



City of Fort Lauderdale

DRAFT 2021 Legislative Priorities & Appropriation Requests

Introduction

The 2021 Legislative Priorities reflect the general position of the City Commission pertaining to upcoming legislation that would impact operations.

Fundamental Principles ***NEW***

- **SUPPORT** the Legislature's efforts to secure funding for – and prioritizing testing and vaccination processes for first responders, senior citizens, and medical staff. **SUPPORT** proposals that include flexibility provisions for local governments to use COVID-19 funds for lost revenue.
- **SUPPORT** full funding for the State Housing Initiative Partnership (SHIP); and other affordable housing programs which aid income eligible residents, including individuals with disabilities.
- **SUPPORT** the Florida League of Cities (FLC) Legislative Priorities and Policy Statements, unless specific issues conflict with the City's approved Legislative Priorities.
- **SUPPORT** funding for early learning education; and full funding for workforce readiness programs.
- **OPPOSE** legislative efforts to increase or eliminate the monetary limits on the waiver of sovereign immunity in current law.
- **OPPOSE** legislation shifting the financial burden from the state to local government, specifically municipalities.
- **OPPOSE** legislation that modifies, restricts, or eliminates a municipality's ability to levy and collect or spend franchise fees, communications service taxes, local business taxes, or other revenues.

Smart Growth Infrastructure

- **SUPPORT** the identification of adequate funding for water, sewer, and stormwater infrastructure improvements. **SUPPORT** legislation that promotes energy conservation and alternative energy development.
- **SUPPORT** legislation and state funding for transportation enhancements focused on greenways, complete street initiatives, pedestrian safety, improving traffic flow, and mass transit development.
- **SUPPORT** legislation that requires flood disclosures upon the sale of a property.
- **SUPPORT** legislation supporting the inclusion of municipalities in the state environmental permitting process.

Water Quality and Resiliency

- **SUPPORT** increased state funding for beach re-nourishment, revitalization, and enhancement efforts.
- **SUPPORT** adequate funding for waterway quality improvement projects.
- **SUPPORT** funding for resiliency efforts which include flood prevention, hazard mitigation, and climate change mitigation.
- **SUPPORT** legislation that assists in meeting sustainability objectives including energy and water efficiencies.

Quality of Life

- **SUPPORT** legislation allowing municipalities to reach a "net zero" homelessness outcome.
- **SUPPORT** legislation and adequate funding to bolster pilot programs increasing awareness about the environment, proper nutrition, and regular physical activity.
- **SUPPORT** legislation that allows municipalities to make parks and beaches smoke-free.
- **SUPPORT** legislation strongly limiting vaping options for minors.
- **SUPPORT** funding for the development of recreational programs and facilities.
- **SUPPORT** increased funding for historic preservation, and restoration of full funding for the cultural arts.



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Public Safety Initiatives

- **SUPPORT** comprehensive criminal justice reform consistent with federal guidelines.
- **SUPPORT** legislation that changes the allocation of Florida Department of Emergency Management and Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) funding based on each City's risk profile assessment.
- **SUPPORT** legislation that modifies the Law Enforcement Trust Fund's (LETf) evidentiary standard in a forfeiture proceeding and use of future forfeitures, which may result in an increase in amounts collected.
- **SUPPORT** legislation to offset costs of placing School Resource Officers in schools.
- **SUPPORT** funding for street light improvements.

Economic Stability and Business Development

- **SUPPORT** funding for Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport capital projects.
- **SUPPORT** legislation promoting tourism; and transfer the spending authority of the Tourism Development Tax to municipalities based on tourism activity.
- **SUPPORT** funding for the promotion of Fort Lauderdale's marine industry and Riverwalk activation.

Intergovernmental Collaborations

- **SUPPORT** legislation allowing local government to regulate short-term rental properties, vacation rentals, and sober homes.
- **SUPPORT** legislation that would change the date for the non-ad valorem assessment roll public hearing from September 15th to September 25th to avoid a special meeting of the City Commission regarding the budget.
- **SUPPORT** legislation that would reduce the impact of the Governor's emergency declaration extensions, which result in the extension of permits (i.e. building permits) in jurisdictions not impacted by the emergency event.
- **SUPPORT** legislation to amend Sec. 286.011, Florida Statutes, allowing closed-door meetings on pre-suit liability claims.