

# SIMPLIFY AND STREAMLINE FLORIDA'S LOCAL ANNEXATION PROCESS

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

## BACKGROUND

The Florida Constitution authorizes the Legislature to develop **procedures for local control of municipal annexation of unincorporated territory** by general or special law.

The Florida Legislature passed the "Municipal Annexation or Contraction Act" in 1974, which **provides a mechanism for municipalities to annex territory and recede from territory by contraction.**

Annexation means **expanding the boundaries of**

**a city to add new properties that will become part of the city.**

The **new territory:**

- Must be contiguous.
- Must be compact.
- Must be unincorporated.
- Must be within a single county.
- Cannot create an enclave.

**Legislation has previously been introduced that would have solved many of the issues** associated with annexation, but ultimately nothing passed.

## KEY MESSAGES FOR 2021

Currently, the annexation process makes it difficult for cities to annex certain unincorporated enclaves and unincorporated areas where city services are already being provided at the request of the local community. **The process is costly and cumbersome, and it discourages local control.**

The requirement to take a vote of the electors

in the area proposed to be annexed prior to annexation has **frustrated annexation efforts to the detriment of property owners** who do not live on the property but desire to be annexed.

The **League encourages legislation that would simplify, streamline and return local control** to the annexation process for both cities and property owners.

