



Florida Police Chiefs Association 2026 Legislative Priorities & Position Statements: The Florida Police Chiefs Association is committed to advocating for positive legislative change that enhances safety in the communities we serve and helps our members efficiently administer public safety services. Included in this packet is a condensed description of legislative issues that have been discussed and approved by the FPCA Board of Directors and the Legislative Committee. The FPCA will advocate as necessary a position on each of these topics during the 2026 Florida Legislative Session but will only seek draft legislation on items approved by the FPCA Board of Directors as legislative priorities. In addition to the legislative items briefly outlined below, the Florida Police Chiefs Association Legislative Committee has designated certain workgroups to serve as subject matter experts on certain topics that are anticipated to be given attention in the upcoming session. Those workgroups include the following topics:

1. **911 Consolidation – HB 1427/SB 1586 we are opposed to these in current form** (as of 1/26/2026) but would hope to see a standards-based, operationally realistic, and funded approach to interoperability. We worked closely with the Florida Fire Chiefs and provided House Sponsor, Chair Alvarez, with draft language in September 2025. We will continue to work with the bill sponsors in hopes of getting to an interoperability-based version that respects local public safety partner interlocal agreements and infrastructure.
2. **Property Taxes** – continue to monitor but likely will be determined in Special Session in April, not during regular Session.

Priority One: Protection for Police Officers, Police Department Employees and Their Families

Passage of the Officer Jason Raynor Act: We support SB 156 by Leek/HB 17 by Baker

We should honor the memory of any officer killed in the line of duty and bring justice to his/her family ensuring that the killer is never sentenced to less than life imprisonment without eligibility for release. Failed late in session for the past two years with the debate focusing on terminology of lawful and unlawful duties. In 2021, Officer Jason Raynor was searching for a stolen car when he saw Orthal Wallace in one that looked similar. He attempted to question Wallace, but Wallace would not comply. Wallace then shot Officer Raynor in the head. Wallace was found guilty of a lesser charge of manslaughter with a firearm and sentenced to 30 years in prison. Wallace claimed that Officer Raynor was not lawful in his investigation and feared his own life. Current law does not carry an enhanced penalty for manslaughter when it involves law enforcement. This legislation would increase the penalty for manslaughter of a police officer to mandatory life in prison and would revise s. 776.051 to expand law enforcement officers' protection from citizens' use or threatened use of force during an arrest or detention.

The proposed legislation would clarify that at no time can individuals threaten or use violence against an officer acting in the performance of his/her official duties. It amends 776.051 to replace "lawful



performance of a legal duty” with “performance of official duties” closing the loophole in this argument used as part of a defense strategy.

Additional protective legislation:

The FPCA will review bills that provide support to and protection for law enforcement officers, police department personnel and their families. There could be a wide cross-section proposed legislation that touches on these issues. For example, legislation could include the creation of new health or salary benefits for first responders, expansion of PTSD benefits to additional public safety personnel, training, or educational benefits, to bills that enhance current penalties or create new penalties for those that seek to threaten or harm officers, civilian staff, or their families.

Threats Based on Publicly Accessible Address/Telephone Data:

Threats towards law enforcement officers, firefighters, EMTs, paramedics, judges, public defenders, state attorneys (defined as public safety professionals) have far too often escalated to violent behavior. A troubling trend of targeted violence has emerged in which an arrested individual targets the home, business, and even the educational facilities of the family members of these public officials and the public officials themselves outside their work environment. These offenders engage in research and overt acts to identify, locate, and threaten these public safety officials outside of their work, and take it a step farther when the threat is directed at a member of the family of one of these officials as a result of the work they do. A few other state have begun to address this by finding ways to eliminate the data accessible online associated with law enforcement officials and their families; for example, Daniel’s Law in New Jersey <https://danielslaw.nj.gov/Default.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2f> has been useful. The **FPCA supports HB 1027/SB 1064** that seeks to prohibit data brokers from disclosing the personal information of certain public employees and their families at the employee’s request and provide a civil remedy for noncompliance.

Suicide Prevention

The FPCA is supportive of a comprehensive approach to officer and first responder wellness in Florida. We are in need of a comprehensive statewide approach to first responder wellness that speaks to coordinated service options for civilian and sworn members of the first responder community, inclusive of police, fire, EMS, dispatchers, crime scene units, child-protection personnel, probation officers, juvenile detention, and corrections. We need funding for training and services so that agencies of all sizes can afford the programs that keep their members healthy and “duty ready.” Our vision would be that peer support programs and PCIS would be readily available statewide across all disciplines, that training on wellness and how to handle trauma would begin as part of recruit and FTO training and be integrated throughout the span of one’s career and into retirement. Our vision would be that any officer or department employee with suicidal thoughts could walk into a readily accessible behavioral health or treatment center in their community, not 300 miles away, that is geared toward first responders with culturally competent clinicians. Losing 1 officer every 8



days in Florida should shock the conscience and signal the need for a greater focus on this issue moving forward. The FPCA **supports** extending PTSD benefits to 911 dispatchers. **We support HB 451/SB 774.**

Priority Two Chiefs of Police Training

Issue Background: The FPCA has been conducting a 40hr/weeklong New Chiefs training program for nearly 20 years, but it is currently voluntary. But based on higher rates of turnover in this position, more chiefs coming from outside the State of Florida, and the essential topics that are covered, we feel the course should be mandatory for all newly appointed or elected chiefs of police. A similar mandatory program exists for all Sheriffs. During the 2024-2025 Session, the Legislature provided State Financial Assistance of \$150K to the Florida Police Chiefs Education and Research Foundation to support the training of chiefs, many of whom had indicated that without such funds they simply could not attend. With this funding, the Association provided three New Chiefs Trainings classes in 6 months, training a total of 48 chiefs of police.

This Session we will look for re-occurring revenue opportunity for this funding and in a future session we seek the requirement of this training with possibly the addition of a credential/certificate program as we have seen in a handful of other states.

Position Statements:

The following statements are not comprehensive, nor do these position represent the totality of FPCA position in support/opposition to a given bill; amendments could change our position.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE: The FPCA **opposes** language that would prohibit outright the use of AI in law enforcement operations. We recognize the immense potential this technology can have to enhance transparency, efficiency, and investigative capabilities; but, we **support** language that ensures the ethical and responsible use of AI with the need to ensure human-in-the-loop review of outputs and reports generated from AI use.

- **Language Specific to AI USE with BODY CAMERA FOOTAGE:** A law enforcement agency may not use artificial intelligence to review or monitor audio or video data recorded by a body camera for purposes of initiating an investigation into a law enforcement officer's conduct or taking any disciplinary action against a law enforcement officer unless a designated officer reviews, verifies, and approves the accuracy of any AI assisted report or documentation. All AI use requires a human-in-the-loop to verify and approve outputs.

CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN: The FPCA **supports** enhancements to crimes against children to include Missy's Law HB 445/SB 928. Missy's Law requires a court to remand a person to custody immediately upon the finding of guilt of a dangerous crime which would now include any violation related to computer pornography and child exploitation as defined in s. 847.0135, F.S. Under the bill, the person must remain in custody without the possibility of release on bond, pending sentencing or further proceedings. Moreover, the court may not grant postconviction bond or other release for a



person who has been found guilty of, or who has entered a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to, a dangerous crime

DRUG TRAFFICKING STATUTES: Adding Additional Synthetic Opioids To Trafficking Statutes:

- Adding Xylazine to the Trafficking Statute: Florida has seen a significant increase in the prevalence of Xylazine throughout the state. When combined with deadly narcotics, Xylazine becomes resistant to opioid antagonists, including naloxone. Xylazine has become a significant cause of deaths throughout the state but as the law is currently written, anyone with possession of Xylazine can only be charged with possession and distribution of a controlled substance, regardless of the amount. **We support HB 309/SB 432.**

DUI MISDEMEANOR BLOOD WARRANTS: The FPCA recognizes Florida has less-severe combined administrative and criminal penalties for refusals than for those who submit to testing thereby making refusing to submit to testing the more beneficial option for DUI drivers; therefore, the FPCA is supportive of enhancement to DUI laws.

- The FPCA **supports** discussion of adding language with “impairing substance” to Florida DUI laws to ensure that those drugs, both OTC and prescribed, that should not be consumed while operating a motor vehicle or vessel can be considered for purposes of DUI law.
- The FPCA **supports** minimum mandatory sentence for those convicted of a third or subsequent conviction for DUI, “felony DUI,” as well as increasing minimum jail sentences for convictions of felony DUI (for example, minimum 30 days for first felony, minimum 60 days second, minimum 90 for third).

EBIKES: The FPCA **supports** legislation to address the public safety hazard and significant injuries occurring to minor by electric bicycles. **We support HB 243/SB 382.**

ELLIE’S LAW: The FPCA **supports** HB 499/SB 438. Known as Ellie’s Law, named in honor of Orange County Sheriff’s Office Lieutenant “Ellie” Shea. A year ago, Ellie was tragically murdered by her husband, and her two beloved children were placed with a relative while the husband’s parental rights remained intact. As proposed, Ellie’s Law closes this gap in Florida child-welfare law by requiring immediate court intervention when a parent is arrested for murder, attempted murder, or manslaughter of the other parent. The bill temporarily suspends the arrested parent’s rights, mandates a shelter hearing within 24 hours, appoints a Guardian ad Litem, ensures trauma-informed services, and safeguards access to medical and educational records

ENHANCED PENALTIES: The FPCA **supports** penalty enhancements and no early release for criminals that assault, batter or kill a law enforcement or correctional officer.

EMPLOYEE-EMPLOYER RELATIONS: The FPCA **opposes**, at both the State and Federal level, any legislative attempt to further restrict the local conduct of employee/employer relations issues. This would include further mandating of collective bargaining by local governments.



FISCALLY CONSTRAINED COUNTIES, POLICE DEPARTMENTS: The FPCA **supports** legislative appropriation to the police departments operating in fiscally constrained counties to keep them competitive in the hiring and retention of officers.

FIXING MARSY'S LAW and ENHANCING VICTIM PROTECTION: The FPCA **supports** clarifying the ambiguity in Marsy's Law, relating to a Victim's right to privacy, regarding Chapter 119 of Florida Statute. In addition, the FPCA supports the protection of any law enforcement officer's PII if they are the victim of a crime. The FPCA believes that departments can be transparent and accountable in the wake of officer use of force investigations without compromising the identity of involved officers or their families and that legal avenues for gaining details of these investigations are already available under Florida law. **We have concerns with HB1113/SB 350 in current form.**

The FPCA **supports** legislation that would protect crime victims awaiting justice by extending immediate enforcement of pretrial conditions to all crime victims with no contact orders, not just victims of domestic or dating violence. **We support HB 397/SB 760.**

FLORIDA RETIREMENT SYSTEM: The FPCA **supports** funding for an ad hoc cost of living adjustment for current and future Special Risk Class retirees. **We support SB 7028; currently there is no House companion.**

INTERNET CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN (ICAC funding/investigations): The FPCA **supports** **HB 709/SB 656** which in part will establish the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force Funding Program to provide ongoing financial support to task forces, including funding for personnel, training, and equipment.

INTEROPERABILITY: The FPCA acknowledges the challenges of incompatible communication systems and data formats, and supports the investment in interoperable technologies, establishing standardized protocols and fostering a culture of collaboration with mutual respect for current investments and interlocal agreements in PSAPS. The FPCA **supports** the crucial steps and funding needed to achieve true interoperability in conjunction with local jurisdiction authority and responsiveness to the demographics of the communities we police. The FPCA feels strongly that the 911 dispatch functions and capabilities as well as standards should be evaluated at the county level before any changes are proposed to dispatch consolidation. The FPCA recognizes that call transfers may be necessary for operational reasons and that jurisdiction that have yet to meet Next Generation 911 standards are a significant hurdle to calls being received by the appropriate jurisdiction.

LEGALIZATION OF DRUGS: The FPCA **opposes** the legalization of marijuana, and other illegal drugs, for recreational use. We will continue to monitor legislation that would allow employees of public safety agencies to use or abuse marijuana while in the performance of their duties. We are reviewing legislation that addresses open cannabis containers in motor vehicles, **HB 1003/SB1056** as there are legal concerns regarding plain smell test in light of prior court rulings on this subject.

OPEN CARRY LOOPHOLE: The FPCA **supports** the responsible and safe carrying and storage of firearms by those eligible under state and federal law; we are concerned that recent decisions have created loopholes in the open carrying of long guns in prohibited places where handguns are



currently prohibited. We support legislation that clarifies that a prohibited place is a prohibited place regardless of the type of firearm being carried. **We support HB 321/SB 406.**

PUBLIC RECORDS, MONETIZING BODY CAMERA FOOTAGE: The FPCA acknowledges that the monetization of law enforcement body camera footage raises significant concerns about privacy, transparency, and the potential for misuse and reputational harm; that said, we stand by the need to produce public records upon request according to state law and the Florida Constitution. The impact to law enforcement agencies for the production of these records cannot be overstated; redaction burdens and the necessary allocation of personnel resources to support requests unrelated to criminal justice purposes that serve only to support the financial gain of an unrelated party and to the detriment of a suspect in a crime whose record may ultimately be subject to expunction or sealing by the courts, only to have the video live “forever” on the Internet causing long-term reputational harm. The FPCA supports legislation to ensure that these requests can be “regulated” in some manner so as to protect the privacy of individuals and to assist agencies in focusing efforts in fulfilling public records requests that serve a true public interest and not a private financial one. Ultimately the protection of biometric information/facial images could be an important first step in making an impact on these requests.

POLICE OFFICER BILL OF RIGHTS: The FPCA **supports** maintaining the ability to investigate anonymous complaints against law enforcement officers and acknowledges that each department should maintain a written directive that requires a procedure for processing all complaints against the agency or its members, including the chief of police. The burden for producing and reviewing any potential evidence, to include that which may be in the exclusive possession of the department, is the responsibility of the department, not the complainant/or victim.

- In addition, the FPCA **supports** the position that the existence of non-disciplinary materials are relevant to performance, “early warning” programs, training, promotional processes, and personnel decisions. In addition to accountability and transparency concerns, restricting the documentation of non-disciplinary investigations and outcomes in an officers personnel file could expose agencies to constitutional liability. Officers that have significant performance failures or policy violations should not be “equal to” officers that have none in making decisions regarding promotions or meritorious raises.
- **The FPCA opposes HB 1283/SB 1544 in current form.**

PHOTO/AUTOMATED ENFORCEMENT IN SCHOOL ZONES – The FPCA **supports** the continued use of technology to support the enforcement of speed limits in school zones. Speeding in school zones is a significant public safety concern, and we know that these detection devices can modify driver behavior and supplement the lack of officers available to work radar in these high-traffic areas with our most vulnerable populations. **We have concerns with HB 521/SB 654 in current form and oppose restrictions on the use of photo enforcement in school zones. While the school is open, photo enforcement should be permissible.**



RED LIGHT CAMERAS: The FPCA **supports the continued use of** Red Light Cameras. These tools are vital to the safety of our roadways and intersections.

SQUATTED TRUCKS: The FPCA **supports** legislation to address the highway/traffic safety concerns posed by vehicles with a significantly raised front end and lowered rear, which include reduced visibility for the driver, altered handling and stability and impaired braking performance.

SUICIDE PREVENTION: The FPCA **supports** enhancements to first responder suicide prevention education, treatment, funding, and the underlying insurance coverage provisions to ensure that both sworn and civilian first responders receive the most comprehensive services/treatment possible both on the job and once retired. The FPCA **supports** extending PTSD benefits to 911 dispatchers. **We support HB 451/SB 774.**

TRUTH IN SENTENCING: The FPCA **supports** laws requiring convicted criminals to serve at least 85% of their sentence and **we oppose** the elimination of mandatory minimum sentences and the unlimited expunction of criminal records. **We are monitoring HB 745/SB 810 regarding the sealing of records.**

UNIVERSITY POLICE OFFICERS: The FPCA **supports** the recognition of the operations of our law enforcement officers working within State College/University Police Departments and believes that the compensation structures for the officers should be holistically reviewed in light of multiple year state law enforcement salary increases and bonus provisions for which they were ineligible. **We are monitoring legislation that could impact campus safety requirements – HB 757/SB 896.**

UTILITY TERRAIN VEHICLES: The FPCA **supports** legislation to address and regulate the operation of UTVs. **We support HB 101/SB356.**

General Inquiries: Please send an email to info@fpca.com

Note: FPCA does not comment to the media on pending legislation during Session. The FPCA position on any bills of interest will be offered through committee testimony, emails and letters of support or opposition to Committee Chairs and bill sponsors, the Senate President, the Speaker of the House, and Cabinet officials when appropriate. For additional information, please contact:

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