

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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2012 Key Dates:

January

- 10 Opening Day of the 2012 Regular Legislative Session
25 Florida League of Cities Legislative Action Day – Tallahassee

March

- 9 Last Day - 2012 Legislative Session
12-16 National League of Cities Congressional City Conference, Washington, D.C.

August

- 23-25 Florida League of Cities Annual Conference – Westin Diplomat, Hollywood

November

- 27-1 National League of Cities Annual Congress of Cities and Exposition - Boston, MA
17-18 Florida League of Cities Legislative Conference – Hyatt Regency Orlando International Airport Hotel

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

This publication is updated as issues evolve.
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Legislative Priorities & Issues 2012



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 2012 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.

Redistricting

The League of Cities supports the voter mandated guidelines for determining state legislative districts. We recommend that at least three state Senate districts consist of a majority of constituents from Palm Beach County.

Mandates

The League of Cities recommends a moratorium on mandates of any kind during the 2012 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 more being added.

Effective Growth Management

The League of Cities will continue to monitor the effects of the Growth Management legislation passed during the 2011 session.

Florida Sunshine Law & Ethics

The League of Cities will support legislative exemptions to the Florida Sunshine Law, which can exempt local governments and advisory committees in matters dealing with criminal justice procedures and sensitive Business Development incentivization packages as appropriate.

The League will support legislation that extends stricter Sunshine Law and Ethics compliance provisions to state government, as it applies to local government officials conducting public business.

The League will support legislation clarifying the Sunshine Law as it pertains to advisory boards and committees, thereby allowing and encouraging participation by elected officials and the general public.

Effective Public Notice

The League of Cities will support legislation that authorizes municipalities to provide effective public notice and advertising for various appropriate matters by means other than newspapers, such as direct mailings, physical posting of properties, Internet posting, free publications, government access television channels, and other suitable alternatives. Ad valorem millage-setting notices would continue to be provided in newspaper ads.

Green Energy Policy

The League of Cities will support legislation that incentivizes the development and implementation of renewable and alternative energy and transportation fuel sources; encourages mass transit and energy-efficiency practices; provides Federal, State and private funding for local governments to assist in state energy policies such as green building and carbon emission reductions; and provides technical assistance and funding to municipalities to implement a comprehensive sustainable energy policy and regulatory framework.

Pension Plans & Benefits

The League of Cities will support legislation that provides comprehensive municipal firefighter and police officer pension reform. Any comprehensive pension reform package should address the issue of the insurance premium tax revenues and the requirement that additional revenues be used for new, “extra” pension benefits. Current law should also be changed so that if a firefighter or police officer pension plan does not accept insurance premium tax revenues, then the insurance premium tax should not be charged in that jurisdiction. The League opposes increases in the employer contribution.

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 Sales and Use Tax Agreement, thereby making it easier for out-of-state businesses to voluntarily collect and remit taxes to Florida.

Internet Cafes

The League of Cities will support legislation that will either regulate businesses operating internet “sweepstakes” gaming activities under the gaming commission, or find them in violation of Chapter 849 FS and prosecuted accordingly.

Local Business Tax Protection

The League of Cities will oppose legislation that modifies, restricts or eliminates the authority of municipalities to levy, collect and/or expend the communications services tax and the local business tax.

Gambling

The League of Cities will oppose legislation that would place Palm Beach County pari-mutuel facilities at an unfair competitive disadvantage as it relates to the expansion of the gaming industry.

Numeric Nutrient Criteria

The League of Cities will support legislation that would implement water quality protections in Florida that are based on sound science and produce reasonable environmental and water resource cost-benefits. In the event that a federal rule is enacted, the legislature should either: (a) direct the FDEP to work with utilities and the EPA to develop a long-term implementation and management plan for the use of reuse water, which would be “presumed” to meet the numeric nutrient criteria; or (b)

“TABOR”

The League of Cities opposes artificial or “one size fits all” caps on revenues and expenditures. The League will monitor any attempt to introduce the Taxpayer Bill of Rights.

Residential Sober Houses

The League of Cities will support legislation that clarifies and affirms home rule authority of local governments with regard to siting and occupancy of residential sober houses.