



2019 Legislative Action Agenda



Priority Statements and Policy Positions

Finance, Taxation & Personnel

Priority Statement: Communication Services Tax Protection

The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS legislation to reform the Communications Services Tax in a manner that is revenue neutral; provides for a broad and equitable tax base; provides for enhanced stability and reliability as an important revenue source for local government; and provides a uniform method for taxing communication services in Florida. Reform should promote a competitively neutral tax policy that will free consumers to choose a provider based on tax-neutral considerations.

Policy Position: Local Business Tax Protection

The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS legislation that protects general revenues collected from the local business tax. These revenues are used to provide essential municipal services, such as public safety and constructing and maintaining roads and bridges, public parks and open spaces. Maintaining a diversified revenue base strengthens the fiscal stability of local governments and improves their ability to serve citizens and businesses.

Policy Position: Sales Tax Fairness

The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS legislation to reform Florida's sales tax laws that apply to online/e-commerce sales from out-of-state retailers. Changes to these laws are needed to ensure retailers are treated equitably.

Land Use & Economic Development

Priority Statement: Community Redevelopment Agencies

The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS legislation to protect and improve municipalities' use of community redevelopment agencies to effectively carry out redevelopment and community revitalization in accordance with Home Rule.

Policy Position: Annexation

The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS legislation that facilitates the municipal annexation of unincorporated areas, while protecting private property rights, and respecting municipal boundaries.

Municipal Administration

Priority Statement: Short-Term Rentals

The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS legislation that restores local zoning authority with respect to short-term rental properties thereby preserving the integrity of Florida's residential

neighborhoods and communities. The Florida League of Cities OPPOSES legislation that preempts municipal authority as it relates to the regulation of short-term rental properties.

Policy Position: Medical Marijuana

The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS legislation restoring municipal authority to regulate medical marijuana facilities within municipal boundaries.

Policy Position: School Resource Officers Funding

The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS legislation creating a dedicated and recurring state revenue stream to offset any impacts for those cities providing SROs to schools.

Policy Position: Sober Homes

The Florida League of Cities will SUPPORT legislation requiring businesses classified as “Day or Night Treatment with Community Housing” to comply with current statutory requirements for certified recovery residences. In addition, the League will SUPPORT legislation clarifying the fire-safety standards that can be imposed on sober homes in order to ensure compliance with federal fair housing laws.

Transportation & Intergovernmental Relations

Priority Statement: Transportation Funding

The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS legislation that preserves local control of transportation planning. The legislation should create an equitable transportation funding formula between the state, municipalities, and counties, while providing for additional transportation revenue to support innovative infrastructure and transit projects to meet the surging transportation demands driven by dramatic growth throughout Florida.

Policy Position: Affordable Housing

The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS legislation that requires all funds from the Sadowski State and Local Housing Trust Fund be used only for Florida’s affordable housing programs.

Utilities, Natural Resources & Public Works

Priority Statement: Water Supply & Water Quality

The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS legislation to address the state’s critical water resource and water quality deficiencies to mitigate the negative economic impact of these issues through priority corrective actions and funding. The legislation should include:

- establishment of a dedicated and recurring source of state funding to meet current and projected local government water supply and water infrastructure needs;
- annual assessment by the State of the state, regional and local water resource and water quality infrastructure improvement needs; and
- development of regional plans to prioritize actions and schedules for addressing integrated water quality and water supply needs based on objective criteria.