

Welcome

The purpose of the Palm Beach County League of Cities' Legislative Agenda is to articulate, advocate, promote and advance issues that may significantly impact municipalities within Palm Beach County. The League of Cities exists to promote and advance best practices and collective interests of the municipalities in Palm Beach County; to study municipal problems and seek solutions to them through cooperative efforts; to encourage and work for the welfare of our citizens in Palm Beach County, providing the best quality of life possible countywide. The League was chartered in 1969 as a nonpartisan, nonprofit corporation by and for municipalities. We are a recognized IRS-501(c)(4).

38 Municipal Members by Area

District 1:

Juno Beach, Jupiter, Jupiter Inlet Colony, Lake Park, Mangonia Park, North Palm Beach, Palm Beach, Palm Beach Gardens, Palm Beach Shores, Riviera Beach & Tequesta

District 2:

Cloud Lake, Glen Ridge, Haverhill, Lake Clarke Shores, Loxahatchee Groves, Palm Springs, Royal Palm Beach, West Palm Beach & Wellington

District 3:

Atlantis, Boynton Beach, Greenacres, Hypoluxo, Lake Worth, Lantana, Manalapan, South Palm Beach & Village of Golf

District 4:

Boca Raton, Briny Breezes, Delray Beach, Gulf Stream, Highland Beach & Ocean Ridge

District 5:

Belle Glade, Pahokee & South Bay

Links to individual municipal websites and to get more information visit:
www.leagueofcities.org



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2015 Key Dates:

March

- 3 Opening Day of the 2015 Regular Legislative Session
- 4-5 Palm Beach County Day - Tallahassee
- 7-11 National League of Cities Congressional City Conference, Washington, D.C.
- 17-18 Florida League of Cities Legislative Action Days – Tallahassee

May

- 1 Last Day - 2015 Legislative Session

August

- 13-15 Florida League of Cities Annual Conference – World Center Marriott, Orlando

November

- 4-7 National League of Cities Annual Congress of Cities and Exposition - Nashville, TN
- 19-20 Florida League of Cities Legislative Conference – Orlando

The League Board of Directors and General Membership meetings are usually held on 4th Wednesdays of each month at various host city and Associate locations around Palm Beach County.

For more information visit:
www.leagueofcities.org

Legislative Priorities & Issues 2015



The League represents the thirty-eight municipalities of Palm Beach County, plus over eighty associate, government, non-profits & business organizations.

“Shared visions & best practices make for better communities.”

Visit us at...
www.leagueofcities.org



The League of Cities 2015 Legislative Priorities

The League of Cities supports legislation that strengthens municipal self-governing powers. “Home Rule,” or government closest to the citizens is key to a successful democracy.

Residential Sober Houses

The League of Cities will support legislation that defines and establishes minimum regulatory standards for sober home facilities and allows for more stringent local regulations of these facilities.

Pension Plans & Benefits

The League of Cities will support legislation that affirms the home rule powers of municipalities to establish and fund municipal employee benefit levels, and specifically provides comprehensive pension reform, disability presumption reform and a mechanism for municipalities to revoke their election to participate in the Florida Retirement System.

Mandates

The League of Cities recommends a moratorium on mandates of any kind during the 2015 legislative session. Local governments are working to maintain current service levels within the confines of an economic downturn. We request that the state legislature allow time for municipalities to focus on current requirements without added regulations.

Economic Development & Workforce Training

The League of Cities will support legislation reauthorizing the Enterprise Zones. The League further supports the focus on state resources for local workforce and career training at all education levels and subsequent job placement, with particular interest to our inland port cities in Western Palm Beach County.

Bright Future Scholarship Program

The League of Cities will support legislation that allows business and government agency student internships to count toward the Florida Bright Future Scholarship requirements.

Internet Sales and Use Tax

The League of Cities will support legislation that simplifies Florida’s Sales and Use Tax System and qualify the state for participation in the Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Agreement, thereby making it easier for out-of-state businesses to voluntarily collect and remit taxes to Florida.

Communication Service & Local Business Tax

The League of Cities will support legislation that protects the general revenues collected from the communications services tax and the local business tax which are used to provide services that our citizens want and need including public infrastructure, public safety services and public transportation infrastructure. Municipalities have absorbed significant increases in operational cost while receiving less tax revenues.

Gaming / Gambling

The League of Cities will support legislation that creates a level playing field in relationship to pari-mutuel facilities in South Florida.

Vacation Rentals

The League of Cities will support legislation that allows local governments to regulate short term rental properties to protect the health and welfare of their residents, visitors and businesses.

Effective Growth Management

The League of Cities will continue to monitor the effects of Growth Management legislation and oppose efforts that would undermine a local government’s planning and zoning density authority.

Housing & Small City CDBG Policy

The League of Cities will support legislation maintaining dedicated funding categories for housing rehabilitation, economic development, neighborhood and commercial revitalization with adequate verification safeguards that insure grants will primarily benefit low and moderate-income families.

Transportation

The League of Cities will support legislation that preserves local control of transportation planning and provide opportunities for additional revenue options to fund municipal transportation infrastructure projects including roads and rails.

Energy Policy

The League of Cities will support legislation that incentivizes the development and implementation of renewable and alternative energy and transportation fuel sources, and authorizes the use of \$192 million in Qualified Energy Conservation Bonds allocated to the State of Florida for local government energy efficiency projects.

Public Records

The League of Cities supports legislation that honors the intent of the Public Records Act by eliminating fraudulent abuse of the law, and permits the courts to award reasonable attorney fees to agencies/defendants that are found to have acted lawfully in providing requested public information.

Amendment 1 Distribution

The League of Cities supports using resources from Amendment 1 for enhancement of water quality and beach management.

Beach Management

The League of Cities will support legislation appropriating the \$30 million annual doc stamp tax revenue to the Ecosystem Management and Restoration Trust Fund for beach preservation and repair. The League supports the elimination of redundancy in state and federal permitting, while encouraging the streamline of permit application review, which would reduce project cost, accelerate the permitting process and eliminate agency conflicts.

Water Quality & Supply

The League of Cities will support legislation addressing water quality and quantity issues that affect local communities’ aquifers, surface waters and estuaries. Specifically, the League supports efforts to maintain, revitalize and protect Palm Beach County’s water quality in the Glades, flooding and water retention and the restoration of the Loxahatchee River and Lake Worth Lagoon.

Septic Tanks

The League of Cities will support financial and regulatory initiatives that prioritize and encourage properties with septic tanks to connect to centralized sewer systems, especially in areas that impact rivers, estuaries, first magnitude springs and impaired water bodies.