bay Area Legislative Delegation chair informed on the top priorities in their county.

## **Section VII – Meetings**

1. The delegation may conduct meetings during the year but only with prior notice of the proposed time, date and agenda provided in writing to the Executive Committee, unless a majority of the Executive Committee objects to the meeting through written communication delivered to the district office of the delegation chair. Executive Committee members shall have seven business days following the receipt of prior notice to object.
2. The Bay Area Legislative Delegation, will conduct meetings generally following accepted parliamentary procedure, but where applicable, the rules governing each respective legislative body may apply.
3. Any member requesting consideration by the Executive Committee for inclusion of an issue on the delegation agenda shall do so in writing fourteen days before the meeting by delivering the same to the district office of the delegation chair.

## **Section VIII - Regional Issues Development**

1. The delegation will develop issues recognizing that strong communities in the global economy must have a regional focus and that quality of life and economic vitality in the cities, towns, suburbs and green spaces of west\central Florida are not best considered in isolation.
2. The Bay Area Legislative Delegation shall focus attention on pressing regional issues most difficult to solve by local jurisdictions or county legislative delegations acting alone. Issues include but are not limited to environmental protection; comprehensive planning for water, land development, transportation and other infrastructure investments; education and other enhancements to work force development; the affordability, availability and efficiency of health care and other state provided services; workforce housing and livable communities; and economic development initiatives that improve the region's competitiveness and provide opportunities to expand and strengthen the business and industrial base of west central Florida. In addition to supporting the members in the legislative process.

Adopted 7th day of March, 2007.