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Live-Streamed Gubernatorial Candidate Forum Set for Wednesday

Candidates to discuss key issues impacting Florida's cities and their residents

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TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – As candidates vie for control of the Governor's Office, local elected leaders and citizens throughout the state want to know where they stand on key issues impacting Florida's municipalities and their residents. Luckily, they'll have the perfect opportunity to hear about that and more at an upcoming candidate forum this Wednesday, August 15 at the Diplomat Hotel in Hollywood.

The Florida League of Mayors, in cooperation with the Florida League of Cities and Leadership Florida, is hosting the forum. Steve Vancore, president of VancoreJones and Clearview Research, will be moderating the discussion.

"The Florida League of Mayors is proud to partner with the Florida League of Cities and Leadership Florida to host this candidate forum," said Windermere Mayor Gary Bruhn, president of the Florida League of Mayors. "We look forward to hearing from the candidates as they address the critical issues that directly impact Florida's cities and their residents."

The following candidates have been invited:

- Philip Levine (*confirmed*)
- Gwen Graham (*confirmed*)
- Jeff Greene (*confirmed*)
- Andrew Gillum (*confirmed*)
- Ron DeSantis (*invited*)
- Adam Putnam (*invited*)
- Chris King (*invited*)

Each participating candidate will have 15-20 minutes to speak to the audience, made up of elected and appointed municipal officials, Leadership Florida members, members of Florida's press corps and others, followed by a 10-15 minute question-and-answer period.

"This is an opportunity for citizens and local officials to speak directly to these candidates and have their questions answered," said Tallahassee City Commissioner and Florida League of Cities President Gil Ziffer. "With the state's history of undermining local decision-making and hamstringing municipal officials from doing the jobs they were elected to do, it's important to know where the next leader of our state stands on local governance and their position on issues impacting residents and their communities."

The forum will be live-streamed on www.floridamayors.org/flmforum/ and the Florida League of Mayors Facebook channel at www.facebook.com/FLMayors/. Links will subsequently be posted to the websites of all three sponsoring organizations.

"It's vitally important that Florida voters understand their choices when deciding who will serve us in the the Governor's Office in the coming years," said Leadership Florida President and CEO Wendy Spencer. "We're excited that citizens across the state will have multiple ways to view Wednesday's forum, and we encourage everyone to watch and then to vote."

Floridians are encouraged to submit questions for participating candidates during the forum. Questions must be submitted via the comments section of the Facebook Live viewing. Questions should be relevant to topics being discussed.

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The Florida League of Mayors is an organization for mayors, founded and developed by mayors. Only mayors are eligible for membership. The organization provides the mayors of Florida with the ability to explore, in great depth, areas of mutual concern and opportunity. Governed by a 21-member Board of Directors and staffed by the Florida League of Cities, the Florida League of Mayors forges a powerful voice that serves Florida's cities well. For more information, visit www.floridamayors.org.

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. Florida's cities are formed by their citizens and governed by their citizens. The League is founded on the belief that local self-government is the keystone of American democracy. For more information, visit www.floridaleagueofcities.com.

For thirty-seven years, Leadership Florida has dedicated itself to bringing together emerging and existing leaders from across the state to challenge, prepare, and inspire them to build a better Florida. As a respected non-partisan organization, Leadership Florida provides meaningful forums and creates unique opportunities introducing members to fresh transformative ideas and information. Leadership Florida is a federally registered trademark.