

LOCAL VOICES MAKING LOCAL CHOICES

# UTILITIES, NATURAL RESOURCES, AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

## MEETING DETAILS

| | |
|---|---|
| **DATE** | Thursday, December 3, 2026 |
| **TIME** | 10:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. ET |
| **ROOM** | Merritt |
| **VENUE** | Renaissance Orlando at SeaWorld |
| **ADDRESS** | 6677 Sea Harbor Dr., Orlando, Florida 32821 |

**FLC STAFF CONTACT**

**Matt Singer**




# Agenda

**Utilities, Natural Resources, and Public Works Legislative Policy Committee**
**Thursday, December 3, 2026, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. ET**
**Renaissance Orlando at SeaWorld – Meeting Room: Merritt**
**6677 Sea Harbor Dr., Orlando, Florida**

# AGENDA

**I.** Introduction and Opening Remarks.....**Chair Jen Ahearn-Koch**
Commissioner, City of Sarasota

**II.** Presentation on Data Centers.....**Matt Singer, FLC Staff**

**III.** Recap of Remaining Issues .....**Matt Singer, FLC Staff**

a. PFAS Destruction

b. Water Resource Investment and Funding

**IV.** Vote on Recommended Priority .....**Chair Ahearn-Koch**

**V.** Committee Discussion on Language of Recommended Priority.....**Chair Ahearn-Koch**

**VI.** Vote on Whether to have a Policy Position.....**Chair Ahearn-Koch**

**VII.** Committee Discussion on Policy Position Language (if needed).....**Chair Ahearn-Koch**

**VIII.** Additional Information.....**Chair Ahearn-Koch**

a. Key Legislative Dates

b. Key Contacts – Click HERE to sign up

c. State Municipal Reporting Requirements

**IX.** Closing Remarks .....**Chair Ahearn-Koch**

**X.** Adjournment

**Wi-Fi is 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 **FLCLC26** as the password.




# Committee Roster

FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES

# 2026-2027 Utilities, Natural Resources & Public Works Committee



**CHAIR**
**Jen Ahearn-Koch**
Commissioner
City of Sarasota



**VICE CHAIR**
**Ronnie Robinson**
Commissioner
City of Lake Alfred



**STAFF SUPPORT**
**Matt Singer**
FLC Legislative Advocate



**Joaquin Almazan**
Vice Mayor
City of Belle Glade



**Dennis Barron**
Director of Public Works
City of Jacksonville Beach



**Raymond Beliveau**
Councilor
City of Seminole



**Nathaniel Birdsong**
Commissioner
City of Winter Haven



**BJ Bishop**
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key



**Sandra Bradbury**
Mayor
City of Pinellas Park



**Victoria Bruce**
Commissioner
City of Winter Springs



**Anthony Caggiano**
Vice Mayor
City of Margate



**Tara Connor**
Councilwoman
City of Rockledge



**John Cotugno**
Mayor
City of Vero Beach



**Bart Diebold**
City Manager
City of Pinellas Park



**James Dillon**
Director of Public Works
City of Tavares



**Kimberly Downing**
Vice Mayor
City of Haines City



**Roger Eckert**
Mayor
City of Lake Helen



**Timothy Everline**
Mayor Pro Tem
Town of Howey-in-the-Hills



**Gregory Freebold**
Vice Mayor
Town of Lake Clarke Shores



**Arnold Gaines**
Commissioner
City of Fort Pierce



**Kate Helms**
Stormwater Manager
City of Satellite Beach



**David Henson**
Mayor
City of Casselberry



**Donna Holck**
Commissioner
City of Largo



**Bill Horn**
Councilman
City of Jacksonville Beach



**Gary Hubbard**
Utility Services Director
City of Winter Haven



**Jimmie Johnson**
Utilities Director
Village of Palm Springs



**John Jones**
Mayor
City of Monticello



**Gregory Julian**
Councilmember
City of Punta Gorda



**James Keene**
Deputy City Manager
City of Haines City



**Dana Knight**
Councilmember
City of Orange City



**Sarah Malega**
Executive Director
Palm Beach County League of Cities



**Meredith Martin**
Councilmember
City of Williston



**Lois Paritsky**
Mayor
Town of Ponce Inlet



**Tom Powers**
Councilmember
City of Milton



**Brittany Retherford**
City Manager
City of Satellite Beach



**Donna Rhoden**
Special Assistant to the City Manager
City of Port St. Lucie



**Campbell Rich**
Commissioner
City of Stuart



**Richard Roney**
Vice Mayor
Town of Hypoluxo



**Eric Sander**
Councilman
City of South Daytona



**Rick Sartory**
Councilmember
Village of Tequesta



**Colt Schwerdt**
Public Works Director & City Engineer
City of Port St Lucie



**Sylvia Sharps**
Vice Mayor
Village of Royal Palm Beach



**Marlene Shaw**
Vice Mayor
City of Gulfport



**Bev Smith**
Mayor
Village of Palm Springs



**Holly D. Smith**
Councilwoman
City of Sanibel



**Diana Spriggs**
Assistant Public Works Director
City of Port St Lucie



**Phil Stokes**
Commissioner
City of North Port



**Natalie Teuchert**
Deputy Mayor
City of Oviedo



**Lori Tolland**
Deputy Mayor
City of Ormond Beach



**Teresa Watkins Brown**
Councilwoman
City of Fort Myers



**Kellee Watt**
Commissioner
City of Indian Rocks Beach



**Wesley Woodard**
Utilities General Manager
City of Sarasota



**Justin York**
Commissioner
City of Lake Mary




# PFAS Destruction

FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES

# 2027 LEGISLATIVE ISSUE BACKGROUND

**PFAS Destruction**

**Draft Statement:**
The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS legislation establishing a state-led partnership with cities to prepare Florida for evolving federal PFAS standards. Building on HB 1019, the partnership should launch a state-funded pilot program through the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to evaluate emerging PFAS destruction technologies. Regional demonstrations would test these technologies on contaminated materials such as biosolids and help identify safe, effective, and affordable options the state can deploy to protect Florida's water resources.

*Word Count: 75 words*

**Background**
Municipal utilities receive per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) through wastewater from homes, businesses, and industrial facilities. Many PFAS break down slowly in the environment, earning them the nickname "forever chemicals." Some PFAS remain in biosolids after wastewater treatment and can reach soil and water when those biosolids are applied to land.

Through HB 1019 (2026), the Legislature mandated quarterly PFAS sampling for certain public entities that manage domestic wastewater biosolids and treated effluent. Covered entities report their results to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP). Until the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency establishes PFAS water quality standards and FDEP adopts them, the required sampling and reporting are informational and cannot serve as the basis for FDEP enforcement or another cause of action.

One technology researchers are evaluating is pyrolysis, which uses heat in the absence of oxygen to break down biosolids into a solid residue and gas. A second stage can heat the gas further to destroy PFAS. To assess how much PFAS the process actually destroys, researchers must examine what remains in the solids, what is released through air emissions, and whether the process creates harmful byproducts. The energy needed to dry biosolids and operate the equipment also affects what a utility would pay per ton.

Florida communities are already making long-term decisions about biosolids management. Martin County approved a 10-year contract to manage approximately 8,000 wet tons of sludge annually through a regional facility in the Village of Indiantown that broke ground in April 2026. This approach offers a collaborative model for Florida to direct funding and technical assistance to communities that lack the resources to evaluate PFAS destruction technologies on their own. By comparing how much PFAS each technology destroys, what it releases, and the full cost per

ton, including transportation, the state could help determine where shared facilities belong. Expanding those findings statewide would build on Representative Conerly's work on HB 1019, help make informed investments with public resources, and position Florida as a national leader in addressing the growing need to destroy forever chemicals like PFAS.

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# Water Resource Investment and Funding

FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES

# 2027 LEGISLATIVE ISSUE BACKGROUND

## Water Resource Investment and Funding

**Draft Statement:**
The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS comprehensive legislation to address Florida's growing water resource and water quality infrastructure funding needs, including water supply, wastewater, stormwater, groundwater, surface water, and natural systems. Legislation should establish an annual statewide assessment that consolidates existing state, regional, local, utility, and federal needs; identifies funding sources and unfunded needs; establishes objective priorities; develops short-, intermediate-, and long-term investment strategies; and provides dedicated, recurring state funding sufficient to address identified needs.

*Word Count: 75 words*

**Background:**
Florida's water resources support public health, economic growth, tourism, agriculture, and quality of life. Population growth, aging infrastructure, flooding, and water quality challenges are increasing demands on municipal utilities and natural systems. Meeting these needs requires coordinated investment in water supply, wastewater, stormwater, groundwater, surface water, and watershed protection.

The Office of Economic and Demographic Research's (EDR) 2024 assessment reported approximately $187.9 billion in stormwater and wastewater needs for fiscal years 2022-23 through 2041-42, including $97.5 billion for operations and maintenance and $90.4 billion for expansion and improvements. Although EDR's projections factor in additional revenue, it still leaves combined funding gaps of approximately $22.6 billion: $11.68 billion for stormwater and $10.92 billion for wastewater. These figures do not represent the full cost of addressing all Florida water resource needs.

Existing assessments by EDR, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, water management districts, local governments, utilities, and federal agencies provide valuable information but use different scopes, methodologies, and planning horizons. An annual statewide investment assessment should consolidate this work without duplicating local reporting, distinguish funded and unfunded needs, identify needs not yet quantified, and avoid double-counting projects or funding. It should guide a 5-, 10-, and 20-year investment strategy using objective priorities, economic benefits, and the consequences of deferred investment.

Dedicated, recurring state funding would complement local investment and provide greater certainty for multiyear capital planning and regional coordination. Expanding eligible uses of the Water Protection and Sustainability Program to include comprehensive watershed



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management would support projects that combine flood protection, water quality improvements, water supply, and natural-system restoration. Together, coordinated planning and predictable funding would help communities address needs before infrastructure failures, shortages, or environmental degradation require more costly responses.

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# Key Dates

FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES

# 2026 - 2027 Key Legislative Dates

**November 2026**

| | |
|---|---|
| 30-Dec. 3 | Florida House and Senate Interim Committee Meetings |

**December 2026**

| | |
|---|---|
| 3-4 | FLC Legislative Conference, Renaissance Orlando at SeaWorld, 6677 Sea Harbor Dr, Orlando, FL 32821 (Round 3 of Legislative Policy Committees will be on Dec. 3) |

**January 2027**

| | |
|---|---|
| 4-7 | Florida House and Senate Interim Committee Meetings |
| 11-14 | Florida House and Senate Interim Committee Meetings |

**February 2027**

| | |
|---|---|
| 1-4 | Florida House and Senate Interim Committee Meetings |
| 8-11 | Florida House and Senate Interim Committee Meetings |
| 10-11 | FAST Fly-In, Washington, D.C. |
| 15-18 | Florida House and Senate Interim Committee Meetings |
| 23 | FLC Legislative Session Preview Webinar, 2:00 p.m. ET |

**March 2027**

| | |
|---|---|
| 2 | Regular Legislative Session Convenes |
| 8-10 | FLC Legislative Action Days, Tallahassee, FL |
| 15-17 | NLC Congressional City Conference, Washington, DC |

**April 2027**

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|---|---|
| 30 | Last Day of Regular Legislative Session |

**May 2027**

| | |
|---|---|
| 5 | FLC Legislative Session Review Webinar, 2:00 p.m. ET |

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




# Notes



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