



AMERICAN

FLOOD

COALITION

OUR POLICIES

**A NONPARTISAN COALITION
ADVOCATING FOR NATIONAL SOLUTIONS
TO FLOODING AND SEA LEVEL RISE**

FloodCoalition.org

Who we are

The American Flood Coalition is a nonpartisan group of political, military, business, and local leaders that have come together to unlock national solutions to flooding and sea level rise. We proactively address the growing cost of coastal, riverine, and flash flooding by advocating for smarter planning and investment before these disasters strike.



Our mission

Protecting communities that are vulnerable to flooding and sea level rise is a national issue that must be met with national solutions—it is vitally important to our country’s citizen well-being, economic strength, and security.

In the last 10 years, all 50 states have had presidential disaster declarations from flooding¹

Our 4 solutions pillars



Economy

Invest in infrastructure and natural solutions that boost the economy and protect property values



Communities

Use smart planning to keep communities safe and save taxpayer dollars



Rebuilding

Build back stronger to protect communities from future flooding



Military

Ensure our military installations are ready to deploy 365 days a year

¹ FEMA, FEMA Disaster Declarations Summary - Open Government Dataset, 2018.

Economy

Invest in infrastructure and natural solutions that boost the economy and protect property values

Our national economy relies on our highways, ports, and other essential infrastructure, much of which is at risk from riverine, coastal, and flash flooding and sea level rise. The American Flood Coalition supports dedicated funding and incentives for resilience that will help prevent flood damage, ensure property values and coastal tourism remain strong, and spur innovation and job creation.

The construction of new infrastructure will create local employment opportunities that cannot be outsourced, bringing more jobs to the community. As our communities adapt to flooding and sea level rise, we'll also be able to build new businesses and innovation that we can export to others around the globe.

Policies

- ▶ Support communities investing in adaptation through dedicated federal funding and incentives, such as adaptation trust funds, revolving loan funds, and tax breaks
- ▶ Increase innovation grants for research into flood mitigation technology
- ▶ Facilitate the exchange of best practices among flood-affected communities
- ▶ Broaden available financing methods for flood infrastructure projects in ways that engage the private sector, such as public-private partnerships and low-interest debt financing



**Investing
\$100M
in water
infrastructure
creates an
estimated
1500+ jobs
in the local
community²**

² Value of Water Campaign. The Economic Benefits of Investing in Water Infrastructure. 2017.

Communities

Use smart planning to keep communities safe and save taxpayer dollars



\$1 spent on pre-disaster mitigation saves \$4-7 in disaster relief³

Investing in resilience can save taxpayer dollars and untold heartache for affected communities, but to plan smart our communities need accurate information and policies that empower them to act. As a first step, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) should upgrade its flood maps, 15% of which reflect information from the 1970s and 1980s, and none of which include future sea level rise.

Once communities understand their risk, they need federal funding for smart investments. We need to dramatically increase FEMA's pre-disaster mitigation funding, which currently makes up less than 1% of its budget. Communities should also be empowered with the flexibility to invest in living shorelines and other natural infrastructure solutions by making the planning and permitting process more efficient.

Policies

- ▶ Increase pre-disaster mitigation funding across agencies
- ▶ Adopt federal minimum flood standards across all major federal programs
- ▶ Update FEMA flood maps to reflect current data and include sea level rise projections
- ▶ Support efficient planning and permitting for living shorelines, including working with the Army Corps to expand the new living shoreline permit category

³ National Institute of Building Sciences, Natural Hazard Mitigation Saves: 2017 Interim Report. December 2017.

Rebuilding

Build back stronger to protect communities from future flooding

When disaster strikes and the national government spends billions to rebuild, we need to build back stronger so our communities can withstand future flooding instead of drawing on taxpayer dollars to rebuild again and again. By creating federal standards for rebuilding that take a clear-eyed view of future risk, we can keep our citizens safe and prevent wasteful spending.

We need to improve Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), FEMA, and Small Business Administration (SBA) programs so that they allow and incentivize rebuilding to higher standards.

Policies

- ▶ Create federal resilience standards for rebuilding after hurricanes and flood events
- ▶ Issue guidance from HUD on how the Community Development Block Grant program can be used to encourage adaptive rebuilding
- ▶ Have FEMA allow for and incentivize the adaptation of damaged facilities with Public Assistance funding
- ▶ Allow the SBA Disaster Loan Program to incentivize resilient construction



89% of registered voters support a requirement for all federally funded infrastructure to better withstand flooding⁴

⁴ The Pew Charitable Trusts. Poll. January 2018.

Military

Ensure our military installations are ready to deploy 365 days a year



The DoD found that **931 military installations** have experienced flooding⁶

When military facilities are flooded, it puts our national security at risk. At Norfolk Naval Base, the main access road floods about 10 times per year, affecting the over 90% of servicemen who live off base⁵. Some installations are already taking action to protect against flooding, but we need coordinated national action.

The Department of Defense (DoD) must prioritize adaptation plans to ensure our military is prepared for the future, and we must give base commanders the flexibility to invest in critical infrastructure on and off the base.

Policies

- ▶ Give the DoD the authority to assess the impact of flooding on our military installations
- ▶ Allow base commanders the flexibility to use mission funds to address flooding off-base by expanding programs such as Defense Access Roads
- ▶ Promote alternative funding mechanisms for our military through public-private partnerships

Our progress: We successfully advocated for the Defense Access Roads program amendment, which now allows bases to **address flooding impacts to roads leading into bases**, to be included in the Fiscal Year 2019 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) that was signed into law August 2018.

⁵ Virginia-Pilot, Naval Station Norfolk's first 100 years: World's largest navy base anchored to community, June 2017.

⁶ Department of Defense Climate-Related Risk to DoD Infrastructure Initial Vulnerability Assessment Survey (SLVAS) Report. January 2018.

Member benefits



A strong platform to advocate, as part of a nonpartisan group, for national solutions to flooding that invest in and protect our communities

A forum for best practices and support in developing local and state-level responses to flooding and sea level rise



Opportunities and tools to communicate with residents on challenges and solutions related to flooding

Learn more at
FloodCoalition.org

