



Miami-Dade County League of Cities

LEGISLATIVE ACTION AGENDA 2012



REDISTRICTING

The Miami-Dade League encourages the Florida Legislature to make all efforts in redistricting the state to maintain the geographic integrity of municipal boundaries, where feasible, and to ensure that districts are able to elect representatives that reflect the composition of the community, so as to preserve the integrity of communities of like interest.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Miami-Dade County League of Cities will support legislation that strives to strengthen and 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;
- Address the problems in the transit surtax law, by providing the specific parameters requiring new cities' allotment to be taken from the County's portion and not from funds that were previously allocated to municipalities.

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 pension plan that best suits the municipality short-term and long-term 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.

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.

URBAN AREA SECURITY INITIATIVE

The Miami-Dade League of Cities will support legislation that amends current law to allow the Urban Area Security Initiative representative to become a voting member on the "Domestic Security Oversight Council," so as to further ensure that homeland security measures in urban areas receive appropriate funding.

GUN SAFETY

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

LOCAL OPTION FUEL TAX

The Miami-Dade League of Cities will support legislation that addresses the discrepancies among interpretations of the in the Local Option Fuel Tax, especially by the Office of the Attorney General, as well as expands 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.”

EARLY COST RECOVERY

The Miami-Dade County League of Cities 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;
- 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; and
- Institute a cost-sharing policy for all Florida rate payers 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 SCHOOL PRIORITIES

The Miami-Dade League of Cities will support legislation, as it pertains to education in Miami-Dade County, that:

- Improves the funding condition of Miami-Dade County public schools system by:
 - Modifying the penalty for non-compliance with the Constitutional Class Size Requirement to loss of the Class Size Reduction Categorical allocation and not loss of the full Base Student Allocation;
 - Investing in education by designating a percentage of economic growth dollars to education as the State’s economy recovers and grows;
 - Replacing federal “Jobs for Education” funds embedded in the Florida Education Finance Program with State Revenue;
 - Maintaining the current required employers’ contribution rate to the Florida Retirement System by absorbing the planned increase for the 2012–2013 fiscal year;
- Facilitates the expansion of Capital Funding for the district by:
 - Extending the term of general obligation funds from 20 years to 30 years and allow the schedule of maturities to be determined by the local School Board;



- Expanding the allowable use of locally voted upon sales to include operating expenses that maintain, renovate or repair existing school facilities, or maintain, secure or upgrade school technology equipment;
- Fully fund provisions of Florida Statute 1013.64 pertaining to funding of the Public Education Capital Outlay Program that involves construction and maintenance programs of public school districts;
- Continues to allow co-enrollment as a strategy for high school students who need credit recovery or improve their cumulative grade point average for graduation purposes; and
- Ensures the criteria for placing schools on intervene status and the existing procedures under Differentiated Accountability are clear, consistent and fair.



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