

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 the concrete. It is essential for helping 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 is timely response and action to FLC's Legislative Alerts, and notifying FLC staff of communications with their 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 issue.
- 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.
- Providing information and data about how proposed legislation will specifically impact your city (telling your city's "story").
- Communicating frequently and effectively with legislators and their staff, and publicly recognizing them for their assistance.
- Attending local legislative delegation meetings to discuss 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.
- Placing an opinion editorial piece on FLC priority issues in a news media outlet.
- Participating 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.