

## Transportation

The League of Cities supports legislation that preserves local control of transportation planning and provides opportunities for additional revenue options to fund municipal transportation infrastructure projects including roads, rails and bridges.

## Communications Service & Local Business Tax

The League of Cities supports legislation that protects the general revenues collected from the Communications Services Tax and the local business tax which are used to provide services that our citizens want and need, including public infrastructure, public safety services and public transportation infrastructure.

## Gaming / Gambling

The League of Cities supports legislation that creates a level playing field in relationship to pari-mutuel facilities in South Florida.



## Welcome

The purpose of the Palm Beach County League of Cities' Legislative Agenda is to articulate, advocate, promote and advance issues that may significantly impact municipalities within Palm Beach County. The League of Cities exists to promote and advance best practices and collective interests of the municipalities in Palm Beach County; to study municipal problems and seek solutions to them through cooperative efforts; and to encourage and work for the welfare of our citizens in Palm Beach County, providing the best quality of life possible countywide. The League was chartered in 1969 as a nonpartisan, nonprofit corporation by and for municipalities. We are a recognized IRS-501(c)(4).

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## 2017 Key Dates:

### March

- 7 **Opening Day of the 2017 Regular Legislative Session**
- 7-8 **Palm Beach County Day - Tallahassee**
- 11-15 **National League of Cities Congressional City Conference, Washington, D.C.**
- 21-22 **Florida League of Cities Legislative Action Days, Tallahassee**

### May

- 5 **Last Day- 2017 Legislative Session**

### August

- 17-20 **Florida League of Cities Annual Conference – World Center Marriott, Orlando**

### November

- 15-18 **National League of Cities Annual Congress of Cities and Exposition - Charlotte, NC**

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The League Board of Directors and General Membership meetings are usually held on 4th Wednesdays of each month at various host city and Associate locations around Palm Beach County.

**For more information visit:**  
[www.palmbeachcountyleagueofcities.com](http://www.palmbeachcountyleagueofcities.com)



# Palm Beach County League of Cities Legislative Priorities & Issues 2017

*The League represents the thirty-nine municipalities of Palm Beach County, plus over a hundred associate, government, non-profits & business organizations.*

*“Shared visions & best practices make for better communities.”*

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[www.palmbeachcountyleagueofcities.com](http://www.palmbeachcountyleagueofcities.com)



## **The League of Cities 2017 Legislative Priorities**

The League of Cities supports legislation that strengthens municipal self-governing powers. “Home Rule,” or government closest to the citizens, is key to a successful democracy.

### **Mandates**

The League of Cities recommends a moratorium on mandates of any kind during the 2017 legislative session. Local governments are working to maintain current service levels within the confines of an economic downturn. We request that the state legislature allow time for municipalities to focus on current requirements without added regulations.

### **Residential Sober Houses**

The League of Cities supports legislation that defines and establishes minimum regulatory standards for sober home facilities and allows for more stringent local regulations of these facilities.

### **Opioid Abuse**

The League of Cities supports policies that provide life-saving interventions and medically-assisted detoxification programs for those suffering from opioid addiction.

### **Amendment 1 Distribution**

The League of Cities supports using resources from Amendment 1 for enhancement of water quality and beach management by increasing beach management allocations to 50% above the current allocations.

### **Beach Management**

The League of Cities supports legislation appropriating the \$30 million annual doc stamp tax revenue to the Ecosystem Management and Restoration Trust Fund for beach preservation and repair. The League supports the elimination of redundancy in state and federal permitting, while encouraging the streamline of permit application review, which would reduce project cost, accelerate the permitting process and eliminate agency conflicts.

### **Water Quality & Supply**

The League of Cities supports legislation addressing water quality and quantity issues that affect local communities’ aquifers, surface waters and estuaries. Specifically, the League supports efforts to maintain, revitalize and protect Palm Beach County’s water quality in the Glades, flooding and water retention, and the restoration of the Loxahatchee River and Lake Worth Lagoon.

### **Septic Tanks**

The League of Cities supports financial and regulatory initiatives that prioritize and encourage properties with septic tanks to connect to centralized sewer systems, especially in areas that impact rivers, estuaries, first magnitude springs, impaired water bodies and water supply sources.

### **Public Records**

The League of Cities supports public records reform to discourage or eliminate schemes designed to generate violations of public records laws and disrupt agency operations.

### **Economic Development**

The League of Cities supports legislation advancing new economic incentives for distressed areas and providing increased flexibility for municipalities to enter into public-private partnership agreements. The League of Cities also supports legislation to improve municipalities’ use of community redevelopment agencies to effectively carry out redevelopment and community revitalization in accordance with home rule.

### **Housing & Small City CDBG Policy**

The League of Cities supports legislation maintaining dedicated housing trust funds for housing rehabilitation, economic development, and neighborhood and commercial revitalization, with adequate verification safeguards that ensure grants will benefit the homeless and low to moderate-income families.

### **State Funding for Educational Facilities**

The League of Cities supports increased state funding for building and maintenance of educational facilities for local universities and Palm Beach County schools. Priority is focused on FAU’s Abacoa Campus, a Dental Health Sciences facility at Palm Beach State College, and school maintenance/repair for Palm Beach County Public Schools.

### **Workforce Training**

The League of Cities supports the focus on state resources and obtaining flexibility for local workforce and career training at all education levels and subsequent job placement, with particular interest to meeting employment needs during the next five years throughout Palm Beach County.

### **Short-Term/Vacation Rentals**

The League of Cities supports legislation that repeals the state preemption of the regulation of short-term/vacation rental properties in order to allow local governments to regulate such properties to protect the health and welfare of residents, visitors and businesses.

### **Pension Plans & Benefits**

The League of Cities supports legislation that affirms the home rule powers of municipalities to establish and fund municipal employee benefit levels, and specifically provides comprehensive pension reform, disability presumption reform, and a mechanism for municipalities to revoke their election to participate in the Florida Retirement System.

### **Effective Growth Management**

The League of Cities will continue to monitor the effects of growth management legislation and changes to the state (voluntary) annexation statute and oppose efforts that would undermine a local government’s planning and zoning authority, including impact fees and transportation concurrency.

### **Internet Sales and Use Tax**

The League of Cities supports legislation that simplifies Florida’s Sales and Use Tax System and qualifies the state for participation in the Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Agreement, thereby making it easier for out-of-state businesses to collect and remit taxes to Florida.