



**LOCAL  
VOICES  
MAKING  
LOCAL  
CHOICES**



# CITIES 101

**FLC ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

Orlando World Center Marriott

August 12, 2021



## Agenda for Today

Speakers

Orientations

Your Materials

Florida-Specific  
Information

Florida's Cities

Home Rule in Florida

Municipal Challenges

Your Resources

Questions and  
Discussion



Welcome!



Course designed for newly elected and newly appointed officials



Discussion: philosophies of public policy, Home Rule, citizen engagement and public service



Fundamentals of municipal government structure and function



Resources and Florida-specific information

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## Bob Lee, Ph.D.

Former City Manager, ICMA-Credentialed Manager

Faculty at Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU)

Director of Master of Public Administration program at FGCU

Director of Center for Florida Local Government Excellence (CFLGE)



## Lynn Tipton

FLC staff (30 years) and Trainer/Presenter with FLC University



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# Orientations: **What to Cover**

## Newly Elected

- ✓ Public meeting process
- ✓ Agenda item requests
- ✓ Budget, audit and Comprehensive Annual Financial Report overview
- ✓ Visit all facilities
- ✓ Review Ethics/Sunshine with attorney

## Newly Appointed

- ✓ Same as above

### Plus +

- ✓ Employee handbook, policies and procedures
- ✓ Take a tour
- ✓ Learn area

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## Packet Includes:



Presentation from both presenters



Resource pages



Glossary of terms and abbreviations



Intergovernmental piece – “Know the Players”



Brochures for additional training on back table

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## Florida-Specific Information

Who and what are Florida's municipalities?  
Independent, public corporations – great definition



411  
cities



Populations range  
from 8 to 960,250

60%  
have populations  
under 10,000

6,351  
Median  
population

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# Florida's Cities

## City, Town or Village:

- ✓ No legal difference in aesthetic name

## Incorporated or unincorporated

- ✓ Only two choices
- ✓ Always within a county

## Elected body

- ✓ Council or commission
- ✓ Sizes from 3 to 19 members – 5 is most common
- ✓ Part-time and non-partisan
- ✓ Every city has a charter

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## More on Cities

25 incorporations since 1990

5 dissolutions since 1980

Services vary greatly

✓ All have comprehensive plans

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# City Challenges in Common



Balancing demands with resources



“Doing more with less” – since the Great Recession



State preemptions and mandates



Intergovernmental issues



Financing outdated infrastructure

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## City Fiscal Structures

Property tax is granted through Constitution

Utility tax, business license tax and sharing in state taxes through Legislature

About half of each city budget (50%) is fees, charges for service

No fiscal Home Rule



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# Home Rule in Florida



Citizens put it in Florida Constitution in 1968 for cities and counties



Legislature recognized it and passed the Home Rule Powers Act in 1973



**Under attack:** legislators who believe state should decide with one-size-fits-all laws or want to preempt local authority

## Slide 12

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**JD1** Slide 12; Delete comma after "laws"  
Joy Dickinson, 8/6/2021

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# Municipal Challenges in Florida

## Intergovernmental:

City to County

City to School Board

City to State

## Getting heard in Legislature/Congress

Battling special interest groups

## Financing Infrastructure

## Doing more with less

Statewide population boom is back!



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# Your Resources



**FLC website**  
*flcities.com*



**Training**  
FLC University  
Institute of Government  
CFLGE and others



**Florida Municipal Officials Manual**



**Local/Regional Leagues**



**CMR**  
Research and Peer Cities



**Staff: Associations for professions**

## Slide 14

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**JD2**

Slide 14: Looks like too much space between middle categories and boattom categories

Joy Dickinson, 8/6/2021

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# Questions and Discussion

*Thank you for attending!*

## Certificates

For those requesting them – clipboard in the back of room

## Conference presentations

Will be posted on the FLC website

