



2020 LEGISLATIVE ACTION AGENDA

**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY LEAGUE OF CITIES
2019-2020
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Dear Colleagues:

Each legislative session presents new challenges to address and new challenges to overcome, as we collaborate to uphold Home Rule and ensure that local decisions are taken by local elected officials. As President of the Miami-Dade County League of Cities and Mayor of the Village of El Portal, it is my privilege to serve the 34 municipalities of Miami-Dade County.

During my tenure, I have collaborated with officials from all municipalities in advocacy of our collective interests. I have witnessed the colorful mosaic of cities, towns, and villages that allows us to draw on the strength of our unique diversity and harmonize our voices into a powerful force.

It is in this spirit of unity that we must resolutely voice our legislative positions, positions which are expressed and outlined in this year's Legislative Action Agenda. In tandem with the Florida League of Cities and Miami-Dade County Public Schools, the League has focused on the key developments emerging on the state level that are most likely to have an effect on our communities. We have crafted this agenda to serve as the framework for you to continue to promote and protect Home Rule and ensure that we all speak with one united voice.

Yours in Service,

Claudia V. Cubillos
MDCLC President
Mayor, Village of El Portal

Miami-Dade County League of Cities 2020 State Legislative Priority Positions

Private Property Rights and the “Bert Harris Act”

The Florida League of Cities and the Miami-Dade County League of Cities **OPPOSE** changes to the Bert J. Harris Jr. Private Property Rights Protection Act that do not consider everyone’s property rights or that create one-sided lawsuits that shift inordinate financial burdens onto local taxpayers and limit the ability of cities to quickly resolve claims.

Sales Tax Fairness

The Florida League of Cities and the Miami-Dade County League of Cities **SUPPORT** legislation to reform Florida’s sales and use tax laws that apply to online/e-commerce sales from out-of-state retailers. Changes are needed to ensure in-state retailers are treated equitably.

Short Term Rentals

The Florida League of Cities and the Miami-Dade County League of Cities **SUPPORT** 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 and be properly licensed and insured, are complying with state and local taxation requirements, and comply with industry-accepted safety practices. The Florida League of Cities and the Miami-Dade County League of Cities **SUPPORT** legislation clarifying that existing, grandfathered municipal short-term rental ordinances can be amended if the changes being made are equal to or less restrictive than the current regulation in place.

Transportation Funding

The Florida League of Cities and the Miami-Dade County League of Cities **SUPPORT** legislation that will provide local governments with new and innovative revenue options and resources to finance critical infrastructure, maintenance and construction needs to meet the ever-changing transportation demands driven by dramatic population growth and new technology (autonomous vehicles) throughout Florida.

Water Resources

Water is an essential public asset that benefits Florida’s economy, residents, visitors and environment. Presently, Florida spends less than 1/10 of 1 percent of its entire state budget on water supply and water quality improvements. The Florida League of Cities and the Miami-Dade County League of Cities **SUPPORT** legislation to address Florida’s water quality crisis and water supply deficiencies that:

- Provides for an annual assessment of the state’s water infrastructure and water quality improvement needs at the state, regional, and local levels;
- Establishes a framework for a state water infrastructure and water quality funding program that includes objective criteria tied to beneficial returns on investment, sustainable utility practices, and intergovernmental co-ordination; and
- Identifies potential sources of funding and financing.

Affordable Housing

The Florida League of Cities and the Miami-Dade County League of Cities **SUPPORT** legislation that requires all monies from the Sadowski State and Local Housing Trust Fund be used only for Florida's affordable housing programs.

Annexation

The Florida League of Cities and the Miami-Dade County League of Cities **SUPPORT** legislation that facilitates the municipal annexation of unincorporated areas, while protecting private property rights and respecting municipal boundaries.

Cybersecurity

The Florida League of Cities and the Miami-Dade County League of Cities **SUPPORT** 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 building plans for government and recreational buildings and infrastructure.

Digital Divide

The Florida League of Cities and the Miami-Dade County League of Cities **SUPPORT** legislation that reduces the digital divide and expands broad-band internet access to all underserved areas of the state. This includes:

- Funding a study to identify areas of Florida that are underserved by traditional broadband providers;

- Removing statutory barriers for local governments to provide telecommunication services and open competition for affordable Internet service; and
- Increasing public funding for construction of broadband infrastructure.

Local Business Tax Protection

The Florida League of Cities and the Miami-Dade County League of Cities **SUPPORT** legislation that protects general revenues collected from the local business tax. These revenues are used to provide essential municipal services such as public safety and constructing and maintaining roads and bridges, public parks and open spaces. Maintaining a diversified revenue base strengthens the fiscal stability of local governments and improves their ability to serve citizens and businesses and protect the public.

Medical Marijuana

The Florida League of Cities and the Miami-Dade County League of Cities **SUPPORT** legislation restoring municipal authority to regulate medical marijuana facilities within municipal boundaries.

Resiliency

The Florida League of Cities and the Miami-Dade County League of Cities **SUPPORT** the Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection and will **SUPPORT** legislation to fund and coordinate state resiliency programs with those of local governments.

Smoke-Free Zones in City Parks

The Florida League of Cities and the Miami-Dade County League of Cities **SUPPORT** legislation authorizing cities to establish smoke-free zones within the boundaries of a city park.

Miami-Dade County Public Schools

2020 State Legislative Priority Positions

Funding

The Miami-Dade County League of Cities and the Miami-Dade County Public School system **SUPPORT** increasing the state's investment in K-12 education by increasing the Base Student Allocation (BSA) by five percent and discontinuing the policy of rolling back the Required Local Effort rate. Likewise, we **SUPPORT** ensuring that any changes to the District Cost Differential take into account cost differences integral to educational institutions' operations, extending authorization of locally-voted levies for operating purposes from 4 to 10 years, and appropriating \$14,765,000 from the State School Trust Fund to the Department of Education for the benefit of Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

School Security

The Miami-Dade County League of Cities and the Miami-Dade County Public School system **SUPPORT** fully funding the cost of the requirement of a School Resource Officer (SRO) or School Safety Officer (SSO) at each public school, mental health services for students to facilitate the hiring additional school counselors, social workers, and psychologists, as well as provide funding for safety infrastructure needs.

In addition, we **SUPPORT** amending the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Safety Act to, amongst other things:

- Mandate the use of a uniform emergency communication system across all public schools and all law enforcement agencies within each county for the purpose of critical incident response;

- Ensure alignment of the coding of incidents between the Florida Department of Education's School Environment Safety Incident Report (SESIR) and Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) systems; and
- Facilitate the requirement of charter schools reporting their SESIR incident data independently of school districts. Expand the pool of allowable options to meet the requirement of a safe schools officer at every school by adding certified law enforcement officers as qualifying under the guardian program; allowing school districts to re-employ retired police officers after one month of retirement without penalty to their pension; extending the DROP period to eight years for law enforcement officers serving as a school resource officers; and expanding the entities that offer and certify guardian program to include accredited law enforcement agencies; and
- Support legislation that ensures school districts are notified when a student is released from any statewide Baker Act receiving facility and of any felony arrest or formal charges of adult students.

School Readiness

The Miami-Dade County League of Cities and the Miami-Dade County Public School system **SUPPORT** state funding for a high-quality, full-day Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK) program that provides a minimum of 990 hours for all eligible students and replacement of the current VPK assessment with a developmentally appropriate on-going assessment tool to timely measure children's progress and development, to inform the teachers and parents, and to evaluate the program's effectiveness.

Teacher and Personnel Shortage

The Miami-Dade County League of Cities and the Miami-Dade County Public School system **SUPPORT** implementing and funding strategies such as teacher fellowships and loan forgiveness programs to encourage and attract talented students to enter the field of education. We likewise **SUPPORT** allowing school districts to re-employ teachers, other instructional personnel, and substitute teachers after one month of retirement without penalty to the employee's pension.



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- Health Quality Subcommittee
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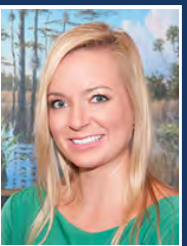
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