



# POLICY COMMITTEES 101

Presenter: Scott Dudley  
September 14, 2018  
Hilton Orlando



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# We Live Local

Special interests are hijacking our hometowns. Now, more than ever, citizens need to understand what's at stake.

*We Live Local* is our campaign to educate Floridians on Home Rule.

Define it. Localize it. Tailor it.



**Leo E. Longworth**  
President, Florida League of Cities  
Mayor, City of Bartow



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## FLC Legislative Policy Committee Chairs



Mayor Bill Partington,  
Ormond Beach  
**Finance, Taxation & Personnel**

Vice Chair  
President-Pro Tem Paul Shalhoub



Mayor Kathy Meehan,  
Melbourne,  
**Land Use & Economic Development**

Vice Chair  
Councilwoman Jolien Caraballo



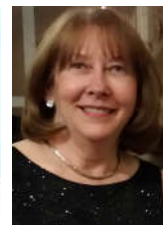
Councilmember Cal Rolison,  
Mount Dora  
**Municipal Administration**

Vice Chair  
Commissioner Jamie Robinson



Mayor Hazelle Rogers,  
Lauderdale Lakes  
**Transportation & Intergovernmental Relations**

Vice Chair  
Councilman Elvis Maldonado



Councilmember Helen Miller,  
White Springs  
**Utilities, Natural Resources & Public Works**

Vice Chair  
Mayor Rachel Keesling



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**FLC LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS TEAM**



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## FLC Legislative Policy Committee Staff



**Scott Dudley, Legislative Director, FLM Executive Director**

- State and Federal Legislative Issues
- Governmental Relations
- Florida League of Mayors
- Florida Urban Partnership



**Amber Hughes, Senior Legislative Advocate Finance, Taxation & Personnel**

- Finance & Taxation
- Personnel & Collective Bargaining
- Retirement/Pension Issues
- Revenues & Budgeting
- Telecommunications
- National Flood Insurance Program



**David Cruz, Legislative Counsel Land Use & Economic Development**

- Annexation
- Community Redevelopment
- Eminent Domain
- Growth Management
- Land Use
- Property Rights
- Tort Liability/Sovereign Immunity
- Insurance – Except NFIP
- Workers' Compensation



**Allison Payne, Manager Advocacy Programs & Federal Affairs**

- Local/ Regional Leagues
- Key Contact Program
- Advocacy Programs/ Regional Teams
- Federal Affairs/ NLC Liaison



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## FLC Legislative Policy Committee Staff



Casey Cook, Senior  
Legislative Advocate  
**Municipal Administration**

- Florida City & County Management Association
- Gaming
- Medical Marijuana
- Ordinance/Code Enforcement
- Procurement
- Public Records/Public Meetings
- Public Safety
- Economic Development



Jeff Branch, Legislative Advocate  
**Transportation & Intergovernmental Relations**

- Affordable Housing/Foreclosures
- Building Codes/Construction
- Charter Counties
- Charter Schools
- Emergency Management
- Homelessness/Mental Health
- Special Districts
- Transportation/Highway Safety/Aviation
- Veterans Affairs



Rebecca O'Hara, Deputy  
General Counsel  
**Utilities, Natural Resources & Public Works**

- Environmental
- Energy
- General Utilities
- Solid Waste
- Storm water
- Water Quality/Wastewater
- Water Supply/Policy
- Rights-of-Way
- Ethics & Elections



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## FLC Legislative Policy Committee Staff



Mary Edenfield,  
**Legislative Coordinator**



Tara Taggart,  
**Administrative Assistant**



Katherine Dunn,  
**Administrative Assistant**



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## Legislative Policy Committee Process

1. Municipal Officials sign up to serve on one of 5 Policy Committees, as well as the FAST, and Advocacy committees.
2. The League's legislative policies are shaped through a grass roots process beginning with recommendations from legislative policy committees and culminating in the adoption of a Legislative Agenda by the League's general membership.
3. Policy committee members, chairs and vice-chairs are appointed each year by the president and serve a one-year term.
4. Committees typically meet three times a year and are designed to provide members with an opportunity to discuss issues within the purview of the committee that directly affect the functions of municipal government.
5. **Each committee shall recommend ONE legislative priority for consideration.**
6. **In addition to a legislative priority, each committee may recommend up to three "policy positions".**
7. Legislative Committee (Legislative Conference)
8. General Membership (Business Session during one of the League's conferences)



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## Criteria for Policy Committee Priorities and Policy Positions

Policy Committee priorities and policy positions are required to:

1. Have statewide municipal impact
2. Must directly affect municipal operations and functions
3. Require state legislative action rather than seeking changes to the constitution or federal law
4. Adhere to the League's goal of preserving municipal home rule powers
5. Do not seek legislative authorization for something municipalities already have the authority to do under home rule



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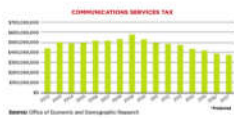
# Legislative Action Agenda



## Communications Services Tax Protection

**PROBITY ESTABLISHMENT**  
The Florida League of Cities **OPPOSES** when the Communications Services Tax is a revenue that is imposed on providers for a digital and equitable tax base, provides for enhanced quality and reliability as an important revenue source for local government and provides a uniform method for using communications services in Florida. Voters should provide a comprehensive report to analyze that will be submitted to choose a provider based on fair-market considerations.

**BACKGROUND**  
In 2006, the Florida Legislature restructured taxes and fees on telecommunications, cable, fixed-to-home satellite and related services under the Communications Services Tax (CST). This act reduced and consolidated seven different state and local taxes and fees into a single tax that has been consistently applied across the state and the local communications services tax (CST). The tax at CST is one of the main sources of locally based general revenue for municipalities, providing them with more than \$42 million annually. Counties collect nearly \$531 million a year. The State of Florida collects approximately \$400 million, including direct-to-home satellite, and shares a portion of those revenues with cities through the Municipal Finance Structuring Program and Local Use Sales Tax Program. These revenues may be used for any public purpose, including providing the revenues to support bonds.



The CST applies to telecommunications, video, fixed-to-home satellite and related services. The definition of communications services encompasses video, data, audio, video, or any other information or signals transmitted by any means. Examples of services subject to the tax include local, long distance and toll telephony; video over Internet protocol telephony; video services; video downloading; direct-to-home satellite; mobile communications; private line services; copper and fiber-optic; telephone charges made at a hotel or motel; facsimile and faxes; telegraph and telefax. The tax is imposed on total sales of communications services that originate and terminate in Florida or are billed to an address within the state.

The Florida CST includes both a state tax and a gross receipts tax. Communications services, except direct-to-home satellite services, are subject to the state tax of 4.02 percent and the gross receipts tax of 2.02 percent. Direct-to-home satellite services is subject to the state tax of 4.02 percent and the gross receipts tax of 2.02 percent.



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# Issue Briefs



## Municipal Elections

The Florida League of Cities **OPPOSES** legislation that restricts municipal Home Rule authority to set municipal election dates.

### Background:

Elections for municipal officers are conducted during the general election in November of even-numbered years unless the governing body of a municipality has adopted an ordinance to change the dates for qualifying and for the election of members of the governing body of the municipality. Many cities have staggered terms, meaning a five-member council with three year terms would hold elections each year with one or two seats on the ballot. Staggered terms improve stability of the governing body and allow for continuity of knowledge about city operations within the elected body as individual officials come and go over time.

Cities are responsible for the cost of city elections and usually contract with the local supervisor of elections to conduct municipal elections on their behalf. Alternatively, cities may conduct their own elections using their own voting system and equipment and not contract with the local supervisor of elections.

### Statute:

CS/SB 1262 (Hanson) and HB 7037 (Government Accountability Committee) preempt to the state the authority to establish the dates of elections of municipal officers and provide the exclusive method for establishing those dates. The bills require the governing body of a municipality to choose to hold its municipal election on either the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November, or on the third Tuesday in March. If a city's charter or ordinance requires it to conduct its election in a runoff format, the bills would require the city to hold its general election 10 weeks prior to the runoff election. The bills would allow elected municipal officers to continue in office until the next municipal election date held in accordance with the new requirements.

### Who is affected?

- Municipalities that currently hold elections on any date other than the dates specified in the bills
- Municipalities that currently hold their general election on the dates specified in the bills, but which currently provide for a runoff election on a date other than March or November general action (the bills will require these municipalities to hold their general elections in January/August, and any runoff election in March/November).

HB 7037 is on the House Special Order Calendar for February 14. CS/SB 1262 passed the Senate Committee on Ethics and Elections on February 6 and is now in the Senate Community Affairs Committee.

Revised: 02/09/2018

Contact: Rebecca O'Hara, Deputy General Counsel – 850-701-3692 – [rohara@flcities.com](mailto:rohara@flcities.com)



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## Policy Committee Meeting Procedures

- Florida Sunshine law
- Role of committee chairs:
  - Inclusionary- Roberts Rules of Order are used to help ensure a fair and efficient meeting; NOT to shut down dialogue or stymie input.
- Placards
- Sign in sheets: Include email and cell phone numbers.
- **NO FINAL VOTE ON POLICY COMMITTEE PRIORITY UNTIL THE NOVEMBER MEETING**



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## Other Priorities

- Bills will likely be filed by legislators that have a huge impact on municipalities.
- The FLC Legislative team will review legislation with the help of local officials and make a determination of importance/allocation of lobbying efforts



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## Stay Engaged

1. Sign up as a Key Contact.
2. Staff will visit local/regional leagues around the state to share legislative priorities.
3. Lobbyists meet with legislators; get bill sponsors when necessary
4. Policy committee members should meet with legislators in the district and in Tallahassee
5. Advocate for the priorities your committee and the FLC membership adopted.



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## Stay Engaged: Continued

6. When asked, provide specific information as to how a bill will impact your city.
7. Use Social Media
8. Involve Citizens
9. Attend Legislative Action Days
10. Respond to Legislative Alerts



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**League Resources:**

- Resolution templates on priorities
- Home Rule Handbook
- Legislative Action Agenda
- Issue Briefs
- Monday Morning Call-Ins (every Monday during legislative session)
- On Tap @ the Cap (weekly newsletter during legislative session)
- Online legislative bill summaries
- Final Report



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**Legislative Terms to Know**

- HB = House Bill; odd number bills
- SB = Senate Bill; even number bills
- PCB = Proposed Committee Bill; a draft legislative measure taken up by a committee for the purpose of considering whether to introduce it in the name of the committee.
- CS = Committee Substitute; a bill offered by a committee in lieu of another bill that was originally referred to the committee for consideration; technically it is an amendment to the original bill
- Floor – Synonymous with Chamber; floor action suggests consideration by the entire Senate or House rather than committee action.
- Joint Resolution (HJR/SJR) – a resolution used to propose amendments to the State Constitution
- Message – a formal communication by one house to the other house concerning action taken on a bill.
- TP = Temporarily Postponed; the postponing of consideration of a bill or other legislative matter appearing on an agenda or calendar



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## Important Dates

- October 12, 2018 – Policy Committee Meetings (second round)
- November 15 – 16, 2018 – FLC Legislative Conference (policy committees meet November 15)
- November 20, 2018 – Senate & House Organizational Session
- November – December 2018 – Talk to your legislator about funding for local projects
- November 2018 – February 2019 – Local Legislative Delegation Meeting
- March 5, 2019 – Regular Legislative Session Convenes
- March 26-27, 2019 – FLC Legislative Action Days
- May 3, 2019 – Last Day of Regular Legislative Session



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# Any Questions?



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