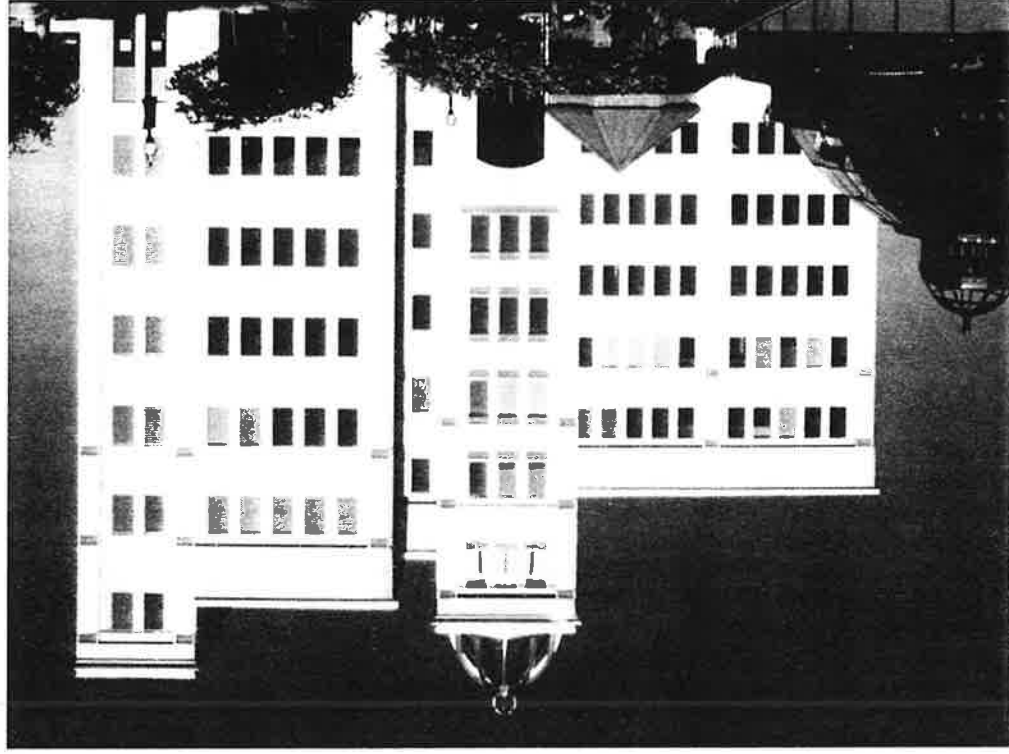


Florida League of Cities 1999 Legislative Policy Statement

A Framework for Florida's Future



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LEGISLATIVE POLICY

1999

FLORIDA LEGISLATIVE POLICY

1999 Florida League of Cities Legislative Action Agenda

Municipal Revenue Sharing Reform

The Florida League of Cities will support legislation that restructures the funding sources of the municipal portion of the state's revenue sharing program, and which the municipal shared revenues to the growth of the state's general revenue fund.

Financial Technical Assistance Program for Local Governments

The Florida League of Cities will support legislation that establishes a Financial Technical Assistance Program for Local Governments that would assess financial condition, educate staff, and respond to local government financial emergencies.

Skateboard Park Liability Protection

The Florida League of Cities will support legislation that limits liability for municipal recreation facilities constructed for skateboard-ing, inline skating, freestyle bicycle riding, and other high-risk recreational activities.

Urban Infill and Community Redevelopment

The Florida League of Cities will support legislation that ensures responsible growth management while providing for the orderly extension of municipal services and infrastructure to promote fiscally strong communities. Specifically, legislation should provide equitable redevelopment incentives for both urban and rural municipalities, such as, but not limited to, funding and technical assis-tance, without imposing additional restrictions. Legislation should proactively encourage annexation in order to advance urban infill.

Post-Preservation 2000 Program

The Florida League of Cities will support legislation that reauthorizes Preservation 2000 or a similar program and maintains, to the extent feasible, the structure and purpose of the current program. Specifically, the program should:

- ◆ increase funds to the Florida Communities Trust;
- ◆ provide funds for water resource protection and restoration, as well as environmentally compatible passive outdoor recreation projects;
- ◆ promote local greenways programs;
- ◆ restrict the use of allocated funds to projects which serve a direct environmental purpose, such as on-site environmental education;
- ◆ ensure that revenues derived from the sale of surplus lands be used exclusively for the continuation and expansion of preservation programs; and
- ◆ ensure that no funds allocated for this initiative are diverted to other non-related activities, such as education facilities.

Authority over Police and Fire Pensions

The Florida League of Cities will support legislation that preserves municipal Home Rule and collective bargaining authority relative to local police and fire pension plans under Chapters 175 and 185, Florida Statutes. Additionally, the League will oppose any legislation that imposes unfunded mandates on taxpayers, unfairly discriminates among cities and has not been actuarially studied for statewide impact.

Authority over Municipal Utility Services

The Florida League of Cities will support legislation that protects municipal authority to provide utility services outside incorporated boundaries and to charge a reasonable surcharge for these services.

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Celebrating more than 20 years of Home Rule Authority, the League supports legislative strengthening municipal self-governing powers. The League believes that key governmental services, such as those provided by municipalities, are best delivered under a system that leaves each community free to exercise its responsibilities in a manner best suited to the needs of its citizens.

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Intergovernmental Relations Committee

Municipal Finance and Taxation Committee

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200.3 Requires all tax exemptions to be tied to measurable benefits and subject to periodic sunset review.

200.4 Permits municipalities to obtain funds for municipal communication systems from surcharges that counties may levy, but are not appropriately using, for intergovernmental radio communication systems.

200.5 Expands the acceptable uses for the 911 fee revenues to include radio communications equipment.

200.6 Provides periodic legislative review and removal of restrictions on the implementation, and the utilization of local revenue sources, as well as on expenditures of municipal revenues.

200.7 Grants fiscal home rule authority for municipalities.

200.8 Changes the Public Service Tax to a use or sale based tax.

201 Tax equity between the various levels of government is essential to the fair and reasonable allocation of the cost of government to Florida's citizens.

201.1 The Florida League of Cities will support legislation that corrects the inequalities caused by the double taxation of municipal citizens, as originally intended by the judicial interpretation of the Florida Constitution.

201.2 Allows taxing authorities to establish property tax equity by assessing new construction on a partial-year basis while applying appropriate exemptions.

201.3 Grants cities and counties the authority to legally challenge under-assessments of properties within their respective jurisdictions.

201.4 Grants cities the authority to implement all or part of the local option gas tax and requires a more equitable method of computing the default formula.

Priorities

The Florida League of Cities will support legislation that restructures the funding sources of the municipal portion of the state's revenue sharing program, and which ties municipal shared revenues to the growth of the state's general revenue fund.

The Florida League of Cities will support legislation that establishes a Financial Technical Assistance Program for Local Governments that would assess financial condition, educate staff, and respond to local government financial emergencies.

Municipal Financing in the Next Millennium

Florida shares fewer dollars with its cities than any of the 15 largest states. The sources of these shared revenues and the restrictions imposed have been established over the past 150 years. The state devotes considerable resources to the collection, recording by the point of sale, and distribution of the same to local governments through archaic formulas. As we approach the new millennium, it's necessary to structure a financial model designed to create and support Florida's future instead of memorializing its past. The structure must be built upon a stronger partnership between state and local government, greater flexibility to address changing citizen demands, and a streamlining of programs with the elimination of unnecessary restrictions, which waste valuable financial resources. The financial foundation must be built upon a revenue structure that provides growth consistent with population increases and will not be eroded by inflation.

The Florida League of Cities will support legislation that:

200.1 Enhances police officers and firefighters' benefits only after, (a) an actuarial impact statement is completed and (b) equivalent incremental financial revenues are provided.

200.2 Amends Chapter 75, Florida Statutes, to restrict the ability to intervene in bond validation hearings for special assessments to fee holders of property within the impacted district.

Standing Policy Committees

Criminal Justice, Ethics & Personnel

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Deputy Vice Mayor Eifers, City of Lauderdale
 Councilmember Ernest Fillyau, City of St. Petersburg
 Commissioner Ben Fiorenzino, City of Pembroke Pines
 Vice Mayor Gene Gallo, City of Bradenton
 Mayor Carol Hanson, City of Boca Raton
 Mayor Mathew Hawkins, City of Jasper

Commissioner Lou Ippolito, City of South Pasadena
 Michael Jackson, City Manager, City of South Bay
 Commissioner Edward Jennings, Sr., City of Gainesville
 Commissioner Betty Johnson, City of Fort Meade
 Keith Joy, Police Chief, City of Hialeah Gardens
 Councilmember Edward Kapushy, City of Indian Harbour Beach

Vice Mayor Martin Kellner, City of Eagle Lake
 Commissioner Mitchell Kinzer, Town of Surfside
 Mayor Hal Lenobel, Town of Longboat Key
 Commissioner Retha Lowe, City of Lake Worth
 Vice Mayor Bob Makinson, City of Kissimmee

Commissioner George Millen, City of North Port
 Commissioner James Patterson, Town of Longboat Key
 Council President Mary Rich, City of Ocala
 Commissioner William Rogers, City of New Smyrna Beach
 Commissioner George Sanders, City of Palatka
 Deputy Mayor Ron Sargent, City of Longwood

Councilmember Stuart Scott, City of Belleair Beach
 Mayor Pro Tem Beverly Smith, Village of Palm Springs
 Councilman Charles Smith, City of Wauchula
 Shelton Smith, City Administrator, City of Longwood
 Councilmember Mary Staib, City of Brooksville
 Commissioner Frank Strickland, City of Willwood

Mayor Joseph Varsallone, City of Margate
 Commissioner Lucille Wheatley, City of Deltona
 Councilman Thomas P. White, City of Vero Beach
 Councilman Brian Williams, City of Palmetto
 Mayor Jerry Williams, City of Green Cove Springs

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201.5 Requires that state service fees on municipal trust funds not exceed the actual cost of collection.

201.6 Permits at least one municipal official per county be appointed to serve on the Value Adjustment Board.

201.7 Allows municipalities to seek monetary judgments for outstanding liens on homestead properties and then to pursue collection through the attachment of personal property.

201.8 Requires the indexing of all state and local option gas taxes to the Construction Cost Index.

201.9 Places a constitutional amendment on the ballot that would restrict the Florida Legislature from passing laws regulating the salary or benefits of municipal employees.

201.10 Provides the methodology of collection of the insurance premium taxes among Chapters 175 and 185, Florida Statutes, regarding pension plans, to ascertain and implement a more accurate basis for returning the tax revenue to the jurisdiction from which the revenue is collected.

201.11 Allows local governments that elect to opt out of the Chapters 175 and 185, Florida Statutes, requirement to appeal the originally optional premium tax levy as it applies to the local government's jurisdiction.

201.12 Provides municipal immunity from the sales and revenue collection related to fines and forfeitures and between fines and forfeitures and assessable court costs.

201.13 Addresses the reasonable equity associated with revenue collection related to fines and forfeitures and between fines and forfeitures and assessable court costs.

201.14 Maintains that municipal property owned outside the incorporated area is not subject to ad valorem taxation or any other tax by the jurisdiction where the property is located.

Transportation

202 The state has a responsibility to provide fundable state transportation solutions that complement local government efforts and that meet its

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Municipal Library Funding

203 The Florida League of Cities recognizes the contributions made by municipal libraries to the quality of life of Florida's citizenry, and believes those municipal libraries should be funded at the same level as county libraries.

The Florida League of Cities will support legislation that:

203.1 Provides direct state funding to all public libraries, including municipal libraries, at the same formula as counties.

Urban Administration

1998-99 Legislative Committee

Chair: Mayor Frank Satchel, City of Mulberry; FLC First Vice President
Vice Chair: Mayor Scott Maddox, City of Tallahassee; FLC Second Vice President

Local & Regional League Representatives
 Mayor Louie Davis, City of Waldo; President, Alachua County League of Cities
 Mayor Brenda Hendricks, City of Parker; President, Bay County League of Cities
 Mayor Louie Davis, City of Waldo; President, Alachua County League of Cities

Standing Policy Committee and Ad Hoc Committee Chairs
 Commissioner Carlton B. Moore, City of Fort Lauderdale; President, Broward County League of Cities
 Vice Mayor Bob Marks, City of Parkland; Member, Gold Coast League of Cities
 Councilman Henry Wolsmann, Town of Howey-In-The-Hills; President, Lake County League of Cities
 Commissioner George Mullen, City of North Port; President, Manasota League of Cities
 Mayor Dottie Reeder, City of Seminole; Mayor's Council of Pinellas County
 Mayor John A. Cavalieri, Jr., City of Miami Springs; President, Miami-Dade County League of Cities
 Councilman Dwight I. Groves, Town of Baldwin; President, North Florida League of Cities
 Councilmember Sharon Shivko, City of Destin; President, Okaloosa County League of Cities
 Mayor Karen J. Golonka, Town of Jupiter; Member, Palm Beach County League of Cities
 Councilmember Clay V. Ford, Jr., City of Gulfbreeze, Member, Panhandle League of Cities
 Commissioner Larry Clark, City of Lake Alfred; President, Ridge League of Cities
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 Mayor Pro Tem Buzz Peltos, City of Cape Canaveral; President, Space Coast League of Cities
 Mayor Pro Tem Scott Black, City of Dade City; President, Suncoast League of Municipalities

FLC Sponsored Program Representatives
 Vice Mayor Robert C. Blomquist, Town of Juno Beach; Vice Chair, Florida Municipal Pension Trust
 Commissioner Thomas Hasis, City of Lighthouse Point; Chair, Florida Municipal Insurance Trust
 Mayor Pro Tem Karen Brayboy, City of Tarpon Springs; Member, Florida Municipal Investment Trust
 Vice Mayor Robert C. Blomquist, Town of Juno Beach; Vice Chair, Florida Municipal Pension Trust
 Commissioner Thomas Hasis, City of Lighthouse Point; Chair, Florida Municipal Insurance Trust
 Mayor Pro Tem Karen Brayboy, City of Tarpon Springs; Member, Florida Municipal Investment Trust

Members At-Large
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 Commissioner Gwynndolen Clarke-Reed, City of Deerfield Beach
 Howard Lenard, City Attorney, City of North Miami Beach
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 Councilmember Paul Young, City of Pensacola
 Vice Mayor Jose Diaz, City of Sweetwater

George Wiggins, Director of Code Enforcement/Building Official, City of Winter Park; Past President, Building Officials Association of Florida
 Suzanne Kuehn, Economic Development Administrator, Daytona Beach Community Redevelopment Agency; President, Florida Redevelopment Association
 Police Chiefs Association
 Richard Beary, Police Chief, City of Lake Mary; President, Florida Manors; President, Florida Public Personnel Association
 Brenda J. Clanton, Human Resource Director, City of Wilton
 Joseph P. Mawhinney, City Attorney, City of Lakeland; President, Florida Municipal Attorneys Association

Priority
 The Florida League of Cities will support legislation that limits liability for municipal recreation facilities constructed for skateboarding, inline skating, freestyle bicycle riding, and other high-risk recreational activities.

300.8 Provides the maximum authority to municipalities for fashioning remedies, based on local circumstances, to address historic discriminatory practices.

300.9 Prohibits both "red-lining" and non-renewal of property insurance policies affected by sinkhole/subsidence activity and ensures the public is not subject to unfair and/or discriminatory insurance practices due to sinkhole/subsidence activity; hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, or other acts of God or man.

300.10 Removes all restrictions, judicial or otherwise, limiting communications between elected and appointed officials and their constituents, staff, and others.

300.11 Maintains local authority over outdoor advertising and provides incentives for local governments to work in cooperation with outdoor advertisers and state and federal regulators to reduce the overall number of outdoor advertising signs.

300.12 Allows municipalities to derive revenues and reduce cover costs to lessen the impact of day cruise casinos.

300.13 Grants municipalities planning and management capabilities to utilize geographic positioning systems (GPS) and geographic information systems (GIS) to record and/or map information and data without being required to hire a licensed surveyor as defined in Chapter 472, Florida Statutes, for these functions.

Tort Liability

301 The Florida League of Cities recognizes that, with regard to tort liability for certain governmental actions, payments must remain limited. Unlimited tort liability will have a substantial impact on governments' ability to provide for the general health, safety and welfare of its citizens. Also, expenditures of public funds to satisfy tort judgments are a taxpayer's expense. Governments provide certain unique services to the general public, and these services require that traditional standards and notions of tort liability should not similarly apply to official governmental agencies supported by taxes extracted from all citizens.

300 The Florida League of Cities believes that the essence of Home Rule is simple: the citizens of a community have the constitutional right to manage and fund their own affairs at the grassroots level, with minimum interference from governmental agencies. Home Rule assumes that local problems should be settled by locally elected officials, that the state should concentrate on the pressing affairs of the state, and that the unrated intrusion by other officials into the affairs of municipal government should be restricted to the essential welfare of the entire state. Municipalities provide key governmental services affecting the daily lives of their citizens and Home Rule leaves each community free to promptly exercise those responsibilities in the manner best suited to meet the needs of its citizens.

300.1 Enhances the ability of municipalities to manage their local affairs in accordance with the wishes of their citizens.
 300.2 Clarifies procedures for municipalities to exercise their authority regarding local zoning and land use requirements.
 300.3 Re-establishes local authority in the procurement of professional services.
 300.4 Exempts municipal facilities, activities and programs from state licensing requirements.

300.5 Preserves the authority of municipalities to manage and create enterprise activities to service their communities.
 300.6 Establishes a simplified, uniform procedure for local government actions.
 300.7 Permits the recovery of expenses incurred in collecting, organizing, storing and retrieving information available under the Public Records Law.

Building and Fire Safety Codes

701.5	Recognizes municipal authority to impose reasonable, nondiscriminatory requirements for the provision of telecommunications services within the municipality, so long as such requirements do not conflict with the current jurisdiction of the Public Service Commission.
702.5	Ensures the authority of municipalities to provide utility services now and into the future.
702.6	Protects the stranded investments of municipalities.
702.7	Protects municipalities from reductions of assessed value of utility property, in-fee payments, or other revenues, as a result of electric restructuring.
702.8	Allows municipalities to become aggregators of services, whether individually or on a collective basis.
702.9	Maintains municipal authority to set rates and establish service for water, sewer, electric, gas, telecommunications or any other municipally operated utility.
702.10	Ensures municipal competitiveness in providing or arranging for utility services by exempting from the Public Records Law related business records.
702.11	Recognizes that certain public records pertaining to utility compliance audit work papers should be exempt under the Public Records Law.
702.12	Protects municipal authority to provide utility services outside incorporated boundaries and to charge a reasonable surcharge for these services.
702.13	Ensures the ability of municipalities and municipal utilities to provide a full range of services and products for customers without subjecting such activities to taxation or undue regulation.
301.1	Limits the exposure of local governments and their officers, employees and volunteers in tort liability.
301.2	Repeals the doctrine of joint and several liability for governmentally-related actions.
301.3	Modifies the Good Samaritan Act to specifically include the actions of off-duty law enforcement, emergency medical, and fire and public safety personnel providing emergency care and treatment.
301.4	Reasonably reforms the Florida civil justice system while protecting current limited waiver and lowering notice provisions of sovereign immunity.
301.5	Provides a defense to liability actions from plaintiffs who are under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs when the accident or injury occurred.
301.6	Limits the liability exposure of local governments for unknown problems resulting from the year 2000.
303.1	Enhances the ability of municipal governments to manage, operate and finance their building departments.
303.2	Permits municipal amendments to building codes, and provides local governments the ability to vote on proposed code changes.
303.3	Assists local building departments by providing information or education for code officials and adopts an initial base building code that would minimize re-education for subsequent readoptions of the state code.
303.4	Creates a state-operated and state-funded centralized database regarding construction industry licensing discipline and insurance.
303.5	Permits municipal amendments to building codes regarding construction methods, personnel standards and professional qualifications based on local safety and welfare determinations.
303.6	Removes the requirement that a statewide rating organization include positive rate factors when performing a building code enforcement assessment.
303.7	Permits municipalities to determine the zoning and building requirements of manufactured homes within their boundaries.
303.8	Ensures that the adoption of amendments and enforcement of fire safety standards are maintained at the local level.
303.9	Promotes and funds safety, education and allows more restrictive local regulation of fireworks in our state.

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702.12	Protects municipal authority to provide utility services outside incorporated boundaries and to charge a reasonable surcharge for these services.
702.13	Ensures the ability of municipalities and municipal utilities to provide a full range of services and products for customers without subjecting such activities to taxation or undue regulation.
703	As the deployment of the information superhighway continues, municipal officials remain concerned that their citizens have universal access to affordable, basic communications services, regardless of whether they reside in urban, suburban or rural areas. Toward this end, state and local governments, businesses and citizens must all work together, as equal partners, to recognize this shared goal and to cooperatively find ways to ensure universal service is realized.

Universal Service

701.5	Recognizes municipal authority to impose reasonable, nondiscriminatory requirements for the provision of telecommunications services within the municipality, so long as such requirements do not conflict with the current jurisdiction of the Public Service Commission.
702.1	Repeals Section 166.231(1)(b), Florida Statutes, which exempts the fuel adjustment charge from the Public Service Tax.
702.2	Ensures municipal authority to levy, collect, audit and use Public Service Tax revenues at its discretion.
702.3	Permits imposition, audit and collection of the Public Service Tax on utility services used within a municipality, even if the utility service is purchased elsewhere.
702.4	Changes the Public Service Tax to a use or sales based tax.
702.1	The Florida League of Cities will support legislation that:

303.10 Prohibits any new Uniform Fire Safety Standards and re-directs existing language to apply to new and existing occupancies appropriately.

303.11 Removes all restrictions from municipalities receiving a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (COPCN) for emergency medical services and transport.

303.12 Requires appropriate and equitable funding from the Emergency Transportation Services Trust Fund when the municipality provides emergency medical services and/or transport.

Eminent Domain and Inverse Condemnation

305 Local governments often find it necessary to use their power of eminent domain to acquire land for such public purposes as roads, public buildings and facilities, downtown and community redevelopment, and for the preservation of natural resources. However, local governments' reasonable exercise of this power is often complicated by the unnecessary costs associated with the eminent domain process.

The Florida League of Cities will support legislation that:

305.1 Minimizes costs associated with condemnations and that places reasonable restrictions on the legal expenses.

305.2 Reduces the costs associated with claims filed against municipalities alleging inverse condemnation or statutory actions associated with land use management.

305.3 Establishes reasonable limits on the amount of business damages awardable in an eminent domain action.

305.4 Implements a process of right-of-way acquisition that includes prelitigation exchanges of information and encouragement of settlements.

305.5 Eliminates the payment of attorney fees and costs on appeal when there is no additional award to landowner.

305.6 Establishes an appraisal process using an impartial, court-appointed panel of property appraisers, engineers, accountants and economists.

305.7 Compensates municipalities for the loss of tax base resulting from condemnations originating from other governmental entities.

Community and Economic Development

306 Substantial outgrowth of commercial, state and federal governmental facilities has occurred in recent years from urban downtown areas. This urban sprawl has, in some instances, created undesirable situations in central city areas, contributing to the subsequent decline in the tax base.

306.1 Provides technical and financial assistance to municipalities in using enterprise zones, and in redeveloping and revitalizing downtowns and existing urban areas. Community-based solutions should receive priority eligibility for such programs.

306.2 Provides fair, safe, sanitary and decent housing consistent with local building, land use and zoning requirements.

306.3 Allows municipalities, acting through community redevelopment agencies, Main Street and other local programs, to effectively carry out redevelopment and community revitalization.

306.4 Increases the annual limitation on the total amount of community contribution tax credits that may be granted against the corporate income tax and insurance premium taxes.

Transportation

307 Municipalities provide a wide array of transportation services to citizens, visitors and commercial entities. These transportation services include roads and highways, public transit, commuter rail, airports, seaports, and pedestrian and bicycle facilities. Municipalities are also impacted when other governmental entities locate transportation facilities within municipal jurisdictions. Appropriate planning and funding are essential to maintaining a viable transportation system within the state.

307.1 The Florida League of Cities will support legislation that:

307.1 Enhances the role of municipalities regarding flexibility in the placement, design and funding of transportation facilities directly affecting the municipality.

Utilities and Telecommunications

700.5 Priority Ensures that municipalities may require those who wish to use the rights-of-way to show that they are qualified to do so, and ensures that municipalities are able to prevent unqualified entities from entering the rights-of-way and creating hazards to the public and to property.

700.6 Ensures any users of the rights-of-way may be charged fair and reasonable compensation (i.e. rent or fee) for that use, even if the user does not own those facilities located in the rights-of-way.

700.7 Directs that an unbiased and comprehensive study of the total life cycle costs of overhead versus underground electric utilities be undertaken.

Telecommunications

701 Florida cities strongly support the development of competition in telecommunications. However, while the information superhighway presents considerable opportunities, it also presents considerable challenges for municipalities. As events unfold, it is clear that some communities may be bypassed by the telecommunications revolution and that the regulatory powers that municipalities have enjoyed may become more vulnerable. To ensure that the development of the information superhighway benefits all municipalities, steps must be taken to ensure that their role in protecting the interests and safety of their communities is not sacrificed and local control is maintained.

The Florida League of Cities will support legislation that:

701.1 Maintains municipal governments' bonding capacity by ensuring that the development of the information superhighway does not reduce the revenues available to municipalities, or impose new costs upon them or their citizens.

701.2 Includes expanded definitions of cable and telecommunications products and services to keep up with the development of technology.

701.3 Eliminates tax inequities by allowing similar taxation of functionally equivalent telecommunications services regardless of the service provider.

701.4 Ensures municipal authority to provide telecommunications services.

307.4 Provides for more equitable representation of municipalities on Metropolitan Planning Organizations, and coordination among municipalities and counties where there are no Metropolitan Planning Organizations.

307.2 Requires the state to adequately fund ongoing costs for all transportation responsibilities transferred to municipalities and to reimburse municipalities in a timely manner for the cost of constructing and maintaining any authorized Department of Transportation projects.

307.3 Provides for information sharing during the planning process to determine the most cost efficient route for transportation projects.

run" to obtain pay and/or benefits, are unacceptable to locally elected officials. The injection of a third party into the process of setting community priorities and levying taxes is contrary to a representative form of government.

The Florida League of Cities will support legislation that:

604.1 Requires that job-related disabilities claimed from HIV, hepatitis, cancer, hypertension or heart disease be proven by the weight of evidence.

604.2 Prohibits binding arbitration as a resolution to impasse under the collective bargaining law.

604.3 Requires that the determination of an employee as "managerial" be based on job duties, and recognizes the potential conflict of interest between a "confidential" employee and a collective bargaining agent.

604.4 Allows a public employer to petition the Public Employees Relations Commission (PERC) for an election when the union lacks continued majority status.

Fire Safety and Emergency Services

605 Because the possibility of destruction of life property by fire is a matter of concern where people live, fire is one of the foremost threats facing local governments. The Florida League of Cities recognizes that local government has been, and should continue to be, the primary force in combating this danger.

605.1 Removes all restrictions from municipalities receiving a certificate of public convenience and necessity for emergency medical services, and requires appropriate and equitable funding from the Emergency Transportation Services Trust Fund when the municipality provides emergency medical services.

605.2 Makes funding available for equipping the state's first responder services in the wildland/urban interface areas of Florida. Monies are needed for wildland firefighting clothing and gear, emergency communication equipment, and replacement of antiquated brush trucks and engines.

The Florida League of Cities will support legislation that:

603.1 Requires that any Sunshine and Public Records Laws, now or in the future, apply equally to the Florida Legislature, state agencies, county and city governments.

603.2 Reconstitutes the membership of the Commission on Ethics to ensure substantive and procedural due process.

603.3 Removes municipal employee personal records, and city-owned utility customer applications and payment records, from coverage under the Public Records Law.

603.4 Clarifies statutory authority to nullify recall and other petitions that are based on frivolous charges.

603.5 Excludes locally appointed boards, other than those that are quasi-judicial, from financial disclosure requirements.

603.6 Limits any expansion of financial disclosure requirements for elected officials of municipal government.

603.7 Gives the Commission on Ethics clear authorization to keep all information regarding an ethics complaint confidential, until the case is resolved.

603.8 Limits the ability of initiative groups to collect signatures for multiple constitutional amendment proposals, prohibits the compensation for the collection of signatures, and reforms the initiative process for greater accountability and state oversight.

603.9 Clarifies Section 286.011, Florida Statutes, and related case law, to exempt public advisory boards, commissions and committees (whose function is fact-finding and the exchange of information on pre-assigned areas of interest) from the Sunshine Law during these functions. The law should apply to these bodies when they meet to exercise an authority to recommend to a decision-making public body, or to the general public.

Employer/Employee Relations

604 Alternatives to collective bargaining, such as strikes, binding arbitration and using the "end

Criminal Justice, Ethics and Personnel

Priority	Item	Description
601.1	Provides incentives to businesses and/or government officials that offer employment, career and educational opportunities to juvenile offenders.	The Florida League of Cities will support legislation that:
601.2	Facilitates, permits, and creates funding and incentives for local governments to partner with other governmental entities, utilizing existing public facilities, including school district facilities, to operate juvenile, out-of-school and after-school programs.	
601.3	Encourages judges to use tougher sentencing for first-time, violent juvenile offenders.	
601.4	Recognizes the rights of parents and certified school personnel to administer reasonable and proper discipline to children in their care.	
602	Municipalities are major employers in Florida, with more than 100,000 employees. Personnel-related expenses account for between 60 and 80 percent of municipal budget expenditures. Municipal officials are held directly accountable to their citizens for these fiscal and administrative personnel decisions and should, therefore, have final control over the cost of providing pay and benefits for their employees.	The Florida League of Cities will support legislation that:
602.1	Protects the Home Rule ability of every city to effectively and locally manage all aspects of employee salary and benefit packages, in the best interest of taxpayers as well as employees.	
603	The Florida League of Cities recognizes that thousands of Florida citizens are now serving in municipal offices and that most serve in this public capacity with little remuneration and great personal expenditure of time, effort and talent. The League is of the firm belief that individuals in such public office should not be subjected to undue or unreasonable restrictions in order to serve their fellow citizens, nor should they be subjected to frivolous charges.	

Local Public Officials

Intergovernmental Relations

Priority	Item	Description
400.5	Provides adequate state funding and staff sources for research and development of a statewide government and geographic information system to be easily accessed by citizens and federal, state and local governments.	
400.6	Requires each Regional Planning Council to develop and submit to the Department of Community Affairs, a mission statement conducive to its region's needs and including specific duties.	
400.7	Ensures that those state laws and agency rule procedures over municipal comprehensive planning functions continue to be streamlined to reduce unnecessary requirements and provides flexibility for local government implementation while taking into consideration the diverse characteristics of Florida's local governments.	
401	The Florida League of Cities acknowledges that disaster preparedness and hazard mitigation planning will assist municipalities in their response to natural and human-made disasters and emergencies that threaten their communities. How in order for municipalities to undertake these pre- and post-disaster activities, adequate and direct state funding and training are necessary.	The Florida League of Cities will support legislation that:
400.1	Removes restrictions to allow local governments to redesign their service delivery systems to reduce duplication and utilize taxpayers' resources to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the delivery of essential services.	
400.2	Requires representation of municipal elected officials equitably from both large and small municipalities on all new and existing regional and local districts, councils, agencies, and state-designated committees that impact municipal affairs.	
400.3	Encourages the use of dependent special districts within cities and counties for fiscal efficiency and service delivery, and continues the current process for periodic review of independent and statutorily created special districts.	
400.4	Creates a more defined role for municipalities in state technology planning and regulation, encourages expanded intergovernmental information sharing, and encourages efficient and effective use of emerging technologies by all levels of government.	
400.5	Provides adequate state funding and staff sources for research and development of a statewide government and geographic information system to be easily accessed by citizens and federal, state and local governments.	
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401.1	Ensures that the state directly provides disaster preparedness and hazard mitigation planning resources, training and fiscal assistance to municipalities so they can respond to natural and human-made disasters and emergencies that threaten their communities.	
401.2	Ensures that there is consistent and continued emergency management communication and coordination among federal, state, county and municipal officials to facilitate pre- and post-disaster mitigation planning and operations, such as, but not exclusive to, the Local Mitigation Strategy Program.	
401.3	Ensures that the state's technical and financial assistance and associated programs are structured to allow for municipalities to have maximum flexibility in tailoring their disaster preparedness planning to the unique or special circumstances and needs of the community.	

Juvenile Crime

Item	Description
600	The Florida League of Cities recognizes that the degree of crime in a community directly impacts the community and its quality of life. The parameter of crime is not only the number of crimes, but also the nature of the crimes. Criminal penalties for violent crimes, whether committed by juveniles or adults, should be increased.
600.1	Allows the use of law enforcement forfeiture funds for the continued support and operation of Community Resource Centers and other prevention activities to further the goal of neighborhood crime prevention.
600.2	Commits sufficient state resources toward adequately funding correctional facilities and law enforcement personnel, as well as drug prevention, education, rehabilitation and treatment.
600.3	Improves the process of tracking, by government and private agencies, sexual predators/offenders when released or transferred into the community.

Priority

402.2 Builds a more effective housing partnership between the private sector, including non-profits, and government at all levels, to provide more affordable housing.

402.3 Protects and enhances the State Housing Initiative Program (SHIP) to be allocated to counties and cities.

402.4 Ensures that no state-mandated regulatory requirements impede local governments' development of and access to affordable housing, while maintaining local governments' flexibility to meet their communities' affordable housing needs.

402.5 Ensures that the State's Affordable Housing Catalyst Program and any other state program include direct technical assistance, funding and training for staff who are involved in the administration of local affordable housing and related programs.

402.6 Provides for the state to fund and implement educational programs, workshops and forums that provide information and tools about innovative solutions to address community decision making where there are competing public policies that include issues such as: developing a model fair housing ordinance; identifying on-going fair housing education outreach opportunities; and conducting a Florida fair housing forum.

402.7 Continues and increases funding for the Florida Institute of Government's training and research programs, in recognition of the importance of improving local government knowledge and skills.

402.8 Guarantees direct participation by municipal governments in designing funding formulas, methods of distribution of federal and state funds shared with municipalities, and the development and maintenance of these intergovernmental programs.

Unfunded Mandates

403 In 1990, the state constitution was amended to limit the Legislature's ability to pass unfunded mandates to county and city governments. Implementation legislation for the amendment is reserved to the Legislature and has not yet occurred. The most important considerations for cities are defining fiscal impact of proposed legislation and establishing local venues for the legal challenges of unfunded state mandates. These issues will continue to be a significant priority for Florida's cities.

401.4 Ensures lending institutions provide low-interest loans or lending provisions for hazard mitigation to allow homeowners or buyers to obtain financing for structural mitigation activities in high-risk areas.

401.5 Ensures the insurance and reinsurance industries provide incentives for mitigation through rate adjustment that reward policyholders that take hazard mitigation actions.

401.6 Establishes a position within the Department of Community Affairs to serve as liaison with municipalities in all areas of emergency management.

401.7 Ensures that the state and the affected county and municipal governments mutually select the designation of hurricane evacuation or any emergency evacuation shelter space. The state shall fully fund any such shelter space that requires physical design retrofit of the structure to accommodate this use.

401.8 Ensures that a local school facility, in the absence of an established area evacuation site, be utilized as an emergency shelter and that state funds be allocated to physically design and/or retrofit schools where needed.

401.9 Provides funding for the state greenways initiative and urban connectors.

401.10 Provides funding to local governments for the management and restoration of state lands purchased for conservation and recreation purposes.

401.11 Creates a significant, dedicated funding source to fund the Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program (FRDAP) with an increase in the maximum allowable grant award to cities and counties.

402 Provides greater direct municipal access to Small City CDBG funding to non-entitlement cities for the purpose of financing vital community development programs and encourages loans and grants to low- and moderate-income properties as identified by the local government.

511.4 Provides funding for eliminating aquatic weeds that often disrupt municipal stormwater and drainage systems.

511.5 Provides funding to local governments for eliminating exotic pest plants that disrupt the natural function of wetland and upland systems.

511.6 Removes unwarranted restrictions on the tourist development tax for coastal land acquisition.

511.7 Grants additional revenue-generating authority and technical assistance to support local environmental and growth management programs regulated by the state, particularly for smaller cities, including, but not limited to, solid waste recycling, wastewater treatment and reuse, hazardous waste management, and evaluation and appraisal reports (EARs).

511.8 Provides funding for the restoration and maintenance of interior waterways and connected systems.

511.9 Provides adequate funding for the state greenways initiative and urban connectors.

511.10 Provides funding to local governments for the management and restoration of state lands purchased for conservation and recreation purposes.

511.11 Creates a significant, dedicated funding source to fund the Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program (FRDAP) with an increase in the maximum allowable grant award to cities and counties.

511.3 Reinstates and maintains state funding from the Solid Waste Management Trust Fund to support municipal and county recycling programs.

511.2 Increases state research funding to improve local waste disposal and recycling technology and to expand/create economically sustainable markets for recyclables.

511.1 Authorizes permanent, recurring funding sources to assist in the financing of environmentally related programs.

The Florida League of Cities will support legislation that:

510.1 Defines chemical, biological, nuclear, toxic and infectious wastes, and establishes procedures that track the generation, transport and disposal of such waste.

510.2 Encourages the imposition of civil penalties that exceed the cost of legal disposal against illegal generators and/or dumpers of hazardous and toxic materials.

510.3 Encourages a reduction in the production of hazardous waste and promotes neutralizing potentially hazardous waste on-site.

511 The state shall appropriate funds to pay for state environmental programs.

The Florida League of Cities will support legislation that:

511.1 Authorizes permanent, recurring funding sources to assist in the financing of environmentally related programs.

511.2 Increases state research funding to improve local waste disposal and recycling technology and to expand/create economically sustainable markets for recyclables.

511.3 Reinstates and maintains state funding from the Solid Waste Management Trust Fund to support municipal and county recycling programs.

511.4 Provides funding for eliminating aquatic weeds that often disrupt municipal stormwater and drainage systems.

511.5 Provides funding to local governments for eliminating exotic pest plants that disrupt the natural function of wetland and upland systems.

508.1 Prohibits the use of septic tanks in potable water wells and high-density urban areas and allows their limited use in rural areas only when soil conditions, topography and water tables are suitable, and municipal services are not available.

508.2 Severely limits the installation of new, small package sewer treatment plants and increases state regulation of existing package plants, including strong measures to prevent improper operations, neglect and/or abandonment.

508.3 Requires the closure of package treatment plants when central sewage treatment is available.

Wetlands

509 The state's wetlands are essential to the state's natural ecosystem. These wetlands provide water filtration and storage, and serve as a natural habitat to fish and wildlife. Development in wetland areas should be prevented.

509.1 Ensures that municipalities retain the right to adopt and enforce more stringent wetlands and riparian habitat regulations within their municipal boundaries.

509.2 Facilitates and encourages the use of stormwater and/or treated wastewater, when appropriate, for wetland restoration and rehydration projects.

Hazardous and Toxic Wastes

510 The proper identification, containment, storage, disposal, treatment and transportation of hazardous wastes, infectious materials, and other toxic materials are essential for the protection of the public health, safety and welfare. Furthermore, the proliferation of small, scattered disposal sites only exacerbates potential problems associated with hazardous and toxic waste management. A solution to the problems of hazardous and toxic wastes will require the cooperation of federal, state, and waste-generating and transporting industries.

506.3 Requires the state to receive and review comments from local government officials prior to final decisions regarding permits or leases pertaining to municipal dumping and discharge.

Interior Waters, Waterways and Connected Systems

507 The Florida League of Cities requests state cooperation, regulatory support and funding assistance for plans developed by local governments whose purpose is to maintain and restore the healthy function of water systems.

507.1 Requires the state to assist in the permitting and funding of local government projects whose purpose is to protect natural systems, such as wetlands, lakes, streams, rivers, etc., from the pollutants and fluctuating flows which result from urban and rural development.

507.2 Requires the state to assist in the permitting and funding of local government projects whose purpose is the construction, maintenance and improvement of stormwater systems, both on-site and off-site regional facilities, and their associated conveyance systems.

Canals

507.3 Requires the state to coordinate with and assist local governments in permitting and providing funding for projects whose purpose is to maintain the original design depth, enhance water circulation and water quality in existing canal systems used for recreation and transportation.

Wastewater Treatment and Reuse

508 Once municipal water has been used, it is in most instances properly treated and recycled back into the environment. The improper siting, installation, and maintenance of package plants and septic tanks often does not accomplish the level of treatment needed to protect the ecosystems of the state, and acts only to exacerbate non-point source pollution problems. Wellfield or surface water contamination may occur, creating a serious threat to the health and safety of Florida's citizens.

405.1 Shared use of school and municipal facilities. The League further encourages state and local officials to adopt policies consistent with this goal.

405.2 Eliminates barriers to allow municipal property, such as recreational facilities or other facilities used as emergency shelters to be shared or located with public schools.

405.2 Preserves municipal authority over zoning for public school facilities.

406 Municipal service delivery areas should be coordinated in a rational and orderly manner to reduce duplication of services and to efficiently and effectively serve the needs of the municipal citizenry.

406.1 Authorizes planning and incentives for promoting the cost-efficient provision of municipal services without duplication.

407 Municipal boundary expansion should be coordinated in a rational and orderly manner to reduce duplication of services and provide for responsible growth and to efficiently and effectively serve the needs of the municipal citizenry.

407.1 Provides reasonable procedures to allow cities to eliminate all enclaves and to expediently annex areas that are adjacent to their boundaries.

407.2 Authorizes municipalities to waive "in-city elections" for annexation by referendum.

407.3 Requires counties to consider adjacent municipal land and use plans when granting development approvals for property located within incorporated areas.

The Florida League of Cities will support legislation that:

403.1 Strengthens the concept that local issues are best resolved at the local level of government and prevents attempts to erode municipal government powers.

403.2 Establishes a state procedure within a specific agency to intergovernmentally assess the impact of shifted and diminished federal programs and block grants upon cities and counties, consistent with the constitutional unfunded mandate provisions.

403.3 Limits the state's ability to require municipal government enforcement of state policies and programs and ensures that all costs incurred by local governments administering state laws be offset by state revenues.

403.4 Provides a dedicated state funding source for local governments' processing of the state-required comprehensive plan evaluation and appraisal report and continues to fund the comprehensive plan preparation of future incorporated municipalities.

404 The Florida League of Cities acknowledges the efforts the state has taken to streamline and improve the agency's rule-making procedures. However, it is important that the state continues to respect the Home Rule authority and uniqueness of cities and that cities not be included under the auspices of the Administrative Procedures Act.

404.1 Redesigns the state agency rule promulgation process as "outcome" versus "prescriptive" based.

405 The Florida League of Cities believes that a strong public education system is essential to building and sustaining Florida's communities. The League supports efforts to enhance the quality of public education, and believes that adequate fiscal and material resources should be provided to address, among other issues, school overcrowding, student safety, the expansion of after-school programs, and the

407.4 Permits municipalities to amend their comprehensive plans and rezone property simultaneously with the voluntary annexation of property.

407.5

Permits the orderly and responsible expansion of municipal borders to prevent the future occurrence of urban sprawl.

Stormwater

407.4

505 Stormwater runoff, which contributes to surface water and/or groundwater pollution, is caused by urban, interurban and agricultural uses. Solutions to stormwater runoff should entail a partnership approach between municipalities, counties, schools, water management districts, and state government and not place a disproportionate or undue burden on urban areas.

The Florida League of Cities will support legislation that:

505.1 Provides for areawide coordination of stormwater management, which requires the agricultural industry to share the proportionate costs to mitigate pollution when the agricultural runoff is a contributing source.

505.2 Requires the Florida Department of Transportation to be responsible for mitigating new and retrofitting existing effects of stormwater runoff from the state's highway system.

505.3 Requires the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to permit regional stormwater retrofit facilities in urbanized areas to improve water quality, encourage urban revitalization and discourage urban sprawl.

505

504 Individual personal behavior is the principal cause of litter. However, some immediate surroundings (such as delivery and loading docks, construction sites, waste collection and management vehicles, containers and facilities) can encourage personal behaviors (or the lack of appropriate ones) that generate litter. Florida marine, wetland, river and other waterway environments are especially vulnerable to litter. In addition, the state's millions of tourists and business visitors, many of whom might not feel a personal stake in the environmental beauty and health of the state, make Florida's litter an especially visible and troubling issue. Litter is an environmental contaminant that must be reduced at its source.

504.1 Defines litter as an environmental waste and desirable for elimination at its source.

504.2 Encourages voluntary litter elimination programs by state, local or private organizations.

504.3 Preserves and encourages state, local and private partnerships for promoting voluntary litter elimination programs.

504.4 Encourages and/or supports public education programs designed to eliminate litter.

504.5 Encourages and/or supports primary and secondary institutional education programs designed to eliminate litter.

504.6 Encourages the design, construction and operation of public buildings and private buildings to reduce the generation of litter at delivery and loading docks.

504.7 Encourages the design, construction and operation of solid waste management facilities and collection equipment to reduce the generation of litter in their operation.

504.8 Encourages the management and operation of public construction sites and private construction sites to reduce the generation of litter at and from those sites.

504

Litter Minimization

Coastal Management

506 Florida's coastal resources are considered to be among its greatest assets. These resources should be protected, especially land seaward of the Coastal Construction Control Line (CCCL), and enhanced so that they may continue to be enjoyed for generations to come.

The Florida League of Cities will support legislation that:

506.1 Provides for a reasonable and regular increase in publicly owned coastal land, emphasizing beach access, shoreline recreation, environmental education and hazard management, with continued support for Preservation 2000, Florida Communities Trust, Save Our Coast, Conservation and Recreation Lands (CARL), and other state and federal funding programs.

506.2 Grants revenue-generating authority for projects designed to enhance beach areas, bayous and estuaries, such as beach renourishment, vegetation projects, erosion control, inlet management, dune enhancement, environmental coastal protection, relocation of seaside development, marine habitat restoration.

506

Environmental Quality

502.5	Establishes state, regional and county environmental permitting, surveillance, regulation and operating fees that do not exceed direct cost recovery levels, and do not impose hardship.	502.5	Establishes state, regional and county environmental permitting, surveillance, regulation and operating fees that do not exceed direct cost recovery levels, and do not impose hardship.
502.6	Provides a waiver of financial penalty when a municipality or other regulated entity discovers and corrects an environmental permit violation caused by a short-term malfunction in a facility, and opposes any public records exemptions.	502.6	Provides a waiver of financial penalty when a municipality or other regulated entity discovers and corrects an environmental permit violation caused by a short-term malfunction in a facility, and opposes any public records exemptions.
502.7	Provides regulatory and fiscal incentives for remediation and redevelopment to municipalities that have acquired environmentally contaminated "Brownfield" sites.	502.7	Provides regulatory and fiscal incentives for remediation and redevelopment to municipalities that have acquired environmentally contaminated "Brownfield" sites.
501.1	Requires the orderly extension of urban services and infrastructure, and provides redevelopment incentives for compact urban centers to discourage urban sprawl while promoting fiscally strong urban communities.	501.2	Requires that prior to the sale, lease or change of land use of publicly owned land, that impacted municipalities participate and make recommendations on such a decision being made by the governmental entity having jurisdiction.
501.3	Ensures through the provision of regulatory relief and incentives, that the long-term viable and sustainable characteristics of a municipality are recognized and retained, such as, but not limited to: natural resources and human-made resources, historic, cultural and economic resources.	501.3	Ensures through the provision of regulatory relief and incentives, that the long-term viable and sustainable characteristics of a municipality are recognized and retained, such as, but not limited to: natural resources and human-made resources, historic, cultural and economic resources.
502	Protection of our environment is a major concern of all citizens of the state. The various environmental permitting processes of the state are important to the preservation of our natural resources. However, recent and projected funding cutbacks at the state and federal levels necessitate that the state permitting process be streamlined, reasonable and financially feasible.	502	Protection of our environment is a major concern of all citizens of the state. The various environmental permitting processes of the state are important to the preservation of our natural resources. However, recent and projected funding cutbacks at the state and federal levels necessitate that the state permitting process be streamlined, reasonable and financially feasible.
502.1	Allows for continued discharge from a permitted municipal facility that is operating in accordance with permit conditions, absent a clear demonstration by the regulating entity that said municipal facility is causing or contributing to degradation of water quality.	502.1	Allows for continued discharge from a permitted municipal facility that is operating in accordance with permit conditions, absent a clear demonstration by the regulating entity that said municipal facility is causing or contributing to degradation of water quality.
502.2	Allows the delegation of state and regional permitting programs to certified or designated municipalities upon their request.	502.2	Allows the delegation of state and regional permitting programs to certified or designated municipalities upon their request.
502.3	Ensures that municipalities have the right to adopt and enforce more stringent environmental standards.	502.3	Ensures that municipalities have the right to adopt and enforce more stringent environmental standards.
502.4	Restores local governments' rights to enact and enforce more stringent environmental regulations: such as, but not limited to those relating to pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers.	502.4	Restores local governments' rights to enact and enforce more stringent environmental regulations: such as, but not limited to those relating to pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers.
503.3	Requires the Department of Environmental Protection to issue permits for solid waste management facilities based on the best management practices and to allow for continued use of the facility, absent a clear demonstration by the state that the facility is causing environmental harm.	503.3	Requires the Department of Environmental Protection to issue permits for solid waste management facilities based on the best management practices and to allow for continued use of the facility, absent a clear demonstration by the state that the facility is causing environmental harm.
503.4	Places a refundable deposit on beverage containers without exemptions.	503.4	Places a refundable deposit on beverage containers without exemptions.
503.5	Allows the development, expansion or upgrade of waste-to-energy facilities, providing they meet the current emissions standards.	503.5	Allows the development, expansion or upgrade of waste-to-energy facilities, providing they meet the current emissions standards.

500.3	Provides that primary authority should be granted to municipalities and counties for determining which water supply alternatives would best facilitate their water supply development.	500.3	Provides that primary authority should be granted to municipalities and counties for determining which water supply alternatives would best facilitate their water supply development.
500.4	Provides that, if transferring water from one jurisdiction to another, fees charged shall be based on full cost analysis and recovery, including environmental mitigation. An optional reasonable surcharge may also be levied by the donor city to develop alternative water supplies, in addition to any existing surcharges currently authorized by statute.	500.4	Provides that, if transferring water from one jurisdiction to another, fees charged shall be based on full cost analysis and recovery, including environmental mitigation. An optional reasonable surcharge may also be levied by the donor city to develop alternative water supplies, in addition to any existing surcharges currently authorized by statute.
500.5	Authorizes a recurring revenue-generating mechanism for funding water supply development and water restoration projects.	500.5	Authorizes a recurring revenue-generating mechanism for funding water supply development and water restoration projects.
500.6	Provides for financial incentives to promote environmentally sound alternatives available for the disposal of by-products from reverse osmosis and desalination.	500.6	Provides for financial incentives to promote environmentally sound alternatives available for the disposal of by-products from reverse osmosis and desalination.
500.7	Requires that the term of water use permits be established to meet current and future demands without environmental degradation to the surrounding area.	500.7	Requires that the term of water use permits be established to meet current and future demands without environmental degradation to the surrounding area.
500.8	Protects shallow water aquifers and surface watersheds used for public potable water supply systems from the location of any petroleum production pipeline.	500.8	Protects shallow water aquifers and surface watersheds used for public potable water supply systems from the location of any petroleum production pipeline.
500.9	Requires representation of municipal elected officials on water management district governing boards.	500.9	Requires representation of municipal elected officials on water management district governing boards.
501	Local comprehensive planning should be the cornerstone of land use, water planning and environmental protection. No other management tool can effectively integrate and balance between the interests of a community while best serving the needs of the state. Requirements for local comprehensive planning mandates, imposed by the state upon municipalities, should be minimal and fully recognize unique local characteristics and municipal Home Rule authority.	501	Local comprehensive planning should be the cornerstone of land use, water planning and environmental protection. No other management tool can effectively integrate and balance between the interests of a community while best serving the needs of the state. Requirements for local comprehensive planning mandates, imposed by the state upon municipalities, should be minimal and fully recognize unique local characteristics and municipal Home Rule authority.
500.1	Provides economic and regulatory incentives to promote environmentally and technically feasible water quality and supply management alternatives such as, but not limited to: conservation, reuse, aquifer storage and recovery, intra-district alternative water supplies, reverse osmosis and desalination, and the use of surface waters.	500.1	Provides economic and regulatory incentives to promote environmentally and technically feasible water quality and supply management alternatives such as, but not limited to: conservation, reuse, aquifer storage and recovery, intra-district alternative water supplies, reverse osmosis and desalination, and the use of surface waters.
500.2	Provides that the transfer of water should be the option of last resort once all other environmental options have been exhausted, such as the alternatives previously stated. Furthermore, that transfer should occur with the concurrence of the impacted municipalities and counties.	500.2	Provides that the transfer of water should be the option of last resort once all other environmental options have been exhausted, such as the alternatives previously stated. Furthermore, that transfer should occur with the concurrence of the impacted municipalities and counties.

Priority

Potable Water Supply Management and Planning

500 Proper management of the state's water supply and quality is an extremely important issue to Florida's municipalities. Since the state's water resources are interconnected and mutually owned, all stakeholders should share responsibility for their proper management. The League supports responsible land and water use, conservation and planning based on appropriate data and analysis, and supports the development of alternative water supplies.

The Florida League of Cities will support legislation that:

- ◆ increase funds to the Florida Communities Trust;
- ◆ provide funds for water resource protection and restoration, as well as environmentally compatible passive outdoor recreation projects;
- ◆ promote local greenways programs;
- ◆ restrict the use of allocated funds to projects which serve a direct environmental purpose, such as on-site environmental education;
- ◆ ensure that revenues derived from the sale of surplus lands be used exclusively for the continuation and expansion of preservation programs; and
- ◆ ensure that no funds allocated for this initiative are diverted to other non-related activities, such as education facilities.