

**RESOLUTION NO. 21-R16**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING THE **2021 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES** OF THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES AND THE TREASURE COAST REGIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

**WHEREAS**, the Florida League of Cities established its 2021 Legislative Action Agenda;  
and

**WHEREAS**, on February 17, 2021, the Treasure Coast Regional League of Cities adopted Resolution 2021R-001 urging members of the Florida Legislature to support specific issues important to Florida municipalities during the 2021 Legislative Session.

**WHEREAS**, the City of Fort Pierce shares the concerns and priorities of the Florida League of Cities and the Treasure Coast Regional League of Cities.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FORT PIERCE FLORIDA AS FOLLOWS:**

**SECTION 1:** The City of Fort Pierce, Florida supports and adopts the 2021 Legislative Priorities of the Florida League of Cities and the Treasure Coast Regional League of Cities as outlined in the policy statements attached hereto and made a part hereof.

**SECTION 2:** The City of Fort Pierce authorizes and encourages the Mayor to take all necessary actions in order to advocate on behalf of the City regarding the policy statements hereby adopted.

**SECTION 3:** This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

**IN WITNESS THEREOF**, this Resolution has been duly adopted on this 1st day of March, 2021.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Linda Hudson, Mayor Commissioner

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Linda W. Cox, City Clerk

(SEAL)

Approved as to Form  
And Correctness:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Peter J. Sweeney, Esq.  
City Attorney

# LEGISLATIVE ACTION AGENDA

## PRIORITIES

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- Sales Tax Fairness
- Short-Term Rentals
- Discharges to Surface Waters
- Affordable Housing
- Annexation

## IMPORTANCE OF HOME RULE

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The Florida League of Cities believes in the importance of local self-government and that those officials closest to the people know their community best. Each of these issues supports Home Rule and a municipality's ability to govern itself based on the wants and needs of its residents. Home Rule is supported by an overwhelming majority of Florida residents. It is the foundation for local governments as they create fair, effective and responsive policies for their communities.

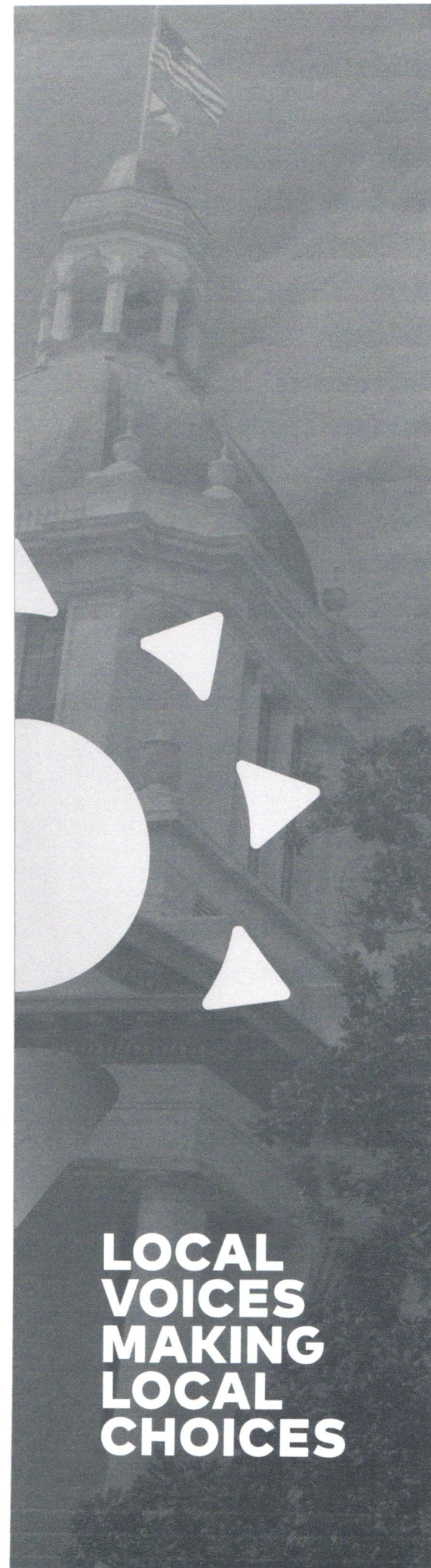
## PRIORITY STATEMENTS

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**Sales Tax Fairness:** The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS legislation to update Florida's sales and use tax laws that apply to online/e-commerce sales from out-of-state retailers. Changes are needed to ensure that in-state retailers are treated equitably and that the Florida sales and use tax law is equally enforced.  
Contact: Amber Hughes · [ahughes@flcities.com](mailto:ahughes@flcities.com)

**Short-Term Rentals:** The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS legislation providing for a collaboration between the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation and cities to ensure that short-term rental properties abide by state and local regulations, are properly licensed and insured, and comply with state and local taxation requirements as well as industry-accepted safety practices. The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS legislation clarifying that existing, grandfathered municipal short-term rental ordinances can be amended without penalty.  
Contact: Tara Taggart · [ttaggart@flcities.com](mailto:ttaggart@flcities.com)

**Discharges to Surface Waters:** The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS legislation that establishes reasonable time frames for utilities to eliminate, to the extent possible in compliance with regulatory requirements and with specified exceptions, discharges to surface waters unless a utility demonstrates it is not environmentally, technically or economically feasible.  
Contact: Rebecca O'Hara · [rohara@flcities.com](mailto:rohara@flcities.com)



**LOCAL  
VOICES  
MAKING  
LOCAL  
CHOICES**

**Affordable Housing:** The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS legislation that requires all monies from the Sadowski State and Local Government Housing Trust Funds be used only for Florida's affordable housing programs.  
Contact: Jeff Branch · [jbranch@flcities.com](mailto:jbranch@flcities.com)

**Annexation:** The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS legislation that facilitates the municipal annexation of unincorporated areas while protecting private property rights and respecting municipal boundaries.  
Contact: David Cruz · [dcruz@flcities.com](mailto:dcruz@flcities.com)

## OTHER ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE

**Cybersecurity:** The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS legislation dedicating state resources for the development and enhancement of municipal cybersecurity by providing funding for technical assistance, threat assessments, employee training, infrastructure improvements and data protection, including the protection of exempt and confidential information such as law enforcement personnel information and plans for government buildings and other critical infrastructure.

**Transportation Funding:** The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS legislation that will allow cities to have greater local decision-making and flexibility on transportation funding to ensure we meet our ever-changing transportation demands.

**Mobility Plans:** The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS legislation that defines mobility plans and fees in order to provide the clarity and consistency needed to assist Florida's cities in implementing alternative modes of transportation.

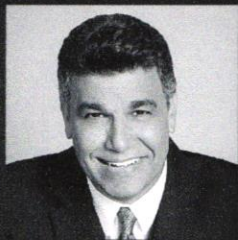
**Digital Divide:** The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS legislation that reduces the digital divide and expands broadband internet access to all areas of the state. This includes:

- ▶ Identifying areas of Florida that are underserved by traditional broadband providers.
- ▶ Removing statutory barriers for cities to provide telecommunication services and open competition for affordable internet service.
- ▶ Increasing public funding for construction of broadband infrastructure.

**Resilient and Sustainable Florida:** The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS legislation that promotes a resilient and sustainable Florida, including:

- ▶ Funding water quality improvements.
- ▶ Establishing policies and funding for alternative water supply development.
- ▶ Providing for intergovernmental coordination and planning on strategies to address climate challenges such as drought, coastal flooding and inland flooding.
- ▶ Enabling local authority to implement natural resource protection strategies.

## 2020-21 OFFICERS



President  
**TONY ORTIZ**  
Commissioner, Orlando



First Vice President  
**PHILLIP WALKER**  
Commissioner, Lakeland



Second Vice President  
**JOLIEN CARABALLO**  
Councilwoman, Port St. Lucie

For more information on the League's legislative initiatives, please contact:



Florida League of Cities  
P.O. Box 1757  
Tallahassee, FL 32302-1757  
850.222.9684  
[flcities.com](http://flcities.com)

**RESOLUTION 2021R-001**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TREASURE COAST REGIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES INC. URGING MEMBERS OF THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO SUPPORT THE FOLLOWING ISSUES DURING THE 2021 LEGISLATIVE SESSION.**

**WHEREAS**, Florida's cities, towns and villages believe in the importance of local self-government and that those officials closest to the people know their community best; and

**WHEREAS**, the COVID-19 pandemic has significantly altered the normal day-to-day life of most Floridians; and

**WHEREAS**, Florida's cities have been continuously working to respond to the needs of their residents and businesses and have been taking extraordinary measures to both limit the spread of COVID-19 and support local businesses, all while keeping the health and safety of their residents at the forefront of their efforts; and

**WHEREAS**, Florida's city leaders urge the Florida Legislature to support the principles of Home Rule and allow cities to address local challenges and govern based on the wants and needs of its residents and create fair, effective and responsive policies for their communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Treasure Coast Regional League of Cities pledges to work together with Governor Ron DeSantis and Florida's House and Senate leaders to address the unique concerns of municipalities during the upcoming 2021 Legislative Session.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY TREASURE COAST REGIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.:**

Section 1. The Treasure Coast Regional League of Cities urges Gov. Ron DeSantis and members of the Florida Legislature to support legislation during the 2021 Legislative Session that:

SUPPORTS legislation to update Florida's sales and use tax laws that apply to online/e-commerce sales from out-of-state retailers; and

SUPPORTS legislation providing for a collaboration between the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation and cities to ensure that short-term rental properties abide by state and local regulations, are properly licensed and insured, and comply with state and local taxation requirements as well as industry-accepted safety practices and further SUPPORTS legislation clarifying that existing, grandfathered municipal short-term rental ordinances can be amended without penalty; and

SUPPORTS legislation that establishes reasonable time frames for utilities to eliminate, to the extent possible in compliance with regulatory requirements and with specified exceptions, discharges to surface waters unless a utility demonstrates it is not environmentally, technically or economically feasible; and

SUPPORTS legislation that requires all monies from the Sadowski State and Local Government Housing Trust Funds be used only for Florida's affordable housing programs; and

SUPPORTS legislation that facilitates the municipal annexation of unincorporated areas while protecting private property rights and respecting municipal boundaries.

Section 2. A copy of this resolution shall be provided to Governor Ron DeSantis, Senate President Wilton Simpson, Speaker of the House of Representatives Chris Sprowls and (insert House and Senate members representing city).

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Treasure Coast Regional League of Cities, Inc., this 17th Day of February 2021.

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Councilwoman Jolien Caraballo  
President

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Witnessed