



MUNICIPAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

**Thursday, December 4, 2025
10:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. ET**

**Meeting Room: Peninsula Ballroom 5-7
Renaissance Orlando SeaWorld
6677 Sea Harbor Dr.
Orlando, FL 32821**

FLC Staff Contact: Sam Wagoner



..... FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES



Agenda



Municipal Operations Legislative Policy Committee
Thursday, December 4, 2025, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.
Renaissance Orlando at SeaWorld – Meeting Room: Peninsula Ballroom 5-7
6677 Sea Harbor Dr, Orlando, Florida

AGENDA

- I.** Introduction and Opening Remarks..... **Chair Mac Fuller**
Mayor, City of Lake Alfred
- II.** Recap of the Remaining Three Issues **Sam Wagoner, FLC Staff**
 - a. Florida’s Open Carry Law
 - b. Sovereign Immunity
 - c. Public Records Exemption for City Clerks & Staff
- III.** Vote on Recommended Priority **Chair Mac Fuller**
Mayor, City of Lake Alfred
- IV.** Committee Discussion and Vote on Language
of Recommended Priority **Chair Mac Fuller**
Mayor, City of Lake Alfred
- V.** Vote on Whether to Have a Policy Statement **Chair Mac Fuller**
Mayor, City of Lake Alfred
- VI.** Committee Discussion and Vote on Policy
Statement Language (if needed) **Chair Mac Fuller**
Mayor, City of Lake Alfred
- VII.** Additional Information **Sam Wagoner, FLC Staff**
 - a. Key Legislative Dates
 - b. Key Contacts – Click [HERE](#) to sign-up
- VIII.** Closing Remarks **Chair Mac Fuller**
Mayor, City of Lake Alfred
- IX.** Adjournment

WiFi Information:

If you are staying at the Renaissance, the instructions you received to connect to wireless in your room should also work in the meeting space. If you have any issues with that, or if you are **not** staying on-site, please connect to the **Renaissance_Conference** network and open your internet browser. If you are not automatically redirected to the Renaissance login page, please type in any non-secure internet website. When prompted, enter **FLCLC25** as the password.



Committee Roster



2025-2026 Municipal Operations Policy Committee

Staffed by: Sam Wagoner, Legislative Advocate

CHAIR:

The Honorable Mac Fuller
Mayor, City of Lake Alfred

VICE CHAIR:

The Honorable Shannon Hayes
Councilmember, City of Crestview

MEMBERS:

The Honorable Santiago Avila
Mayor, City of Deltona

The Honorable Gary Ball
Commissioner, City of Bartow

The Honorable Kyle Battie
Commissioner, City of Sarasota

Brian Benton
City Manager, City of Sebastian

The Honorable Allyson Berry
Commissioner, City of Leesburg

The Honorable Amit Bloom
Commissioner, City of Aventura

PaulMarie Bobb
Assistant City Attorney, City of North Miami

Jacqueline Borja
Town Clerk, Town of Lake Hamilton

George S. Brown
City Manager Emeritus, City of Boca Raton

Sammie Brown
Deputy Town Clerk, Town of Loxahatchee Groves

Patricia Burke
Town Clerk-Manager, Town of Palm Shores

The Honorable Jacob Burnett
Commissioner, City of Safety Harbor

The Honorable Ricky Butler
Councilmember, City of Pinellas Park

Rosemarie Call
City Clerk, City of Clearwater

Kristina Ciuperger
Assistant City Manager, City of Port St. Lucie

Linda Cox
City Clerk, City of Fort Pierce

The Honorable Michael Cox
Council Vice President, City of Williston

Robert Daniels
Town Manager, Town of Sewall's Point

Keith Davis
President, Davis & Associates, P.A.

The Honorable Paul Diaz
Commissioner, City of Winter Springs

Darrel Donatto

Fire Chief, Town of Jupiter

The Honorable William Dugard

Commissioner, City of Dunedin

The Honorable David Duval

Commissioner, City of North Port

The Honorable Nancy Early

Councilmember, City of Gulfport

Brenda Fettrow

City Manager, City of Rockledge

The Honorable Sam Fite

Mayor, City of Bowling Green

Amber Ford

Deputy Clerk, City of Fort Walton
Beach

The Honorable Jayson French

Councilmember, Village of Tequesta

Elizabeth Garcia-Beckford

City Clerk, City of Wilton Manors

Donna Gardner

City Clerk, City of Casselberry

The Honorable Charlotte Gillis

Vice Mayor, City of Edgewater

Kimberly Glas-Castro

Assistant Village Manager, Village of
Palm Springs

The Honorable Erik Gleason

Councilman, City of Westlake

The Honorable Sandy Golding

Councilmember, City of Jacksonville
Beach

Christian Gowan

City Clerk, City of Winter Springs

Chelsea Granell

Governmental Affairs Director, City of
Coral Gables

Angelia Guy

City Clerk, City of Dade City

Leslie Guyer

City Clerk, City of Gulf Breeze

Chevelle Hall

Village Clerk, Village of Wellington

The Honorable Phyllis Hall

Mayor, Town of Lake Hamilton

Christopher Hawks

Intergovernmental Relations
Coordinator, City of Largo

Julie A. Hennessy

City Clerk, City of DeLand

Joseph Hightower

Fire Chief, City of Mount Dora Fire
Department

The Honorable Michael Holland

Commissioner, City of Eustis

Traci Houchin

City Clerk, City of Sanford

The Honorable Anne Huffman

Commissioner, City of Haines City

Nzeribe Ihekwaba

City Manager, City of Homestead

Sabrina Javellana

Commission Assistant, City of Fort
Lauderdale

The Honorable Lewrissa Johns

Mayor, City of Chiefland

The Honorable Christopher Johnson

Commissioner, City of Largo

Jennifer Jorgensen

Director Governmental Affairs, City of Sarasota

The Honorable Bridget Keating

Mayor, Town of Lake Clarke Shores

The Honorable Barbara King

Commissioner, City of South Bay

**The Honorable NanDrycka King
Albert**

Mayor Pro Tem, City of Midway

The Honorable Thomas Kirk

Commissioner, City of Casselberry

Marshall Labadie

Town Manager, Town of Highland Beach

The Honorable William Laurie

Vice Mayor, City of Crescent City

Sharon Lauther

City Clerk, City of Haines City

Austin Lee

Director of Communications, City of Greenacres

The Honorable Jason Leslie

Mayor, City of Ormond Beach

Jordan Marlowe

City Manager, City of Newberry

Andrea McCue

City Manager, City of Greenacres

The Honorable Alexis McGuire

Councilmember, City of West Melbourne

The Honorable J.W. McKethan

Councilmember, City of Brooksville

The Honorable Todd McLendon

Councilmember, Town of Loxahatchee Groves

The Honorable Henry Mead

Vice Mayor, City of Weston

The Honorable L. Tracy Mercer

Commissioner, City of Winter Haven

Judy Meyers

City Clerk/Public Information Specialist, City of New Port Richey

The Honorable Nancy Miller

Mayor, City of Daytona Beach Shores

The Honorable KaShamba Miller-Anderson

Councilperson, City of Riviera Beach

Olivia Minshew

City Manager, City of Wauchula

Brian Moree

City Manager, City of Atlantis

The Honorable Janice Mortimer

Vice Mayor, City of Starke

The Honorable Bernard Oder

Mayor Pro Tem, City of Mary Esther

Steve Parker

Chief of Police, City of Davenport

Gwen Peirce

City Clerk, City of Satellite Beach

Richard Reade

Town Manager, Town of Lake Park

Aaron Rhodes

Assistant Chief, City of Orlando Fire Department

The Honorable Mary Richardson

Commissioner, Town of Dundee

Brian Robinson

Deputy City Manager, City of Palm Bay

The Honorable Cal Rolfson

Councilmember, City of Mount Dora

The Honorable Arlene Schwartz

Mayor, City of Margate

Alexis Silcox

City Clerk, City of Belleair Bluffs

The Honorable Suzy Sofer

Commissioner, City of Belleair Bluffs

Mike Staffopoulos

City Manager, City of Jacksonville Beach

Tracey Stevens

Town Administrator, Town of Haverhill

Andrew Thompson

Assistant City Manager, City of Oakland Park

Mary Lou Tighe

Executive Director, Broward League of Cities

The Honorable Tijauna Warner

Deputy City Clerk, City of LaBelle

The Honorable Shalonda Warren

Commissioner, City of West Palm Beach

Erin West

City Clerk, City of Green Cove Springs

The Honorable Debra Williams

Vice Mayor, Town of Longboat Key

Morgan Wilson

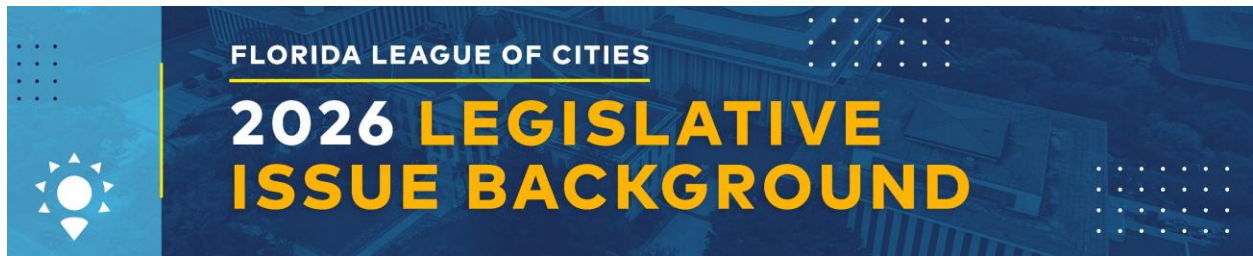
Assistant City Manager, City of Bushnell

The Honorable Brandon Young

Councilman, City of South Daytona



Florida's Open Carry Law



Closing Florida's Open Carry Loophole

Draft Statement:

The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS amending Section 790.06(12), Florida Statutes, to make clear the prohibition on firearms in designated prohibited places applies to the open carry of all types of firearms.

Background:

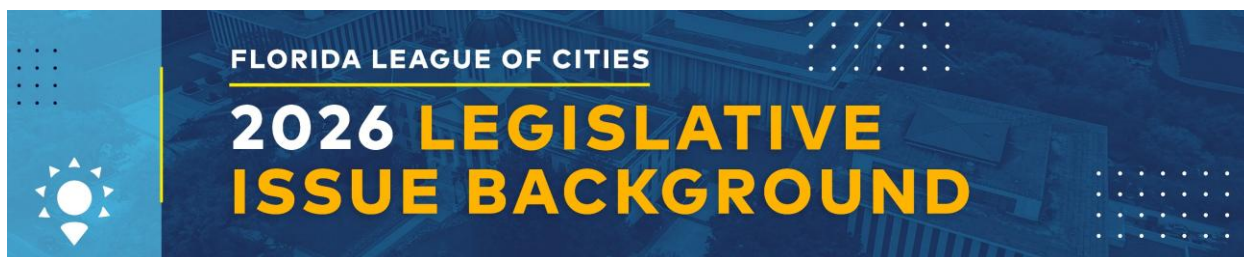
On September 10, 2025, the *McDaniels* opinion found Florida's open carry statute unconstitutional. While the Attorney General's subsequent guidance confirmed that Section 790.06(12), Florida Statutes, regarding "prohibited places" remains enforceable, as applied to handguns. A consensus amongst police legal advisors is that the prohibited places statute does *not* apply to long guns. Law enforcement agencies are developing strategies to address the open carrying of long guns while remaining in compliance with the law. With Section 790.053 no longer in effect, statutory language now leaves a gap in the restriction of open carrying of long guns, including in prohibited places defined by Section 790.06(12).

This gap creates significant enforcement challenges. Law enforcement officers may face civil liability if they attempt to arrest someone for openly carrying a long gun in a prohibited place not covered by federal law. The issue is especially concerning for public meetings of a local governing body, which are designated prohibited places under state law. However, given Florida's strict preemption statute, local officials who attempt to regulate the open carry of long guns in public meetings without specific statutory authorization risk state sanctions. This legal uncertainty highlights the need for clarity to ensure public safety and consistent enforcement.

On November 4, 2025, Representative Hunschofsky and Senator Polsky filed HB 321 and SB 406, respectively: Carrying Weapons and Firearms, which—if enacted—would prohibit carrying a weapon or firearm into prohibited locations under Florida law and assign penalties for violations. The bill creates a new section of statute, 790.0135, that clarifies restrictions on where firearms may be carried, including prohibited places such as a city council meeting.



Sovereign Immunity



Sovereign Immunity

Draft Statement:

The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS maintaining reasonable limits or 'caps' on monetary damages recoverable in negligence claims against government entities. These protections are crucial to safeguard Florida's taxpayers.

Background:

Sovereign immunity is a principle under which a government cannot be sued without its consent. Article X, s. 13 of the Florida Constitution allows the Legislature to waive this immunity. Under Article X, s. 13 of the Florida Constitution, s. 768.28(1), Florida Statutes, allows for suits in tort against the state and its agencies and subdivisions for damages resulting from the negligence of government employees acting in the scope of employment. This liability exists only where a private person would be liable for the same conduct.

Since 2011, Florida caps tort recovery from a governmental entity at \$200,000 per person and \$300,000 per accident. Prior to 2011, caps were previously set at \$100,000 and \$200,000, respectively. A judgment may be awarded above the statutory caps. However, recovering damages above these caps requires a special claim bill passed by the Legislature for a claimant to collect.

Capping tort claims against Florida's government entities is necessary to protect taxpayers while ensuring that cities can continue to provide essential services. Services such as police and fire carry an inherent high degree of risk. However, these services are essential for all Floridians. The ability to collect larger settlements or judgments against government entities will serve to increase liability exposure and incentivize litigation, threatening the ability to provide the same level of services.

Local government entities are limited by state law in their ability to generate revenue or increases taxes. City budgets are already stretched thin. Increasing the sovereign immunity limits to unreasonably high levels puts cities at risk of a huge financial burden. To compound the gravity of these potential impacts, the insurance market in Florida is currently incredibly volatile. Securing adequate insurance has been difficult for cities. Florida's government entities have seen very large increases to insurance premiums over the last couple of years. Increasing the sovereign immunity limits will have a dramatic financial impact to all of Florida's government entities, and especially Florida's cities, which have limited resources.

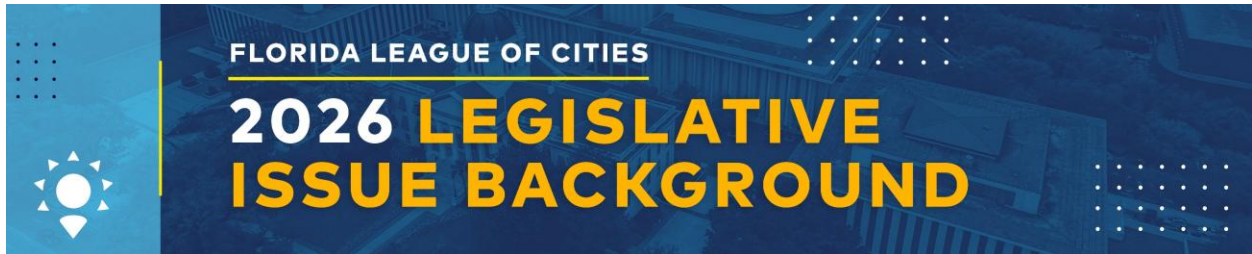
HB 301 (McFarland) sought to raise the statutory caps to \$1 million per person and \$3 million per incident, with further increases scheduled by 2030. After amendments in the House Judiciary Committee, the bill proposed phased-in caps: \$500,000 per person / \$1 million per incident (effective October 1, 2025), and \$600,000 per person / \$1.1 million per incident (effective October 1, 2030). The bill also would have allowed local governments to settle claims above the statutory limits without a claims bill and prohibited insurance carriers from conditioning payouts on legislative approval of claims bills.

Despite passing in the House, the Senate version, SB 1570 failed to advance, and therefore no changes to sovereign immunity were enacted during the 2025 session. The statutory caps remain \$200,000 per person and \$300,000 per incident, unchanged since 2011.

On October 10, 2025, Representative McFarland filed HB 145, which increases the sovereign immunity caps to \$500,000 per person and \$1 million per incident for claims occurring between October 1, 2026, and October 1, 2031. For claims occurring after October 1, 2031, the caps will rise to \$600,000 per person and \$1.2 million per incident.



Public Records Exemption for City Clerks & Staff



Public Records Exemption for Municipal Clerks and Staff

Draft Statement:

The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS legislation that provides a public records exemption for the personal information of municipal clerks; as well as any investigative personnel, and employees who perform municipal elections work.

Background:

Many municipal staff who perform duties that include, or result in, investigations into complaints regarding election fraud, legal enforcement of hearings related to neglect or abuse, or other activities that could lead to a criminal prosecution, are exposed to threats and other acts of violence.

Municipal clerks often administer elections. Election workers are often targeted for threats and violence due to the nature of materials they are responsible for. Further, clerks are often involved in legal enforcement proceedings in actions related to violations of codes and ordinances. Occasionally, these proceedings have led to retaliation and threats by defendants.

Last session, HB 517 (Casello) and SB 840 (Rodriguez) were filed. The bills proposed a public records exemption for the personal identifying and location information of current municipal clerks and their staff, as well as the spouses and children of such clerks. It included retroactive application, a statement of public necessity, and a provision for future legislative review and repeal. Both bills failed to receive hearings in the House and the Senate.



Key Dates



2025-2026 Key Legislative Dates

December 2025

- | | |
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| 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

- | | |
|-------|--|
| 7 | FLC Legislative Session Preview Webinar, 2:00 p.m. ET |
| 13 | Regular Legislative Session Convenes |
| 20 | FLC Legislative Action Days Know Before You Go Webinar, 2:00 p.m. ET |
| 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. |
| 24 | FLC Legislative Session Review, 2:00 p.m. ET |

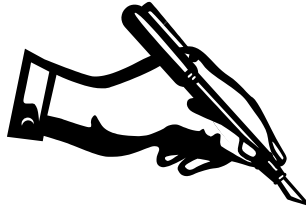
April 2026

- | | |
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| 28-29 | FLC FAST Fly-In, Washington, D.C. |
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For further details about the mentioned events or legislative information, contact medenfield@flcities.com.



Notes



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