

Val Gelnovatch



Partner and Local Government Practice Team Leader

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Val Gelnovatch built The Ferguson Group's Florida practice and has managed the firm's Florida office for 12 years. Val's expertise in the federal government has helped numerous municipal and private clients successfully advance their federal funding and policy needs in Washington. With nearly two decades of experience in matters related to transportation, port development, shore protection, economic development and aviation, Val has the skills to represent her client's policy, regulatory and budgetary needs on the Hill, in the federal agencies and before the White House.

Val served as project leader for one of Florida's largest metropolitan communities, Broward County, for nearly 14 years. During her tenure she served as the lead lobbyist for the County Commission, for Port Everglades, and for the Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International airport—and helped them secure well over \$120 million in federal funding for roads, runways, buses, transit hubs, homeland security, customs, housing, water infrastructure, and health and human services. Additionally, she has extensive experience securing federal funding authorizations through her years of work with the Water Resource Development Act and Transportation Reauthorization bills.

As an expert in the full range of local government work, Val has also helped small and medium-sized cities, as well as land developers and engineering firms work with the federal government to obtain a host of local projects including: port maintenance and dredging, beach restoration, scenic byway funding, sanitary sewer and storm drain upgrades, new mobile command centers, a new highway interchange, more TSA coverage at airports, solar panels on government buildings, new transit shelters, hybrid electric buses, funds for public health outreach, funds to repair aging water infrastructure and disaster recovery. She also works to support federal initiatives to help communities become more resilient against natural disasters and she works to fight off such Washington initiatives as municipal tax code changes that would harm local governments.

Before joining TFG she was Communication Manager for Legislative Demographic Services where she developed and implemented grassroots advocacy for corporations and interest groups. Her previous experience was as Regulatory Director for a municipally-focused lobbying firm.

Val heads The Ferguson Group's Local Government Practice Group, ensuring the firm stays in the forefront of issues impacting our clients. She serves as the firm's representative at the Florida Association of Counties and the Florida City and County Managers Association. She has also been an invited speaker on the federal funding process. Val received a B.A. in English Literature from the University of Virginia, and a Masters of Public Administration from the George Washington University School of Business and Public Management. She is also a member of the Coral Gables Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

Practice Areas: [Transportation](#)
[Housing](#)

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