



FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES

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Investing in Infrastructure, Balancing Property Rights Top Priorities for Florida League of Cities

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TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – The **Florida League of Cities**, the united voice for Florida’s municipal governments for more than 90 years, today unveiled its list of priorities for the upcoming legislative session. All five priorities were adopted by the League’s membership.

“Florida’s municipal officials are passionate about serving their local communities and advocating on behalf of their residents. They are eager to work with our partners at the state level during the upcoming legislative session,” said **Florida League of Cities President Isaac Salver, council member for the Town of Bay Harbor Islands**. “With our united voice and shared advocacy platform, we’re ready to meet with legislators, build consensus and ensure that local voices continue making local choices.”

The League publishes a Legislative Action Agenda before the legislative session convenes each year. It addresses priority issues most likely to have a statewide impact on daily municipal operations and governance, outlines the League’s position on these priorities and provides additional data and background information on cities and each issue.

“The priorities outlined in this agenda were selected after careful consideration based on the feedback from municipal elected and appointed officials, whose engagement in the League’s legislative process is essential to our advocacy success,” said **Florida League of Cities Legislative Director Scott Dudley**. “The League and its policy committees have once again crafted a strong legislative agenda that serves the needs of Florida’s cities and promotes local self-government.”

The League’s current position on the following priority issues are:

- **Private Property Rights “Bert Harris Act”** – The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS property rights protection and calls on the Florida Legislature to take a stand in support of the Bert J. Harris Jr. Act to avoid an explosion of lawsuits against cities. (The Bert J. Harris Jr. Act of 1995 gives landowners a way to seek compensation when a local government takes action that impacts the use/potential use of their property.)
- **Sales Tax Fairness** – The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS legislation to reform Florida’s sales and use tax laws that apply to online/e-commerce sales from out-of-state retailers. The League

calls on the Florida Legislature to modernize Florida's sales and use tax laws so that they are fair to Florida businesses and pave a way for them to flourish.

- **Short-Term Rentals** – The Florida League of Cities OPPOSES legislation that preempts municipal authority as it relates to the regulation of short-term rental properties.
- **Transportation Funding** – The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS legislation that will provide local governments with new and innovative revenue options and resources to finance critical infrastructure, maintenance and construction needs to meet the ever-changing transportation demands driven by dramatic population growth and new technology (autonomous vehicles) throughout Florida. The League calls on the Florida Legislature to drive Florida forward to a safer future by helping cities fund transportation infrastructure.
- **Water Resources** – The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS legislation to address Florida's water quality crisis and water supply deficiencies and calls on the Florida Legislature to annually assess the state's current and projected water resources and water quality infrastructure needs and identify potential sources of funding to meet future demand.

The agenda also outlines other issues of importance including:

- Affordable housing.
- Annexation.
- Cybersecurity.
- Digital divide.
- Local business tax protection.
- Medical marijuana.
- Resiliency.
- Smoke-free zones in city parks.

The regular legislative session in Florida begins on January 14, 2020. The Florida League of Cities opposes unfunded mandates from any level of government and will continue to advocate for legislation that ensures local voices are able to make local choices.

To download a complete copy of the Florida League of Cities 2020 Legislative Action Agenda, visit bit.ly/2tysp8P.

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Founded in 1922, the Florida League of Cities is the united voice for Florida's municipal governments. Its goals are to promote local self-government and serve the needs of Florida's cities, which are formed and governed by their citizens. The League believes in "Local Voices Making Local Choices," which focuses on the impact citizens and city leaders have in improving Florida's communities. For more information, visit flcities.com.