

2020-2021 FLC Legislative Policy Process

The League's Charter and Bylaws specify that the League shall engage only on legislation that pertains directly to "municipal affairs." "Municipal affairs" means issues that directly pertain to the governmental, corporate and proprietary powers to conduct municipal government, perform municipal functions, render municipal services, and raise and expend revenues. Protecting Florida's cities from egregious far-reaching attacks on Home Rule powers will always be the top priority.

Each year, municipal officials from across the state volunteer to serve on the League's legislative policy committees. Appointments are a one-year commitment and involve developing the League's *Legislative Action Agenda*. The action agenda addresses priority issues of statewide interest that are most likely to affect daily municipal governance and local decision-making during the upcoming legislative session.

Policy committee members also help League staff understand the real-world implications of proposed legislation, and they are asked to serve as advocates throughout the year. To get a broad spectrum of ideas and to better understand the impact of League policy proposals on rural, suburban and urban cities of all sizes, it is ideal that each of Florida's cities be represented on one or more of the legislative policy committees.

The Florida Legislature convenes the 2021 Legislative Session on March 2. The League's legislative policy committee meetings commence in September 2020 and meet three times.

There are currently five standing legislative policy committees:

Finance, Taxation and Personnel Committee: This committee addresses *municipal roles* in general finance and tax issues, Home Rule revenues, infrastructure funding, insurance, local option revenues, pension issues, personnel and collective bargaining issues, revenue sharing, tax and budget reform, telecommunications and workers' compensation.

Land Use and Economic Development Committee: This committee addresses policies specific to *municipal concerns* with community redevelopment, economic development, growth management and land use planning issues, annexation, eminent domain, tort liability, property rights and ethics.



Municipal Administration Committee: This committee addresses *municipal concerns* with code enforcement, elections, emergency management, gaming, homeland security, public meetings, public property management, public records, public safety, and procurement, as well as charter counties and special districts.

Transportation and Intergovernmental Relations Committee: This committee addresses *municipal concerns* relating to transportation, highway safety, as well as aviation, affordable housing (and homelessness), billboards, building codes, charter schools, rights-of-way and veterans affairs.

Utilities, Natural Resources and Public Works Committee: This committee addresses policies specific to *municipal concerns* with coastal management, energy, environmental and wetlands permitting, hazardous and toxic wastes, recycling, solid waste collection and disposal, stormwater, wastewater treatment and re-use, water management, water quality and quantity.

At the last meeting, each of the five policy committees adopts ONE legislative priority that will be submitted to the Legislative Committee. The Legislative Committee is composed of:

- ▶ Each legislative policy committee chair and the chairs of the other standing committees.
- ▶ The president of each local and regional league.
- ▶ The presidents of several other municipal associations.
- ▶ Chairs of the municipal trust boards.
- ▶ Several at-large members appointed by the League president.

The policy priorities, as adopted by the Legislative Committee, are then recommended to the general membership for approval as the League's *Legislative Action Agenda*.



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In addition, a legislative policy committee may, but is not required to, recommend ONE policy position related to other relevant legislative issues. (The policy position must satisfy the same criteria above for legislative priorities.) The recommended policy position will be considered by the Legislative Committee. If favorably considered by that committee, it will be considered by the general membership. If adopted by the general membership, the policy position may be published and communicated to legislators and others, as appropriate.

Due to Sunshine Law issues, only one elected official per city can be represented on a committee, but a city could have an elected and a non-elected city official on each of the five policy committees. Appointments are made by the League president based upon a city official's support and advocacy of the *Legislative Action Agenda*, and participation at meetings, Legislative Action Days and other legislative-related activities.

Typically, policy committee members are expected to attend the committee meetings scheduled in person. Because of safety concerns during the COVID pandemic, some meetings in 2020 may be conducted virtually. When meetings are held in-person, they will be exclusively in-person as the League is unable to accommodate requests to participate via conference call or webinar. In addition, the League is unable to reimburse travel costs.

2020 Legislative Policy Committee Meeting Dates

- ▶ September 18, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (Virtual)
- ▶ October 23, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Embassy Suites Lake Buena Vista South, 4955 Kyngs Heath Road, Kissimmee, FL 34746 (location subject to change)
- ▶ November 12, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 during FLC Legislative Conference held on November 12-13 at the Embassy Suites Lake Buena Vista South, 4955 Kyngs Heath Road, Kissimmee, FL 34746 (location subject to change)

If you are interested in serving or learning more, please contact Mary Edenfield at 850.701.3624 or medenfield@flcities.com.

