



# 2026 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

# MIAMI-DADE COUNTY LEAGUE OF CITIES 2025-2026 EXECUTIVE BOARD



**President**  
Hon. Omarr Nickerson  
Mayor, Village of El Portal



**First Vice President**  
Hon. Fortuna Smukler  
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**Immediate Past President**  
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Mayor, Village of Palmetto Bay



Colleagues and Municipal Partners,

As we enter the 2026 Florida Legislative Session, we do so at a pivotal moment for cities across Miami-Dade County and the State of Florida. This session presents both challenges and opportunities, with numerous legislative proposals poised to impact municipal governments, local authority, and our collective ability to serve our residents effectively. It is with great pride and a strong sense of purpose that I present the **Miami-Dade County League of Cities Legislative Priorities** for the 2026 Session. These priorities serve as a blueprint for the issues and initiatives that will guide our advocacy at the local, state, and federal levels, reflecting the collective voice and shared values of our member cities.

During this legislative session, our efforts will focus on advancing the broader agenda of the Florida League of Cities, while also championing the specific priorities of the Miami-Dade County League of Cities. These include, but are not limited to, securing funding for local and regional initiatives, strengthening infrastructure and transportation systems, advancing stormwater and resilience solutions, supporting public safety, and ensuring policies that foster sustainable growth and economic vitality.

In 2026, the Miami-Dade County League of Cities Executive Director, Mr. Richard Kuper, and the Executive Board will again travel to Tallahassee to advocate on behalf of our municipalities. Through direct engagement with state legislators and decision-makers, we aim to strengthen partnerships, advance the priorities outlined in our legislative agenda, and reinforce the critical importance of protecting municipal autonomy.

Our success has always been rooted in unity. History has proven that when cities act together, our collective voice is stronger, clearer, and more impactful. Through strategic collaboration with legislators, community leaders, and stakeholders, the League will continue to advocate for policies that enhance the quality of life for our residents and promote resilient, inclusive, and sustainable communities.

The legislative priorities before us represent not only policy positions, but a shared commitment to progress and responsible governance. Your engagement, advocacy, and support are vital as we work to ensure our legislators understand and prioritize the issues that matter most to our cities.

Together, we can ensure that Miami-Dade County's municipalities remain vibrant places to live, work, learn, and play. Thank you for your continued partnership, leadership, and dedication to our shared mission.

Respectfully,

**Omarr C. Nickerson, Ph.D.**  
President, Miami-Dade County League of Cities  
Mayor, Village of El Portal

# Miami-Dade County League of Cities 2026 State Legislative Priority Positions

\* Adopted from the Florida League of Cities (FLC) 2025 Legislative Action Agenda and approved by the Miami-Dade County League of Cities (MDCLC) Board.

## PRIORITIES

### Property Taxes\*

The Board **SUPPORTS** local authority over equitable property tax decisions that fund essential services like public safety, infrastructure, parks, and programs that define a community. Reducing or eliminating this revenue without a reasonable replacement would destabilize city budgets, threaten city creditworthiness, and undermine local priorities. Cities are created by residents to protect their communities and residents' quality-of-life, and local tax decisions are essential to fulfilling that responsibility.

### Enterprise Fund Transfers\*

The Board **SUPPORTS** preserving municipal authority over utility revenues to ensure equitable cost recovery and financial sustainability, including the ability to reinvest in system maintenance and transfer funds to the general fund. Maintaining this flexibility enables municipalities to sustain essential services and manage budgets responsibly for their community.

### Housing\*

The Board **SUPPORTS** legislation that addresses Florida's urgent housing shortage while preserving the authority of local governments to manage growth consistent with each community's capacity to ensure public safety, resilience, and financial stability. Cities must retain the ability to decide where housing is located to preserve their unique identity—without additional state preemptions or expanded administrative approval requirements that erode public participation and residents' freedom to influence how their cities grow.

### Revising Sections 18 and 28 of Chapter 2025-190, Laws of Florida (SB 180 – Emergencies)

The Florida League of Cities **SUPPORTS** legislation to clarify Sections 18 and 28 of SB 180 (2025). The law goes far beyond assisting storm-damaged properties

and prevents responsible community planning and flood control. Legislative clarification should: limit the law's applicability to jurisdictions that experience measurable impacts from hurricanes; provide definitions for overbroad and vague terms; limit its scope to storm-damaged properties; and clarify provisions relating to standing, pre-suit notice, and opportunity to cure.

### Sovereign Immunity\*

The Board **SUPPORTS** maintaining reasonable limits or 'caps' on monetary damages recoverable in negligence claims against government entities. These protections are crucial to safeguard Florida's taxpayers.

## POLICY POSITIONS

### Community Redevelopment Agencies\*

The Board **OPPOSES** legislation limiting the authority or operation of Community Redevelopment Agencies (CRAs), which are vital tools for revitalizing neighborhoods and driving local economic growth. CRAs fund critical projects such as infrastructure, public safety, affordable housing, roads, drainage, and public spaces that improve communities statewide. The League supports accountability and transparency, but opposes weakening or eliminating CRAs.

### Extraterritorial Surcharges\*

The Board **SUPPORTS** maintaining municipal authority to establish reasonable extraterritorial surcharges that reflect the actual cost of providing services outside city limits. These surcharges protect municipal residents from subsidizing outside customers, promote efficient regional service, and often originate as municipal initiatives to assist counties and unincorporated residents. Statutory notice and public hearing requirements provide transparency and accountability, ensuring municipal utilities remain fair, open, and responsive to their communities.

### Municipal Elections\*

The Board **OPPOSES** legislation that restricts municipal voters' authority to set municipal election dates.

### Public Records Exemption for Municipal Clerks and Staff\*

The Board **SUPPORTS** legislation that provides a public records exemption for the personal information of municipal clerks; as well as investigative personnel and employees who perform municipal elections work.

\* Adopted from the Florida League of Cities (FLC) 2025 Legislative Action Agenda and approved by the Miami-Dade County League of Cities (MDCLC) Board.



# MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## 2026 STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

\*Adopted and approved by the Miami-Dade County League of Cities (MDCLC) Board.

### ACADEMIC ENHANCEMENTS

Florida's commitment to Early Childhood Education:

- Expand funding for the Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) education program sufficient to cover the cost of a full-day Prekindergarten program for all students.
- Expand VPK to include program options for three-year old students.

### FUNDING

Redefine cost factors within the FEFP beyond the comparative wage factor to include factors which disproportionately impact high-cost counties such as housing, transportation, health, and property insurance cost, which ultimately raise educational institutions operational costs.

Increase the state's investment in K-12 education by increasing the Base Student Allocation (BSA) commensurate with the rate of inflation and cost-of-living increases, but no less than 5 percent new funding, and maintain the full calculation of the Required Local Effort (RLE).

Allow school districts to manage the Florida Empowerment Scholarship (FES) vouchers.

Assist with the reconciliation of potential duplicate cases associated with the Florida Empowerment Scholarships (FES) vouchers and the reporting of FTE.

Ensure that the full cost of increases expected for the Family Empowerment Scholarships (FES) is accounted for during the FY 2026-2027 budget development and that the FTE associated with that projection remains transparent. FES scholarships funded outside of our FTE only if categorical.

Maintain the Education Enrollment Stabilization Program in an amount necessary to prevent proration as a result of anticipated enrollment increases (FES, immigration, natural disasters, demographic shifts).

Eliminate compression within the FEFP formula.

Maintain funding levels for Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), Cambridge, Career & Technical Education (CTE), and Dual Enrollment (DE) through the Academic Acceleration Options Supplement.

Continue to invest in teacher and instructional personnel compensation improvement

by providing sufficient funding to the Teacher Salary Increase Allocation (TSIA) to ensure salary increases beyond the prior fiscal year amount.

Increase the Safe Schools categorical allocation by at least \$40 million to narrow the funding gap associated with the mandate to staff one "safe school officer" per school and ensure sustainable funding for school districts.

Increase the mental health allocation to expand services to students and facilitate the hiring of additional school counselors, social workers, and/or psychologists; or to implement other effective mental health strategies.

Increase per pupil funding for all students with exceptionalities (Gifted/SWDs) to account for both student population growth and inflationary costs related to services/programs.

Support funding to enhance community resources and post-secondary opportunities such as community-based life skills and transitional programs, for young adults with disabilities including those on the Autism Spectrum who are transitioning out of the K-12 environment.

Provide funding for Dual Enrollment courses or virtual classes outside the traditional school day, above the 1.0 FTE or 25 hours/week.  
Support property tax limitations for qualified senior citizens on qualified Homesteaded property.

Establish a disaster recovery fund for Florida Public School Districts to ensure the recovery and restoration of educational facilities in the aftermath of any hurricane or other catastrophic event, covering losses both above and below any collectible property insurance limits.

Protect school districts from any reduction in revenue resulting from any proposed property tax reform. Increase the Transportation Categorical to reflect operational and capital costs.

### CAPITAL FUNDING

Request flexibility on the use of Impact Fees for school additions/renovations to better serve sh1dents.

Establish that when distributing 1.5 mill capital outlay funds to charter schools, the total discretionary millage revenue available for distribution shall be reduced by the school district's annual debt service obligation incurred as of June 30 of each prior fiscal year.

For purposes of calculation and distribution of capital outlay funds, include PK and Post-secondary/CTE FTE membership counts in the methodology calculation of eligible students for capital outlay funds (October v. February FTE).

## ACCOUNTABILITY AND ASSESSMENT REFORM

Remove the requirement for the State Board of Education to automatically annually adjust the school grading scale.

Authorize school districts to exempt Students with Disabilities who have a Full-Scale Intelligence Quotient (FSIQ) of 75 or below from the Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST) requirements after one unsuccessful attempt.

## GOVERNANCE

Amend F.S. 1001.372(1) to allow school boards to omit one regular monthly meeting per calendar year.

Support the streamlining of statutory and State Administrative Code requirements in order to enhance the efficiency of public-school operations.

Authorize district school boards to develop and manage workforce housing on its owned or leased property for its employees and other qualifying individuals as provided in the Live Local Act and stipulate that such educational villages and buildings shall be considered educational facilities for the purpose of design, construction, permitting, and inspection.

Include program utilization in the Florida Inventory of School Houses (FISH) to integrate Pre-K, Daytime Adult Education, Training Career Centers to include Workforce Education, and essential community support initiatives.

Ensure School Board control of Board-owned property.

## TEACHERS/PERSONNEL

Amend Rule 6A- 1.0503(3)(b)(1) and (3) to reflect individuals assigned to teach out of field shall complete "3 semester hours or equivalent in-service toward appropriate certification per year" in lieu of 6 semester hours.

Amend F.S. 1004.85 to enable more relevant and aligned teacher preparation programs, better serving the needs of districts and students by ensuring better teacher preparation programs (Educator Preparation Institutes).

Amend the teacher apprenticeship program to allow eligibility based on an Associate's degree or 60 credit hours from an accredited higher education institution.

Provide incentives and/or funding to facilitate the development of workforce housing specifically for public school personnel.

Include Pre-K staff in the definition of "Instructional Personnel".

## SCHOOL/STUDENT SAFETY/WELLNESS

Provide increased funding for safety infrastructure needs, inclusive of school campus

hardening, lightning detections systems at schools with outdoor play fields, and/or facilities where no other such device exists within a one-mile radius, and alert systems.

Provide funding to school districts to upgrade and strengthen cyber security controls.

Provide funding to support at least one nurse or emergency medical technician at each school.

Amend F.S. 1003.572 to require collaboration between public and private providers and require private providers to adhere to school board policies and procedures while on school property.

Amend F.S. 1003.572 to require the development of a standardized behavioral support plan.

Allow districts to establish parameters for service providers which limit disruption to the instructional environment.



OFFICE OF THE STATE ATTORNEY KATHERINE FERNANDEZ RUNDLE  
ASSISTANT STATE ATTORNEY RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION INCREASES

January 19, 2026

During the past few years, the Florida Legislature and Governor took substantial steps to compensate for their predecessors' decades of neglect by reinstating cost of living increases, increasing prosecutor salaries, and adding cost area differentials that were already provided to other state employees for decades. We are sincerely grateful for these efforts, but we continue to experience a recruitment and retention crisis due to the high cost of living in Miami.

Applications for ASA positions decreased dramatically from a high of 1,831 in Fiscal Year (FY) 2011-2012 to 350 in FY 2024-2025. In the meantime, we continue to lose prosecutors at an unsustainable rate. In the last three fiscal years alone, we lost 151 prosecutors, over 50 per year, **requiring us to replace almost half of our ASA workforce! Moreover, we had to replace these experienced prosecutors with lawyers fresh out of law school!** The situation is untenable. We are losing tenured, knowledgeable, well-trained prosecutors to other public agencies and not just private law firms.

**Something must be done.**

**We need the financial resources to enable us to hire and retain attorneys who are the backbone of the criminal justice system and essential to maintaining law and order and public safety.**

- We've invested time and money in training new lawyers to be competent, zealous, and ethical prosecutors, but many leave as soon as their three-year commitments expire, or, in an unprecedented number of cases, beforehand.
- We are not just losing recruits and trained attorneys to large law firms that can afford to pay six-figure plus starting salaries, we are also losing them to other Miami-Dade County, state, and federal agencies who can afford to pay lawyers more than we can.
- We cannot be competitive when the salaries of Miami-Dade County government offices, located just a handful of city blocks from us, *are paying a minimum of \$50,000 more per year.*
- The majority of these lawyers have to repay student loans as large as many mortgages. According to the Education Data Initiative, 71% of law students graduate in debt and the average graduate owes \$130,000 in student loan debt. The legislatively allocated \$70,000 starting salaries do not even begin to address their payments.
  - The *lowest paid* attorney in the Miami-Dade County Attorney's Office earns over \$151,000 per year upon admission to the Florida Bar.
  - The lowest paid attorney in the Miami-Dade County Office of Inspector General's Office earns over \$132,000 per year.
  - The lowest paid attorney in the Miami-Dade County Ethics Commission earns over \$125,000 per year.
  - Our local United States Attorney's Office, which is actively hiring at this time, can pay starting prosecutors with 0-2 years' experience, up to \$107,376 in base salary plus a locality pay additive that brings their total salary to more than \$133,000 per year.

**We remain at risk of a constitutional crisis as we continue losing applicants and prosecutors to other government agencies and firms in our area who can pay far more than we can.**

**We need your help to protect our community in the manner it deserves!**



2024-2026  
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY  
LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION



MEMBERS OF THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



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MDC - Delegation Chair  
Senator Ana Maria Rodriguez



MDC - Delegation Vice Chair  
Representative Kevin Chambliss





Sen. Shevrin "Shev" Jones

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- Rules, Vice Chair
- Appropriations Committee on Pre-K - 12 Education
- Community Affairs
- Education Postsecondary
- Finance and Tax
- Fiscal Policy
- Transportation



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- Finance and Tax, Chair
- Transportation, Vice Chair
- Appropriations Committee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development
- Environment and Natural Resources
- Ethics and Elections
- Fiscal Policy
- Rules



Sen. Ileana Garcia

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- Appropriations Committee on Criminal and Civil Justice, Chair
- Children, Families, and Elder Affairs, Vice Chair
- Appropriations
- Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services
- Criminal Justice
- Ethics and Elections
- Rules



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- Environment and Natural Resources, Chair
- Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, Environment, and General Government
- Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services
- Education Postsecondary
- Fiscal Policy
- Governmental Oversight and Accountability
- Rules
- Joint Select Committee on Collective Bargaining



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- Appropriations Committee on Pre-K - 12 Education, Vice Chair
- Regulated Industries, Vice Chair
- Appropriations
- Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, Environment, and General Government
- Banking and Insurance
- Criminal Justice
- Rules
- Joint Legislative Auditing Committee
- Joint Legislative Budget Comm.



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- Education Postsecondary, Chair
- Education Pre-K - 12, Vice Chair
- Appropriations Committee on Higher Education
- Appropriations Committee on Pre-K - 12 Education
- Fiscal Policy
- Health Policy
- Regulated Industries
- Joint Committee on Public Counsel Oversight





Rep. Felicia Simone Robinson

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- Commerce Committee
- Budget Committee
- Security & Threat Assessment Committee
- Housing, Agriculture & Tourism Subcommittee
- State Administration Budget Subcommittee
- Human Service, Democratic Ranking Member Subcommittee



Rep. Ashley V. Gantt

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- PreK-12 Budget Subcommittee
- Democratic Ranking Member

Committees:  
• State Affairs Committee

Subcommittees:  
• Intergovernmental Affairs  
• PreK-12 Budget, Democratic Ranking Member  
• Careers & Workforce



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- State Affairs Committee
- Human Services Subcommittee (VICE CHAIR)
- Government Operations Subcommittee
- Education Administration Subcommittee
- Information Technology Budget & Policy Subcommittee



Rep. Tom Fabricio

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- Ways & Means Committee (VICE CHAIR)
  - Judiciary Committee
  - Rules & Ethics Committee
- Subcommittees:  
• Criminal Justice  
• Transportation & Economic Development Budget  
• Natural Resources & Disasters  
• Information Tech Budget & Policy  
• Joint Select Committee on Collective Bargaining (Alternating Chair)



Rep. Wallace Aristide

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- Education & Employment Committee
- Subcommittees:  
• Education Administration  
• Health Professions & Programs  
• Government Operations  
• Higher Education Budget
- Special Committees:  
• Joint Select Committee on Collective Bargaining



Rep. David Borrero

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- Committees:  
• Judiciary Committee (JUDICIARY WHIP)  
• Rules & Ethics (VICE CHAIR)  
• Commerce Committee

Subcommittees:  
• Civil Justice & Claims  
• Justice Budget  
• Health Care Facilities & Systems  
• Agriculture & Natural Resources Budget



Rep. Dotie Joseph

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- Committees:  
• Judiciary Committee
- Subcommittees:  
• Civil Justice & Claims  
• Health Care Facilities & Systems



Rep. Alex Rizo

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- Committees:  
• Education & Employment  
• Ways & Means Committee

Subcommittees:  
• Student Academic Success (CHAIR)  
• Health Professions & Programs  
• PreK-12 Budget



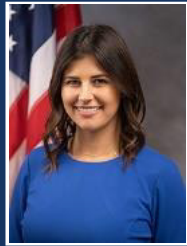
VACANT

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Committees:



Rep. Demi Busatta

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Committees:

- Health & Human Services
- Budget Committee

Subcommittees:

- Higher Education Budget Subcommittee (CHAIR)
- Special Committees:

- Joint Legislative Budget Commission



Rep. Kevin Chambliss

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Committees:

- Judiciary
- Commerce
- Budget

Subcommittees:

- Democratic Ranking Member
  - Economic Infrastructure
  - Insurance & Banking
- Special Subcommittees:

- Select Committee on Congressional Redistricting



Rep. Mike Redondo

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Select Committee on Congressional Redistricting (CHAIR)

Committees:

- Health & Human Services Committee

Subcommittees:

- Health Professions & Programs
- Health Care Budget
- Housing, Agriculture & Tourism
- Economic Infrastructure



Rep. Omar Blanco

### 115th District

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Committees:

- State Affairs Committee

Subcommittees:

- Civil Justice & Claims
- Student Academic Success
- Higher Education Budget
- Information Technology Budget & Policy



Rep. Juan Carlos Porras

### 119th District

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- Commerce Committee, Vice Chair

- Judiciary Committee

Subcommittees:

- Industries & Professional Activities Subcommittee (VICE CHAIR)

- Health Professions & Programs

- Justice Budget

- Education Administration

Special Subcommittees:

- Select Committee on Property Taxes



Rep. Daniel Perez

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- Speaker of the House (2024 – 2026)



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- State Affairs Committee (VICE CHAIR)

- Budget Committee

Subcommittees:

- Natural Resources & Disasters (VICE CHAIR)

- Agriculture & Natural Resources Budget

- Housing, Agriculture & Tourism

- Education Administration

Special Subcommittees:

- Select Committee on Property Taxes

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