

# LEGISLATIVE ACTION AGENDA

## PRIORITIES

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- ▶ Sales Tax Fairness
- ▶ Short-Term Rentals
- ▶ Discharges to Surface Waters
- ▶ Affordable Housing
- ▶ Annexation

## IMPORTANCE OF HOME RULE

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The Florida League of Cities believes in the importance of local self-government and that those officials closest to the people know their community best. Each of these issues supports Home Rule and a municipality's ability to govern itself based on the wants and needs of its residents. Home Rule is supported by an overwhelming majority of Florida residents. It is the foundation for local governments as they create fair, effective and responsive policies for their communities.

## PRIORITY STATEMENTS

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**Sales Tax Fairness:** The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS legislation to update Florida's sales and use tax laws that apply to online/e-commerce sales from out-of-state retailers. Changes are needed to ensure that in-state retailers are treated equitably and that the Florida sales and use tax law is equally enforced.

**Contact:** Amber Hughes · [ahughes@flcities.com](mailto:ahughes@flcities.com)

**Short-Term Rentals:** The Florida League of Cities 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 Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS legislation clarifying that existing, grandfathered municipal short-term rental ordinances can be amended without penalty.

**Contact:** Tara Taggart · [ttaggart@flcities.com](mailto:ttaggart@flcities.com)

**Discharges to Surface Waters:** The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS legislation that establishes reasonable time frames 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.

**Contact:** Rebecca O'Hara · [rohara@flcities.com](mailto:rohara@flcities.com)



**LOCAL  
VOICES  
MAKING  
LOCAL  
CHOICES**

**Affordable Housing:** The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS legislation that requires all monies from the Sadowski State and Local Government Housing Trust Funds be used only for Florida's affordable housing programs.  
**Contact:** Jeff Branch · [jbranch@flcities.com](mailto:jbranch@flcities.com)

**Annexation:** The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS legislation that facilitates the municipal annexation of unincorporated areas while protecting private property rights and respecting municipal boundaries.  
**Contact:** David Cruz · [dcruz@flcities.com](mailto:dcruz@flcities.com)

## OTHER ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE

**Cybersecurity:** The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS legislation dedicating state resources for the development and enhancement of municipal cybersecurity by providing funding for technical assistance, threat assessments, employee training, infrastructure improvements and data protection, including the protection of exempt and confidential information such as law enforcement personnel information and plans for government buildings and other critical infrastructure.

**Transportation Funding:** The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS legislation that will allow cities to have greater local decision-making and flexibility on transportation funding to ensure we meet our ever-changing transportation demands.

**Mobility Plans:** The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS legislation that defines mobility plans and fees in order to provide the clarity and consistency needed to assist Florida's cities in implementing alternative modes of transportation.

**Digital Divide:** The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS legislation that reduces the digital divide and expands broadband internet access to all areas of the state. This includes:

- ▶ Identifying areas of Florida that are underserved by traditional broadband providers.
- ▶ Removing statutory barriers for cities to provide telecommunication services and open competition for affordable internet service.
- ▶ Increasing public funding for construction of broadband infrastructure.

**Resilient and Sustainable Florida:** The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS legislation that promotes a resilient and sustainable Florida, including:

- ▶ Funding water quality improvements.
- ▶ Establishing policies and funding for alternative water supply development.
- ▶ Providing for intergovernmental coordination and planning on strategies to address climate challenges such as drought, coastal flooding and inland flooding.
- ▶ Enabling local authority to implement natural resource protection strategies.

## 2020-21 OFFICERS



President  
**TONY ORTIZ**  
Commissioner, Orlando



First Vice President  
**PHILLIP WALKER**  
Commissioner, Lakeland



Second Vice President  
**JOLIEN CARABALLO**  
Councilwoman, Port St. Lucie

For more information on the League's legislative initiatives, please contact:



Florida League of Cities  
P.O. Box 1757  
Tallahassee, FL 32302-1757  
850.222.9684  
[flcities.com](http://flcities.com)