

Agenda Item: 2.b

Meeting Date: September 1, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: City Commission

Through:

From: Nicole Delfino

Date: 2026-09-01

Subject: Legislative Discussion - Reviewing the 2026 Session

Presenter(s): Nicole Delfino, Strategy & Sustainability Manager and Laura Boehmer, The Southern Group

Staff Recommendation: Reviewing 2026 legislative session impacts

Strategic Themes: Good Governance

Boards & Committees: N/A

Budget Impact: N/A

Past Action: Previous Legislative pre and post-session reviews with Commission.

Next Action: 2027 Legislative Priorities Review, Advocacy & Tallahassee Travel

Attachments: [A. 2026 Legislative Session Recap_City of Dunedin.pdf](#)
[B. 2026 FLC Final Legislative Report.pdf](#)
[C. BMO Full Memo Dunedin 2026 New Legislation.pdf](#)
[D. Express Preemptions As of 08.01.25.pdf](#)

Background: In an effort to protect the quality of life for the City of Dunedin residents, the City established Legislative Priorities in February of 2019, producing documentation of our most pressing state and federal legislative priorities. Subsequently, priorities have been updated each year.

In 2024, City staff, with support of the City Commission, engaged Legislative Lobbyist, The Southern Group (TSG) through a Request for Proposal (RFP) process. Within TSG, our primary legislative lobbyist is Laura Boehmer. The TSG agreement commenced just ahead of the 2024 Legislative session, allowing staff to work with Ms. Boehmer and TSG to advocate for the City

of Dunedin. The agreement with TSG will expire on November 30, 2026 and an RFP for Lobbying Services will be reissued in the fall of 2026 to procure services.

During the 2024, 2025, and 2026 Legislative sessions, TSG facilitated meetings and coordination occurred both in and outside of Tallahassee with City staff, elected officials, and state agencies. TSG together with City Staff coordinates submission and provides the required documentation for state appropriation requests.

The City's legislative impact and advocacy continue to grow as we engage and build our relationships with Senator Ed Hooper, Representative Adam Anderson, and Representative Kim Berfield and the larger Pinellas County delegation. Developing concise and direct priorities and requests is key to advocacy.

Each year, staff reviews and receives guidance from Commission on updating the City's legislative position. Staff coordinates connecting with the delegation during off-session season and visits to Tallahassee for advocacy and as part of the Florida League of Cities Legislative Action Days. City Staff and TSG track key bills throughout the legislative session, provide reports, write letters, and attend Legislative Committee meetings.

A legislative update provided to City Commission on March 31, 2026 provided possible impacts as many of the approved bills had not been signed by the Governor. At that time, the Florida House and Senate had not adopted an approved budget. Special sessions were called in April to address Congressional Redistricting, in May to address the State Budget and in June to address property tax reform.

The presentation to Commission on September 1, 2026 is to address legislative impacts, ensure tracking of impacts and implementation of any necessary changes, review of the State budget, and overall 2026 session details.