



# Florida League of Cities **FLORIDA REGIONAL COMPACT INITIATIVE** Local Leaders, Local Results



## Bringing President Matt Surrency's vision to life

At the heart of President Matt Surrency's vision for the Florida League of Cities is a conviction that cities are stronger when we solve problems together, stronger when we share our resources, and stronger when we speak with one voice.

President Surrency's **Florida Regional Compact Initiative** is a voluntary program designed to encourage cities to join forces to:

- ▶ identify and coalesce around a shared challenge
- ▶ learn to collaborate across jurisdictional and ideological boundaries
- ▶ craft and commit to a joint action plan to address regional needs

### WHY A COMPACT?

When cities take a formal vote to join forces through a compact, they call attention to their region. Additionally, the compact structure offers the added benefit of placing regional-thinking groups ahead of the pack, resulting in enhanced levels of funding from federal, state and nonprofit institutions.

Committing to work together toward a common purpose is hard but rewarding work! To take on difficult challenges, partner cities must first learn the art of collaboration, mutual understanding and trust.

### FIRST STEPS

In the early stages of compact development, it is important to keep it simple. Ultimately, the compact document will come before every mayor/commissioner in each of the compact cities for their vote, so the less complicated the better. Compact language should begin with a preamble introducing the shared challenge the cities agree to tackle, followed by a series of simple, non-threatening goals. Care should be exercised to make it clear that partner cities are free to implement goals each in their own unique way.

### WHAT DOES A COMPACT COMMIT US TO DO?

It depends on the region and what the compact cities choose. FLC's Regional Compact Initiative was patterned after the Southeast Florida four-county compact (information attached), regarded as the national model for cross-jurisdictional problem solving.

### GETTING THERE

The Florida League of Cities has launched an energetic effort to unveil President Surrency's initiative and engage cities. We are excited to work with interested cities to help them tailor the Florida Regional Compact Initiative to meet their unique needs. Key to the successful creation of a regional compact is the ability to tune out disagreements and instead concentrate energy and resources around an issue where there is harmony of agreement. We can help.

The Florida League of Cities has dedicated resources to assist cities in getting their regional compacts off the ground. Resources include a year-long series of educational webinars, seminars and regional meetings, as well as through outside facilitators and in-house staff.

For more information, contact Kristin Jacobs at (954) 892-0349 or [kristin@kristinjacobsconsulting.com](mailto:kristin@kristinjacobsconsulting.com) or Ryan Matthews at (850) 222-9684 or [rmatthews@flcities.com](mailto:rmatthews@flcities.com).

