



2020 Legislative Priorities

Water Resources The Palm Beach County League of Cities supports legislation to address Florida’s water quality crisis and water supply deficiencies that provides for an annual assessment of the state’s water infrastructure and water quality improvement needs at the state, regional and local levels; establishes a framework for a state water infrastructure and water quality funding program that includes objective criteria tied to beneficial return on investment, sustainable utility practices, and intergovernmental coordination; identifying potential sources of funding or financing.

Water Quality & Supply The Palm Beach County League of Cities supports legislation addressing water quality and quantity issues that affect local communities’ aquifers, surface waters and estuaries. Specially, the League supports the 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.

Beach Management The Palm Beach County League of Cities supports legislation increasing beach management allocations to the Ecosystem Management and Restoration Trust Fund for beach preservation and repair.

Septic Tanks The Palm Beach County 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 adversely impact rivers, estuaries, first magnitude springs, water bodies and water supply sources.

Housing, Homelessness & Small City CDBG Policy The Palm Beach County League of Cities supports legislation that requires all monies from the Sadowski State and Local Housing Trust Fund to be used only for Florida’s affordable housing programs. The League also supports legislation maintaining dedicated housing trust funds for workforce housing, 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.

THE PALM BEACH COUNTY LEAGUE OF CITIES SUPPORTS LEGISLATION THAT PRESERVES MUNICIPAL SELF-GOVERNING POWERS AND RECOMMENDS A MORATORIUM ON UNFUNDED MANDATES OF ANY KIND DURING THE 2020 LEGISLATIVE SESSION. WE REQUEST THAT THE STATE LEGISLATURE ALLOW MUNICIPALITIES TO FOCUS ON CURRENT REQUIREMENTS WITHOUT ADDED REGULATIONS OR PRE-EMPTING HOME RULE.

Short-Term Rentals (Vacation Rentals) The Palm Beach County League of Cities supports legislation that repeals the state pre-emption 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.

Sober Homes The Palm Beach County League of Cities supports the Sober Homes Task Force, created in 2016, and their recommended statutory changes for the 2020 session.

Opioid/Substance Abuse The Palm Beach County League of Cities supports policies that provide state appropriations for life saving interventions and medically-assisted detoxification programs for those suffering from opioid addiction.

Effective Growth Management The Palm Beach County League of Cities will continue to monitor the effects of growth management legislation and the changes to the state (involuntary) annexation statute and all opposing efforts that would undermine a local government's planning and zoning authority, including impact fees and transportation concurrency while protecting private property rights, and respecting municipal boundaries.

Economic Development The Palm Beach County 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.

Community Redevelopment Agencies The Palm Beach County League of Cities supports legislation to protect and improve municipalities' use of community redevelopment agencies to effectively carry out redevelopment and community revitalization in accordance with some Rule.

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

Local Business Tax The Palm Beach County League of Cities supports legislation that protects local government rights to use local business tax revenue to provide services that our citizens want and need, including public infrastructure, public safety services and public transportation infrastructure.

Communications Service Tax The Palm Beach County League of Cities supports legislation that protects the general revenues collected from the Communications Service Tax in a manner that is revenue neutral.

Sales Tax Fairness The Palm Beach County League of Cities supports legislation to reform Florida's sales and use tax laws that apply to online/e-commerce sales from out-of-state retailers. Changes are needed to ensure in-state retailers are treated equitably.

Transportation The Palm Beach County League of Cities supports legislation that will provide local governments with new and innovative revenue options and resources to finance critical infrastructure, maintenance and construction needs to meet the ever-changing transportation demands driven by dramatic population growth and new technology (autonomous vehicles) throughout Florida.

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 specially provides comprehensive pension reform, disability presumption reform, and a mechanism for municipalities to revoke their election to participate in the Florida Retirement System.

State Funding for Educational Initiatives The League of Cities supports revisions to zoning requirements so that local jurisdictions have greater authority over the location and construction of educational facilities for local universities, state colleges, and Palm Beach County schools (including charter schools). The League also supports adequate funding for all state education mandates, including those related to student safety, mental health, and school security.

PROTECT LOCAL VOICES AND LOCAL CHOICES: SUPPORT LOCAL GOVERNMENT