



UTILITIES, NATURAL RESOURCES & PUBLIC WORKS

**Thursday, December 1, 2022
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. EDT**

**Cypress 2-3
Embassy Suites Lake Buena Vista South
4955 Kyngs Heath Road
Kissimmee, FL 34746**

FLC Staff Contact: Rebecca O'Hara



FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES



Agenda



Utilities, Natural Resources & Public Works Legislative Policy Committee
Thursday, December 1, 2022 ~ 10:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.
Embassy Suites Lake Buena Vista South
4955 Kyngs Heath Rd, Kissimmee, FL 34746

AGENDA

- I.** Introduction & Opening Remarks..... **Chair Jen Ahearn-Koch**
Commissioner, City of Sarasota
- II.** FLC Policy Committee Process for 2022-2023..... **Rebecca O’Hara, FLC Staff**
- III.** Finalize Language of Recommended Priority..... **Chair Jen Ahearn-Koch**
Commissioner, City of Sarasota
- IV.** Consideration of Policy Position Statement.....**Chair Jen Ahearn-Koch**
Commissioner, City of Sarasota
- V.** Vote on Recommended Priority (and Recommended Policy if applicable).... **Chair Jen Ahearn-Koch**
Commissioner, City of Sarasota
- VI.** Additional Information..... **Rebecca O’Hara, FLC Staff**
 - A. Key Legislative Dates
 - B. Home Rule Hero Criteria
 - C. Key Contacts – Click [HERE](#) to sign up
- VII.** Closing Remarks..... **Chair Jen Ahearn-Koch**
Commissioner, City of Sarasota
- VIII.** Adjournment



Committee Roster

CHAIR:

The Honorable Jen Ahearn-Koch
Commissioner, City of Sarasota

VICE CHAIR:

The Honorable Daniel Comerford
Mayor/Police Commissioner, Town of
Jupiter Inlet Colony

MEMBERS:

The Honorable Robert "Bob" Auwaerter
Councilmember, Town of Indian River
Shores

The Honorable David Bailey
Councilmember, City of Brooksville

The Honorable Joe Barkley
Commissioner, City of Belleair Bluffs

The Honorable Joyce D. Barton
Vice Mayor, Town of Melbourne Beach

The Honorable Nathaniel Birdsong
Mayor Pro Tem, City of Winter Haven

The Honorable Darla Bonk
Councilwoman, City of Fort Myers

Debra Buff
City Clerk, City of Belle Glade

The Honorable Phyllis Butlien
Vice Mayor, City of DeBary

The Honorable Anthony Caggiano
Vice Mayor, City of Margate

The Honorable Kevin Cannon
Deputy Mayor, City of Winter Springs

The Honorable Chase Chambliss
Councilman, Town of Palm Shores

Thomas Cloud

Attorney, GrayRobinson, P.A. of
Orlando

The Honorable John Cotugno
Councilmember, City of Vero Beach

Bart Diebold
City Manager, City of Pinellas Park

James Dillon
Director of Public Works, City of
Tavares

The Honorable Roger Edelman
Councilor, City of Seminole

The Honorable Cherry Fitch
Mayor, City of Gulf Breeze

The Honorable Fred Forbes
Councilman, City of Bonita Springs

The Honorable Maureen Freaney
Commissioner, City of Dunedin

The Honorable Gregory Freebold
Council President Pro Tem, Town of
Lake Clarke Shores

The Honorable Stuart Glass
Deputy Mayor, Town of Indialantic

Fred Greiner
Utility Chief Operator, City of Palm
Coast

The Honorable Ted Hartselle
Councilman, City of Rockledge

Robin Hayes
City Manager, City of Cocoa Beach

Kate Helms

Stormwater Manager, City of Satellite Beach

The Honorable Heidi Herzberg

Mayor, City of Deltona

The Honorable Donna Holck

Commissioner, City of Largo

Gary Hubbard

Utility Services Director, City of Winter Haven

The Honorable Richard Johnson

Vice Mayor, City of Sanibel

The Honorable Fred Jones

Vice Mayor, City of Sebastian

The Honorable John Jones

Councilmember, City of Monticello

James Keene

Public Services Administrator, City of Haines City

The Honorable Rachel Keesling

Executive Director, Southwest Florida League of Cities

Shannon Lewis

City Manager, City of Melbourne

The Honorable Jill Luke

Commissioner, City of North Port

The Honorable Michael McComas

Councilman, City of Everglades City

The Honorable Jane Mealy

Commissioner, City of Flagler Beach

Camden Mills

Capital Projects Engineer, City of Sarasota

Francis Moehrle

Deputy City Attorney, City of Port St. Lucie

The Honorable Danielle Moore

Mayor, Town of Palm Beach

The Honorable Michael O'Rourke

Mayor, Town of Lake Park

The Honorable Lois Paritsky

Mayor, Town of Ponce Inlet

The Honorable Susan Persis

Commissioner, City of Ormond Beach

The Honorable Richard Roney

Vice Mayor, Town of Hypoluxo

Peter Roussell

Utility Chief Operator, City of Palm Coast

The Honorable Brian Sackett

Commissioner, City of Longwood

The Honorable Dan Saracki

Mayor, City of Oldsmar

Scott Shannon

Principal, Woodard & Curran/Florida Business Watch

The Honorable Beverly Smith

Mayor, Village of Palm Springs

The Honorable Marty Sullivan

Commissioner, City of Winter Park

The Honorable April Thanos

Councilmember, City of Gulfport

The Honorable Jim Turney

Commissioner, City of Altamonte Springs

The Honorable David Vigliotti

Councilman, City of Satellite Beach

The Honorable Bobby Wagner

Councilmember, City of Destin

The Honorable Beth Wetzel

Commissioner, City of Treasure Island

The Honorable Julie Wilkins

Mayor, City of LaBelle

The Honorable Brian Williams

Commissioner, City of Palmetto

The Honorable Rosemary Wilsen

Commissioner, City of Ocoee



Policy Development Process

2022-2023 FLC Legislative Policy Process

The Florida League of Cities' (FLC) 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 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 2023 Legislative Session on March 7. The League's legislative policy committee meetings commence in September 2022 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 and 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 reuse, water management and 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 FLC 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.

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.

2022 Legislative Policy Committee Meeting Dates

- ▶ September 16, 2022, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Embassy Suites Lake Buena Vista South, 4955 Kyngs Heath Road, Kissimmee, FL.
- ▶ October 7, 2022, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Embassy Suites Lake Buena Vista South, 4955 Kyngs Heath Road, Kissimmee, FL.
- ▶ December 1, 2022, during the FLC Legislative Conference at the Embassy Suites Lake Buena Vista South, 4955 Kyngs Heath Road, Kissimmee, FL.

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



Water Resource Planning and Comprehensive Watershed Management



Water Resources Planning and Comprehensive Watershed Management

Draft Priority Statement:

The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS legislation establishing a statewide coordinated planning and prioritization approach for water resource investments that funds Florida's current and projected water needs in an equitable manner and authorizing Comprehensive Watershed Management projects to qualify for funding under the state Water Protection and Sustainability Trust Fund.

Background:

Statewide Water Resources Planning

Florida faces significant challenges in meeting its increasing needs for drinking water while also managing wastewater and protecting natural resources. The Office of Economic and Demographic Research estimates a gap between the state's water needs and available funding exists in "every future year, growing to \$840.69 million by the end of the 10-year forecast period (excluding resiliency needs). State funding is subject to shifting legislative priorities and local perspectives rather than a strategic approach, leading to inefficiencies and a growing backlog of needed infrastructure. The fractured responsibility for water resources planning among state, regional and local governments and the uncoordinated investment of funds to meet various water needs are additional obstacles to addressing these challenges.

To address these issues, the League supports a comprehensive review of state water policy with the goal of developing recommendations relating to both governance and long-term funding. A review of governance issues would examine the current delineation of responsibilities between state, regional and local governments. An examination of funding issues would contemplate the development of long- and short-term plans to address the growing funding gap, which may further require revising existing funding sources, developing new funding sources and developing new procedures for accessing state funding.

Comprehensive Watershed Management

The Florida Water Protection and Sustainability Program Trust Fund was established in 2005 and later modified. The Trust Fund now provides a way for the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to make wastewater grants, provide cost-share assistance for alternative water supply projects and invest in water storage projects. Funding is appropriated by the Legislature. Florida law specifies that proceeds from the Trust Fund may be used for the following purposes:

- The alternative water supply program
- The water storage facility revolving loan fund

- The wastewater grant program.

As growth and increasing demands for water supply strain traditional water sources, utilities are beginning to develop new approaches that incorporate water supply, wastewater, stormwater and natural systems into integrated water management or “One Water” strategies. This comprehensive approach can be more cost-effective than traditional alternative water supply development because it results in additional benefits to the watershed, natural systems and the surrounding population.

Rule 62-40.425, F.A.C., promotes a comprehensive watershed management approach for managing the cumulative impacts of human activities on Florida’s water resources, accounting for myriad issues such as water quality, water supply, natural systems and floodplain management and flood protection. Despite the state’s expressed policy preference for a comprehensive watershed management approach, comprehensive watershed management projects do not have a dedicated source of state cost-share assistance. State funding sources are broken into specific silos that make it difficult to successfully plan and construct projects that incorporate comprehensive watershed management strategies. A project might receive funding for one aspect of such a project but not receive funding for other components because each component must pursue funding through a separate grant program.

To overcome this siloed approach that stymies such projects, the League proposes an amendment to section 403.890, Florida Statutes, the Water Protection and Sustainability Program, to include watershed management projects as a purpose eligible for funding from the Water Protection and Sustainability Program Trust Fund.



Water and Wastewater Plant Operator Licensure



Water and Wastewater Plant Operator Licensure

Draft Policy Statement:

The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS legislation to address workforce shortages in municipal water and wastewater facilities by: 1) defining facility operators as critical and essential workers, 2) providing reciprocity with other states for licensure of facility operators, 3) allowing credit toward licensure for military experience and time served performing similar functions and providing flexibility for facilities to use retired or out-of-state operators in emergencies.

Background:

Workforce shortages are affecting all sectors of public and private employment, including water and wastewater utilities. The need for licensed water and wastewater plant operators is especially acute because these staffing shortages impact a utility's ability to operate safely and effectively. An "operator" is defined in Florida law as any person who is in on-site charge of the actual operation, supervision and maintenance of a water treatment plant, water distribution system or domestic wastewater treatment plant and includes the person in on-site charge of a shift or period of operation during any part of the day. Florida law mandates that qualified personnel operate these facilities and specifies requirements for the licensure of these professionals. Plant operators must possess specified credentials pay an application fee, and pass a Florida licensure exam.

Florida can take proactive measures to help address workforce shortages in this sector by modifying current law requirements for operator licensure. For example, Florida's licensure statute can be amended to provide reciprocity to any applicant who holds a valid and unexpired license from another state or the U.S. government if the requirements of the other state are comparable to or more stringent than those of Florida and the operator has passed a comparable written exam in another state. In addition, Florida's licensure statute can be modified to award work experience or education credits to an applicant who performed duties comparable to the duties of a Florida operator while serving in the U.S. military, provided the service requirements were comparable to or higher than what is required under Florida law. Finally, Florida law can be modified to address acute utility workforce needs during declared emergencies by waiving applicable fees and authorizing temporary licensure by reciprocity to any operator who holds a valid and unexpired license from another state or the U.S. government.



Key Dates



Key Legislative Dates

December 2022

12-16 Interim Legislative Committee Meetings

January 2023

3-6 Interim Legislative Committee Meetings

17-20 Interim Legislative Committee Meetings

23-27 Interim Legislative Committee Meetings

February 2023

6-10 Interim Legislative Committee Meetings

7-8 Fast Fly-In – Washington, D.C.
(Contact Person: Allison Payne, apayne@flcities.com)

13-17 Interim Legislative Committee Meetings

16 FLC Pre-Legislative Session Webinar
(Contact Person: Mary Edenfield, medenfield@flcities.com)

20-24 Interim Legislative Committee Meetings

March 2023

7 Regular Legislative Session Convenes

26-28 NLC Congressional City Conference, Washington, D.C.

April 2023

4-5 FLC Legislative Action Days, Tallahassee, FL

May 2023

5 Last Day of Regular Legislative Session

18 FLC Post-Legislative Session Webinar
(Contact Person: Mary Edenfield, medenfield@flcities.com)



Home Rule Hero Criteria

Do you want to become a **HOME RULE HERO?**

AS THE ADAGE GOES, "ALL POLITICS IS LOCAL." Successful advocacy starts at home, not in Tallahassee. No one – not even a professional lobbyist – can tell your community's story better than you. Your involvement helps the League's legislative team turn the abstract into concrete. It is essential to help legislators understand how their decisions may impact their communities back home.

The League appreciates the individual advocacy efforts undertaken by municipal officials throughout the state. Each year, there are some League members who make an extraordinary effort; people who stand out for their high level of participation and effectiveness. The Home Rule Hero Award was created to acknowledge and thank them for their efforts. Hundreds of municipal officials have been recognized as "Home Rule Heroes" since the award's inception in 2009, and we thank you!

Home Rule Hero Award recipients are selected by the League's legislative team following each legislative session.

For the award, the most important criteria are timely responses and actions to FLC's Legislative Alerts, and notifying FLC staff of communications with your legislators.

Other exceptional efforts are:

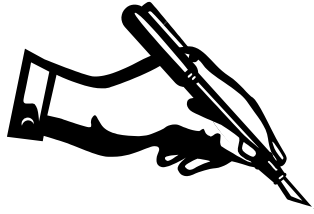
- Attending the Florida League of Cities' Legislative Action Days in Tallahassee and Legislative Conference.
- Testifying before a House or Senate committee on an FLC priority issue, when a call to action has been sent out.
- Participating in FLC's Monday Morning "Call-ins" during session and on FLC's pre-and post-legislative session webinars.
- Participating in FLC's Legislator "Key Contact" program.
- Meeting legislators in their districts or in Tallahassee.
- Responding to FLC requests for information and data about how proposed legislation will specifically impact your city (telling your city's "story").
- Speaking at local legislative delegation meetings to discuss FLC municipal issues.
- Setting up opportunities for legislators and their staff to attend a city council meeting or special event; tour a park, project or facility; and attend a local league meeting.
- Serving on a FLC legislative policy committee.
- Participating in a Federal Action Strike Team fly-in to Washington, D.C.
- During an election year, providing opportunities for candidates for legislative offices to learn about your city and its issues, and introducing candidates to key city stakeholders or those in your professional network.

For more information on these activities and ways to step up your advocacy game, please contact Allison Payne at apayne@flcities.com.





Notes



Notes

This image shows a full page of white paper with horizontal black ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page, providing a template for handwriting practice or general writing. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the page.