

Become a HOME RULE HERO!

As the saying goes, **"All politics is local."** Effective advocacy begins at home, not in Tallahassee. No one can share your community's story better than you – not even a professional lobbyist. Your engagement helps the League's legislative team transform abstract concepts into real-world impacts, showing legislators how their decisions affect the communities they represent.

The League values the advocacy efforts of municipal officials across Florida. Each year, we recognize individuals who go above and beyond in their advocacy efforts. These exceptional municipal officials, known as Home Rule Heroes, demonstrate a high level of dedication and effectiveness in promoting local voices, defending Home Rule powers, and advancing the League's legislative priorities. Since its creation in 2009, the Home Rule Hero Award has celebrated hundreds of municipal officials for their extraordinary contributions.

CRITERIA FOR BECOMING A HOME RULE HERO

Home Rule Hero Award recipients are selected by the League's legislative team following each legislative session. The primary criteria for this honor include:

- ✔ Responding promptly and taking action on the League's Legislative Alerts
- ✔ Informing the League's staff about communications with your legislators (Email Allison Payne, Manager of Advocacy Programs and Federal Affairs, at apayne@flcities.com)
- ✔ Responding to FLC requests for information and sharing how proposed legislation specifically impacts your city
- ✔ Speaking at local legislative delegation meetings on the League's legislative issues
- ✔ Coordinating opportunities for legislators and their staff to attend city council meetings, special events, or tour local projects and facilities
- ✔ Serving on an FLC legislative policy committee
- ✔ Participating in Federal Action Strike Team fly-ins to Washington, D.C.
- ✔ During election years, helping candidates for legislative office understand your city's issues and introducing them to key city stakeholders
- ✔ Attending the Florida League of Cities' Legislative Action Days and Legislative Conference
- ✔ Testifying before House or Senate committees on FLC priority issues, particularly when a call to action is issued
- ✔ Meeting with legislators in their districts or in Tallahassee

Additional efforts that contribute to becoming a Home Rule Hero include:

STEP UP YOUR ADVOCACY GAME

For more details on these activities and ways to enhance your advocacy efforts, contact Allison Payne at apayne@flcities.com.