



**LOCAL  
VOICES  
MAKING  
LOCAL  
CHOICES**

# CITIES 101

**FLC ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

Hilton Bonnet Creek Resort

August 10, 2023





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



# | Speakers:



**Norton Bonaparte, ICMA-CM**

City Manager, City of Sanford



**Lynn Tipton**

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



# 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 and arrange for 4-hour class

## **Newly Appointed**

- ✓ Same as above

### **Plus +**

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

## Packet Includes:



Presentation from both presenters



Resource pages



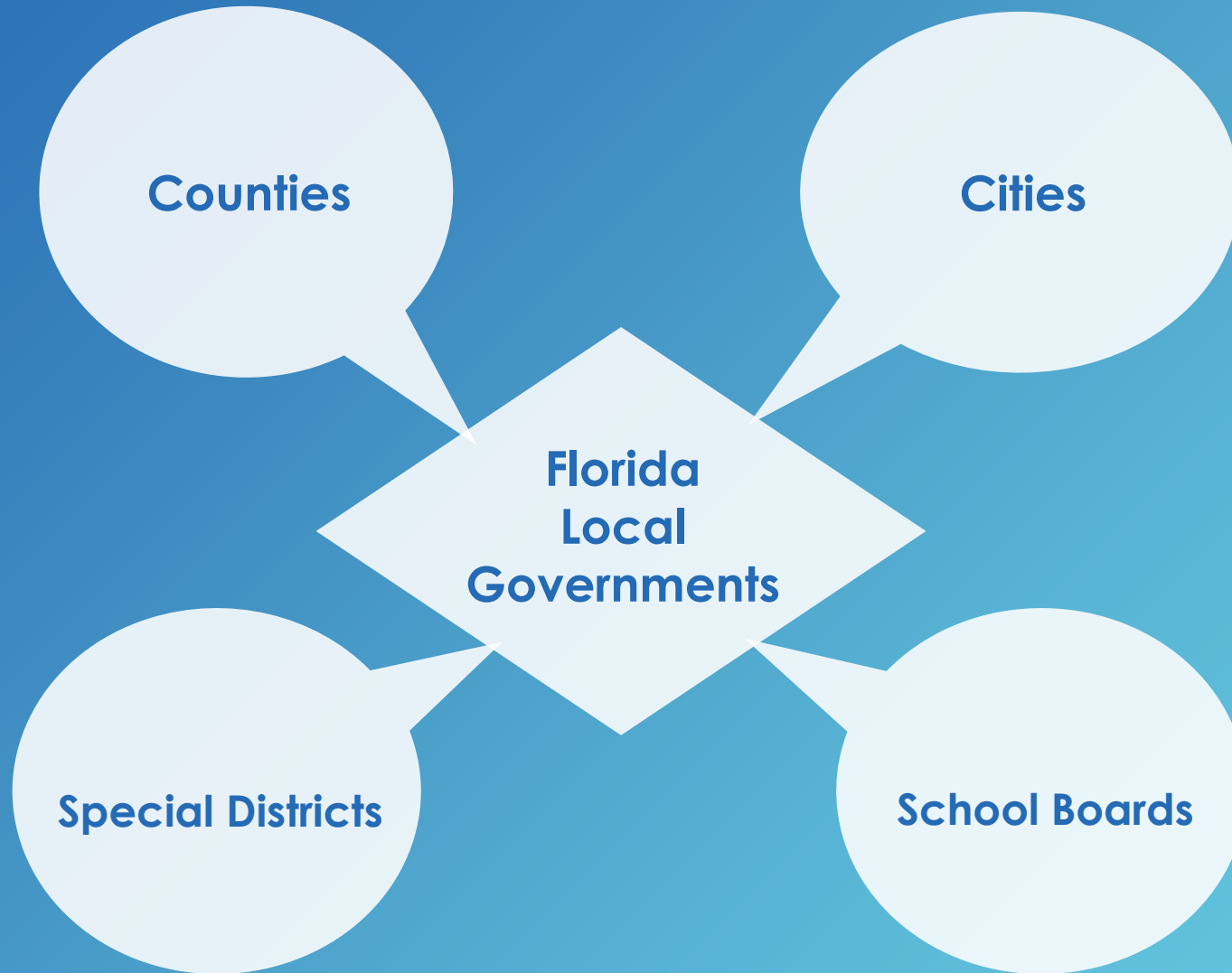
FLC Membership Flyer



Intergovernmental piece – “Know the Players”



Link to *Florida Municipal Officials Handbook*

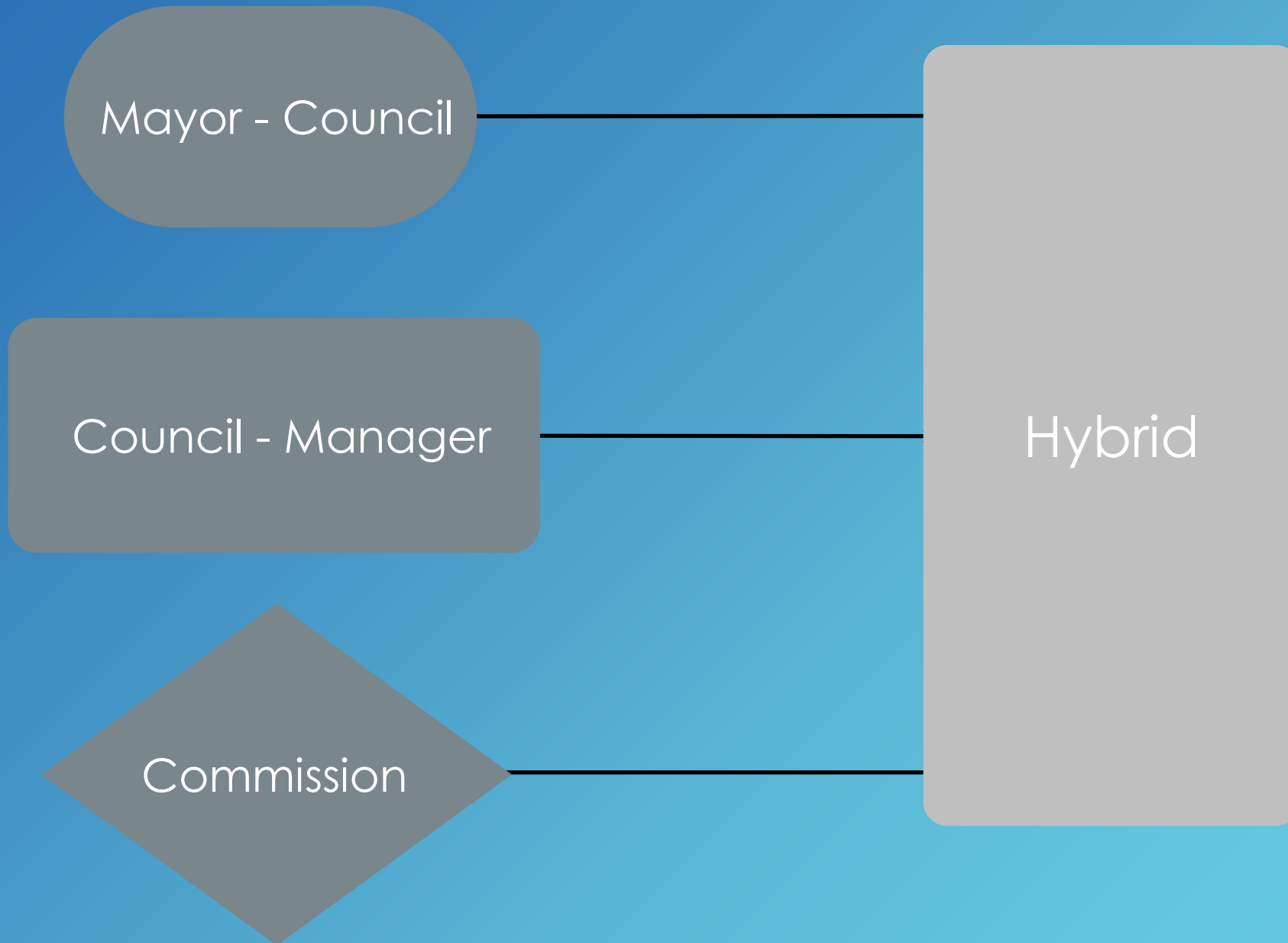






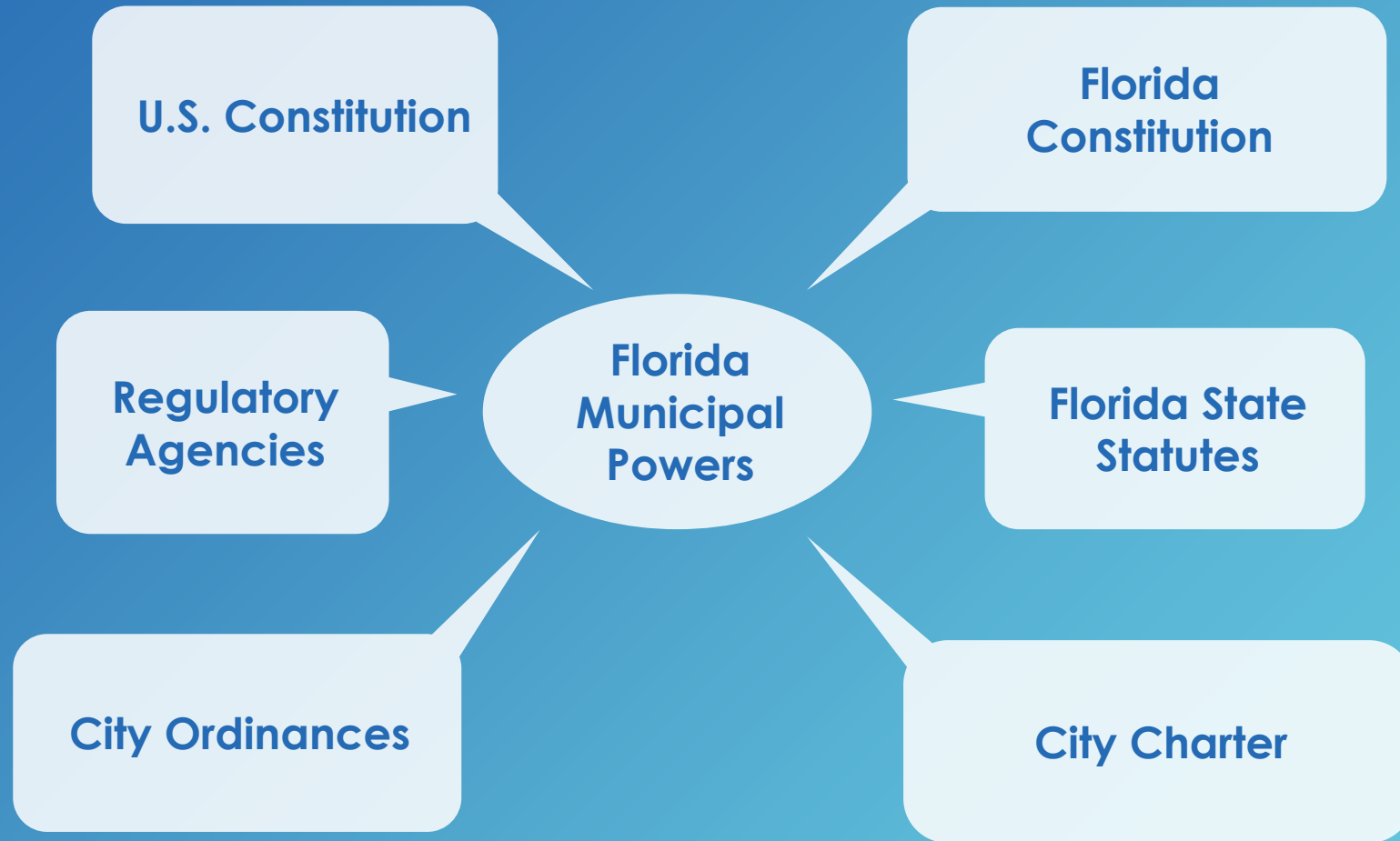
# FORMS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT





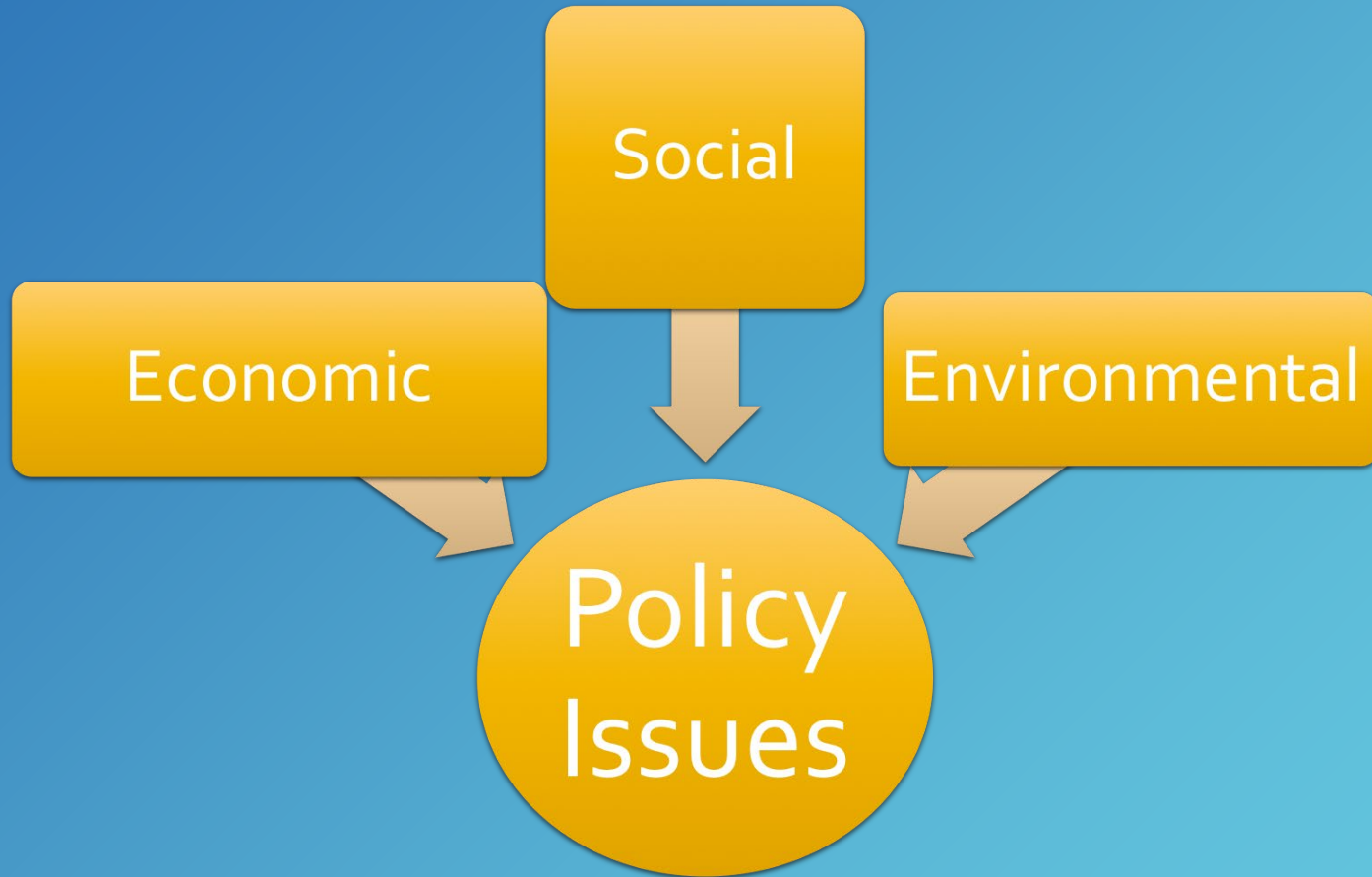


# Authority for Municipal Governments in Florida









# Importance of Strategic Planning

- Vision and Action
- Update Goals





*“Remember, when you  
are dealing with people  
you are not dealing with  
creatures of logic, but  
creatures of emotion.”  
Dale Carnegie*



# Fiscal Policies

- Annual and Capital Budgets
- Fiscal Policies on Investments, Expenditure Procedures, Debt
- Balancing Act of Demands and Resources



# Florida-Specific Information

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



411  
cities



Populations range  
from 8 to 987,247

60%

have populations  
under 10,000

6,485

Median  
population



# 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



# | More on Cities

26 incorporations since 1990

6 dissolutions since 1990

Services vary greatly

✓ All have comprehensive plans

# | 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; expanding for greater capacity



# | 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



# Home Rule in Florida



Citizens put it in Florida Constitution in 1968 for cities and counties; reversed Dillon's Rule



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

# **Municipal Challenges in Florida**

## **Intergovernmental:**

City to County

City to School Board

City to State

## **Getting heard in Legislature/Congress**

Battling special interest groups; fighting preemptions and mandates

## **Financing Infrastructure**

## **Engaging the Public Amidst Many Access Points**

## **Statewide population boom since 2020**



# | Your Resources



**FLC website**  
*flcities.com*



**Training**

FLC University and other assoc.



**Florida Municipal  
Officials Manual**



**Local/Regional  
Leagues**



**CMR**  
Research and  
Peer Cities



**Staff: Associations  
for professions**





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# Local Voices United - Grassroots Advocacy



**Scott Dudley**

**Director, Field Advocacy and Federal Affairs**  
Florida League of Cities

**Local Voices United**- a grassroots network dedicated to supporting **local self-government**. The idea is simple: **The government that is closest to the people - is most accountable to the people.**

**Sign up** - Text "**Local Voices**" to **50457** to receive Grassroots Alerts or visit [localvoicesunited.com](http://localvoicesunited.com)

**Contact** - 850/701-3656 or email: [sdudley@flcities.com](mailto:sdudley@flcities.com)

# 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

