

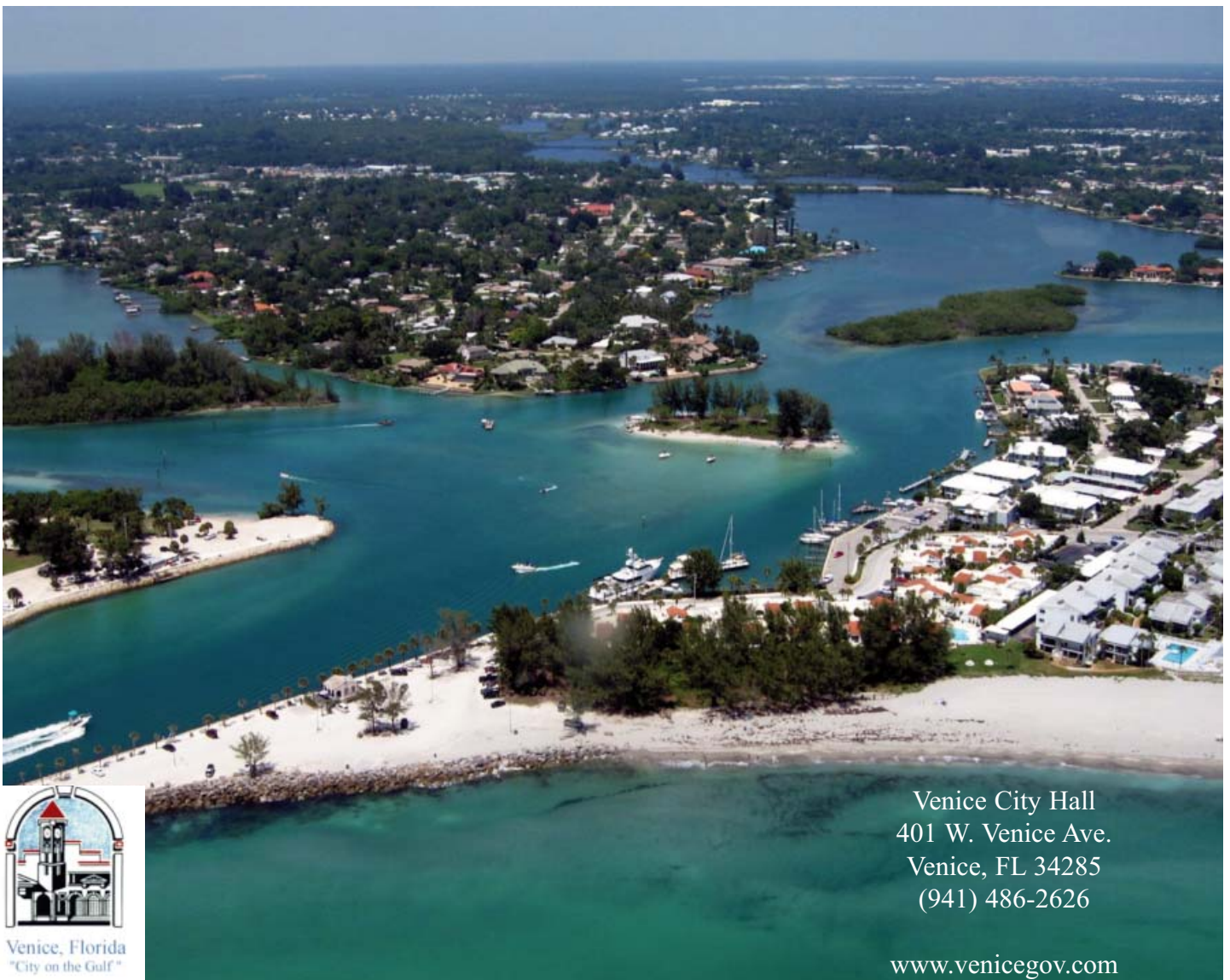
**Mayor
John Holic**

**Vice Mayor
Kit McKeon**

**Council Members
Deborah Anderson
Richard Cautero
Bob Daniels
Fred Fraize
Jeanette Gates**

**City Manager
Edward Lavallee**

**2016
City of Venice
LEGISLATIVE
PRIORITIES
State of Florida**



Venice, Florida
"City on the Gulf"

Venice City Hall
401 W. Venice Ave.
Venice, FL 34285
(941) 486-2626

www.venicegov.com

CITY OF VENICE STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

The City of Venice wishes to express its gratitude to the Florida State Legislative body for its work to provide the best and highest quality of life for residents of the state and especially, residents of Venice. We are greatly thankful for previous support of beach renourishment, transportation projects and other actions for the benefit of our citizens. The following needs have been identified by Venice City Council. The City of Venice requests your help with these important projects:

1. Support Home Rule

The City of Venice requests the support of legislation that provides for Home Rule authority for cities and counties to make decisions that reflect the unique needs of the local community and the wishes of its citizens.

A. It is imperative that the state **not impose unfunded mandates or reduce the revenue of local governments** by reducing taxes, such as the Communication Services Tax, that affect local government.

B. Provide further **relief from the current requirements in funding 175 and 185 pension plans.**

C. **Repeal of the state law that prohibits Home Rule in regard to new short-term rental** ordinances or amending existing ordinances.



2. Oppose Shifting Cost of Relocating Utilities

Oppose legislation that mandates local government to bear the cost of relocating utility equipment when the equipment is located within a public utility easement and needed to be relocated for transportation purposes or for non-transportation purposes, regardless of the location.



3. Transportation Funding

Support legislation that preserves local control of transportation planning, provides equitable transportation funding among municipalities and counties, and provides opportunities for additional options for municipal transportation infrastructure projects, such as parking garages and shuttles.



4. Beach Renourishment

The City of Venice is grateful for past support for beach renourishment. We hope to receive continued support with state funding for the city's next scheduled beach renourishment project to take place in 2025. Renourishing the beach serves to protect the economy and the health, safety and welfare of this Florida coastal community. The City also desires to partner with the state to seek new methods of renourishment.



5. Increase programs to help homeless, mental illness and addiction

Because a lack of social services increases problems for society, especially for the homeless, those with mental illness, and those with alcohol and drug addictions, the Florida Legislature is encouraged to find means of helping those people in need of services. Having homelessness in a community undermines the welfare of all residents. Developing jobs, reinstating state mental institutions, increasing opportunities for people to receive help to be able to become independent and self sufficient are examples of ways to improve society now and in the future.

6. Increase opportunities for historic preservation

The Venice Museum and Archives, located in a 1,500-square foot historic building, serves as the main repository for archaeological and historical materials related to Venice and its surrounding communities. The museum is quickly running out of room to store its historic treasures and to display them for the public's education. With seed money of \$1 million donated by a city resident, and an economic feasibility study regarding the museum's expansion, VMA is now seeking public and private funds to make this a reality.



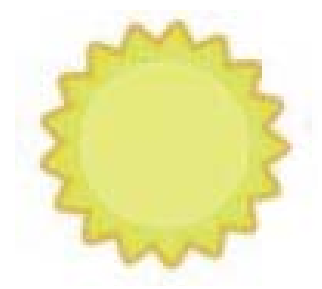
7. No Oil or Gas Drilling

The City of Venice is opposed to any drilling for gas or oil in the Gulf of Mexico within 10 miles of its shoreline. The beaches are a natural and economic asset to the area. The City of Venice and other local government entities have joined in a commitment to preserve the ecological balance and natural beauty of the area, which such drilling activities threaten.



8. Incentives for Alternative Energy and Energy Conservation and Efficiency Improvements

The City of Venice encourages the Florida Legislature to provide any incentives possible to encourage citizens to retrofit their homes and businesses with energy efficient and alternative energy products; and to provide funding opportunities for local governments to use alternative energy products.



9. The City of Venice Supports the Florida League of Cities' Legislative Priorities for 2016.