



FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES

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## Florida League of Cities Announces 2021 Legislative Priorities

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**TALLAHASSEE, Fla.** – The **Florida League of Cities**, the united voice for Florida’s municipal governments for more than 90 years, today unveiled its list of priorities for the upcoming legislative session. All five priorities were adopted by the League’s membership.

“Florida’s local officials are actively engaged and hard at work as we prepare for the 2021 Legislative Session,” said **Florida League of Cities President Tony Ortiz, commissioner for the City of Orlando**.

“We’re eager to work with our partners at the state level during the upcoming session, and while we’re optimistic about that partnership, we remain committed to our mission of protecting local decision-making for Florida’s cities, towns and villages. With our joint efforts, united voice and shared advocacy platform, we’re ready to build stronger cities by ensuring local voices continue making local choices.”

The League publishes a Legislative Action Agenda before the legislative session convenes each year. It addresses priority issues most likely to have a statewide impact on daily municipal operations and governance, outlines the League’s position on these priorities and provides additional data and background information on cities and each issue.

“Working together with our legislative policy committees, and after carefully considering feedback from members throughout the state, the League has once again chosen a strong set of priorities for this year’s Legislative Action Agenda,” said **Florida League of Cities Director of Legislative Affairs Casey Cook**. “Local decision-making remains key to ensuring the continued safety and well-being of residents, and this agenda showcases the important role that Florida’s 411 cities play in the success of our state.”

The League’s current position on the following priority issues are:

- **Sales Tax Fairness** – The League SUPPORTS updating Florida’s sales and use tax laws that apply to online/e-commerce sales from out-of-state retailers. Changes are needed to ensure in-state retailers are treated equitably and that the Florida sales and use tax law is equally enforced.
- **Annexation** – The League SUPPORTS legislation that facilitates the municipal annexation of unincorporated areas, while protecting private property rights and respecting municipal boundaries.
- **Short-Term Rentals** – The League SUPPORTS legislation providing for a collaboration between the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation and cities to ensure that short-

term rental properties abide by state and local regulations, are properly licensed and insured, and comply with state and local taxation requirements, as well as industry-accepted safety practices. The League SUPPORTS legislation clarifying that existing, grandfathered municipal short-term rental ordinances can be amended without penalty.

- **Affordable Housing** – The League SUPPORTS legislation that requires all monies from the Sadowski State and Local Housing Trust Fund be used only for Florida’s affordable housing programs.
- **Discharges to Surface Waters** – The League SUPPORTS legislation that establishes reasonable timeframes for utilities to eliminate, to the extent possible in compliance with regulatory requirements and with specified exceptions, discharges to surface waters unless a utility demonstrates it is not environmentally, technically or economically feasible.

The regular legislative session in Florida begins on March 2, 2021. The League opposes unfunded mandates from any level of government and will continue to advocate for legislation that ensures local voices are able to make local choices.

To download a complete copy of the League’s 2021 Legislative Action Agenda, visit [bit.ly/3lweNRt](https://bit.ly/3lweNRt).

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*Founded in 1922, the Florida League of Cities is the united voice for Florida’s municipal governments. Its goals are to promote local self-government and serve the needs of Florida’s cities, which are formed and governed by their citizens. The League believes in “Local Voices Making Local Choices,” which focuses on the impact citizens and city leaders have in improving Florida’s communities. For more information, visit [flcities.com](https://flcities.com).*