



## DO YOU WANT TO BECOME A HOME RULE HERO?

As the adage goes, “all politics is local.” Successful advocacy starts at home, not in Tallahassee. No one – not even a professional lobbyist – can tell your community’s story better than you. Your involvement helps the League’s legislative team turn the abstract into the concrete, and is essential for helping legislators understand how their decisions may impact their communities back home.

The League appreciates the individual advocacy efforts undertaken by hundreds of municipal officials throughout the state. Each year, there are always a few who make an extraordinary effort; people who stand out for their high level of participation and effectiveness. We created the **Home Rule Hero Award** as a way for the League’s legislative team to recognize and thank them. The League is proud to have recognized hundreds of municipal officials as “Home Rule Heroes” since the award’s inception in 2009.

Home Rule Hero Award recipients are selected annually by the League’s legislative team following each legislative session. Some of the factors we consider are listed below.

- » Attendance at Florida League of Cities’ **Legislative Action Day** during the legislative session
- » Participation in FLC House and Senate **“Candidate Forums”** during election season
- » Providing opportunities for candidates for legislative offices to learn about your city and its issues, or introducing candidates to key stakeholders in your city or in your professional network
- » Participation in FLC’s Monday morning **“Call-ins”** during the legislative session
- » Participation in FLC’s **Pre- and Post-Legislative Session Webinars**
- » Timely response to and action on FLC’s **Legislative Alerts**
- » Participation on a FLC **Legislative Policy Committee**
- » Attendance at FLC’s **Legislative Conference**
- » Participation in FLC’s **Legislator “Key Contact” program**
- » Meeting with legislators in their districts
- » Meeting with legislators in Tallahassee during committee weeks or during session
- » Testifying before a House or Senate committee on an FLC issue
- » Keeping FLC informed of communications with legislators
- » Recruiting other municipal officials to join FLC advocacy efforts
- » Frequency and effectiveness of communication with legislators and legislative staff
- » Placing an opinion editorial piece on FLC priority issues in a news media outlet
- » Providing information, data or talking points about how proposed legislation will specifically impact your city (telling the “story”)
- » Setting up opportunities for legislators and their staff to visit your city – council meetings; workshops; tours of parks, projects or facilities; city events; local league meetings or events
- » Meeting with legislators on your city’s budget – sharing budget priorities and challenges, and general process
- » Attending local legislative delegation meetings to discuss municipal issues
- » Providing opportunities to publicly recognize legislators for their service or assistance
- » Participation in a **Federal Action Strike Team (FAST) fly-in** to Washington, D.C.

**For more information on these activities and ways to step up your advocacy game, please contact Allison Payne at [apayne@flcities.com](mailto:apayne@flcities.com).**

