

Minutes
Florida League of Cities, Inc. Annual Conference
August 18-20, 2016
Diplomat Resort, Orlando, Florida

The Florida League of Cities' 90th Annual Conference was held at the Diplomat Resort in Hollywood, Fla., on August 18-20, 2016. There was an attendance of approximately 900 delegates and guests, representing approximately 200 city governments.

Principal speakers included Mark Halperin, managing editor of Bloomberg Politics; Melodee Colbert-Kean, president of the National League of Cities; and Anna Navarro, a Republican strategist for CNN.

On Thursday, August 18, 2016, delegates began arriving for various workshops and events of the annual conference. In the morning, a workshop was held titled "Continuing Education in Ethics: Are Your Hours Done?" That afternoon, the League's legislative policy committees conducted meetings, a "Cities 101" workshop was held, and an orientation session was available for first-time conference attendees. Meetings of the International Relations Committee, Resolutions Committee and Federal Action Strike Team (FAST) were held. Two pre-conference workshops, "The Village Square: Reviving Civil Discourse in Your Hometown" and "Facebook for Politics and Government," were also held. That evening, the President's Welcome Reception was held in the Great Hall for all conference delegates to attend.

Friday morning began with the first round of concurrent sessions featuring "NASA Tech Transfer Program" and "Preventing Sunburn: Effectively Communicating the Need for Public Records Reform," followed by the Opening General Session. During the session, Mark Halperin was the keynote speaker and Mayor Patricia Bates of Altamonte Springs was announced as the winner of the "E. Harris Drew Lifetime Achievement Award."

That afternoon, three additional rounds of concurrent session were held. Round two topics were: "Ending the Criminalization of Mental Illness," "Messaging the Media: The Most Effective Ways to Work with the Media to Keep Citizens Better Informed," "Local Governments and the Revolution of the Sharing Economy" and "How PACE Helps: The Economy, the Environment, and Your City." Round three topics were: "Help Wanted: What Can Elected Officials Do to Attract Young People to Public Service?," "Amending the Constitution: Looking Ahead to the 2017 Constitutional Revision Commission," "How Autonomous Vehicles Could Transform Cities (Driverless Cars: Look, No Hands!)." Round four topics were: "Resilient Redesign: Solutions for Cities," "Advocacy Workshop: How to Meet with Your Legislators," "Rough Waters or Smooth Sailing: What's Ahead for Municipalities (2016 Water Bill)" and "What Your City Attorney Can Do for You."

Also that day, the Nominating Committee met, the Florida Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials held a breakfast meeting and the Women Elected to Municipal

Government held a luncheon. The Board of Directors met Friday afternoon, and in the evening a Florida League of Cities Membership Networking Event was held.

On Saturday, several local/regional leagues held breakfast meetings and a session for Youth Councils was held.

At 9:00 a.m. that morning, President Matthew Surrency, mayor of Hawthorne, called the Business Session to order and announced that a quorum of delegates was present. Voting delegates were requested to be seated in the designated area. President Surrency advised delegates that if it were necessary for a Division of the House to be called, an explanation of the system of casting weighted votes would be provided in advance. The meeting was conducted in accordance with the League's By-Laws and *Robert's Rule of Order*. Each voting delegate was properly registered and received voting credentials and ballots identifying the delegate's weighted vote. Members were also advised they could split their vote; however, a single voting delegate must cast the total of each city's vote. Harry Morrison, the League's general counsel, served as parliamentarian.

The first order of business was motion duly made and seconded to approve the 2015 conference minutes as posted on the League's website. The motion was adopted.

President Surrency then recognized the chairs of the League's five policy committees and thanked them and committee members for their service.

He also recognized the chairs of the Federal Action Strike Team (FAST), Advocacy Committee, and the International Relations Committee, thanking them for their service. He then announced there was no unfinished business to come before the membership of the Florida League of Cities.

President Surrency called for a report of the Resolutions Committee. Chairwoman Susan Haynie, League first vice president and mayor of Boca Raton, introduced each resolution and moved its adoption. Each motion was duly seconded and each resolution was adopted.

**A RESOLUTION OF THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.,
EXPRESSING APPRECIATION TO HAWTHORNE, FLORIDA, FOR
ITS SUPPORT OF MATTHEW SURRENCY AS PRESIDENT OF THE
FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES.**

WHEREAS, Matthew Surrency, mayor of Hawthorne, Florida, served as president of the Florida League of Cities from 2015 through 2016; and

WHEREAS, the citizens, commissioners and staff of Hawthorne were most understanding of the demands placed upon Mayor Surrency in his role as president of the League; and

WHEREAS, during his presidency, Mayor Surrency focused on creating the “Florida Regional Compact Initiative” to encourage cities to join forces regionally to address shared challenges; and

WHEREAS, the membership and staff of the League recognize the commitment of the City of Hawthorne to Mayor Surrency’s presidency ensured his active participation in League activities and unselfish service to the League, and permitted him to successfully promote the programs, projects and philosophy of the League during the past year; and

WHEREAS, the membership and staff of the League also wish to recognize and personally thank City Manager Ellen Vause and City Clerk LaKesha H. McGruder and all of the dedicated Hawthorne city staff for their efforts in providing outstanding assistance to President Surrency and the FLC staff in coordinating his duties with the city and with the Florida League of Cities. Ms. Vause, Ms. McGruder and all city staff went above and beyond the call of duty, and their outstanding contributions to this effort are applauded and greatly appreciated.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.:

Section 1. That the Florida League of Cities’ membership and staff do officially and personally appreciate the commitment Hawthorne’s citizens, commissioners and staff made to Mayor Surrency’s presidency.

Section 2. That a copy of this resolution be presented to the City of Hawthorne.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Florida League of Cities, Inc., in conference assembled at the League’s 90th Annual Conference, at the Diplomat Resort, Hollywood, Florida, this 20th Day of August 2016.

**A RESOLUTION OF THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.,
RECOGNIZING THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 16-22, 2016, AS
“FLORIDA CITY GOVERNMENT WEEK,” AND
ENCOURAGING ALL FLORIDA CITY OFFICIALS TO SUPPORT
THIS CELEBRATION BY PARTICIPATING IN THE “MY CITY:
I’M PART OF IT, I’M PROUD OF IT!” ACTIVITIES.**

WHEREAS, city government is the government closest to the people, and the one with the most direct daily impact upon its citizens; and

WHEREAS, city government is administered for and by its citizens, and is dependent upon public commitment to and understanding of its many responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, city government officials and employees share the responsibility to pass along their understanding of public services and their benefits; and

WHEREAS, Florida City Government Week is a very important time to recognize the significant role played by city government in our lives; and

WHEREAS, Florida City Government Week offers a great opportunity to spread the word to all Floridians that they can shape and influence this branch of government, which is closest to the people; and

WHEREAS, the Florida League of Cities and its member cities have joined together to teach students and other citizens about municipal government through a variety of different projects and information.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.:

Section 1. That the Florida League of Cities, Inc., encourages all city officials, city employees, school officials and citizens to participate in events that recognize Florida City Government Week and to celebrate it throughout Florida.

Section 2. That the Florida League of Cities, Inc., supports and encourages all city governments to promote, sponsor and participate in “My City: I’m Part of It, I’m Proud of It!”

Section 3. That a copy of this resolution be provided to Florida Governor Rick Scott, the Florida Cabinet, Florida School Boards Association and the membership of the Florida League of Cities, Inc.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Florida League of Cities, Inc., in conference assembled at the League’s 90th Annual Conference, at the Diplomat Resort, Hollywood, Florida, this 20th Day of August 2016.

**A RESOLUTION OF THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.,
RECOGNIZING THE NEW CITY OF WESTLAKE AND
CONGRATULATING THE NEWEST MUNICIPALITY IN
FLORIDA UPON ITS SUCCESSFUL INCORPORATION IN 2016.**

WHEREAS, the citizens of the City of Westlake by referendum voted to convert from a special district to a municipality in June 2016 under the provisions of Florida law; and

WHEREAS, the City of Westlake will henceforth have all municipal powers allowed by the Florida Constitution and Laws of Florida to promptly respond to the needs and conveniences of its citizens, and will be the government closest to its citizens; and

WHEREAS, Section 2 of Article VIII, Florida Constitution (1968), establishes Home Rule for municipalities by granting them “governmental, corporate and proprietary powers...to conduct municipal government, perform municipal functions and render municipal services...”; and

WHEREAS, the newly elected council for Westlake is also congratulated upon their respective elections, and its newest staff appointments are also herein honored for being the inaugural elected and appointed officials to represent the new city; and

WHEREAS, this most recent act furthers the positive elements of self-governance and Home Rule philosophies, and the Florida League of Cities desires to applaud these actions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.:

Section 1. That the Florida League of Cities, Inc., proudly acknowledges the municipal incorporation of the City of Westlake and welcomes its addition to the League’s municipal family.

Section 2. That the citizens of the City of Westlake are commended for their desire to create a municipality and to thereby assume the responsibility of self-governance.

Section 3. That a copy of this resolution will be presented to the City of Westlake.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Florida League of Cities, Inc., in conference assembled at the League’s 90th Annual Conference, at the Diplomat Resort, Hollywood, Florida, this 20th Day of August 2016.

**A RESOLUTION OF THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.,
URGING THE APPOINTMENT OF MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS TO
THE 2017-18 CONSTITUTION REVISION COMMISSION AND
URGING THE COMMISSION TO PROTECT MUNICIPAL HOME
RULE AUTHORITY AND RESTRICT UNFUNDED STATE
MANDATES.**

WHEREAS, Section 2 of Article XI of the Florida Constitution establishes and describes the duties, powers, structure and function of the Constitution Revision Commission (CRC); and

WHEREAS, the CRC meets every 20 years, is next scheduled to meet in 2017 for only the third time in the state’s history, and will review and recommend changes to

Florida's constitution that may appear on the 2018 general election ballot for the consideration of Florida's voters; and

WHEREAS, the CRC is comprised of 37 members: the attorney general of Florida, fifteen members appointed by the governor, nine members appointed by the speaker of the House, nine members appointed by the Senate president, and three members appointed by the chief justice of the Florida Supreme Court; and

WHEREAS, the Florida League of Cities, Inc., was created in 1922 to work for the general improvement of its members, Florida's municipal governments; and

WHEREAS, the Florida League of Cities, Inc., believes local self-government is the keystone to American democracy and constitutional municipal home rule authority should be protected and expanded; and

WHEREAS, municipalities are the only optional form of government, created primarily to serve the needs and desires of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, municipalities are the governments closest to the people and are governed by citizens who have distinguished themselves as public servants; and

WHEREAS, the more than 2,000 municipal elected officials, representing over 400 cities that comprise the Florida League of Cities, recognize the CRC will weigh in on a variety of proposals that potentially affect municipal home rule authority and the ability of city officials to respond to the needs and conveniences of their citizens; and

WHEREAS, the FLC finds it is necessary to have municipal representation on the CRC to ensure that local perspectives and concerns are adequately voiced before the CRC.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.:

Section 1. That the Florida League of Cities, Inc., respectfully request Governor Rick Scott, Florida House Speaker-Designate Richard Corcoran and Florida Senate President Designate Joe Negron appoint municipal elected officials to serve on the 2017-18 Constitution Revision Commission.

Section 2. That the Florida League of Cities, Inc., urges the CRC to adopt proposals that protect municipal home rule authority and restrict unfunded state mandates.

Section 3. That this resolution shall become effective upon adoption and shall remain in effect until repealed and hereby repeals all conflicting resolutions

Section 4. That a copy of this resolution be provided to Governor Rick Scott, House Speaker-Designate Richard Corcoran, Senate President-Designate Joe Negron, the chair of the CRC, once designated, and the membership of the Florida League of Cities, Inc.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Florida League of Cities, Inc., in conference assembled at the League's 90th Annual Conference, at the Diplomat Resort, Hollywood, Florida, this 20th Day of August 2016.

**A RESOLUTION OF THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.,
URGING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND
CONGRESS TO PRESERVE THE CURRENT TAX-EXEMPT
STATUS OF INTEREST EARNED ON MUNICIPAL BONDS AND
REJECT ANY PROPOSAL THAT WOULD REDUCE OR
ELIMINATE THE FEDERAL TAX EXEMPTION ON INTEREST
EARNED ON MUNICIPAL BONDS.**

WHEREAS, since 1913, when the federal income tax was imposed, the interest earned on municipal bonds has been exempt from federal taxation; and

WHEREAS, municipal bonds have been the primary method by which state and local governments finance public capital improvements and infrastructure construction such as schools, hospitals, water and sewer systems, roads, highways, utilities, public safety structures, bridges and tunnels; and

WHEREAS, the projects funded through municipal financing are engines of job creation and economic growth; and

WHEREAS, the \$3.7 trillion municipal bond market is the primary financing tool used by municipalities and other governments to finance three-quarters of the total U.S. investment in infrastructure projects that provide essential services; and

WHEREAS, local governments save an average of 25 to 30 percent on interest costs with tax-exempt municipal bonds, as compared to taxable bonds, due to investors accepting a lower interest rate on tax-exempt bonds; and

WHEREAS, these savings allow state and local governments to invest more in critical infrastructure and essential services and provide construction jobs while holding down the cost to taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, several proposals have been discussed over the last few years as Congress and the Obama administration seek tax reform; and

WHEREAS, many of these proposals have included a proposed reduction or elimination of the current tax exemption on interest earned from tax-exempt municipal bonds; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that if the tax exemption had been fully eliminated over the last decade, it would have cost state and local governments an additional \$495 billion in interest expense; and

WHEREAS, Internal Revenue Service data shows that more than 50 percent of municipal bond interest is paid to individuals 65 years of age and older, who in many cases live on fixed incomes; and

WHEREAS, without the tax-exemption for municipal bonds, state and local governments either would pay far more to raise capital—a cost that ultimately would be borne by taxpayers through higher taxes—or be forced to reduce infrastructure spending.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.:

Section 1. That the Florida League of Cities, Inc., urges the President of the U.S. and Congress to preserve the current tax-exempt status of the interest earned on municipal bonds and oppose any attempt to cap or eliminate the tax exemption on the interest earned on municipal bonds.

Section 2. That a copy of this resolution be sent to the President of the U.S., the Florida congressional delegation, the National League of Cities and the membership of the Florida League of Cities, Inc.

Section 3. That this resolution shall become effective upon adoption and shall remain in effect until repealed and hereby repeals all conflicting resolutions.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Florida League of Cities, Inc., in conference assembled at the League's 90th Annual Conference, at the Diplomat Resort, Hollywood, Florida, this 20th Day of August 2016.

**A RESOLUTION OF THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.,
URGING CONGRESS TO PASS LEGISLATION THAT WOULD
GRANT STATES THE AUTHORITY TO COMPEL ONLINE AND
CATALOG RETAILERS TO COLLECT SALES TAX.**

WHEREAS, the use of the Internet as a way to purchase goods and services has been steadily increasing over the past decade; and

WHEREAS, as the result of court decisions and congressional inaction, many online and catalog retailers are not obligated to collect sales taxes from consumers; and

WHEREAS, this tax loophole is unfairly advantageous toward online and catalog retailers and results in both the loss of tax revenue for state and local governments and market conditions that are unfavorable for Main Street and “brick and mortar” small businesses; and

WHEREAS, the Streamlined Sales Tax Project was created in 1999 to assist states in administering a simpler and more-uniform sales and use tax system; and

WHEREAS, to date, 44 states, including Florida, have approved the Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Agreement (SSUTA), which sets the minimum sales and use tax statutory simplifications required of any state desiring to participate in the simplified system and minimizes cost and administrative burdens on retailers; and

WHEREAS, 24 of those states, not including Florida, have modernized their sales and use tax statutes to conform to the requirements of the SSUTA; and

WHEREAS, last year, Congressman Jason Chaffetz (R-3-Utah) introduced H.R. 2775, titled the Remote Transactions Parity Act (RTPA), and Senator Michael Enzi (R-WY) introduced S. 698, titled the Marketplace Fairness Act of 2015 (MFA); and

WHEREAS, H.R. 2775 and S. 698 would create a framework for states to impose sales and use taxes on remote sellers.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.:

Section 1. That the Florida League of Cities, Inc., urges Congress to support the RTPA and MFA, which would provide states the authority to enforce state and local sales and use tax laws in a fair and equitable manner on both in-state and out-of-state retailers.

Section 2. That the Florida League of Cities, Inc., expresses sincere appreciation to those in the Florida congressional delegation who have signed on as co-sponsors of the RTPA, and urges the entire Florida congressional delegation to sign on as co-sponsors of the legislation.

Section 3. That the Florida League of Cities, Inc., urges the State of Florida to pass legislation needed to comply with the RTPA.

Section 4. That a copy of this resolution be provided to President Barack Obama, the Florida congressional delegation, the National League of Cities, Florida Governor Rick Scott and the membership of the Florida League of Cities, Inc.

Section 5. That this resolution shall become effective upon adoption and shall remain in effect until repealed and hereby repeals all conflicting resolutions.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Florida League of Cities, Inc., in conference assembled at the League's 90th Annual Conference, at the Diplomat Resort, Hollywood, Florida, this 20th Day of August 2016.

**A RESOLUTION OF THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.,
URGING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO CLARIFY THE DE-
OBLIGATION PROCESS OF PREVIOUSLY APPROVED
DISASTER RELIEF FUNDS.**

WHEREAS, the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Stafford Act) establishes the statutory authority for most federal disaster response activities, especially as they pertain to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and its programs; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Stafford Act is to provide continued and orderly assistance from the federal government to state and local governments to relieve hardship and assist in disaster recovery; and

WHEREAS, the Stafford Act authorizes FEMA to obligate funds to states and local governments to help recover from natural disasters that cause widespread damage to homes, businesses and critical infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the ability of state and local governments to recover successfully from natural disaster events is due in large part to their partnership with FEMA and the financial assistance that it provides under the Stafford Act; and

WHEREAS, it is through this partnership that local governments seek FEMA's approval of recovery projects that include authorized costs to be reimbursed by FEMA once the projects are completed; and

WHEREAS, FEMA has sought to retroactively de-obligate previously approved recovery funds from local governments, despite the passage of many years since the recovery funding was originally approved and despite the local governments' expenditure of such funds in accordance with the grant's requirements; and

WHEREAS, FEMA's retroactive de-obligation of previously approved recovery funds weakens the intent of the Stafford Act; and

WHEREAS, local governments do not have the resources or expertise to fully respond to the voluminous FEMA requests for information and documentation relating to their post-disaster recovery expenses and efforts; and

WHEREAS, Congress enacted Section 705(c) of the Stafford Act, titled "Binding Nature of Grant Requirements," to protect recipients of disaster assistance from these retroactive de-obligations; and

WHEREAS, in March of this year, H.R. 1471, the FEMA Disaster Assistance Reform Act of 2015 sponsored by Congressman Lou Barletta (R-11-PA), passed the U.S. House of Representatives; and

WHEREAS, Congresswoman Lois Frankel (D-22-FL) was instrumental in including a provision in H.R. 1471 that amends the Stafford Act to change the three-year statute of limitations by which FEMA can recover payments to begin once the Project Worksheet is transmitted, rather than waiting until completion of the final expenditure report for the entire disaster; and

WHEREAS, Senator Bill Nelson (FL) and Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart (R-25-FL) and other members of Congress have also been working to improve the FEMA Public Assistance Grant Program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.:

Section 1. That the Florida League of Cities, Inc., urges the federal government to clarify the process whereby FEMA can declare previously approved funds distributed to local governments for disaster relief efforts are de-obligated so as to ensure the de-obligation process:

1. complies with Section 705(c) of the Stafford Act;
2. includes a reasonable time frame for municipalities to respond to information requests; and
3. requires FEMA to make timely decisions on appeals filed by municipalities that face the potential rescission of previously appropriated federal funds.

Section 2. That the Florida League of Cities, Inc., expresses appreciation to Senator Bill Nelson and Representatives Lois Frankel and Mario Diaz-Balart for their efforts to improve the FEMA disaster recovery funding de-obligation process.

Section 3. That the Florida League of Cities, Inc., urges the U.S. Senate to pass legislation to improve the FEMA Public Assistance Grant Program.

Section 4. That a copy of this resolution be sent to President Barack Obama, the Florida congressional delegation, the National League of Cities and the membership of the Florida League of Cities, Inc.

Section 5. That this resolution shall become effective upon adoption and shall remain in effect until repealed and hereby repeals all conflicting resolutions.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Florida League of Cities, Inc., in conference assembled at the League's 90th Annual Conference, at the Diplomat Resort, Hollywood, Florida, this 20th Day of August 2016.

**A RESOLUTION OF THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.,
URGING CONGRESS TO PASS THE FLOOD INSURANCE
MARKET PARITY AND MODERNIZATION ACT.**

WHEREAS, flooding is a serious risk in Florida due to the state's geography and proximity to water, both inland and coastal; and

WHEREAS, Florida has the largest number of participants in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and pays four times more into the program than it receives in claims payments; and

WHEREAS, the Biggert-Waters Insurance Reform Act of 2012 (Biggert-Waters) mandates the acceptance of private flood insurance to satisfy the mandatory purchase requirements; and

WHEREAS, the restrictions, deductibles, exclusions and conditions in Biggert-Waters prevents innovation and consumer choice; and

WHEREAS, the Flood Insurance Market Parity and Modernization Act (H.R. 2901 and S. 1679) removes federal restrictions and requirements on flood insurance coverage and returns the full authority of determining acceptable coverage to state regulators; and

WHEREAS, this legislation will allow policy holders who wish to leave the NFIP for a private flood insurance policy to maintain their subsidy status protections under NFIP; and

WHEREAS, private flood insurance will increase competition in the market place resulting in lower costs and increased consumer protections and options; and

WHEREAS, in May 2014, the Florida Legislature passed CS/CS/CS/SB 542, which streamlines the process for private insurance carriers to write flood insurance in Florida; and

WHEREAS, Representatives Dennis Ross (R-15-FL) and Patrick Murphy (D-18-FL) sponsored H.R. 2901, which passed the U.S. House of Representatives unanimously, 419-0, on April 28, 2016.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.:

Section 1. That the Florida League of Cities, Inc., urges Congress to pass the Flood Insurance Market Parity and Modernization Act.

Section 2. That a copy of this resolution be sent to President Barack Obama, the Florida congressional delegation, the National League of Cities and the membership of the Florida League of Cities, Inc.

Section 3. That this resolution shall become effective upon adoption and shall remain in effect until repealed and hereby repeals all conflicting resolutions.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Florida League of Cities, Inc., in conference assembled at the League's 90th Annual Conference, at the Diplomat Resort, Hollywood, Florida, this 20th Day of August 2016.

**A RESOLUTION OF THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.,
URGING CONGRESS TO REAUTHORIZE THE NATIONAL
FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM.**

WHEREAS, floods are the most common and most destructive natural disaster in the United States and Florida; and

WHEREAS, the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 created the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) in response to the lack of available private flood insurance and continued increases in federal disaster assistance due to floods; and

WHEREAS, the NFIP allows property owners in participating communities to buy insurance to protect against flood losses; and

WHEREAS, flooding is a serious risk in Florida due to the state's geography and proximity to water, both inland and coastal; and

WHEREAS, Florida has more than 1.8 million active NFIP policies and \$488 billion in coverage; and

WHEREAS, Florida property owners received over \$3.8 billion in claims since 1978; and

WHEREAS, on July 6, 2012, the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 was signed into law, reauthorizing the NFIP through September 30, 2017.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.:

Section 1. That the Florida League of Cities, Inc., urges Congress to reauthorize the National Flood Insurance Program, which addresses accuracy in flood mapping, transparency and broader based solutions for funding.

Section 2. That a copy of this resolution be sent to President Obama, the Florida congressional delegation, the National League of Cities and the membership of the Florida League of Cities, Inc.

Section 3. That this resolution shall become effective upon adoption and shall remain in effect until repealed and hereby repeals all conflicting resolutions.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Florida League of Cities, Inc., in conference assembled at the League's 90th Annual Conference, at the Diplomat Resort, Hollywood, Florida, this 20th Day of August 2016.

**A RESOLUTION OF THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.,
URGING CONGRESS TO PASS THE WATER RESOURCES
DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2016.**

WHEREAS, the Water Resources Development Act of 2016 (WRDA) is a bi-partisan bill that authorizes numerous water resources projects and policies for navigation, flood control, recreation, water supply and emergency management; and

WHEREAS, WRDA addresses Florida municipal interests related to ports, inland waterways, vegetation, wetlands, watersheds, coastal restoration, safe drinking water and clean water infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, WRDA authorizes funding and grants for flood protection, water infrastructure, wastewater, drinking water and stormwater projects that will benefit municipalities throughout Florida; and

WHEREAS, the Everglades, Lake Okeechobee, the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee River estuaries, and the Indian River lagoon are imperiled ecosystems and waters of the state; and

WHEREAS, the health of these ecosystems is critical to the economy, public safety and quality of life of the entire state; and

WHEREAS, WRDA will strengthen the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan and Comprehensive Everglades Planning Project to restore the long-term health and ecological and economic productivity of these ecosystems of statewide importance.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.:

Section 1. That the Florida League of Cities, Inc., urges Congress to pass the Water Resources Development Act of 2016.

Section 2. That a copy of this resolution be sent to President Obama, the Florida congressional delegation, the National League of Cities and the membership of the Florida League of Cities, Inc.

Section 3. That this resolution shall become effective upon adoption and shall remain in effect until repealed and hereby repeals all conflicting resolutions.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Florida League of Cities, Inc., in conference assembled at the League's 90th Annual Conference, at the Diplomat Resort, Hollywood, Florida, this 20th Day of August 2016.

**A RESOLUTION OF THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.,
URGING CONGRESS TO PASS LEGISLATION REAUTHORIZING
THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
BROWNFIELDS PROGRAM AND BROADENING LIABILITY
PROTECTIONS FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.**

WHEREAS, a brownfield is property that cannot easily be redeveloped due to the potential presence of a hazardous substance; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that there are more than 450,000 brownfields in the U.S. and over 400 brownfields in Florida; and

WHEREAS, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), since the inception of the U.S. EPA Brownfields Program, there have been over 1,200 cleanups completed, over 117,000 jobs created, and over \$24 billion leveraged; and

WHEREAS, many local governments, out of necessity, take ownership of brownfields in an effort to redevelop these properties and provide an economic benefit to economically depressed areas; and

WHEREAS, local governments are faced with challenges to acquire brownfields because of the potential liability associated with the contaminated properties, even if the local government had no role in the contamination; and

WHEREAS, earlier this year, the U.S. Senate passed legislation that will reauthorize the U.S. EPA Brownfields Program, increase funding levels for remediation grants, increase technical assistance for local governments, and allow local governments to be eligible for grant funding for properties that were acquired prior to the January 11, 2002, enactment of the Brownfields Revitalization Act.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.:

Section 1. That the Florida League of Cities, Inc., urges the U.S. House of Representatives to pass legislation to reauthorize the U.S. EPA Brownfields Program and expand liability protections for local governments that acquire brownfields but had no role in their contamination.

Section 2. That a copy of this resolution be provided to the Florida Congressional Delegation, the National League of Cities, EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy and the membership of the Florida League of Cities, Inc.

Section 3. That this resolution shall become effective upon adoption and shall remain in effect until repealed and hereby repeals all conflicting resolutions.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Florida League of Cities, Inc., in conference assembled at the League's 90th Annual Conference, at the Diplomat Resort, Hollywood, Florida, this 20th Day of August 2016.

**A RESOLUTION OF THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.,
URGING CONGRESS TO OPPOSE LEGISLATION THAT
WOULD PREEMPT STATE AND LOCAL AUTHORITY TO
REGULATE UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS.**

WHEREAS, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has a statutory mandate to regulate the navigable airspace in the United States; and

WHEREAS, in 2012, Congress passed the FAA Modernization and Reform Act, which extended this statutory mandate to Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) operations; and

WHEREAS, the 2012 act, coupled with the FAA's statutory mandate, suggests that the FAA may have the authority to regulate UAS at any altitude through notice and comment rulemaking, even in airspace that is traditionally below FAA purview and regulated by the states through zoning ordinances; and

WHEREAS, the FAA recently released new rules on UAS that recognize that city leaders should play a role in regulating how, when and where drones operate in their cities; and

WHEREAS, the use of UAS for a wide array of civilian activities is an emerging field and civilian UAS traffic will likely increase significantly in the coming years; and

WHEREAS, UAS have the potential to provide important benefits to businesses, consumers and local governments; and

WHEREAS, local governments have a century-long history of promoting aviation through the construction, maintenance and operation of airports; and

WHEREAS, as with any emerging technology, government at all levels will have to work together and with industry to develop regulations and guidelines that balance industry and public health, safety and welfare; and

WHEREAS, local governments have a legitimate and important role in developing and enforcing regulations and guidelines for UAS to protect life and property and maintain quality of life, including but not limited to:

- general public safety (especially, but not only, at high-profile events where local government first responders are responsible for the safety of tens of thousands of people);
- noise;
- privacy; and
- rights-of-way management.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.:

Section 1. That the Florida League of Cities, Inc., opposes additional federal preemption of local government authority to regulate UAS.

Section 2. That the Florida League of Cities, Inc., urges Congress and the FAA to approach this emerging issue methodically and in a manner that:

- preserves the ability of local governments to develop and enforce UAS regulations and guidelines that protect life and property and maintain quality of life;
- recognizes that local governments have over a century of experience in promoting aviation through the construction, maintenance and operation of airports; and
- encourages additional deliberation and consultation with local officials so any future federal rules balance industry and community needs based on experience with actual deployment and use of UAS.

Section 3. That a copy of this resolution be provided to President Barack Obama, the Florida congressional delegation, the National League of Cities, the U.S. Conference of Mayors, Florida Governor Rick Scott and the membership of the Florida League of Cities, Inc.

Section 4. That this resolution shall become effective upon adoption and shall remain in effect until repealed and hereby repeals all conflicting resolutions.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Florida League of Cities, Inc., in conference assembled at the League's 90th Annual Conference, at the Diplomat Resort, Hollywood, Florida, this 20th Day of August 2016.

**A RESOLUTION OF THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.,
SUPPORTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A REGULATORY
STRUCTURE FOR THE RECOVERY RESIDENCE INDUSTRY
AND URGING CONGRESS TO ENACT LEGISLATION
REGARDING RECOVERY RESIDENCES TO PROTECT THE
HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE OF FLORIDIANS.**

WHEREAS, recovery residences, also known as "sober living homes" or "sober houses," provide a great value to people overcoming drug and alcohol addictions; and

WHEREAS, the prolific growth of the recovery residence industry has raised questions nationwide as to whether a regulatory structure is necessary; and

WHEREAS, although these homes typically provide a drug-free and alcohol-free living environment for individuals recovering from substance abuse, there is no universally accepted definition for these businesses, leaving to interpretation those characteristics that distinguish them from other regulated housing options; and

WHEREAS, individuals in recovery are disabled within the meaning of the Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act (ADAA) and handicapped within the meaning of the Federal Fair Housing Amendments Act (FHAA), which prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability/ handicap status; and

WHEREAS, there is no clarifying definition of the protected class, except to describe individuals as persons who are "not currently using alcohol or substances"; and

WHEREAS, state and local governments are limited by federal laws in their ability to address the impacts to local communities of "over-concentration" and "clustering" of these homes; and

WHEREAS, although the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development is charged with interpreting the FHAA and the U.S. Department of Justice is charged with the enforcement of the law, there have been no updated interpretations of the FHAA and ADAA and how they apply to these homes or their protected residents since a Joint Agency Statement dated August 18, 1999, titled the Group Homes, Local Land Use, and the Fair Housing Act; and

WHEREAS, the courts have applied the FHAA and ADAA inconsistently over the years, causing a great financial and social burden on state and local governments facing over-concentration of sober homes; and

WHEREAS, there are myriad concerns for the health, safety, and welfare of the residents themselves since the lack of regulation has sometimes resulted in poorly run houses that provide little or no supervision or support for individuals recovering from addiction; and

WHEREAS, patient brokering arrangements between some homes and service providers result in costly over-utilization of medical procedures and tests and the overcharging of private-pay residents, health insurance companies, and Medicaid.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.:

Section 1. That the Florida League of Cities, Inc., urges the National League of Cities to support efforts by state and local governments to regulate businesses in the form of recovery residences in order to protect the health, safety and welfare of the residents of the recovery homes, as well as local communities.

Section 2. That the Florida League of Cities, Inc., urges the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in concert with the U.S. Department of Justice to amend and update their Joint Agency Statement dated August 18, 1999, titled the Group Homes, Local Land Use, and the Fair Housing Act, to more clearly define and give guidance regarding who is and is not included in the protected class of individuals under the FHAA and ADAA with respect to recovery residences.

Section 3. That the Florida League of Cities, Inc., urges Congress, in recognition of the large and growing number of state and local governments throughout the nation attempting to address the myriad concerns resulting from the lack of regulation of recovery residences, to amend federal law to provide state and local governments appropriate latitude to oversee and regulate recovery residences within their jurisdictions.

Section 4. That the Florida League of Cities, Inc., further requests Congress enact legislation that provides state and local authority to develop a regulatory structure with respect to recovery residences.

Section 5. That this resolution shall become effective upon adoption and shall remain in effect until repealed and hereby repeals all conflicting resolutions.

Section 6. That a copy of this resolution be provided to the Florida congressional delegation, the U.S. Department of Justice, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the National League of Cities and the membership of the Florida League of Cities, Inc.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Florida League of Cities, Inc., in conference assembled at the League's 90th Annual Conference, at the Diplomat Resort, Hollywood, Florida, this 20th Day of August 2016.

There being no further resolutions, President Surrency expressed appreciation to Chairwoman Haynie and the members of the Resolution Committee for their efforts.

President Surrency then called for a report of the Nominating Committee. Chairman P.C. Wu, League past president and councilperson of Pensacola, offered the following nominations:

For President: Mayor Susan Haynie, Boca Raton. President Surrency called for additional nominations. There being none, Chairman Wu moved that the nominations be closed and a unanimous vote be cast for Mayor Haynie for president. The motion was duly seconded and adopted without dissent.

For First Vice President: Commissioner Gil Ziffer, Tallahassee. President Surrency called for additional nominations. There being none, Chairman Wu moved that the nominations be closed and a unanimous vote be cast for Commissioner Gil Ziffer for first vice president. The motion was duly seconded and adopted without dissent.

For Second Vice President: Commissioner Leo Longworth, Bartow. President Surrency called for additional nominations. There being none, Chairman Wu moved the nominations be closed and a unanimous vote be cast for Commissioner Longworth for second vice president. The motion was duly seconded and adopted without dissent.

Chairman Wu then announced the committee's nominees for the Board of Directors representing the 14 districts were as follows: (1) Mayor Kurvin Qualls, Jay; Councilmember Shannon Hayes, Crestview; (2) Vice Mayor Mary Lawson Brown, Palatka; (3) Mayor Robert Apgar, DeLand; Mayor William Partington, Ormond Beach; (4) Councilwoman Stephany Ely, West Melbourne; Mayor Carol McCormack, Palm Shores; (5) Mayor Louie Davis, Waldo; Mayor Michael Holland, Eustis; (6) Mayor Raymond Bagshaw, Edgewood; Mayor Charles Lacey, Winter Springs; (7) Vacant position; Mayor Howard Wiggs, Lakeland; (8) Vice Mayor Jack Nazario, Belleair Bluffs; Commissioner Thomas Shelly, Belleair; (9) Commissioner Thomas Campenni, Stuart; (10) Commissioner Linda Yates, North Port; (11) Councilwoman Teresa Watkins-Brown, Fort Myers; (12) Councilperson Dawn Pardo, Riviera Beach; Mayor Robert Shalhoub, Lake Clarke Shores; Commissioner Lisa Tropepe, Palm Beach Shores; (13) Commissioner Patricia Asseff, Hollywood; Commissioner Margaret Bates, Lauderhill; Mayor Gary Resnick, Wilton Manors; Mayor Greg Ross, Cooper City; Councilwoman Susan Starkey, Davie; Mayor Dan Stermer, Weston; Commissioner Iris Siple, Pembroke Pines; (14) Vice Mayor Jon Burgess, Homestead; Mayor Claudia Cubillos, El Portal; Councilman Anthony DeFillipo, North Miami Beach; Councilmember Isaac Salver, Bay Harbor Islands.

President Surrency called for additional nominations. There being none, Chairman Wu moved that the nominations be closed and a unanimous ballot be cast for the nominees as presented. The motion was duly seconded and adopted without dissent.

Chairman Wu then moved the committee's nominees for the Board of Directors representing the 10 most populous cities: Jacksonville – Commissioner Matthew Schellenberg; Miami – Commissioner Francis Suarez; Tampa – Mayor Bob Buckhorn; St. Petersburg – Mayor Rick Kriseman; Orlando – Commissioner Tony Ortiz; Hialeah – Mayor Carlos Hernandez; Tallahassee – Mayor Andrew Gillum; Fort Lauderdale – Mayor Jack Seiler; Port St. Lucie – Mayor Gregory Oravec; Cape Coral – Councilmember Jim Burch.

President Surrency called for additional nominations. There being none, Chairman Wu moved that the nominations be closed and a unanimous ballot be cast for the nominees as presented. The motion was duly seconded and adopted without dissent.

Chairman Wu then announced that the By-Laws provide that past presidents serving in office also serve on the Board of Directors and those individuals are: Mayor Randall Wise, Niceville; Mayor Samuel Ferreri, Greenacres; Commissioner Scott Maddox, Tallahassee; Commissioner Scott Black, Dade City; Mayor Frank C. Ortis, Pembroke Pines; Mayor Joy Cooper, Hallandale Beach; Mayor Pat Bates, Altamonte Springs; Councilman P.C. Wu, Pensacola; and Mayor Matthew Surrency, Hawthorne.

Chairman Wu further advised based on the By-Laws, Commissioner Roy Shiver of Florida City would be serving in an at-large position and City Manager Michael Pleus of DeLand would serve in the FCCMA non-voting seat.

President Surrency then thanked Chairman Wu and the Nominating Committee for their efforts and congratulated the newly appointed Board of Directors of the Florida League of Cities.

There being no comments for the “Good of the Order” and no further business to come before the membership of the League, upon motion by Mayor Haynie, the Business Session was adjourned.

The Second General Session featured a presentation by NLC President Melodee Colbert-Kean, councilmember of the City of Joplin, Mo., and a keynote address by Ana Navarro. At this time, President Surrency recognized the Years of Service Award Recipients; the Defender of Home Rule and Municipal Achievement Awards were presented; the youth councils in attendance were recognized; and the Florida League of Cities President's End of Year Video was shown.

Following the Second General Session, the League's past presidents were recognized during a luncheon held in their honor. Past presidents in attendance were: J.L. Plummer; Lawrence J. Kelly; Eric Smith; William Evers; Ilene Lieberman; Clarence Anthony; Mayor Samuel Ferreri, Greenacres; Frank Satchel; Commissioner Scott Black, Dade City; Rene Flowers; Mayor Frank C. Ortis, Pembroke Pines; Carmine Priore; Mayor Joy Cooper, Hallandale Beach; John Marks; Mayor Pat Bates, Altamonte Springs; Councilperson P.C. Wu, Pensacola; and Lori Moseley. Also, during the luncheon, President Susan Haynie was installed and appropriate recognition was provided.

Following lunch, a workshop titled “Lessons from the Federal Reserve: How to Increase Community Investment in Your City” was available for attendees. The League’s Board of Directors also met that afternoon.

During the “Inaugural Celebration” that evening, delegates enjoyed entertainment and the 90th Annual Conference was adjourned.