



CITY OF  
FORT LAUDERDALE

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# 2026 State of Florida Mid-Legislative Session Update February 17, 2026

# Policy Issues



# Revenue, Taxes & Sovereign Immunity

## Key Bills

- Homestead / Save Our Homes / Assessment
  - HB 201, HB 203, HB 205, HB 207, HB 209, HB 211, HB 213, HB 215
  - All reduce the non-school property tax base and/or cap growth while locking in public safety funding floors, cutting against Budget, Taxes and Fees, and Unfunded Mandates principles
- Local Business Taxes
  - HB 103, SB 122, SB 650
  - Repeal or sharply limit municipal business tax authority, directly conflicting with the Taxes and Fees bullet and affecting Budget, Economic Development & Small Business, and Home Rule
- Sovereign Immunity
  - HB 145, SB 1366
  - Raise tort caps and expand exposure, contrary to the explicit Sovereign Immunity principle and impacting City Attorney and Budget

# Home Rule, Enforcement, and Land Use

## Key Bills

- Enforcement Authority
  - HB 105, HB 599, SB 588 – Local Government Enforcement Actions
  - Create new remedies and damages around “arbitrary or unreasonable” enforcement, chilling code/safety actions and undermining Home Rule, Public Safety, and adding unfunded administrative/financial burden
- Land Use & Starter Homes
  - HB 1143, SB 948 – Local Government Land Development Regulations and Orders
  - Limit how the City can regulate residential lots and require certain by-right approvals, affecting Housing and Community Development, Infrastructure/Resilience planning, and Home Rule
- Flags & Symbolic Local Policy
  - HB 347, SB 426 – Adoption and Display of Flags
  - Preempt local flag ordinances, touching the General Statement on civil/human rights and Local Authority / Home Rule

# Firearms, DEI/Equity, Cybersecurity & IT

## Key Bills

- Firearms & Local Control
  - HB 6017, SB 954 – Preemption of Firearms and Ammunition (repeal)
  - Restore local authority over firearms and ammunition, aligning with the Firearm Regulations principle and supporting Public Safety and Home Rule
- DEI/Equity & Small Business Tools
  - HB 1001, SB 1134, SB 1566 – Official Actions / Local Government Spending (DEI)
  - SB 593, SB 1662 – Prohibited Preferences / Governmental Agencies & Personnel
  - Collectively restrict DEI-related spending and certain
- Cybersecurity & Critical Systems
  - SB 576, HB 635 – Local Government Cyber Security / Cybersecurity Standards and Liability
  - Tie directly into ITS and Infrastructure/Resilience principles by defining how municipal cybersecurity and vendor liability are structured for water, wastewater, public safety, and other critical infrastructure

# Appropriations



**Aviation Technical Training Program | \$1,000,000**

**Substance Abuse and Mental Health Treatment Program | \$250,000**

**Fire Rescue Fireboat Replacement | \$643,078**

**Galt Mile Safety Improvements | \$1,250,000**

**Roadway Resurfacing Project | \$850,000**

**Triplex Wastewater Pump Station Rehabilitation | \$3,650,000**

**Las Olas Business District Safety Improvements and ADA Upgrades Project | \$1,000,000**

**Sunrise Lane District Streetscape Improvements | \$1,600,000**

**Rio Vista and Lauderdale Harbors License Plate Readers | \$1,111,825 (pass thru funding, not City)**

# Property Tax

**Eight** House of Representatives property tax proposals are in a committee

**Three** are awaiting a vote in the House of Representatives



# CS/CS/HJR 203 – Phased Out Elimination of Non-school Property Tax for Homesteads

- Impacted priorities: Budget, Taxes & Fees, Unfunded Mandates
- Core Impact on City: Phase-into full non-school homestead exemption (over 10 years) with mandated first responder, firefighter, and law enforcement funding floors
- Status: House Calendar, 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading

# CS/CS/HJR 209 – Property Insurance Relief Homestead Exemption (+\$200k)

- Impacted priorities: Budget; Housing & Community Development; Taxes & Fees
- Core Impact on City: Increases non-school homestead exemption by \$200k for insured homes and mandating first responder, firefighter, and law enforcement funding floors
- Status: House Calendar, 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading

# CS/CS/HJR 213 – Modification of Limitations on Property Assessment Increases

- Impacted priorities: Budget; Taxes & Fees
- Core Impact on City: Further caps assessment growth for homestead and non-homestead while maintaining first responder, firefighter, and law enforcement funding as of FY 2025-26 and FY 2026-27
- Status: House Calendar, 2nd Reading

# HJR 201 – Elimination of Non-school Property Tax for Homesteads

- Impacted priorities: Budget, Taxes & Fees, Unfunded Mandates, Public Safety
- Core Impact on City: Eliminates all non-school ad valorem on homesteads but locks first responder, firefighter, and law enforcement funding at FY 2026 levels
- Status: Ways & Means Committee

# HJR 205 – Elimination of Non-school Property Tax for Homesteads for Persons 65+

- Impacted priorities: Budget, Taxes & Fees, Unfunded Mandates
- Core Impact on City: Full non-school exemption for homesteads owned by residents aged 65+, while maintaining first responder, firefighter, and law enforcement funding at FY 2027 levels
- Status: Ways & Means Committee

# HJR 207 – Assessed Home Value Homestead Exemption (extra 25%)

- Impacted priorities: Budget, Taxes & Fees
- Core Impact on City: Adds a 25% non-school exemption on remaining homestead value; and maintains law enforcement funding at FY 2025-26 and FY 2026-27 levels
- Status: State Affairs Committee

# HJR 211 – Accrued Save-Our-Homes Property Tax Benefit (non-school)

- Impacted priorities: Budget, Taxes & Fees
- Core Impact on City: Raises transferable SOH benefit for non-school levies; and maintains law enforcement funding at FY 2025-26 and FY 2026-27 levels
- Status: Ways & Means Committee

# HJR 215 – Ad Valorem Taxation (SOH portability; millage vote)

- Impacted priorities: Budget, Taxes & Fees
- Core Impact on City: Expands SOH portability (up to \$500k for married couples)
- Status: State Affairs Committee

# Q & A

