

2024-2025 FLC LEGISLATIVE POLICY PROCESS

The Florida League of Cities' (FLC's) Charter and Bylaws specify that the League shall engage only on legislation that pertains directly to "municipal affairs." "Municipal affairs" refers to 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 Platform. The Legislative Platform 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.

There are currently five standing legislative policy committees:

DEVELOPMENT, CODE COMPLIANCE, AND REDEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE:

This committee addresses development, redevelopment, housing, community planning, zoning, eminent domain, property rights, short-term rentals, code enforcement, building and fire code, building permitting, and concurrency management.

FINANCE AND TAXATION COMMITTEE: This committee addresses general finance and tax issues, fees, assessments, infrastructure funding, local option revenues, pension issues, revenue sharing, franchise fees, Communications Services Tax (CST), and ad valorem.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS, MOBILITY, AND EMERGENCY

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE: This committee addresses transportation, municipal roads, traffic safety, municipal airports, drones, vertiports, ports, telecommunications, broadband, use of public rights-of-way, parking, signage, emergency management, homelessness, charter counties, annexation, ethics for public officers and employees, elections, special districts, and general preemptions.



2024-2025 FLC LEGISLATIVE POLICY PROCESS

MUNICIPAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE: This committee addresses government operations, municipal service delivery, cybersecurity, technology, public safety, public meetings, public records, public property use and management, procurement, personnel, insurance, collective bargaining, workers' compensation, liability, and sovereign immunity.

UTILITIES, NATURAL RESOURCES, AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE: This committee addresses coastal management, environmental permitting, hazardous and toxic wastes, recycling, solid waste collection and disposal, stormwater, wastewater treatment and reuse, water management, water quality and quantity, resiliency, brownfields, and municipal utilities.

Due to Sunshine Law issues, only one elected official per city can be represented on a legislative policy 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 Platform and participation at meetings, Legislative Action Days and other legislative-related activities.

The Florida Legislature convenes the 2025 Legislative Session on March 4. The League's legislative policy committee meetings commence in October 2024 and meet three times. No new issues will be considered by a legislative policy committee after the second committee meeting. At the last meeting, each of the five policy committees adopts ONE legislative priority. In addition, a legislative policy committee may, but is not required to, recommend ONE policy position related to other relevant issues. The policy position must satisfy the same criteria for legislative priorities. Priority and policy position statements are capped at 75 words. Recommended legislative priorities and policy positions will be considered by the Legislative Committee. If favorably considered by the Legislative Committee, they will be considered by the general membership. If adopted by the general membership, the policy priorities and policy positions may be published as the League's Legislative Platform and communicated to legislators and others, as appropriate.

2024-2025 FLC LEGISLATIVE POLICY PROCESS

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.

2024 Legislative Policy Committee Meeting Dates

- ▶ October 4, 2024, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Hilton Orlando, 6001 Destination Parkway, Orlando, FL 32819.
- ▶ November 8, 2024, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Hilton Orlando, 6001 Destination Parkway, Orlando, FL 32819.
- ▶ December 5, 2024, during the FLC Legislative Conference at the Hilton Orlando, 6001 Destination Parkway, Orlando, FL 32819.

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



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: 2024-2025 FLC LEGISLATIVE POLICY PROCESS

What is an FLC legislative policy committee?

- ▶ Policy committees help set the Legislative Platform for the Florida League of Cities (FLC) and Florida's municipalities in advance of the next legislative session.
- ▶ The five policy committees include the Development, Code Compliance, and Redevelopment Committee; Finance and Taxation Committee; Intergovernmental Relations, Mobility, and Emergency Management Committee; Municipal Operations Committee; and Utilities, Natural Resources, and Public Works Committee.
- ▶ Committees are made up of municipal officials from across the state.

Have there been any changes to the legislative policy committees this year?

- ▶ Yes! The League shifted some issues among committees to better match each committee's scope. Also, the names of four committees were changed to better represent their focus.
- ▶ Before signing up for a committee, carefully review each of the committee descriptions found in the *2024-2025 FLC Legislative Policy Committee Process* document.

When and how do I sign up for a policy committee?

- ▶ Sign-up opens in June each year.
- ▶ To sign up, contact Mary Edenfield at medenfield@flcities.com for the sign-up link or go to flcities.com.
- ▶ The FLC President makes the committee appointments, and appointments are announced in August after the FLC Annual Conference.

Can I serve on more than one policy committee?

- ▶ No. All committees meet simultaneously.

When are the meetings, and is there a virtual option?

- ▶ Committee meetings take place in person in Orlando in October, November, and December during the FLC Legislative Conference.
- ▶ There is no virtual meeting option; meetings are in person.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: 2024-2025 FLC LEGISLATIVE POLICY PROCESS

How do I submit a policy issue for a committee to consider?

- ▶ If you want a committee to consider an issue as a League priority, contact the committee staff person before the October or November policy committee meeting.
 - **David Cruz**, FLC Legislative Counsel, staffs the Development, Code Compliance, and Redevelopment Committee.
 - **Charles Chapman**, Legislative Consultant, staffs the Finance and Taxation Committee.
 - **Jeff Branch**, FLC Senior Legislative Advocate, staffs the Intergovernmental Relations, Mobility, and Emergency Management Committee.
 - **Sam Wagoner**, FLC Legislative Advocate, staffs the Municipal Operations Committee.
 - **Rebecca O'Hara**, FLC Deputy General Counsel, staffs the Utilities, Natural Resources, and Public Works Committee.
- ▶ No new issues can be presented after the November meeting.

What can I expect at each meeting?

- ▶ First meeting in October: Discussions begin regarding potential priorities and policy positions.
- ▶ Second meeting in November: Discussions continue, and the committee may narrow down the list of considerations.
- ▶ Final meeting in December: The committee votes on one priority and one optional policy position, finalizing the text for the priority/policy position statements.

When will I get the meeting agenda?

- ▶ Meeting packets containing the agenda and related materials will be emailed to committee members one week before the meeting.
- ▶ You should bring a printed copy or your device to the meeting.
- ▶ Meeting packets are also available on flcities.com under the Advocacy tab.

Does FLC cover any meeting expenses?

- ▶ The League provides breakfast and lunch on the meeting date.

