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Board Member  
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Mayor, City of West Miami

Richard Kuper, Esq., Executive Director



MIAMI-DADE COUNTY LEAGUE OF CITIES

# LEGISLATIVE ACTION AGENDA 2013



## Community & Economic Development

The Miami-Dade County League of Cities will support legislation that empowers municipalities to expand the economy of Miami-Dade County through the creation of job and business development opportunities. Such legislation should:

Enact an urban economic development policy that acknowledges and puts to use Miami-Dade County's physical, natural and human resources;

Support the efforts of municipalities to revitalize their centers of commerce and culture by promoting redevelopment and infill development through policies that fund public infrastructure projects, encourage public/private partnerships, and leverage state funds or credits to attract private investment;

Fund grant programs that create and/or enhance cultural facilities and public parks within municipalities;

Support energy efficiency and renewable energy incentives for all Floridians, including programs that enhance single-family, multi-family condominiums and cooperatives, commercial and industrial properties while maintaining accountability;

Support the increase in funding for Performance Based Tax Incentives which positively impacts South Florida (Film industry is one example.); and

Support the increase in funding for Low Cost Financing Mechanisms for Water & Sewer needs within municipalities and regional areas.

## Election Reform

The Miami-Dade County League of Cities will support Miami-Dade County's proposed changes that promote the fair and equal opportunity of all registered voters to vote in elections.

## Law Enforcement

The Miami-Dade County League of Cities will support legislation that expands the criteria for use of law enforcement trust fund dollars to include certain law enforcement non-recurring capital expenditures, which create or expand physical facilities, purchase equipment that extend capabilities or otherwise increase law enforcement service programs and/or related initiatives.

## Pension Reform

The Miami-Dade County League of Cities will continue to support legislation that provides comprehensive municipal pension reform. Any such comprehensive pension-reform legislation should address the following:

Allow local governments to deviate from state requirements or change to a pension plan that best suits the municipalities short-term and long-terms needs and conditions;

Change the governance structure of pension boards of trustees to move away from having plan participants serve on the boards;

Remove statutory provisions requiring that municipalities and other governments offer post-employment benefits (subsidized health and other insurance coverage to retirees);

Require average final compensation in defined-benefit pension plans be defined to include salary only, excluding pay for overtime, unused leave time or any other additional payments;

Modify the current statutory disability presumptions for firefighters, law enforcement officers, and correctional officers relating to tuberculosis, heart disease, or hypertension; and

Allow recipients of insurance premium tax revenues to use these funds to pay for the costs of current plans and to lower required plan contributions from the plan sponsor and to continue to receive such funds.

## Gun Safety

The Miami-Dade League of Cities will support legislation that allows municipalities the ability to ban any person from carrying a concealed weapon or firearm into a public park or public playground and/or any public community center.

## Citizens Property Insurance Corporation

The Miami-Dade League of Cities will support legislation that supports the six core values of the State's property insurance corporation (public service, integrity, respect, courtesy, responsiveness and fairness). Such legislation should:

Increase the Board of Governors of Citizens from eight to nine members and have the ninth member be appointed by the President of the Florida League of Cities;

Require Citizens to have an Inspector General;

Cap rate increases for new and existing policy holders; and

Allow a fair system for re-inspections and an accurate assessment for property owners.

## Local Option Fuel Tax

The Miami-Dade League of Cities will support legislation that addresses the discrepancies among interpretations of the Local Option Fuel Tax, especially by the Office of the Attorney General, as well as expanding the definition of “transportations expenditures” to include installation, operation and maintenance in the categories of “roadway and right-of-way drainage; street lightning; traffic signs, and traffic engineering, signalization, and pavement markings.”

## PROPOSED FDOT AMENDMENT TO MARKING METER REVENUE

The Miami-Dade League of Cities opposes legislation amending Section 337.408, Florida Statutes authorizing the installation of parking meters in the right of way of a state road only by FDOT permit while requiring counties and municipalities to provide fifty (50%) of the revenue generated by said meters to FDOT.

## Early Cost Recovery

The Miami-Dade County League of Cities will support legislation that eliminates the Florida Public Service Commission's ability to approve any Early Cost Recovery measures and that repeals the Early Cost Recovery statute.

## Electrical Transmission Lines

The Miami-Dade County League of Cities will support legislation that addresses the following issues with regard to electrical transmission lines:

Require the undergrounding of transmission lines or the selection of alternative corridors, when meant to lessen health, visual blight and environmental impacts in highly dense urban areas and place the burden of proof on the utility;

Request the Public Service Commission revisit its decision that only the requesting municipality be required to pay for the costs associated with undergrounding transmission lines;

Request that the Florida Legislature require one appointment to the Public Service Commission be made by the President of the Florida League of Cities; and

Institute a cost-sharing policy for all Florida ratepayers for the costs associated with the undergrounding of transmission lines for projects that originate directly from nuclear facilities or that are of a significant size [more than ten (10) miles] in urban areas.





# Miami-Dade County Public Schools 2013 STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITY POSITIONS

## FUNDING:

- **Modify** the compliance of the Constitutional Class Size Requirement to be assessed at the school-wide average as it is applied to charter schools.
- **Bills: SB 826** by Sen. Garcia/**HB 189** by Rep. Moraitis
- **Invest** in education by designating a percentage of economic growth dollars to education.
- **Maintain** the current employers' contribution rate to the Florida Retirement System by absorbing the planned increase for the 2013-2014 fiscal year.
- **Support** maximum flexibility in the use of categorical funds, i.e., conversion of instructional materials to digital formats.
- **Eliminate** the required set-aside for Supplemental Education Services (SES).
- **Oppose** unfunded state mandates.

## CAPITAL FUNDING:

**Fully fund** provisions of Florida Statute 1013.64 pertaining to the Public Education Capital Outlay Program that involve construction and maintenance programs of public school districts.

**Oppose** any diversion of Local Discretionary Capital Outlay levy revenue from traditional public schools to charter schools.

## SCHOOL SAFETY

**Increase** funding for Safe Schools to implement and expand interventions that focus on reducing disruptive and aggressive behaviors and strengthen emotional and behavioral competencies of students.

**Support** legislation that implements harsher penalties for individuals who deliberately place pornographic or obscene materials in school zones. **Bills: SB 86** by Sen. Flores/**HB 113** Rep. Diaz

## WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT:

**Continue** to allow co-enrollment as an option for high school students who need credit recovery or to improve their cumulative grade point average for graduation.

**Bills: SB 76** by Sen. Flores/**HB 923** by Rep. Ahern/**HB 7057** by Higher Education & Workforce Subcommittee

## ACCOUNTABILITY:

- **Exempt** ESE centers from the school grading system, develop alternative assessment model that appropriately measures student achievement, and establish statewide criteria for student placement in ESE centers.
- **Eliminate** the requirement to pass EOC exam(s) for promotion, and ensure that EOC's do not exceed more than 30 percent of a student's final grade.
- **Ensure** charter and private schools adhere to the same teacher certification, student placement and progression policies to comply with federal and state accountability requirements.
- **Revise** the current assessment and accountability systems to:
  - ✓ include data from multiple forms of assessments;
  - ✓ eliminate the practice of using student standardized test performance as the only gauge for student and school performance;
  - ✓ assess student proficiency based on progress made during the entire school year;
  - ✓ authorize alternate methods for learning assessment and achievement for ESE and English Language Learners (ELL) students; and,
  - ✓ Administer the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT), PARCC, and other statewide assessments in multiple languages as allowed by federal regulations.

**Bills: HB 7027** by Choice & Innovation Subcommittee

## PARENT EMPOWERMENT

**Oppose** any changes regarding conversions of traditional public schools to charter schools that dilute the role of parents, teachers, and community stakeholders. **Bills: SB 862** by Sen. Stargel/**HB 867** by Rep. Trujillo

## CAPITAL OUTLAY FOR CHARTER SCHOOLS

**Support** capital funding for charter schools that:

- ✓ Creates neither a reduction of funding to traditional public schools in operating or capital funding nor an additional taxing mandate on the local school district;
- ✓ Requires public input; and
- ✓ Protects the taxpayers' investment by ensuring that capital funding be spent only on assets that can be returned to the public school district.

**Oppose HB 1267** by Rep. Adkins/**SB 1396** by Sen. Bean

## CHARTER SCHOOLS **Bills: SB 828** by Sen. Garcia/**HB 1341** by Rep. Diaz

**Allow** traditional public schools to extend statutory flexibility on the exemption from State Required Education Facilities (SREF), categorical funding, accountability, class size reduction compliance, and penalties not affecting charter schools.

**Improve** safeguards and transparencies for taxpayer investments between traditional public schools and charter schools, including, but not limited to, implementing the following safeguards:

- ✓ Require that charter school applications and lotteries be administered by local school boards to ensure a fair, equitable, and transparent admission process for all students;
- ✓ Allow local school districts to negotiate appropriate usage fees based on market comparables;
- ✓ Require funding to follow the student when transferring between charter and traditional public schools during the entire school year; and
- ✓ Establish similar traditional public school financial disclosure standards for charter school officers and/or related parties involved in financial decision making.



# Governor & Cabinet

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## SENATE DOCUMENTS


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# 2012-2014

## Miami-Dade County Legislative Delegation

Chair: Representative Eddy Gonzalez  
 Vice Chair: Representative Jose Felix Diaz

### STATE SENATORS

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 <p><b>Sen. Oscar Braynon, II</b></p>	<p><b>36th District</b>                  Braynon.oscar.web@flsenate.gov</p> <p>Staff: Oneca Lowery                  Katia St. Fleur                  Jennifer Rojo Suarez</p> <p>(305) 654-7150                  606 NW 183rd Street                  Miami Gardens, FL 33169</p> <p>(850) 487-5036                  213 Senate Office Building                  404 South Monroe Street                  Tallahassee, FL                  32399-1100</p>	<p>Gaming</p> <p>Ethics and Elections</p> <p>Children, Families, and Elder Affairs</p> <p>Appropriations Subcommittee on Criminal and Civil Justice</p> <p>Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government</p> <p>Health Policy</p> <p>Regulated Industries, <b>Vice Chair</b></p>
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## Sen. Anitere Flores

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Select Committee on Patient  
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Ethics and Elections

Communications, Energy, and  
Public Utilities, **Chair**

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Criminal and Civil Justice

Appropriations Subcommittee  
on Health and Human Services,  
**Vice Chair**

Health Policy

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Joint Administrative Procedures  
Committee, **Alt. Chair**

Agriculture

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Criminal and Civil Justice

Appropriations Subcommittee on  
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Health Policy

Transportation

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Committee

Agriculture, Vice Chair

Education

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Education

Appropriations Subcommittee on  
General Government

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Joint Committee on Public Counsel  
Oversight

Ethics and Elections

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Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Criminal and Civil Justice

Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Finance and Tax

Banking and Insurance

Rules

Transportation

## STATE REPRESENTATIVES

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Appropriations

Economic Affairs Committee

Health and Human Services  
Committee

Health Innovation Subcommittee

Business and Professional  
Regulation Subcommittee

Joint Legislative Budget  
Commission

## Rep. Sharon Pritchett

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Economic Affairs Committee

Health Innovation Subcommittee

Healthy Families Subcommittee

Local and Federal Affairs  
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Justice Appropriations  
Subcommittee

Education Committee

Choice and Innovation  
Subcommittee

K-12 Subcommittee

Health Quality Subcommittee

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Finance and Tax Subcommittee

Economic Affairs Subcommittee

Economic Development and  
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Health Quality Subcommittee  
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Transportation and Economic Development Appropriations Subcommittee  
Finance and Tax Subcommittee  
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Regulatory Affairs Committee  
Government Operations Subcommittee





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Veterans and Military Affairs  
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Education Committee

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Subcommittee

Transportation and Highway  
Safety Subcommittee

Rules and Calendar Committee,  
Subcommittee, **Vice Chair**

Government Operations  
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Transportation and Highway  
Safety Subcommittee

Education Committee

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Health Innovation Subcommittee

Judiciary Committee

Criminal Justice Subcommittee

Rules and Calendar Subcommittee

Select Committee on Claim Bills

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Agriculture and Natural Resources  
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Economic Affairs Committee

Veterans and Military Affairs  
Subcommittee

Transportation and Highway  
Safety Subcommittee

Local and Federal Affairs  
Committee