

LET CITIES WORK



"If legislators don't hear from us, it gives them a pass to think what they are doing is okay."

~ **President Gil Ziffer**, Florida League of Cities

Let Cities Work! Now is the time for legislators to hear our message.

LET CITIES WORK TALKING POINTS

LOCAL DECISION MAKING WORKS:

Local decision making is a cherished concept, supported by an overwhelming majority of Florida citizens. It is the foundation for local governments as they create fair, effective and responsive policies for their communities.

Cities are citizen-driven representative democracies with citizen engagement, citizen input and citizen leadership.

"One size fits all" does not work with Florida's 400-plus municipalities. Law enforcement in Miami, for example, is quite different than it is in Monticello. The transportation needs of Orlando are vastly different than the road needs in Panama City. Local governments understand the specific needs of their communities - this is why they matter so much.

Cities and their residents take pride in the qualities that make them unique.

LET CITIES WORK:

What we're asking is to Let Cities Work. Let us develop innovative responses to problems affecting our communities. Problems like sober homes, aging infrastructure and natural disasters.

- >> Let cities work to deliver the services our citizens depend on.
- >> Let cities work to create an environment for economic development and prosperity.
- >> Let cities work to preserve the unique qualities that make our communities special.
- >> Let cities work to serve and protect every resident and valued visitor.

STATE LEADERS SHOULD SEE CITIES AS PARTNERS:

Cities are committed to creating a stronger partnership with state government and working collaboratively to benefit all Floridians.

We recognize that legislators have limited time to address complicated, statewide issues. That's why we're asking them to trust city leaders to do the jobs we were elected to do. This partnership and prudent partition of responsibility will help to make Florida the best it can be.

CITY GOVERNANCE IS NON-PARTISAN:

Making local governance a partisan issue is short-sighted and dangerous. Florida's local governments develop policies to meet the unique needs of their communities; not to circumvent state authority.

City leaders do not run for office as a "D" or an "R," because partisan politics has no place in municipal government. There's no Democratic or Republican way to fix a pothole.

ALTERNATIVE WAYS TO DESCRIBE HOME RULE:

- "It's grassroots government."
- "It's decentralized government."
- "It's local leadership for local communities."
- "It's an acknowledgement of a simple reality: Our communities are different, and that's a good thing."
- "Because government closest to the people tends to govern best."
- "It's the simple notion that local problems deserve local solutions."
- "It's surgical government, not sledgehammer government."
- "When things can be done locally, they should be."
- "Because what works for Fort Lauderdale doesn't always work for Fort Walton Beach."
- "It's good government, customized to our communities."

To learn more, visit floridaleagueofcities.com/advocacy, or contact a member of the League's lobbying team at (850) 222-9684.