

2022 FLC Legislative Action Agenda

Priorities

Communications Services Tax Reform

The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS reforming 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 of an important revenue source for municipalities; and provides for a uniform taxing method. Reform should promote a competitively neutral tax policy that will free consumers to choose a provider based on tax-neutral considerations.

Economic Development Incentives

The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS legislation and policies that encourage coordination among Enterprise Florida, the Department of Economic Opportunity, other state agencies and cities to promote local economic development by providing increased funding, technical assistance and increased collaboration between the state and cities on offering incentives that maximize economic development opportunities for retention, expansion, and attraction, and building sustainable economic resiliency.

Short-Term Rentals

The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS legislation that restores authority to local governments for the regulation of short-term rental properties as necessary for quality of life, public safety and a fair lodging marketplace. The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS legislation clarifying that existing, grandfathered municipal short-term rental ordinances can be amended without penalty. The Florida League of Cities OPPOSES legislation that preempts municipal authority as it relates to the regulation of short-term rental properties.

Transportation Funding

The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS legislation:

- Directing the Florida Department of Transportation to establish a grant program to provide financial assistance for the installation of publicly available electric vehicle charging infrastructure on public or private property
- Providing technical assistance for the development and adoption of local or regional plans for charging infrastructure and associated equipment
- Identifying additional transportation revenue to support innovative infrastructure and transit projects to meet the surging transportation demands driven by dramatic growth throughout Florida.

Tree Protection

The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS legislation to close loopholes and create standards in current law exemptions from municipal tree ordinances that have caused litigation and abuses, including the clear-cutting of land pre-development and the removal of healthy trees that present little, if any, risk to persons or structures. Current law should be amended to apply only to developed single-family residential property, identify industry-appropriate standards for assessing tree risk and identify necessary documentation.

Policy Positions/Other issues of importance

Local Business Tax Preservation

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

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.

Cybersecurity

The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS legislation dedicating state resources for the development and enhancement of municipal cybersecurity by providing funding for technical assistance, threat assessments, employee training, infrastructure improvements and data protection, including the protection of exempt and confidential information such as law enforcement personnel information and security plans for government buildings and other key critical infrastructure.

Affordable Housing

The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS legislation that requires all money from the Sadowski State and Local Housing Trust Fund be used only for Florida's affordable housing programs targeted to meet the needs of workforce housing, including low income, very low income and disabled persons, for both home ownership and rental unit availability.

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS legislative action to address growing concerns about PFAS in soil and water, including coordinating with the Environmental Protection Agency to establish science-based cleanup target levels, providing resources for testing and research, public education and risk assessment guidelines, establishing liability protection for entities that have legally used PFAS for fire suppression or have passively received PFAS, and developing cost-effective and risk-based corrective strategies for PFAS.