

EXHIBIT "A"

The City of Coconut Creek, Florida

2026 Proposed Federal Legislative Agenda



Prepared by Van Scoyoc Associates for the

Coconut Creek City Commission

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Federal Advocacy Outcomes | 2025/2026

Executive Summary

Over the past year, Van Scoyoc Associates advanced the City of Coconut Creek's federal priorities through coordinated legislative advocacy, strategic funding development, policy analysis, and intergovernmental engagement. Working in partnership with City leadership, the firm supported efforts to protect local interests, anticipate federal policy shifts, and position the City competitively for external funding opportunities.

These efforts resulted in the successful inclusion of \$1.03 million in federal appropriations for the City's redundant fiber optic ring project — strengthening communications resilience while reducing reliance on local funding. This award builds upon the City's demonstrated success in securing federal appropriations, including \$3.9 million for Lyons Road pedestrian improvements (2022) and \$963,000 for body-worn cameras (2023).

In addition to appropriations success, Van Scoyoc Associates provided ongoing legislative monitoring, grant intelligence, and strategic advisory services to help the City navigate an evolving federal environment marked by policy transitions, funding uncertainty, and increased competition for limited resources.

Through proactive engagement with congressional offices, federal agencies, and key policymakers — while coordinating closely with the City Manager's Office, Finance, and departmental leadership — the firm continues to support Coconut Creek's long-term fiscal stewardship, organizational readiness, and strategic positioning at the federal level.

Federal Advocacy Progress

The following highlights demonstrate measurable progress in advancing the City's federal priorities through legislative advocacy, strategic funding development, and policy engagement.

Highlight: Awarded Funding For Redundant Fiber Optic Ring Project (\$1.03M)

- Provided recommendations and analysis of which potential earmark account would be eligible for the project and included trends of past awardees for similar projects.
- Directly briefed Congressman Moskowitz's Legislative Director on the merits of the project.
- Secured the Congressman's approval and submission of this project to the House Appropriations Committee for consideration.

- **JANUARY 2026 UPDATE:** The project was approved in the House and Senate conferenced legislation for \$1,031,000. Final passage of the Appropriations Bill (i.e. Commerce, Justice, Science) was approved by the Senate on January 15, 2026, on a vote of 82-15. **This bill became law on January 23 when it was signed by the President and included the Fiber Optic Ring as an approved project at \$1,031,000.**

Legislative Monitoring and Policy Analysis

Van Scoyoc Associates monitored federal legislation, regulatory activity, and policy priorities with potential municipal impacts and provided timely analysis to support informed leadership decision-making. Recent examples include:

- Fee-to-Trust Handbook Analysis: Worked with the City Manager’s Office and City Attorney’s Office to review updated Bureau of Indian Affairs procedures and identify potential jurisdictional considerations.
- Strategic Alignment: At the outset of the Administration transition, VSA analyzed emerging federal priorities and assessed the City’s Vision 2030 framework to identify areas of alignment and potential friction, helping position the City to engage effectively in the evolving federal policy and funding environment.
- Drafted a letter addressing proposed cuts identified in the President’s Budget to the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME programs; following input from city leadership and signature by Mayor Railey, VSA coordinated delivery to members of the City’s congressional delegation.
- Drafted a letter of support for Rep. Moskowitz’s *3D Printed Gun Safety Act (H.R.4143)* for consideration by the broader congressional delegation.
- Monitored and analyzed federal actions related to offshore oil and gas leasing, including Administration proposals, congressional responses, and the Department of the Interior’s development of a new Five-Year Plan, flagged potential impacts to Florida’s coast, and prepared a formal letter to the City’s congressional delegation outlining the City’s position on proposed revisions to the national oil and gas leasing plan.
- Drafted and submitted four sets of comments related to Next Generation 911 implementation and wireless E911 location accuracy, emphasizing the need to improve emergency communications accessibility for individuals with disabilities alongside broader public safety and operational considerations.
- Continue to actively monitor the BROADBAND Leadership Act (H.R.278), which could accelerate broadband infrastructure deployment, but potentially limit local oversight.
- Prepared and submitted formal comments to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service supporting retention of the current definition of “harm” under the Endangered Species Act, noting that proposed changes would weaken enforcement protections and create regulatory uncertainty.

Federal Funding Reporting, Analysis, & Strategy

Van Scoyoc Associates provided recurring grant forecasts, legislative updates, and policy briefings shared across departments, including Finance and grants administration — helping staff prioritize competitive opportunities while avoiding pursuit of programs unlikely to advance.

- Identified and provided timely analysis into upcoming grant and programmatic funding opportunities aligned with the priorities outlined in the City’s 2025 Federal Agenda. These opportunities included, but were not limited to, flagging new CDBG-DR resources for Broward County and facilitating direct engagement with the National Endowment for the Arts and Federal Emergency Management Agency [FEMA] to support public art and safety initiatives.
- Provided real-time intelligence during grant pauses, program cancellations, and a historic government shutdown – helping the City avoid pursuing funding opportunities that were delayed or no longer viable, such as the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Grant Program. Also identified which programs were maintaining funding through the Congressional appropriations process and would be potentially viable in 2026.
- Provided customized Monthly Reporting including snapshots of federal funding opportunities, a Congressional activity report, tracking of Congressionally Directed Funding requests, and an analysis of new legislation introduced by the City’s congressional delegation.
- Provided ongoing analysis and updates on the federal budgeting and appropriations process, including the FY25 budget resolution and reconciliation dynamics, the President’s budget proposal, full-year continuing resolution outcomes, and guidance on federal funding freezes and shutdown scenarios, including agency contingency planning, all with a focus on impacts to city operations and funding.

Strategic Project Positioning and Future Funding Pipeline

- Reviewed MainStreet Workshop information and met with staff to assess eligibility criteria, application deadlines, and competitive considerations for the Economic Development Administration Emergency Supplemental Grant, a competitive funding opportunity available to select localities nationwide.
- Conducted a comprehensive review of the City’s Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), mapping priority projects to eligible federal grant programs and Congressional earmark accounts, while also identifying federal funding risks and assessing which types of projects are most likely to remain competitive in the current political environment.
- In coordination with City Manager, Finance, and Grants staff, VSA helped refine this list and prioritized the best opportunities.
- This effort produced an initial set of priority projects that will guide the City’s federal advocacy strategy in upcoming appropriations cycles.

Top appropriations requests/priorities for 2026/2027 include:

- **Automatic Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Modernization — Primary Request for \$4M**
- **Northeast Utilities Expansion — Secondary Consideration for \$1M**
- **HVAC Replacement at Public Works Facility; Secondary Consideration for \$1,500,000**

The sections that follow provide a summary of progress on the City’s prior federal legislative priorities, along with strategic updates to guide the FY 2026 Federal Legislative Agenda. These sections highlight federal advocacy outcomes, legislative and regulatory engagement, funding strategy development, and priority projects positioned for future investment — reflecting a continued focus on advancing strategic initiatives, protecting municipal interests, and strengthening the City’s competitive standing in a rapidly evolving federal environment.

Energy & Environment

FEDERAL ISSUE: Federal Landfill Emissions Regulations

BACKGROUND & EFFECT ON COCONUT CREEK

The North Broward County Resource Recovery and Central Disposal Sanitary Landfill, also known as the Monarch Hill Renewable Energy Park, is a 225-foot-high landfill site owned by Waste Management (WM) and located adjacent to the City of Coconut Creek. The landfill receives an average of 5,000 tons of waste per day and has long emitted odors into the air. Odors from the facility have been reported as far as four miles away.

In February 2022, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published a Final Rule for the new landfill emission standards. Hazardous pollutants covered by the rule include, but are not limited to, vinyl chloride, ethyl benzene, toluene, and benzene. The new emission standards are now in place and, for Florida, will be monitored by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

In 2025, the EPA released white papers exploring possible updates to landfill emission rules. These papers addressed earlier gas collection, new cover materials, reduced working surface area, organic waste diversion credits, and the potential use of drones for emissions monitoring. These evaluations are typically part of pre-rulemaking outreach, but no formal timetable for updates has been released yet.

In addition, Monarch Hill sought a Land Use Plan Amendment in 2025 to expand the 24-acre parcel within the 500-acre park, of which 382 acres are permitted for disposal. In February 2025, the Broward County Commission narrowly approved the landfill expansion, including an additional vertical increase from 225ft to 325ft. Following approval, the cities of Coconut Creek and Deerfield Beach filed legal challenges, citing the expansion and the resulting additional emissions.

In August 2025, these lawsuits were settled with the following agreements:

- Limiting future expansion and capping the final vertical elevation to 325ft
- Prohibiting new landfill expansion outside a 1-mile radius of the expanded site
- Requiring a post-closure landfill plan
- Setting a landfill closure time of approximately 25 years

2026 POSITION

Support federal regulations that create stricter environmental standards and testing for municipal solid waste landfills and waste transportation through communities. **Oppose** efforts to weaken landfill regulations. **Monitor** the EPA's oversight of the emission standards approved in early 2022 and the Florida DEP's emission monitoring of local landfill compliance.

FEDERAL ISSUE: National Flood Insurance Program

BACKGROUND & EFFECT ON COCONUT CREEK

Congress established the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) in 1968 to address the nation's flood exposure. Private insurance companies at the time claimed that the flood peril was uninsurable and could not be underwritten in the private insurance market. The program has two primary goals: (1) providing primary flood insurance and (2) mitigating and reducing the nation's comprehensive flood risk through the development and implementation of floodplain management standards. Today, more than 22,000 communities, including Coconut Creek, participate in the program.

Until 2005, NFIP was self-supporting, as policy premiums and fees covered its expenses and claim payments. However, significant flooding events over the past 20 years have resulted in approximately \$22.5 billion in debt. Since 2017, Congress has enacted 33 temporary NFIP reauthorizations. The program is currently authorized through January 30, 2026, under the current Continuing Resolution passed by Congress. If Congress does not vote on an extension before the end of January, the program could lapse. If this happens, existing policies would be honored, but new policies or applications would be denied.

In 2026, the Administration's preference for privatization and deregulation could likely lead to efforts to scale back or reform NFIP. The Administration previously explored ways to reduce federal spending on disaster relief and insurance, promoting private-sector solutions. For example, this could include rolling back the FEMA Federal Flood Risk Management Standard, which defines broader floodplains subject to federal funding requirements while shifting more of the financial burden for disaster recovery and preparedness to states, homeowners, and private insurers.

2026 POSITION

Monitor efforts to reform and improve the National Flood Insurance Program for the benefit of all participants during the ongoing reauthorization and reform process. **Oppose** recommendations that would raise rates to Coconut Creek ratepayers from FEMA's intent to implement Risk Rating 2.0.

FEDERAL ISSUE: Water Quality Legislation and Rulemaking – PFAS

BACKGROUND & EFFECT ON COCONUT CREEK

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), a class of over 9,000 synthetic chemicals manufactured and used in various industries around the globe, have made their way into communities around the country. This pollution is prevalent in communities near military installations, airports, and industrial sites. Local governments' drinking water and wastewater systems are most directly affected, with PFAS detected in soil, landfills, waterways, and other locations.

On April 19, 2024, the EPA formally designated PFAS as hazardous substances under the *Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA)*. This classification empowers the EPA to enforce stricter liability on entities responsible for releasing PFAS into the environment and mandates reporting of significant discharges of these chemicals. The designation under CERCLA is critical to enhancing regulatory oversight, advancing cleanup of contaminated sites, and holding polluters accountable. It also improves public awareness and resource prioritization to address PFAS pollution nationwide.

On June 25, 2024, the EPA finalized the National Primary Drinking Water Regulation (NPDWR), establishing Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) for specific PFAS in drinking water. This regulation (4 ppt (parts per trillion) sets enforceable limits on six PFAS chemicals, including widely recognized substances such as PFOA and PFOS, to address potential health risks. The NPDWR aims to reduce public exposure to these "forever chemicals," which have been linked to serious health issues such as cancer, liver damage, and developmental effects. By mandating regular monitoring, public notification, and corrective measures when levels exceed the MCLs, the regulation represented a significant step toward improving drinking water safety and protecting communities from the long-term impacts of PFAS contamination.

Local governments, including water utilities, municipal landfills, and solid waste facilities, are passive receivers of PFAS chemicals as they are not generators of the chemicals. Congressional legislation was considered in 2025 to address standards while allowing exemptions for passive receivers. Determining which passive receivers are eligible for these exemptions has been problematic; therefore, legislation has not been approved.

In May 2025, EPA kept the existing limits for PFOA and PFOS but extended compliance deadlines for public water systems from 2029 to 2031. The agency also considered rescinding standards for other PFAS-specific chemicals, which indicates that the 2024 standards are being re-evaluated.

In 2026, we expect the current Administration to continue reevaluating PFAS Regulations and potentially the passive receivership liability exceptions.

2026 POSITION

Monitor the development of PFAS-related treatment legislation and rulemaking for water quality standards that may affect the City financially, while supporting efforts to protect drinking water quality.

FEDERAL ISSUE: Energy Exploration

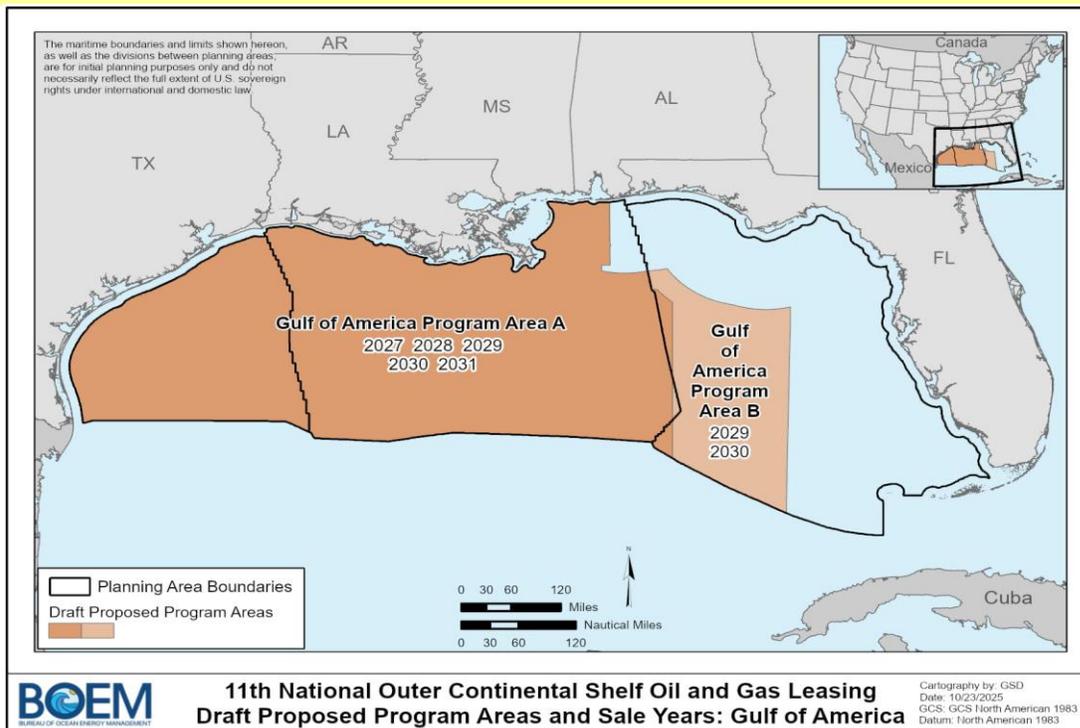
BACKGROUND & EFFECT ON COCONUT CREEK

Offshore Energy Development: Florida's western and eastern coasts were under a moratorium on oil and gas activities within 125 miles of the Florida coastline under the *Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA) of 2006*. The original moratorium was extended through 2032 by then-President Trump.

In mid-November 2025, BOEM released revised plans that allow significantly expanded offshore oil and gas drilling, including off the coast of Florida. The proposal would open new areas in the Gulf of America, the Pacific, and the Arctic for potential lease sales, marking the first Arctic lease in over a decade and the first Pacific lease since 1984.

The revised plan schedules 34 lease sales through 2031 and reflects a broader push to increase U.S. fossil fuel production. It has drawn criticism from environmental groups and is expected to prompt debate in Congress and potential legal challenges before being finalized.

The map below shows the seven proposed sites in the Gulf of America area, theoretically beginning in 2027:



On December 10, 2025, BOEM held the first oil and gas lease sales in the Gulf of America since 2023. Thirty companies bid on 181 blocks covering about 80 million acres. The next Gulf lease sale is scheduled for March 11, 2026.

Fracking: Broward County has passed resolutions explicitly opposing hydraulic fracturing, acid fracturing, and other forms of well stimulation in Florida. These resolutions are framed as a means to protect public health, the environment, and the county's natural resources. Additionally, Broward County has urged the Florida Legislature to enact a statewide ban on fracking, emphasizing that the risks of groundwater contamination and ecological damage extend beyond county lines.

2026 POSITION

Oppose relaxation of the prohibition against leases on permits for drilling oil or gas wells within the boundaries of Florida's territorial seas. ***Oppose*** legislation preventing the Florida Department of Environmental Protection from blocking requests for offshore drilling in federal waters off Florida's coast. ***Oppose*** seismic surveying within the Everglades, surrounding critical areas, or other federal lands. ***Oppose*** efforts to ease restrictions on hydraulic fracturing and other oil and gas extraction activities.

FEDERAL ISSUE: Waters of the United States (WOTUS) and Regulatory Reform

BACKGROUND & EFFECT ON COCONUT CREEK

Congress enacted the *Clean Water Act (CWA)* in 1972 with the statutory objective “to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Nation’s waters.” One of the Act’s principal tools in achieving that objective is prohibiting the discharge of pollutants from a point source to “navigable waters” unless otherwise authorized. “Navigable waters” are defined in the Act as “the waters of the United States, including the territorial seas.” Thus, “waters of the United States” (WOTUS) is a threshold term establishing the geographic scope of federal jurisdiction under the CWA. The term “waters of the United States” is not defined by the Act but has been defined by the EPA and the Army through regulations since the 1970s, and the agencies jointly implement it across their respective programmatic activities.

Each Administration for the past several years has revised this rule to align it with Administration policy. On November 20, 2025, the EPA, with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, issued a new proposed rule titled the “Updated Definition of Waters of the United States,” further clarifying which waters and wetlands are federally regulated under the Clean Water Act.

Specifically, it focuses on regulations for relatively permanent waters (rivers, lakes, oceans, and traditional navigable waters) and wetlands with continuous surface connection to those waters. This is consistent with the position that the first Trump Administration took towards WOTUS jurisdiction.

2026 POSITION

Monitor the Administration’s efforts to implement the new rule defining the waters of the United States, and evaluate the cost and operational impacts on the City.

FEDERAL ISSUE: Climate Change

BACKGROUND & EFFECT ON COCONUT CREEK

During President Trump's first term, his Administration prioritized deregulation to support the fossil fuel industry and changed significant climate-related policies established under President Obama. Most notable actions included canceling methane emissions reporting requirements for oil and gas companies, revising rules limiting emissions on public lands, and weakening standards for toxic emissions from major industrial polluters. The Administration also halted enforcement of regulations limiting the use of hydrofluorocarbons in appliances, repealed mandates to track vehicle emissions on federal highways, and directed agencies to stop using the "social cost of carbon" to estimate the long-term economic benefits of reducing carbon dioxide emissions.

The current administration has signaled a policy direction emphasizing regulatory rollback and expanded domestic energy production.

Key regulations affected include:

- Repealing limits on power plant carbon emissions
- Weakening methane rules for oil and gas operations
- Relaxing fuel economy Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards
- Revising the Waters of the United States jurisdiction
- Revising and relaxing National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) rules
- Opening oil and gas leasing in the Gulf of America
- Proposed budget cuts to Climate Science

2026 POSITION

Monitor any proposed climate change-related legislation that may affect the environment, and ensure that any adverse environmental and health impacts are disclosed prior to approval.

FEDERAL ISSUE: Monarch Butterfly

BACKGROUND & EFFECT ON COCONUT CREEK

The Monarch butterfly thrives as a year-round resident in Southern Florida, thanks to the region's warm climate and the consistent availability of host plants like milkweed. Beyond supporting resident populations, Florida plays a pivotal role as a key stopover and destination for migratory Monarchs from northeastern North America. Monarchs traveling from the northeastern United States and southeastern Canada rely on Florida as an essential location for breeding and surviving the winter.

Coconut Creek, proudly known as the “Butterfly Capital of the World,” exemplifies a strong commitment to environmental stewardship and biodiversity. Home to Butterfly World, the largest butterfly park in the world, the City has long been a haven for pollinators, including the iconic Monarch butterfly. Despite this dedication, Coconut Creek, like many communities nationwide, faces the troubling decline of Monarch populations. Habitat loss, climate change, and pesticide use have significantly impacted these vital pollinators, threatening both resident and migratory populations. Since 2005, Florida's Monarch butterfly population has plummeted by 80% (Ref. Florida Museum of Natural History).

As a result of the declining population, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) joined Tribes, state agencies, and other federal agencies to identify threats to the monarch and take steps to conserve monarchs where they exist. In December 2024, the USFWS proposed listing the monarch butterfly as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. In May 2025, the public comment period was reopened for a second round to solicit additional scientific input. The USFWS does not anticipate issuing a final determination until the earliest fall of 2026, as it reviews the more than 300,000 public submissions. The proposed rule can be found [here](#).

2025 POSITION

Monitor the development of the proposed listing of the monarch butterfly under the Endangered Species Act. **Support** policies that protect the monarch butterfly and stop its declining populations.

Social Services & Economic Development

FEDERAL ISSUE: Department of Housing & Urban Development Grant Programs

BACKGROUND & EFFECT ON COCONUT CREEK

While the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) provides various funding opportunities, the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program stands out as a significant resource for local governments. As a recipient of direct allocations under this program, Coconut Creek can strategically leverage CDBG funds to achieve its long-term housing goals. The CDBG program empowers elected county officials to comprehensively plan, implement, and evaluate local community development and housing assistance initiatives. By committing CDBG funds to projects aligned with local priorities, Coconut Creek can make significant strides in addressing housing and the specific needs of low-income populations within its jurisdiction. The CDBG program's established objectives align with Coconut Creek's vision to promote affordable housing, expand economic opportunities, and enhance community infrastructure in low- to moderate-income areas.

CDBG was funded at \$3.3 billion in FY25. The FY26 draft funding levels have proposed \$3.3 billion in the House (level funding) and \$3.1 billion in the Senate. This compares with \$0 in funding recommended in the 2026 President's Budget.

Final passage of the Transportation/HUD Appropriations Bill will be considered as part of a package of 5 bills currently under negotiation, ahead of the January 31 deadline under the current Continuing Resolution.

ADDITIONAL HUD FEDERAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- HOME Investment Partnerships Program
- Continuum of Care, Homeless Assistance Program
- Economic Development Initiative / Community Project Funding Grants
- Supportive Housing for the Elderly Program
- Supportive Housing for Persons with Disabilities Program

2026 POSITION

Support continued, adequate funding for the Community Development Block Grant program for future fiscal years, as well as other HUD grant funding programs. **Oppose** any effort to eliminate or severely cut programs that support housing needs for local communities. **Monitor** current legislation reforming the CDBG emergency funding program and its potential impacts on the City.

FEDERAL ISSUE: Healthcare Policy & Reform

BACKGROUND & EFFECT ON COCONUT CREEK

In late 2025, the potential extension of Affordable Care Act (ACA) premium subsidies emerged as a key healthcare policy issue during deliberations over FY26 appropriations. Ultimately, Congress did not extend the subsidies before they expired on December 31, 2025, resulting in increased health care costs for ACA enrollees.

The increase in ACA health care costs has significantly affected low- and middle-income residents in Florida, which leads the nation in ACA plan enrollment both in absolute numbers and as a percentage of its population. As of 2025, 4.7 million Floridians are enrolled, the most of any state in the U.S., and a significant increase from prior years. The more people with access to affordable health insurance, the less the burden on the City's resources for addressing uncompensated care.

Additionally, the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 established several caps on prescription drug costs, which take effect on a staggered timeline. Beginning January 1, 2026, negotiated price caps for the first 10 selected Medicare Part D drugs will take effect, ensuring that Medicare beneficiaries pay no more than the negotiated maximum fair price for those medications.

President Trump has also advocated for renewed negotiations on drug pricing and, to date, has not repealed the statutory authority underlying the IRA program. His policy approach may affect how the IRA's drug pricing provisions are administered in 2026. At the same time, some lawmakers are advancing repeal efforts and proposing alternative drug pricing frameworks.

The ACA and Medicare policy remain a perennial source of tension between Republicans and Democrats in both chambers of Congress. As lawmakers navigate potential policy and budgetary changes, VSA will closely monitor developments and advocate for policies that align with the needs of Coconut Creek's residents.

2026 POSITION

Monitor changes to the ACA and Medicare in relation to any healthcare reform legislation.

Monitor implementation of provisions in the IRA.

FEDERAL ISSUE: Affordable Senior Healthcare

BACKGROUND & EFFECT ON COCONUT CREEK

About 5.2 million Floridians are enrolled in Medicare in 2026. These seniors are increasingly concerned about rising healthcare costs, including prescription drug prices, medical billing, and out-of-pocket expenses. This financial strain has forced a significant portion of this demographic to make difficult sacrifices, with one in four seniors reporting that they reduced spending on essential needs such as food, utilities, clothing, or medication to cover healthcare costs. Most significantly, the loss of ACA subsidies has caused a dramatic increase in premiums for seniors who are not yet eligible for Medicare.

In 2026, monthly Medicare premiums are expected to increase, including out-of-pocket maximums. At the same time, negotiated drug pricing provisions under the IRA are expected to take effect on January 1, 2026, capping prices for 10 high-cost drugs. The selected drugs include widely prescribed medicines used to treat a variety of common conditions among older adults, including diabetes, blood clots, kidney disease, heart failure, and arthritis. Caps on insulin cost-sharing remain in effect, providing financial relief for seniors with diabetes.

In addition, many Medicare Advantage Plans continue to emphasize preventive care and expanded telehealth services.

In Congress, bills have been introduced to continue healthcare provisions for seniors, such as:

- *Lowering Drug Costs for American Families Act (H.R. 6166)*: To extend the Medicare Drug Price Negotiations Program
- *Seniors' Access to Critical Medications Act (H.R.2484)*: To improve access for certain outpatient prescription drugs
- *Increasing Medication Access for Seniors Act (H.R.6401)*: A bill that requires HHS to report on options for monthly capped cost-sharing under Part D.

2026 POSITION

Monitor legislative and regulatory initiatives impacting the affordability of healthcare for seniors. **Support** federal efforts to contain and reduce the price of prescription drugs.

FEDERAL ISSUE: Assistance to Small Businesses

BACKGROUND & EFFECT ON COCONUT CREEK

Small businesses play a pivotal role in Coconut Creek's economic landscape, contributing significantly to the City's vibrancy and overall prosperity. Recent estimates from the Broward County Office of Economic and Small Business Development indicate that 89% of all businesses in the County have less than 20 employees. These enterprises, ranging from local boutiques and cafes to specialized professional services, collectively form the backbone of the community. Recognizing the importance of small businesses, Coconut Creek has demonstrated a steadfast commitment to fostering an environment where local entrepreneurs can thrive.

Van Scoyoc Associates will continue to assist Coconut Creek in securing federal funds to support the expansion and retention of small businesses, thereby driving local job creation and economic development. The Small Business Administration (SBA) administers several such programs to help small businesses, including:

- direct disaster loan programs for businesses, homeowners, and renters to assist their recovery from natural disasters;
- loan guaranty and venture capital programs to enhance small business access to capital;
- small business management and technical assistance training programs to assist business formation and expansion, and
- programs to increase small business opportunities in federal contracting.

The SBA and its programs are expected to face significant cuts in 2026 as part of the Administration's ongoing efforts to reshape core lending and disaster assistance missions. Despite these reductions, SBA reported a surge in lending to small businesses in 2025 through its 7(a) and 504 loan programs.

The FY26 Budget proposal recommended deep cuts to SBA entrepreneurial development programs, including:

- Elimination of the Women's Business Centers
- Termination of SCORE mentoring services and,
- Cuts to State Trade Expansion Program (STEP) and Veterans Business Outreach Centers.

These cuts are tied to small-business development and could reduce free counseling and training that help startups and underserved entrepreneurs access capital and grow.

In 2026, the SBA's 8(a) Business Development Program will continue to be scrutinized, potentially leading to changes in how it's administered or to its future use.

2026 POSITION

Support federal policies, legislation, and agency programs that provide direct assistance to support the expansion and retention of small businesses.

Infrastructure

FEDERAL ISSUE: Infrastructure Investment

BACKGROUND & EFFECT ON COCONUT CREEK

In 2021, President Biden signed the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA, also commonly referred to as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law) into law. The IIJA was a broad infrastructure bill that included the reauthorization of the surface transportation bill, water infrastructure legislation, and the *Energy Infrastructure Act*. The bill included \$550 billion in new funding and, when combined with other passed legislation, brings the total to approximately \$1 trillion.

Most programs in the IIJA were meant to last five years, but were delayed in starting their expenditures as they required the establishment of new programs and the reassignment of agency resources. To this point, some IIJA programs are still being executed in 2026 under the current Administration, even though they were paused for reevaluation by current agency leaders.

A current list of active IIJA Infrastructure programs is provided below:

Key Active Areas & Programs

- Transportation (USDOT):
 - [Highway & Bridge Formula](#): Continuous funding for state maintenance and repairs.
 - [Bridge Investment Program](#): Competitive grants for major bridge projects.
 - [Public Transit & Rail](#): Upgrades to systems, new services, and safety.
 - [EV & Charging](#): National EV Charging Network, clean ferries, and school buses (EPA manages CSB).
 - [Ports & Waterways](#): Modernization and efficiency improvements.
 - [Innovation](#): ATTAIN (Advanced Transportation Tech), Congestion Relief, Per-Mile Fee Pilots.
- Energy & Environment (DOE/EPA):
 - [Grid Resiliency](#): Grants for grid modernization and reliability.
 - [Clean Energy](#): EV charging, clean buses, grid upgrades.
 - [Water Infrastructure](#): Lead pipe replacement, water systems.
 - [Legacy Pollution](#): Brownfields, Superfund site cleanup, abandoned mines.
- Broadband: Expanding high-speed internet access

2026 POSITION

Support the final implementation of the IIJA. **Support** all opportunities to secure funding for Coconut Creek’s infrastructure priorities with reauthorization of existing programs within the Act and funding for new programs. Consider short- and long-term strategies to leverage these funding opportunities. **Support** funding strategies and opportunities to support the Complete Streets Improvement Project.

FEDERAL ISSUE: *Inflation Reduction Act*

BACKGROUND & EFFECT ON COCONUT CREEK

On August 16, 2022, then-President Biden signed the Inflation Reduction Act into law to curb inflation by reducing the deficit, lowering drug prices, and investing in domestic energy production. Notably, the IRA allowed tax-exempt and governmental entities to receive elective payments for 12 clean energy tax credits, including the Investment and Production Tax credits, as well as tax credits for electric vehicles and charging stations.

Under the current Administration, an Executive Order directed federal agencies to pause or review disbursements of IRA-related grants and funds, causing delays to the programs the IRA created. Many of the IRA's clean energy programs and elective pay credits are at risk in 2026, as the 119th Congress attempts to repeal the 2022 IRA and rescind unused funds.

The One Big Beautiful Bill Act, passed and signed by the President in July 2025, significantly scales back and phases out renewable energy tax credits targeting solar and wind. Projects must begin construction by July 5, 2026, to qualify for credits and must be placed in service by December 31, 2027.

2026 POSITION

Support all opportunities to secure funding for Coconut Creek's infrastructure priorities, with funding for new programs. ***Monitor*** efforts to repeal IRA programs and tax credits.

FEDERAL ISSUE: Federal Funding for Deepening/Widening C-14 West Basin

BACKGROUND & EFFECT ON COCONUT CREEK

The USACE and its non-federal sponsor partner, the [South Florida Water Management District](#) (SFWMD), initiated a flood risk management (FRM) study under Section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970 for the Central and Southern Florida (C&SF) Flood Resiliency Project.

The purpose of the study is to identify the need to provide continued flood risk management to reduce the most immediate risk to the C&SF Project due to changing conditions, including climate change, sea level change, land development, and population growth in the lower east coast of Florida in Palm Beach, Broward, and Miami-Dade counties. Potential measures to be evaluated may include a combination of structural, non-structural, natural, and nature-based features.

Current studies indicate that the most vulnerable areas for flood risk in Broward County are in the C14 West Basin, which includes Coconut Creek. Flood gates in this area are estimated to only provide protection from a 5-year flood event. Many factors have contributed to this over the years, including higher sea levels and increased development.

The study will evaluate future sea-level risk projections and other factors to determine future flood risk and recommend alternatives to address and protect the basin.

UPDATE: The Draft Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP) was presented to the Public on September 9, 2025, and public comments were incorporated. The Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Evaluation for the C&SF Flood Resiliency (Section 203) Study – Broward Basins is now published (links provided below). The public comment period was open through December 22, 2025.

- [Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Evaluation](#)

2026 POSITION

Support the development of the USACE/SFWMD study. Participate as appropriate with input and data. Monitor potential recommendations that affect Coconut Creek.

Public Safety

FEDERAL ISSUE: Cybersecurity and Artificial Intelligence Legislation & Policy

BACKGROUND & EFFECT ON COCONUT CREEK

In an increasingly interconnected world, cyber threats pose a significant risk to local government operations, potentially compromising essential services and residents' privacy. Federal cybersecurity policies often provide guidelines, resources, and funding opportunities that can help enhance the City's resilience against evolving cyber threats. By staying attuned to these policies, the city can access critical resources and funding to respond effectively to and recover from cyber incidents, safeguarding residents' well-being and the integrity of its digital infrastructure.

Federal cybersecurity funding for state and local governments has been reduced significantly over the past year, shifting a greater share of responsibility and cost to local jurisdictions. While the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) continues to provide advisory services and voluntary partnerships, cities must increasingly rely on their own resources to strengthen cyber defenses.

At the federal level, Congress is debating whether to restructure or consolidate state and local cybersecurity support programs, including potential revisions to the State and Local Cybersecurity Improvement Act. Discussions include shifting from federal formula grants to performance-based or risk-based models, increasing state responsibility for oversight, and tightening requirements for cyber incident reporting. These evolving policies will directly affect how Coconut Creek plans, funds, and implements its cybersecurity posture in the coming years.

2026 POSITION

Monitor the development of cybersecurity and AI legislation and federal policy. **Support** federal funding and programs that help local governments improve their cybersecurity and AI strategic goals and prevent “ransomware” attacks.

FEDERAL ISSUE: Federal Funding of Public Safety Programs

BACKGROUND & EFFECT ON COCONUT CREEK

Most federal grant funding for safety programs within the Departments of Justice (DOJ) and Homeland Security (DHS) is provided as block grants, with each state receiving a certain amount of funding linked to population. That funding is then passed through to local jurisdictions to help support police, fire, emergency management, and homeland security functions. Examples of these formula programs include the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG), the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG), and Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN).

In other instances, funding from Federal programs is made available to local governments via competitive grant solicitations. Competitive program funds can be used to hire police officers through the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program or firefighters through the Staffing for Adequate Fire & Emergency Response (SAFER) program, and to purchase equipment through the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG). The IJA increased funding for many of these programs.

While the City has benefited from several formula-based federal programs in the past, VSA will continue to assist the City in pursuing competitive grant opportunities during 2026. We will identify opportunities monthly and provide a funding analysis of all DOJ and FEMA public safety grant programs of interest to the City. We will also develop strategies to secure Congressional support for each grant application.

Finally, we noted in our monthly reports that the new Administration temporarily paused disbursements of first-responder grant funding to align current grant program criteria with its new policies. This caused delays in locally funded training, equipment, and preparedness programs. VSA will continue to push the appropriate federal agencies to avoid further delays and restore a consistent schedule of public safety-related funding opportunities in 2026.

2026 POSITION

Support continued funding for the wide variety of DOJ and DHS grants, i.e., Community Oriented Policing Services, Byrne Justice Assistance Grants, Emergency Management Preparedness Grants, Assistance to Firefighters Grants, Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grants, Urban Areas Security Initiative grants, and other security-specific grants. **Support** the City of Coconut Creek's applications for these funds.

FEDERAL ISSUE: Mental Health Care Initiatives to Address Gun Violence & Suicide

BACKGROUND & EFFECT ON COCONUT CREEK

During the Biden Administration, Congress passed the *Bipartisan Safer Communities Act*, marking the first federal legislation in 30 years to combat escalating gun violence. The Act includes evidence-based provisions focused on community-oriented solutions, mental health system improvements, school safety programs, and gun safety laws.

During the current Administration, there has been a shift in focus in firearm safety legislation towards the rising cases of suicide related to gun violence. According to a study in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, there is a direct correlation between a country's suicide rate and the availability of firearms. Related to this fact, Veterans are particularly at risk of dying when attempting suicide, primarily because they are far more likely to use a gun in a suicide attempt than their civilian counterparts.

On September 15, 2025, Rep Brownley (D-CA-26), who sits on the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, introduced the *Gun Suicide Prevention Act*, which attempts to address the rising rate of firearm-related suicides by labeling every firearm with the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. Likewise, Rep Joe Neguse (D-CO-2) introduced the *End Gun Violence Act of 2025 (H.R. 2650)* to amend federal law to prohibit the sale or transfer of firearms or ammunition to anyone convicted of a violent misdemeanor within the past five years. This bill is still under review by the House Judiciary Committee.

2026 POSITION

Support legislation that requires thorough background checks and licensing. **Support** legislation that responsibly expands treatment options and mental health programs.

FEDERAL ISSUE: Thin Blue Line Legislation

BACKGROUND & EFFECT ON COCONUT CREEK

The *Thin Blue Line* legislation expands the list of statutory aggravating factors in death penalty determinations to include killing or targeting a law enforcement officer, firefighter, or other first responder. A group of congressional leaders has introduced and supported this bill each year because of a significant increase in law enforcement fatalities nationally. Co-sponsors have been exclusively Republicans who argue that this legislation is necessary to address escalating threats to public safety. Opponents say this legislation is unnecessary and duplicative of efforts to improve law enforcement and community relations, noting that all 50 states already have the provision at the state level.

Congressman Vern Buchanan (R-FL-16) reintroduced the bill in the 119th Congress as *H.R. 378*, and since then, the legislation has gained 39 cosponsors from 19 states. As in the past, all the cosponsors are Republicans at this time. In the Senate, Senator Cruz (R-TX) and Senator Boozman (R-AK) introduced *S. 83*, a companion bill with identical text. This bill has received 15 cosponsors, all Republicans, representing 14 states.

VSA will continue to coordinate with cosponsor offices in the Senate and House to determine interest and needs for broader support for the legislation.

2026 POSITION

Monitor the development of legislation that expands statutory aggravated determinations to include killing or targeting law enforcement.

General Regulatory Issues

FEDERAL ISSUE: Tribal Legislation & Regulation

BACKGROUND & EFFECT ON COCONUT CREEK

VSA continues to monitor tribal legislation and regulations to determine if they could impact the City of Coconut Creek. This focus includes any legislation or federal rulemaking that could affect the Class III Gaming Compact with the State of Florida under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act of 1988, as well as any federal rulemaking that may affect the long-standing relationship between the City and the Seminole Tribe.

In January 2025, the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) finalized the fee-to-trust handbook, which reformed the process by which BIA can take tribal land into the federal government's trust. Despite extensive input from municipal entities, including Coconut Creek, the [Final Rule](#) largely mirrored the 2022 Proposed Rule, accelerating the decision timeline to 120 days for complete applications and simplifying criteria for different types of land acquisitions.

The following summary lists how the new procedures affect local governments – especially the City of Coconut Creek, if the Seminole Tribe were to pursue additional land acquisition within the City boundaries:

1. Tax revenue loss is explicitly de-emphasized as a reason to deny an application. DOI must acknowledge tax impacts, but the handbook reinforces existing law that tribal land restoration is a federal priority.
2. Local governments retain influence if they can show impacts to local infrastructure – these fall under technical comments.
3. Environmental review under NEPA is more standardized.
4. Local Governments still get notice of a fee-to-trust application to provide comments, but the handbook clarifies what kinds of comments are relevant (e.g., land use, zoning, etc.). Comments that fall outside these parameters can be dismissed.
5. The handbook reduces the ability to delay applications due to strict timelines that the BIA must now follow.
6. There is greater pressure for Intergovernmental Agreements.

2026 POSITION

Monitor tribal legislation and regulations that could impact the City of Coconut Creek.

FEDERAL ISSUE: Federal Policy & Legislation Related to Employment & Labor Laws

BACKGROUND & EFFECT ON COCONUT CREEK

Over the past decade, significant shifts in federal labor and workforce development policy have profoundly affected municipal workforces. Legislative changes, such as updates to the *Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA)*, raised overtime pay thresholds, directly influencing city budgets. Similarly, the *Affordable Care Act (ACA)* imposed heightened oversight and compliance requirements for health benefits administration, adding pressure on municipal employers to manage rising healthcare costs. These and other developments have intensified the need for cities to balance employee welfare with fiscal responsibility.

A likely legislative priority to watch in 2026 during the second session of the 119th Congress is reauthorizing the *Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)*, which lapsed in 2020. This bipartisan legislation has been the largest source of federal workforce development funding since its enactment in 2014. Funds from the bill help support job training, employment services, and education for individuals facing barriers to employment across the county. While WIOA has provided substantial resources for workforce development over the past several years, its reauthorization is necessary to address emerging labor market needs and ensure that localities like Coconut Creek can continue to maintain and expand their skilled workforces. The 119th Congress is expected to take up this reauthorization effort, and any changes could directly impact funding streams for local workforce development programs.

2026 POSITION

Monitor employment and labor law legislation, including but not limited to the FLSA, FMLA, ACA, and WIOA.

FEDERAL ISSUE: ADA Government Website Accessibility

BACKGROUND & EFFECT ON COCONUT CREEK

The *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)* governs accessibility for those with disabilities. Specifically, Title III of the ADA has been interpreted by the courts to include public websites and the process of making content and functions accessible to those with disabilities. The federal government's goal of accessibility is to ensure that people with disabilities can fully access online content and services provided by state and local governments.

In April 2024, the DOJ issued the [final rule](#) on the accessibility of state and local government websites and mobile applications. The rule formally adopted the [Web Content Accessibility Guidelines \(WCAG\) 2.1 Level AA](#) technical standards. Among the 50 success criteria is ensuring that images and documents are accessible to individuals with vision loss and that video captions are provided for those with hearing loss. Public entities with populations exceeding 50,000, such as the City of Coconut Creek, must comply with the rule until April 24, 2027.

Issuance and implementation of the final rule are important to local governments because they shift website ADA compliance from a general obligation to a clear, enforceable technical requirement.

2026 POSITION

Monitor federal regulations and policies related to ADA accessibility, standards, and requirements for government websites.

FEDERAL ISSUE: FCC Regulations Supporting the Deployment of Communications Facilities & Wireless Infrastructure

BACKGROUND & EFFECT ON COCONUT CREEK

With growing demand for broadband deployment, especially in rural areas, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and telecom companies have pushed policies to expedite deployment by limiting local government oversight and review timelines.

The FCC has published multiple rulemakings to establish review shot clocks for local governments and to grant exemptions. Under the current Administration, the new FCC has strengthened these positions. In September 2025, the FCC launched new rulemaking to examine reforms to state and local permitting processes, address delays and fees, and clarify when restrictions violate federal law. As part of this effort, the FCC issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in December 2025 to “eliminate barriers to wireless deployments.” The rulemaking proposes that certain local rules cannot unlawfully block the deployment of wireless facilities and makes siting and permitting more efficient.

2026 POSITION

Monitor the FCC's current efforts to limit local control and oversight of wireless infrastructure. **Oppose** legislation that preempts or limits local government zoning ordinances and review processes for installing 5G “small cell” wireless towers and other wireless infrastructure.

FEDERAL ISSUE: Transparency

BACKGROUND & EFFECT ON COCONUT CREEK

Federal efforts to improve transparency and accountability have primarily focused on initiatives that expand public access to information on government spending and programs. Notably, the IJA required detailed reporting on the use of its \$1.2 trillion in infrastructure funding. This effort was accompanied by improvements to USASpending.gov, which now provides more comprehensive data on federal expenditures, including real-time reporting on contracts, grants, and loans. Additionally, the *Digital Accountability & Transparency Act (DATA) Act* has continued to drive standardization in federal reporting. Despite these efforts, challenges persist in tracking federal spending due to disparate data sources and varying reporting requirements.

These federal initiatives have directly affected local governments such as Coconut Creek, which must meet increasingly stringent reporting requirements to remain eligible for federal funding. For example, projects funded through IJA require detailed quarterly reports on spending and progress, necessitating investments in staff training and digital systems that comply with federal data standards. While this increases accountability, it requires a concerted effort to balance compliance with federal mandates with constrained financial and staffing resources.

Looking forward, Coconut Creek remains committed to supporting federal efforts that promote government transparency and the accessibility of public records. However, the City will closely monitor potential legislative or regulatory changes that could impose additional data-reporting mandates or costs, and will advocate for balanced approaches that ensure accountability and operational feasibility.

2026 POSITION

Support efforts to increase government transparency and accessibility of public records. **Monitor** efforts that may require increased mandates or data-reporting costs.

FEDERAL ISSUE: Federal Marijuana Policy

BACKGROUND & EFFECT ON COCONUT CREEK

Prior to December 19, marijuana was classified as a Schedule I on the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) list of controlled substances. Schedule I is the most restrictive category under federal law. On December 19, President Trump issued an Executive Order directing the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and the Attorney General to reclassify marijuana to a Schedule III substance, reflecting that cannabis has medicinal value, even if abuse is still possible.

As of December 2025, twenty-four states have legalized the recreational use of marijuana, including hemp and CBD products. Forty states allow the medical use of cannabis products, including Florida. Florida does not allow cannabis for recreational use.

Several bills have been introduced and are under consideration by Congressional Committees. The most prominent are:

- a. *Marijuana Opportunity Reinvestment and Expungement Act (MORE)*, which would remove marijuana entirely from the Controlled Substances Act and promote social reforms, and
- b. *STATES 2.0 Act* and *PREPARE Act*, which are bills that help align federal policy and prepare for federal regulations.

Finally, a related issue around the classification of marijuana involves the hesitancy of banks and credit unions to provide financial services to state-legal cannabis businesses without fear of federal penalties. In response, Senator Merkley (D-OR) introduced the *Secure & Fair Enforcement Regulation Banking (SAFER) Act* to provide a safe harbor for banks, credit unions, and other institutions providing financial services to state-sanctioned marijuana businesses. The bill received bipartisan approval from the Senate Banking Committee, passing 14-9. Notably, then-Senator JD Vance (R-OH) voted “nay.” The bill did not reach the Senate floor. This bill is a Congressional priority in 2026 and could be affected by the President's recent Executive Order mentioned above.

2025 POSITION

Monitor federal legislation and agency policies related to marijuana and hemp and their potential impact on Florida’s medical marijuana program and industry.