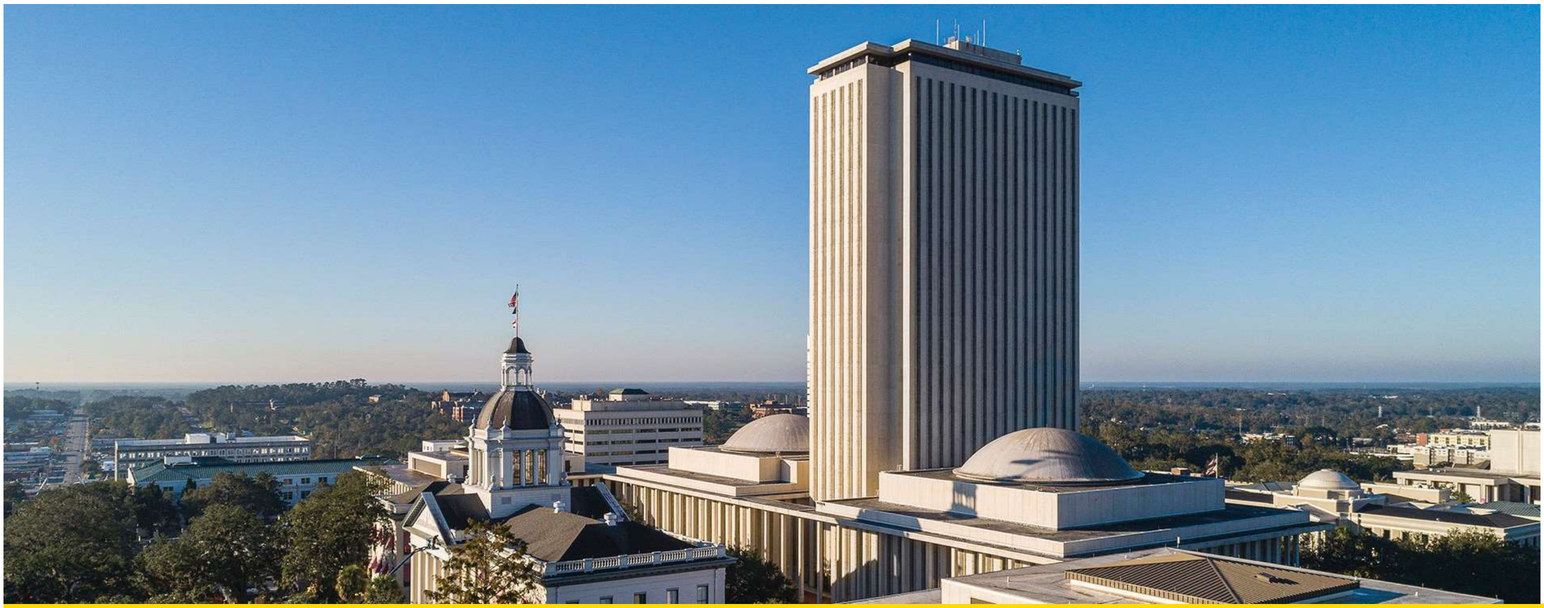

FINANCE AND TAXATION COMMITTEE

Friday, October 17, 2025
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. ET

Meeting Room: Orange Ballroom EF
Hilton Orlando
6001 Destination Parkway
Orlando, FL 32819

FLC Staff Contact: Charles Chapman

FLC
FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES

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Agenda

FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES

Finance and Taxation Legislative Policy Committee
Friday, October 17, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Hilton Orlando – Meeting Room: Orange Ballroom EF
6001 Destination Parkway, Orlando, Florida

AGENDA

I. Introduction & Opening Remarks .... **Chair Molly Young**
Mayor, Village of Tequesta

II. Potential 2026 Priority and Policy Issues .... **Charles Chapman, FLC Staff**

a. Ad Valorem (Property) Taxes
b. Local Option Sales Taxes
c. Local Business Tax Reform

III. Ranking of Proposed Policies .... **Charles Chapman, FLC Staff**

IV. Other Business .... **Charles Chapman, FLC Staff**

V. Additional Information .... **Charles Chapman, FLC Staff**

a. FLC Legislative Conference Registration
b. Key Legislative Dates
c. Key Contacts – Click HERE to sign-up
d. 2025 Legislative Session Final Report

VI. Closing Remarks .... **Chair Molly Young,**
Mayor Village of Tequesta

VII. Adjournment

Breakfast and Lunch provided by the Florida League of Cities

WiFi is Available
Network: FLCPC1025
Access Code: FLCPC1025

FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES

Committee Roster

FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES

2025-2026 Legislative Policy Committee

Finance and Taxation

Staffed by: Charles Chapman, Legislative Consultant

CHAIR:
The Honorable Molly Young
Mayor, Village of Tequesta

VICE CHAIR:
The Honorable Diana Adams
Councilmember, City of West Melbourne

MEMBERS:
The Honorable Robert "Bob" Auwaerter
Vice Mayor, Town of Indian River Shores

The Honorable Joseph Barkley
Commissioner, City of Belleair Bluffs

The Honorable Thomas Barnhorn
Councilor, City of Seminole

The Honorable Thomas Bronson
Vice Mayor, City of Brooksville

Melinda Brown
Comptroller, City of Satellite Beach

The Honorable Fitz Budhoo
Commissioner, City of Oakland Park

The Honorable Michael Cadore
Councilman, City of Rockledge

Cale Curtis
City Manager, City of Margate

The Honorable Carmen Demanche
Councilmember, Town of Lake Hamilton

The Honorable Alison Dennington
Mayor, Town of Melbourne Beach

The Honorable Susy Diaz
Deputy Mayor, City of Greenacres

The Honorable Michael DiBrizzi
Commissioner, City of Largo

The Honorable Kevin Docherty
Council President, Town of Ocean Breeze

The Honorable Ed Dodd
Councilmember, City of Sebastian

The Honorable Brent Eden
Commissioner, City of Lake Alfred

The Honorable Maureen Freaney
Mayor, City of Dunedin

The Honorable Ed Freeman
Mayor, Town of Lady Lake

The Honorable Judith Goldberg
Commissioner, Town of Highland Beach

The Honorable Mimi Hanley
Councilmember, City of Melbourne

The Honorable Danise 'DeeDee' Henriquez
Mayor, City of Key West

The Honorable Jeff Hmara
Mayor, Village of Royal Palm Beach

Lori Houghton
Finance Director, City of Tavares

The Honorable Michael Howard
Councilor, Town of Indian Shores

The Honorable Linda Hudson
Mayor, City of Fort Pierce

The Honorable Anita Kane
Mayor, Town of Loxahatchee Groves

The Honorable Sarah Karon
Commissioner, Town of Longboat Key

David Keller
Special Projects Administrator, City of Hollywood

The Honorable Kathy Kelley Ohlrich
Commissioner, City of Sarasota

Kelly Layman
Legislative & External Relations, Town of Jupiter Island

Peter Lear
Director of Finance, City of Bartow

John Lege
Assistant City Manager, City of Fort Myers

Joseph F. Lo Bello
Town Manager, Town of Lake Clarke Shores

The Honorable Shayla Macias
Councilwoman, City of Fellsmere

The Honorable Lisa Mallozzi
Commissioner, City of Cooper City

David Margolis
City Attorney, City of Clearwater

The Honorable Mimi May
Commissioner, City of Lake Worth Beach

The Honorable Kevin McCann
Mayor, City of Winter Springs

The Honorable Roger Michaud
Mayor, Town of Lake Park

The Honorable Mike Miller
Mayor, City of Sanibel

Stephen Okiye
Finance Director/Treasurer, City of Port St. Lucie

The Honorable Nick Pachota
Mayor, City of Venice

The Honorable Monica Paris
Commissioner, City of Daytona Beach

The Honorable Allison Patton
Councilmember, City of Pensacola

The Honorable Demetrius Petrow
Commissioner, City of North Port

The Honorable Tom Plaut
Commissioner, City of Deerfield Beach

The Honorable Orlando Puyol
Councilmember, Village of North Palm Beach

The Honorable Gary Ready
Mayor Pro Tem, Village of Palm Springs

The Honorable Tom Reid
Vice Mayor, City of South Pasadena

Brittany Retherford
City Manager, City of Satellite Beach

Dennis Rogero
Chief Financial Officer, City of Tampa

Carmen Rosamonda
City Manager, City of DeBary

The Honorable Brian Sackett
Mayor, City of Longwood

The Honorable Winnette Sandlin
Vice Mayor, Town of Orange Park

The Honorable Megan Sladek
Mayor, City of Oviedo

The Honorable Vernel Smith
Vice Mayor, City of Haines City

The Honorable Fortuna Smukler
Commissioner, City of North Miami Beach

Kelly Strickland
Director of Financial Administration, City of Sarasota

The Honorable Fabiola Stuyvesant
Commissioner, City of Sunny Isles Beach

Debra Sullivan
City Administrator, City of Belleair Bluffs

The Honorable Colleen Taylor
Commissioner, City of Lake Mary

Ann Toney-Deal
City Manager, City of Seminole

The Honorable John Wagner
Councilman, City of Jacksonville Beach

The Honorable Kathy Washington
Mayor, Town of Welaka

The Honorable Patricia Weeks
Deputy Mayor, City of Cocoa

The Honorable Judy Wertz Strickland
Mayor, City of Arcadia

Aqueria Wester
Legislative Aide, City of Riviera Beach

The Honorable Marc Wigder
Councilmember, City of Boca Raton

The Honorable Julie Wilkins
Mayor, City of LaBelle

The Honorable Robert Yaffe
Councilmember, Town of Bay Harbor Islands

The Honorable Brian Yates
Mayor Pro Tem, City of Winter Haven

Ad Valorem (Property) Taxes

Property Taxes

Draft Priority or Policy Statement:

TO BE DEVELOPED.

Background:

In Florida and nationwide, property owners and interested parties desiring to own a home face a variety of obstacles. Most notably is the cost of housing in Florida. Additional obstacles include the price of insurance, available inventory of properties for sale or rent, and high interest rates for loans. Often the rate and amount of property taxes are identified as an obstacle as well.

In recent legislative sessions, bills have been filed to either increase the dollar amount of homestead exemptions, add homestead exemptions, provide property tax exemptions for first responders, essential workers, veterans (spouses of deceased veterans), or to commission a study to eliminate property taxes altogether and replace them with consumption taxes. The League has consistently opposed these efforts.

On the 2024 ballot the voters approved Amendment 5 (HJR 7017-2024). This amendment placed an adjustment to the second homestead exemption to account for inflation year after year when inflation increases.

During the 2025 Legislative Session, conversations continued regarding property tax reform. The Governor took the lead by calling for the complete elimination of property taxes. This call for repeal has been narrowed to target only homestead properties in recent press events. No official proposal from the Governor has been provided.

The State Legislature has taken two different courses of action in response to the Governor's call for reform or repeal. The House of Representatives has formed the Select Committee on Property Taxes to gather information and present proposals for property tax reform to be considered. The goal of this Select committee is to reduce the proposals to bill form and to have them ready for consideration and a vote early in the 2026 Legislative Session.

The Senate were proponents of a formal study into how property taxes work and what alternatives may readily exist. However, the efforts at a formal study were vetoed in the 2025 State of Florida Budget by Governor DeSantis. Recently, the Senate President's office has spoken about taking a very judicious and cautious approach to property tax reform and assuring fiscally constrained communities that they are being considered due to the negative impacts they would face budgetarily.

For most of the proposals being discussed, reform may only be achieved through a constitutional amendment, voted on by the electorate of the State of Florida, and achieving a minimum of 60% approval.

Property Taxes 2024-25 Priority Statement

The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS the levy of property taxes by municipalities to provide critical services such as infrastructure, police, fire and emergency services. Further changes or exemptions to the property tax system and tangible personal property taxes would create inequities and unfairly shift the tax burden onto families, homeowners, renters, businesses and our most vulnerable population.

Options for 2025-26

Option 1: Local Control First (49 words)

“The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS preserving local property tax authority to ensure cities can continue providing the vital services residents depend on. Property taxes are the primary, stable revenue source for funding essential municipal services such as police, fire protection, emergency response, and infrastructure. Reducing or eliminating this revenue would jeopardize cities’ ability to provide adequate levels of service, including public safety, relied upon by Florida’s communities.”

Option 2: Conservative Fiscal Discipline (44 words)

“The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS maintaining a stable property tax structure to ensure local governments meet essential obligations without unnecessary State interference. Further exemptions create hidden tax shifts and jeopardize the provision of essential services.

Local Option Sales Tax

Local Option Sales Taxes

Draft Priority or Policy Statement:

TO BE DEVELOPED

Background:

During the 2025 Legislative Session both the House and Senate filed bills to reform local option sales tax revenue sources. Both bills were entitled Local Option Taxes and were opposed by the Florida League of Cities. Both bills failed.

CS/CS/HB 1221 (Miller) and CS/CS/SB 1664 (Trumbull) proposed significant changes to the process for adopting and renewing local option taxes and surtaxes, requiring voter approval via referendum rather than adoption by ordinance, with limited exceptions for previously authorized bond indebtedness.

Key provisions include:

- Tourism Development Taxes in effect as of June 30, 2025, must be renewed by a referendum-approved ordinance by January 1, 2033, to remain in effect for another eight years. Future renewals would also require voter approval in eight-year increments.

- Local Option Food and Beverage Taxes would expire eight years after enactment and could only be renewed in eight-year increments by referendum.

- Discretionary Sales Surtaxes in effect as of June 30, 2025, must be renewed by referendum-approved ordinance by January 1, 2033, to remain in effect for another eight years, with future renewals also requiring voter approval in eight-year increments.

These changes would limit local government flexibility in implementing and maintaining revenue sources essential for community services and infrastructure.

Both bills were amended to specify that the new referendum requirement for a surtax to remain in effect only applies to those discretionary sales surtaxes required under existing law to be approved by referendum.

The amendment added content to be included in ordinances and referendum ballot questions and made technical corrections.

CS/CS/SB 1664 was further amended to grandfather in existing sales tax levies that contain expiration dates that exceed the eight-year duration. Additionally, local governments may set their own expiration dates for future levies that exceed the eight-year time frame. All new or renewal levies must still be placed on the ballot for voter consideration.

CS/CS/HB 1221 was amended with significant changes regarding Tourism Development Taxes (TDT). The House bill provided an expiration date of July 1, 2025, for existing projects, contracts, and bonds funded using TDT and authorized counties to use TDT for any public purpose after that date. The amendment requires counties that use revenues from TDT for general government purposes to reduce the county property tax levies proportionately and provided formulas for calculating the necessary reduction.

The bill also provided a sunset date of July 1, 2025, for Tourism Development Councils and allowed the same councils to be reestablished after December 31, 2025, subject to approval by resolution by the council's respective board of county commissioners. The amendment also allowed county elected boards to reduce or repeal local discretionary sales surtaxes after October 1 of the fourth year of the sales tax levy.

For the upcoming 2026 Legislative Session, it is likely discussions about local options sales taxes will be linked to discussions about property tax reform as an alternative source of funding for local government essential services.

Local Option Sales Taxes

No Statement in 2024-25

Options for 2025-26

Option 1: Protect Responsible Budgeting (35 words)

"The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS legislation which maintains local authority over sales surtaxes to ensure responsible budgeting and conservative fiscal management. State restrictions undermine predictability, complicate debt obligations, and increase burdens on property taxpayers."

Option 2: Respect Limited Government-Give Cities Fiscal Freedom (73 words)

"The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS allowing communities—not Tallahassee—to decide on local taxes which fit their community's needs. Mandated restrictions on revenue sources weaken fiscal stability and shift financial reliance onto a limited number of unrestricted revenue sources today. Local leaders, closest to the people, are best positioned to make transparent, accountable choices for essential services and the methods to fund the services demanded by their citizens. Give cities fiscal freedom."

Local Business Tax Reform

Local Business Taxes

Draft Priority or Policy Statement:

TO BE DEVELOPED.

Background:

The Florida League of Cities faced HB 609 by Representative Botana (Bonita Springs) during the 2024 Legislative Session. As originally proposed, HB 609 would have eliminated the Local Business Tax levy from the Florida Statutes. Through advocacy efforts, HB 609 was amended to only cap revenues and fees, not eliminate the levy altogether. The major areas of concern by the bill sponsor were the uses for the revenues generated by the Local Business Tax and its benefits to the business community, and the outdated language of Florida Statue Chapter 205 pertaining to the “privilege” to do business within the boundaries of a municipality or county.

During the 2025 Legislative Session, HB 503 (Botana) and SB 1196 (Truenow) were filed to further the attempts to reform Local Business Taxes. These bills picked up the 2024 theme of instituting revenue caps and a call for the reduction of fees by local governments year over year.

For the 2026 Legislative Session, HB 103 (Botana) and SB 122 (Truenow) have already been filed. The bills are identical and seek to repeal Chapter 205, Florida Statutes thereby eliminating Local Business Taxes unless you are a local government who uses gross sales tax receipts.

Of note, is LBT is one of the four Constitutionally authorized levies for municipalities along with Property Taxes (Ad Valorem), Communications Services Tax, and Municipal Utilities Services Tax.

Local Business Taxes 2024-25 Policy Statement

The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS preserving municipal ability to collect local business taxes in order to foster economic growth, ensure public safety, deliver emergency services and drive community development.

Options for 2025-26

Option 1: Local Support for Economic Growth (46 words)

“The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS protecting municipal authority to levy local business taxes without additional state restrictions or caps. These revenues fund essential services, reduce reliance on property taxes, and keep communities safe—all while empowering local leaders to make decisions that strengthen local economies.”

Option 2: Oppose Mandates, Protect Communities (42 words)

“The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS preserving municipal authority to levy local business taxes to fund services that keep communities safe and vibrant. State preemptions and restrictions threaten local self-governance and force hidden tax shifts onto residents. Strong economies require local decision-making.”

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Key Dates

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2025-2026 Key Legislative Dates

September 2025

26	FLC Legislative Policy Committee Meetings (Round 1), Hilton Orlando, 6001 Destination Pkwy, Orlando, FL 32819

October 2025

6-10	Legislative Interim Committee Meetings
13-17	Legislative Interim Committee Meetings
17	FLC Legislative Policy Committee Meetings (Round 2), Hilton Orlando, 6001 Destination Pkwy, Orlando, FL 32819

November 2025

3-7	Legislative Interim Committee Meetings
17-21	Legislative Interim Committee Meetings
19-22	NLC City Summit, Salt Lake City, UT

December 2025

1-5	Legislative Interim Committee Meetings
4-5	FLC Legislative Conference, Renaissance Orlando at SeaWorld, 6677 Sea Harbor Dr, Orlando, FL 32821
8-12	Legislative Interim Committee Meetings

January 2026

13	Regular Legislative Session Convenes
26-28	FLC Legislative Action Days, Tallahassee, FL

March 2026

13	Last Day of Regular Legislative Session
16-18	NLC Congressional City Conference, Washington, D.C.

For further details about the mentioned events or legislative information, contact *medenfield@flcities.com*.

Rev. 8/28/2025

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Notes

Notes