

2019-01

**A RESOLUTION OF THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.,
EXPRESSING APPRECIATION TO BARTOW, FLORIDA, FOR ITS
SUPPORT OF LEO E. LONGWORTH AS PRESIDENT OF THE FLORIDA
LEAGUE OF CITIES.**

WHEREAS, Leo E. Longworth, commissioner of Bartow, Florida, served as president of the Florida League of Cities from 2018 through 2019; and

WHEREAS, the citizens, mayor, commissioners and staff of Bartow were most understanding of the demands placed upon Commissioner Longworth in his role as president of the League; and

WHEREAS, during his presidency, Commissioner Longworth focused on engaging and educating Florida residents about local self-government with the “We Live Local” initiative; and

WHEREAS, the membership and staff of the League recognize that the commitment of the City of Bartow to Commissioner Longworth’s presidency ensured his active participation in League activities and unselfish service to the League and permitted him to successfully promote the programs, projects and philosophy of the League during the past year; and

WHEREAS, the membership and staff of the League also wish to recognize and personally thank all of the dedicated Bartow city staff for their efforts in providing outstanding assistance to President Longworth and the FLC staff in coordinating his duties with the city and with the League and all city staff went above and beyond the call of duty, and their outstanding contributions to this effort are applauded and greatly appreciated.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.:

Section 1. The Florida League of Cities, Inc., membership and staff do officially and personally appreciate the commitment Bartow’s citizens, commissioners and staff made to Commissioner Longworth’s presidency.

Section 2. A copy of this resolution be presented to the City of Bartow.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Florida League of Cities, Inc., in conference assembled at the League’s 93rd Annual Conference, at the Orlando World Center Marriott, Orlando, Florida, this 17th Day of August 2019.

Isaac Salver, First Vice President

Florida League of Cities, Inc.
Councilman, Town of Bay Harbor Islands

ATTEST: _____
Michael Sittig, Executive Director
Florida League of Cities, Inc.

Submitted by: FLC Staff

2019-02

A RESOLUTION OF THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC., RECOGNIZING THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 21-27, 2019, AS “FLORIDA CITY GOVERNMENT WEEK” AND ENCOURAGING ALL FLORIDA CITY OFFICIALS TO SUPPORT THIS CELEBRATION BY PARTICIPATING IN THE “MY CITY: I’M PART OF IT, I’M PROUD OF IT!” ACTIVITIES.

WHEREAS, city government is the government closest to the people and the one with the most direct daily impact upon its residents; and

WHEREAS, municipal government provides services and programs that enhance the quality of life for residents, making their city their home; and

WHEREAS, city government is administered for and by its citizens and is dependent upon public commitment to and understanding of its many responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, city government officials and employees share the responsibility to pass along the understanding of the services provided by cities and their benefits; and

WHEREAS, Florida City Government Week is a very important time to recognize the significant role played by city government in our lives and to spread the word to all Floridians that they can shape and influence this level of government, which is closest to the people; and

WHEREAS, the Florida League of Cities and its member cities have joined together to teach students and other citizens about municipal government through a variety of activities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.:

Section 1. The Florida League of Cities, Inc., encourages all city officials, city employees, school officials and citizens to participate in events that recognize and celebrate Florida City Government Week.

Section 2. The Florida League of Cities, Inc., supports and encourages all city governments to promote, sponsor and participate in My City: I’m Part of It, I’m Proud of It!

Section 3. A copy of this resolution be provided to Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, the Florida Cabinet, the Florida School Boards Association and the membership of the Florida League of Cities, Inc.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Florida League of Cities, Inc., in conference assembled at the League’s 93rd Annual Conference, at the Orlando World Center Marriott, Orlando, Florida, this 17th Day of August 2019.

Leo E. Longworth, President
Florida League of Cities, Inc.
Commissioner, City of Bartow

ATTEST: _____
Michael Sittig, Executive Director
Florida League of Cities, Inc.

Submitted by: FLC Staff

2019-03

**A RESOLUTION OF THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.,
AFFIRMING SUPPORT FOR AND A PARTNERSHIP WITH STATE AND
LOCAL LEADERS TO ENSURE AN ACCURATE 2020 CENSUS.**

WHEREAS, the U.S. Census Bureau is required by the U.S. Constitution to conduct a count of the population; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Florida League of Cities are committed to ensuring every resident is counted; and

WHEREAS, a successful census program integrates federal, state and local resources within each level of government so that a true intergovernmental partnership is achieved for a timely and accurate count; and

WHEREAS, more than \$675 billion per year in federal and state funding is allocated to communities based upon population, and said funding supports public health care, community development, housing, education, transportation, social services, employment and more; and

WHEREAS, census data collected in 2020 will also factor into how many seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives, as well as the redistricting of state legislatures and many county and some city voting districts; and

WHEREAS, each Census Bureau employee takes a lifetime oath to protect confidentiality and ensure that data identifying respondents or their household will not be released or shared; and

WHEREAS, a united voice from businesses, government, community-based and faith-based organizations, educators, media and others will allow the 2020 census message to reach a broader audience, providing trusted advocates who can spark positive conversations about the 2020 census.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.:

Section 1. The Florida League of Cities, Inc., unanimously supports the goals and ideals for the 2020 census.

Section 2. The Florida League of Cities, Inc., will be a resource throughout the census process and also encourages cities to disseminate 2020 census information to maximize participation and ask all Floridians to partner together to achieve an accurate and complete count.

Section 3. The Florida League of Cities, Inc., encourages members to participate in events and initiatives that will raise awareness of the 2020 census and increase participation among all populations.

Section 4. A copy of this resolution be provided to the southeast office of the U.S. Census and also shared with the membership of the Florida League of Cities, Inc.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Florida League of Cities, Inc., in conference assembled at the League's 93rd Annual Conference, at the Orlando World Center Marriott, Orlando, Florida, this 17th Day of August 2019.

Leo E. Longworth, President
Florida League of Cities, Inc.
Commissioner, City of Bartow

ATTEST: _____
Michael Sittig, Executive Director
Florida League of Cities, Inc.

Submitted by: FLC Staff

2019-04

A RESOLUTION OF THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES INC., OPPOSING THE “RIGHT TO COMPETITIVE ENERGY MARKET FOR CUSTOMERS OF INVESTOR-OWNED UTILITIES; ALLOWING ENERGY CHOICE” INITIATIVE, WHICH PROPOSES AN AMENDMENT TO FLORIDA’S CONSTITUTION THAT, IF ADOPTED, WILL CRIPPLE LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVENUES, DIMINISH HOME RULE POWER AND IMPAIR EXISTING CONTRACTS.

WHEREAS, a special interest group called Citizens for Energy Choice is gathering signatures in support of an initiative petition to amend Florida’ Constitution titled “Right to Competitive Energy Market for Customers of Investor-Owned Utilities; Allowing Energy Choice” initiative; and

WHEREAS, this initiative would generally grant customers of investor-owned electric utilities the right to choose their electricity provider and to generate and sell electricity, require the Legislature to adopt laws providing wholesale and retail markets for electricity generation and supply, and limit investor-owned utilities to construction, operation and repair of electrical transmission and distribution systems; and

WHEREAS, the initiative is currently under review by the Florida Supreme Court to determine whether the initiative’s Ballot Title and Summary meets the requirements of law for placement on the 2020 general election ballot; and

WHEREAS, the Florida League of Cities, the Florida Association of Counties, the Florida Sheriffs Association, the Florida Police Benevolent Association, Audubon Florida, The Nature Conservancy, the Florida Chamber of Commerce, the Florida attorney general and many others have challenged the sufficiency of the Ballot Title and Summary of the initiative, contending the language violates the single-subject requirement of the Florida Constitution, and that it is vague and misleading to voters and, therefore, should be stricken from the ballot; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Supreme Court’s decision on the Ballot Title and Summary may not be rendered for several months and the outcome of that decision cannot be predicted; and

WHEREAS, initiative sponsors continue campaigning statewide to elicit support for the proposal and to gather sufficient signatures for the initiative to be placed on the 2020 general election ballot; and

WHEREAS, initiative sponsors fail to adequately inform Florida’s citizens of the true impact it will have on Florida, especially on Florida’s local governments; and

WHEREAS, if passed, the initiative would materially and adversely impact local government electric utility franchise fees, public service taxes and ad valorem taxes; and

WHEREAS, if passed, the initiative would strip local governments of their Home Rule powers to determine who provides electric utility service within their jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, if passed, the initiative would abolish the basis for exclusive franchises for the generation and sale of electricity, which are contractual in nature and largely created by legislative acts of local governments; and

WHEREAS, the loss of these franchise agreements could result in the loss of over \$700 million in local government annual revenue; and

WHEREAS, if passed, the initiative would cause Florida's local governments to incur significant revenue losses from a diminution in public service tax revenues levied on the purchase of electricity within their jurisdictions and in ad valorem revenues from the divestiture of investor-owned utility assets; and

WHEREAS, if passed, the initiative would impair the contractual arrangements that numerous local governments have with investor-owned utilities to purchase and sell electricity to their citizens; and

WHEREAS, drastic changes to Florida's energy regulatory policy should be done legislatively, not through a constitutional amendment; and

WHEREAS, the Energy Choice Initiative is the wrong choice for Florida, as similar "deregulation" efforts have demonstrated in nearly every state that has tried it.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.:

Section 1. The Florida League of Cities, Inc. urges Floridians to be aware that the Energy Choice Initiative is deceptive and misleading.

Section 2. The Florida League of Cities, Inc., urges Florida's residents to not sign any petitions to support the Energy Choice Initiative.

Section 3. A copy of this resolution be provided to the membership of the Florida League of Cities, Inc., and other interested parties.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Florida League of Cities, Inc., in conference assembled at the League's 93rd Annual Conference, at the Orlando World Center Marriott, Orlando, Florida, this 17th Day of August 2019.

Leo E. Longworth, President
Florida League of Cities, Inc.

Commissioner, City of Bartow

ATTEST: _____
Michael Sittig, Executive Director
Florida League of Cities, Inc.

Submitted by: FLC Staff

2019-05

A RESOLUTION OF THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC., URGING THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE TO CLARIFY THE REQUIREMENTS FOR MUNICIPAL WEBSITES TO BE IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT.

WHEREAS, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) became law in 1990 and requires public entities to make their programs, services and activities accessible to individuals with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to provide increased transparency and resources for their residents, cities are providing more information on their municipal websites; and

WHEREAS, over the last two years, there has been a steady increase in legal claims challenging business and public entity websites as not being in compliance with the ADA; and

WHEREAS, because of these legal claims, cities are faced with a difficult decision of scaling back information posted on their websites or face liability exposure; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Justice initiated and then halted rulemaking to clarify website accessibility standards, which contributed to the rising ADA legal claims.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.:

Section 1. The Florida League of Cities, Inc., urges President Donald Trump and Congress to direct the Department of Justice to establish a clear standard to make government websites ADA compliant and decrease the costly litigation cities and other stakeholders are facing.

Section 2. A copy of this resolution be sent to President Donald Trump, the Florida Congressional Delegation, the U.S. attorney general, the National League of Cities and the membership of the Florida League of Cities, Inc.

Section 3. This resolution shall become effective upon adoption and shall remain in effect until repealed and hereby repeals all conflicting resolutions.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Florida League of Cities, Inc., in conference assembled at the League's 93rd Annual Conference, at the Orlando World Center Marriott, Orlando, Florida, this 17th Day of August 2019.

Leo E. Longworth, President
Florida League of Cities, Inc.

Commissioner, City of Bartow

ATTEST: _____
Michael Sittig, Executive Director
Florida League of Cities, Inc.

Submitted by: FLC Staff

2019-06

**A RESOLUTION OF THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC., URGING
CONGRESS TO REAUTHORIZE THE NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE
PROGRAM.**

WHEREAS, floods are the most common and destructive natural disaster in the United States and Florida; and

WHEREAS, Congress created the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) in 1968 to make affordable flood insurance available to homeowners, renters and business owners in exchange for using FEMA generated Flood Insurance Rate Maps for floodplain management by participating communities; and

WHEREAS, the Flood Disaster Act of 1973 requires the purchase of flood insurance as a condition of receiving any form of federal or federal-related financial assistance for acquisition or construction purposes with respect to the insurance of buildings; and

WHEREAS, the NFIP provides affordable flood insurance to property owners by encouraging local governments to adopt and enforce floodplain and water management regulations, best practices and techniques; and

WHEREAS, these mitigation efforts reduce and prevent flooding on new and improved structures, thereby saving lives and reducing injuries, reducing economic losses, maintaining and protecting critical infrastructure, and reducing the liability borne by local governments and their elected officials; and

WHEREAS, flooding is a serious risk in Florida due to the state's geography and proximity to water, both coastal and inland; and

WHEREAS, this issue is a critical concern for our state, as Florida has the largest number of participants in the NFIP with more than 1.7 million policies in force; and

WHEREAS, the NFIP is set to expire on September 30, 2019; and

WHEREAS, a lack of long-term reauthorization causes uncertainty for beneficiaries and providers; and

WHEREAS, there is still no viable private market for homeowners and businesses to acquire sufficient flood insurance coverage; and

WHEREAS, accurate mapping is fundamental for local governments to assess and communicate risk to their communities and property owners; and

WHEREAS, the current mapping process often results in local governments having to fight inaccurate maps that do not take into account locally built flood protection features and

communities building off of outdated mapping, which results in artificially inflated risk. Further, many areas of the country are not mapped or mapped accurately, which results in communities not being aware that they are at risk of flooding; and

WHEREAS, it is incumbent upon all of us to have a long-term, sustainable and viable NFIP with rates that are affordable.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.:

Section 1. The Florida League of Cities, Inc., urges Congress to reauthorize the NFIP and to keep flood insurance rates affordable for primary, non-primary and business properties while balancing the fiscal solvency of the program.

Section 2. In order for local governments to help their communities and property owners to adequately prepare for risk, Congress should provide additional resources to FEMA to utilize the best technology and methods available to improve the mapping process, including seeking the input from local government officials prior to approving any flood map that could impact local zoning rules.

Section 3. A copy of this resolution be sent to President Donald Trump, the Florida Congressional Delegation, the National League of Cities and the membership of the Florida League of Cities, Inc.

Section 4. This resolution shall become effective upon adoption and shall remain in effect until repealed and hereby repeals all conflicting resolutions.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Florida League of Cities, Inc., in conference assembled at the League's 93rd Annual Conference, at the Orlando World Center Marriott, Orlando, Florida, this 17th Day of August 2019.

Leo E. Longworth, President
Florida League of Cities, Inc.
Commissioner, City of Bartow

ATTEST: _____
Michael Sittig, Executive Director
Florida League of Cities, Inc.

Submitted by: FLC Staff

2019-07

A RESOLUTION OF THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES INC., URGING CONGRESS TO RECOGNIZE AND WORK TO ACHIEVE BROADBAND ACCESS AND AFFORDABILITY; SUPPORTING INCLUSION OF BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE IN FEDERAL INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS; AND AFFIRMING SUPPORT FOR LOCAL CONTROL OF BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE SITING.

WHEREAS, broadband infrastructure has become an economic necessity for Florida cities, driving education, health care, public safety, economic growth and operating efficiency in a 21st century economy; and

WHEREAS, sufficient broadband infrastructure has become increasingly necessary to support all forms of infrastructure, from smart-meter electrical grids and connected traffic management networks to sensor-enabled water and sewer systems; and

WHEREAS, robust broadband is needed to support the deployment of advances in smart city technologies, as well as autonomous vehicles and unmanned aerial systems (drones); and

WHEREAS, a competitive and sustainable broadband industry is driving innovations, community and economic development, educations, health care and government services; and

WHEREAS, access to broadband can increase residential property values, increase commercial business activity and spur viable employment options in isolated communities; and

WHEREAS, universal access to affordable broadband should be considered essential infrastructure that contributes to economic health and survival of communities across Florida; and

WHEREAS, the availability and adoption of quality broadband service can vary dramatically from one neighborhood to another, even in heavily populated urban areas, and a substantial number of individuals in poor and rural communities have limited internet access, and where broadband access is limited, citizens have limited access to information, education and tools for economic independence; and

WHEREAS, historically, local governments have ensured access to essential services not offered by the private sector by banding together to provide those services at a reasonable and competitive cost; and

WHEREAS, attempts continue to be made to limit or stop further local government deployment of municipal broadband services, which has the potential of reducing the ability of local government to provide important information and services to their citizens in a timely, efficient and cost-effective manner; and

WHEREAS, local governments should not be preempted by the federal or state government from being able to offer broadband services, high-speed internet and other communications services that could advance the deployment of broadband throughout our nation; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has enacted regulations that substantially limit the traditionally held authority of local governments over the placement of wireless infrastructure and local governments' ability to assess fair compensation to taxpayers for use of public property, subsidizing wireless carriers' development while undermining local efforts to expand broadband access; and

WHEREAS, the economic health of municipalities depends on public and private investment to connect their communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.:

Section 1. The Florida League of Cities, Inc., urges the federal government to recognize and work to provide affordable and competitively priced broadband access; provide appropriate standards for broadband speed, reliability, and connectivity that allow Floridians to compete in the global economy and open more opportunities to deliver robust services more economically and universally.

Section 2. The Florida League of Cities, Inc., urges Congress and the FCC to protect traditionally held authority of local governments over the placement of wireless infrastructure.

Section 3. The Florida League of Cities, Inc., urges Congress to support policies that promote municipal broadband, preserve the authority of local governments to act in the interest of their citizens by offering high speed Internet and other communications services, and preempt states from barring local governments from offering such services in their communities.

Section 4. The Florida League of Cities, Inc., urges Congress to include and incorporate federal investment in broadband in any federal infrastructure proposal to strengthen the nation's infrastructure network while promoting economic development in our municipalities.

Section 5. The Florida League of Cities, Inc., calls on the FCC to examine all best practices and potential obstacles to expanded broadband deployment and adoption, including obstacles created by federal or industry practices that stymie local and consumer efforts to expand broadband access.

Section 6. A copy of this resolution be sent to President Donald Trump, the Florida Congressional Delegation, the National League of Cities and the membership of the Florida League of Cities, Inc.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Florida League of Cities, Inc., in conference assembled at the League's 93rd Annual Conference, at the Orlando World Center Marriott, Orlando, Florida, this 17th Day of August 2019.

Leo E. Longworth, President
Florida League of Cities, Inc.
Commissioner, City of Bartow

ATTEST: _____
Michael Sittig, Executive Director
Florida League of Cities, Inc.

Submitted by: FLC Staff

2019-08

A RESOLUTION OF THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC., URGING CONGRESS TO MAINTAIN FUNDING FOR THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM.

WHEREAS, the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program was enacted and signed into law by President Gerald Ford as the centerpiece of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974; and

WHEREAS, the CDBG program has as its primary objective “the development of viable urban communities, by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment and expanding economic opportunities, principally for persons of low and moderate income”; and

WHEREAS, the CDBG program has considerable flexibility to allow municipalities to carry out activities that are tailored to their unique affordable housing and neighborhood revitalization needs; and

WHEREAS, the National League of Cities, the U.S. Conference of Mayors, the National Association of Counties, and other state and local government-sector associations are unanimous in their support of the CDBG and the need to keep this program intact; and

WHEREAS, according to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the CDBG is most commonly used to support activities that improve the quality of life in communities; to promote energy conservation and renewable energy resources; for construction of and improvements to public infrastructure such as streets, sidewalks, and water and sewer facilities; and for small business assistance to spur economic development and job creation/retention; and

WHEREAS, last year Congress increased funding for CDBG for the first time since 2010 from \$3 billion to \$3.3 billion; and

WHEREAS, nationally, for every dollar of CDBG funding invested in a project, another \$4.09 is leveraged from other sources; and

WHEREAS, the CDBG program has created or retained more than 421,000 jobs for low- and moderate-income persons through a variety of economic development activities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.:

Section 1. The Florida League of Cities, Inc., appreciates Congress increasing funding for CDBG and urges Congress to continue providing at least \$3.3 billion in formula funding for CDBG.

Section 2. A copy of this resolution be sent to the Florida Congressional Delegation, the National League of Cities, the secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the membership of the Florida League of Cities, Inc.

Section 3. This resolution shall become effective upon adoption and shall remain in effect until repealed and hereby repeals all conflicting resolutions.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Florida League of Cities, Inc., in conference assembled at the League's 93rd Annual Conference, at the Orlando World Center Marriott, Orlando, Florida, this 17th Day of August 2019.

Leo E. Longworth, President
Florida League of Cities, Inc.
Commissioner, City of Bartow

ATTEST: _____
Michael Sittig, Executive Director
Florida League of Cities, Inc.

Submitted by: FLC Staff