



**MUNICIPAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**

**Thursday, December 5, 2024  
10:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. ET**

**Meeting Room: Florida Ballroom 4  
Hilton Orlando  
6001 Destination Parkway  
Orlando, FL 32819**

**FLC Staff Contact: Sam Wagoner**



FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES



# Agenda



**Municipal Operations Legislative Policy Committee**  
**Friday, December 5, 2024, from 10:15 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**  
**Hilton Orlando – Meeting Room: Florida Ballroom 4**  
**6001 Destination Parkway, Orlando, Florida**

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**AGENDA**

- I.** Introduction and Opening Remarks..... **Chair Sandy Golding**  
Mayor Pro Tem, City of Jacksonville Beach
- II.** Recap of Remaining Two Issues ..... **Sam Wagoner, FLC Staff**
  - a. Sovereign Immunity
  - b. Public Safety Recruitment and Retention
- III.** Vote on Recommended Priority ..... **Chair Sandy Golding**  
Mayor Pro Tem, City of Jacksonville Beach
- IV.** Committee Discussion and Vote on Language  
of Recommended Priority ..... **Chair Sandy Golding**  
Mayor Pro Tem, City of Jacksonville Beach
- V.** Vote on Whether to Have a Policy Statement..... **Chair Sandy Golding**  
Mayor Pro Tem, City of Jacksonville Beach
- VI.** Committee Discussion and Vote on Policy  
Statement Language (if needed)..... **Chair Sandy Golding**  
Mayor Pro Tem, City of Jacksonville Beach
- VII.** Additional Information..... **Sam Wagoner, FLC Staff**
  - a. [Key Legislative Dates](#)
  - b. Key Contacts – [Click HERE to sign-up](#)
- VIII.** Closing Remarks..... **Chair Sandy Golding**  
Mayor Pro Tem, City of Jacksonville Beach
- IX.** Adjournment

\*Breakfast and Lunch provided by the Florida League of Cities\*

**WiFi is Available**  
**Network: FLCLC2024**  
**Access Code: FLCLC2024**



# Committee Roster



## 2024-2025 Legislative Policy Committee Municipal Operations

Staffed by: *Sam Wagoner, Legislative Advocate*

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### **CHAIR:**

**The Honorable Sandy Golding**  
Mayor Pro Tem, City of Jacksonville  
Beach

### **VICE CHAIR:**

**The Honorable Mac Fuller**  
Mayor, City of Lake Alfred

### **MEMBERS:**

**Mike Andrews**  
Network Manager, City of Leesburg

**The Honorable Gary Ball**  
Commissioner, City of Bartow

**The Honorable Kyle Battie**  
Commissioner, City of Sarasota

**The Honorable Blake Bell**  
Mayor, City of Brooksville

**The Honorable Pat Bentley**  
Mayor, City of West Melbourne

**Brian Benton**  
City Manager, City of Sebastian

**The Honorable Allyson Berry**  
Commissioner, City of Leesburg

**Jacqueline Borja**  
Town Clerk, Town of Lake Hamilton

**Terry Bovaird**  
City Manager, City of Williston

**George Brown**  
City Manager, City of Boca Raton

**Patricia Burke**  
Town Clerk-Manager, Town of Palm  
Shores

**The Honorable Cynthia Burton**  
Commissioner, City of Crescent City

**The Honorable Ricky Butler**  
Councilmember, City of Pinellas Park

**Rosemarie Call**  
City Clerk, City of Clearwater

**Kristina Ciuperger**  
Deputy City Manager, City of Port St.  
Lucie

**Michael Connor**  
Chief of Police, Town of Indialantic

**Ed Cook**  
City Manager, City of Callaway

**Jimmy Crosby**  
Chief Administrative Officer, City of  
Starke

**Cale Curtis**  
City Manager, City of Margate

**Robert Daniels**  
Town Manager, Town of Sewall's Point

**Keith Davis**  
Attorney, Royal Palm Beach, Tequesta,  
Atlantis,

**The Honorable Laura DeBruce**  
Councilmember, City of Sanibel

**Bart Diebold**

City Manager, City of Pinellas Park

**Darrel Donatto**

Fire Chief, Town of Jupiter

**Brenda Fettrow**

City Manager, City of Rockledge

**The Honorable Sam Fite**

Vice Mayor, City of Bowling Green

**Jerome Fletcher**

City Manager, City of North Port

**The Honorable Jayson French**

Council Member, Village of Tequesta

**Stephanie Garcia**

Administrative Assistant/Records Management Specialist, Town of Longboat Key

**Elizabeth Garcia-Beckford**

City Clerk, City of Wilton Manors

**Donna Gardner**

City Clerk, City of Casselberry

**The Honorable Charlotte Gillis**

Councilwoman, City of Edgewater

**The Honorable Kimberly Glas-Castro**

Vice Mayor, Town of Lake Park

**Christian Gowan**

City Clerk, City of Winter Springs

**The Honorable Brian Grainger**

Commissioner, City of Panama City

**The Honorable Chelsea Granell**

Mayor's Chief of Staff, City of Coral Gables

**The Honorable Shirley Green Brown**

Commissioner, City of Alachua

**Angie Guy**

City Clerk, City of Dade City

**Leslie Guyer**

City Clerk, City of Gulf Breeze

**Chevelle Hall**

Village Clerk, Village of Wellington

**Chris Hawks**

Intergovernmental Relations Coordinator, City of Largo

**Julie A. Hennessy**

City Clerk - Auditor, City of DeLand

**Traci Houchin**

City Clerk, City of Sanford

**The Honorable Michael Howard**

Councilor, Town of Indian Shores

**The Honorable Anne Huffman**

Commissioner, City of Haines City

**Judelande Jeune**

Attorney, Weiss Serota Helfman Cole + Bierman

**Jennifer Jorgensen**

Director, Governmental Affairs, City of Sarasota

**The Honorable Bridget Keating**

President Pro Tem, Town of Lake Clarke Shores

**The Honorable NanDrycka King Albert**

Councilmember, City of Midway

**Marshall Labadie**

Town Manager, Town of Highland Beach

**Lynne Ladner**

Town Manager, Town of Ocean Ridge

**Edward Lavallee**

City Manager, City of Venice

**Austin Lee**

Director of Communications, City of Greenacres

**The Honorable Charlotte Leonard**

Councilwoman, City of Westlake

**The Honorable Darrell Lewis-Ricketts**

Commissioner, City of North Lauderdale

**The Honorable Lisa Martin**

Commissioner, City of New Smyrna Beach

**Andrea McCue**

City Manager, City of Greenacres

**Lori McWilliams**

Village Clerk, Village of Tequesta

**The Honorable Tracy Mercer**

Commissioner, City of Winter Haven

**The Honorable Nancy Miller**

Mayor, City of Daytona Beach Shores

**Olivia Minshew**

City Manager, City of Wauchula

**Juliet Misconi**

Deputy City Manager, City of Palm Bay

**Cheryl Mooney**

City Clerk, City of Temple Terrace

**Brian Moree**

City Manager, City of Atlantis

**The Honorable Bernie Oder**

Councilmember, City of Mary Esther

**Steve Parker**

Chief of Police, City of Davenport

**Gwen Peirce**

City Clerk, City of Satellite Beach

**Richard Radcliffe**

Executive Director, Palm Beach County League of Cities

**The Honorable Jacquelyn Randall**

Mayor, City of Hawthorne

**The Honorable Mary Richardson**

Commissioner, Town of Dundee

**The Honorable Cal Rolfson**

Council Member, City of Mount Dora

**The Honorable Greg Ross**

Mayor, City of Cooper City

**The Honorable Arlene Schwartz**

Vice Mayor, City of Margate

**Alexis Silcox**

City Clerk, City of Belleair Bluffs

**The Honorable Suzy Sofer**

Commissioner, City of Belleair Bluffs

**Mike Staffopoulos**

City Manager, City of Jacksonville Beach

**The Honorable Susan Starkey**

Vice Mayor, Town of Davie

**The Honorable Alexander Tiamson**

Vice Mayor, City of Orange City

**The Honorable Marlene Wagner**

Vice Mayor, Town of Lake Hamilton

**Tijauna Warner**

Deputy City Clerk, City of LaBelle

**Erin West**

City Clerk, City of Green Cove Springs

**The Honorable Alice White**

Mayor, City of North Port

**Morgan Wilson**

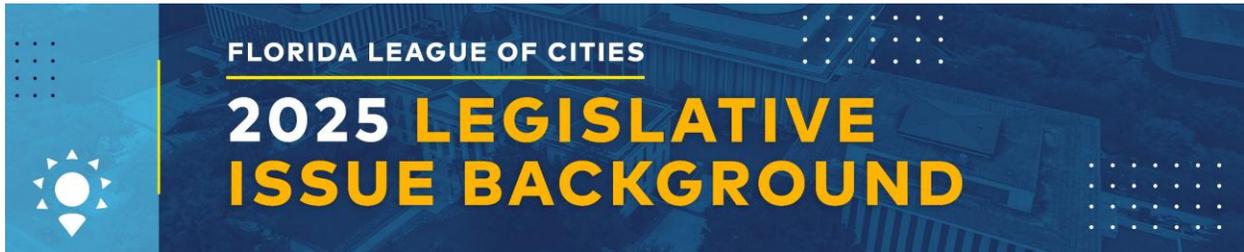
Assistant City Manager, City of  
Bushnell

**The Honorable Brandon Young**

Councilman, City of South Daytona



# Sovereign Immunity



## Sovereign Immunity

### Draft Statement:

#### Option A

The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS preserving reasonable sovereign immunity liability caps for municipal governments to protect taxpayer funds and ensure essential public services.

#### Option B

The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS protecting Florida taxpayers by maintaining the waiver of sovereign immunity on monetary damages recoverable in tort claims against government entities.

### Background:

The principle of sovereign immunity means that the government cannot be sued without its consent. However, Florida law allows suits for damages caused by government employees' negligence under certain conditions. Currently, claims are capped at \$200,000 per person and \$300,000 per incident, and recovering more requires passage of a legislative claim bill.

Capping tort claims against Florida's government entities is necessary to protect taxpayers while ensuring that cities can continue to provide essential services. Services such as police and fire carry an inherent high degree of risk. However, these services are essential for all Floridians. The ability to collect larger settlements or judgments against government entities will serve to increase liability exposure and incentivize litigation, which threatens the ability to provide the same level of services.

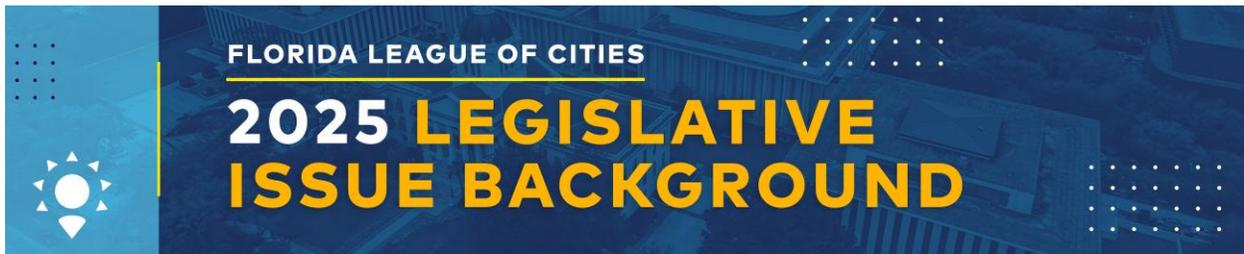
Local government entities are limited by state law in their ability to generate revenue or increase taxes. City budgets are already stretched thin. Increasing the sovereign immunity limits to unreasonably high levels puts cities at risk of a huge financial burden. To compound the gravity of these potential impacts, the insurance market in Florida is incredibly volatile. Securing adequate insurance has been difficult for cities. Florida's government entities have seen very large increases to insurance premiums over the last couple of years. Increasing the sovereign immunity limits will have a dramatic financial impact on all of Florida's government entities and especially Florida's cities, which have limited resources.

Two bills from the 2024 Legislative Session, SB 472 and HB 569, aimed to raise the limits on tort claims against Florida's government entities from \$200,000 per person/\$300,000 per incident to \$400,000 per person/\$600,000 per incident. Later amendments to SB 472 reduced the proposed caps to \$300,000 per person/\$500,000 per incident. These bills also adjusted how limits could increase based on inflation and allowed settlements above statutory caps without a

legislative claims bill. They shortened the statute of limitations on negligence claims from four years to two years. We expect similar bills to be filed during the 2025 Legislative Session.



# Public Safety Recruitment and Retention



## Public Safety Recruitment and Retention

### Draft Statement:

#### Option A

The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS legislation and funding to enhance recruitment and retention of municipal public safety personnel, which helps communities maintain effective emergency response and public safety services.

#### Option B

The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS legislation and funding aimed at strengthening recruitment and retention efforts for municipal public safety positions across the State of Florida.

### Background:

Florida is adding 900 people per day, with an estimated population of over 22 million. With population estimates reaching 26 million by 2030, municipal services for these additional citizens will be required.

Cities across Florida are desperately trying to keep pace with the rapid growth. However, this growth is placing significant pressures on our public safety community. As the market tightens for police and firefighters, communities begin to compete. With Florida's public safety talent pool being squeezed, the shortage of qualified individuals crushes smaller and more rural cities.

Over the past several years, the Legislature has consistently supported and passed public safety initiatives that bolster the tools for local agencies to recruit and retain qualified candidates. These initiatives have primarily been focused on enhanced training, financial incentives and educational opportunities.

Over the past three years, the Legislature has continually funded the "Florida Law Enforcement Recruitment Bonus Program." This program provides a bonus payment of up to \$5,000 for newly hired officers who have relocated from outside Florida.

More recently, the Florida Fire Chiefs' Association and the Florida Professional Firefighters have been developing rules that would permit temporary reciprocity for out-of-state firefighters who have equivalent certification standards from other states. The goal is to ease barriers and challenges faced by those incoming firefighters by allowing them to work in the State while they obtain their Florida certifications.

Lastly, this past session, the Legislature allocated \$750,000 to a statewide law enforcement apprenticeship program. This program is available to all localities statewide, with a focus on fiscally constrained areas. Since July, the program has enrolled 28 applicants throughout the State. The program pays the applicant's salary while they obtain their training and schooling.



# Key Dates



## 2024 - 2025 Key Legislative Dates

### December 2024

- 2-6 Legislative Interim Committee Meetings (House of Representatives only)
- 5-6 [FLC Legislative Conference](#) – Hilton Orlando, 6001 Destination Parkway, Orlando, FL 32819; FLC Policy Committee Meetings on Dec. 5 (Round 3)
- 9-13 Legislative Interim Committee Meetings (Senate only)

### January 2025

- 13-17 Legislative Interim Committee Meetings
- 21-24 Legislative Interim Committee Meetings

### February 2025

- 3-7 Legislative Interim Committee Meetings
- 4-5 FAST Fly-in – Washington, DC
- 10-14 Legislative Interim Committee
- 17-21 Legislative Interim Committee
- 20 FLC Legislative Session Preview Webinar at 2:00 p.m. ET

### March 2025

- 4 Regular Legislative Session Convenes
- 10-12 NLC Congressional City Conference – Washington, DC
- 24-26 FLC Legislative Action Days – Tallahassee, FL

### May 2025

- 2 Last Day of Regular Legislative Session
- 15 FLC Post Legislative Session Review Webinar at 2:00 p.m. ET

For further details about the mentioned events or legislative information, contact [medenfield@flcities.com](mailto:medenfield@flcities.com).



# Notes

