



Miami-Dade County League of Cities

# LEGISLATIVE ACTION AGENDA 2011



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## ECONOMIC 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;
- Work to streamline government processes by reducing and/or eliminating burdensome business regulations and procedures and by increasing efficient enforcement mechanisms;
- Strive to attract business development, expansion and/or relocation in urban areas of Florida, like Miami-Dade County, through the promotion of a favorable business tax climate, the expansion of incubator programs, the improvement of industry incentives, such as in the areas of film, bio-technology and green products manufacturing, and the creation of a highly skilled workforce that reflects the needs of existing and emerging business markets; and
- Support the efforts of Miami-Dade County's 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, leverage state funds or credits to attract private investment and strengthen municipal liens.

## 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.

## TRANSPORTATION

The Miami-Dade County League of Cities will support transportation and transit legislation that, at a minimum, does the following:

- Promote and provide proportionate, dedicated and recurring revenue to Miami-Dade County for multi-modal and transit-alternative transportation programs including “complete street” and other similar programs aimed at rebalancing roadways in urban centers with increased levels of pedestrian activity, so as to ensure that local conditions and needs are met;
- Prohibit the transfer of State Transportation Trust Fund revenue to and/or for non-transportation purposes;
- Strengthen “Red Light Camera” legislation, by setting an appropriate evidentiary standard and specifying stricter discretionary guidelines for the adjudication and enforcement of red light infractions and addressing the problems associated with “right-on-red” violations; and
- 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 support legislation that provides comprehensive municipal pension reform. Any such comprehensive pension-reform legislation should, at least, address the following and provide similar redress for plans not mentioned, where applicable:

- Provide flexibility to local governments by allowing them to deviate from state requirements or change to pension plan that best suits the municipality or county’s 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 and to exclude pay for overtime, unused leave time or any other additional payments; 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 if cities convert current defined-benefit pension plans operating under Chapters 175 or 185, Florida Statutes, to the Florida Retirement System (FRS) or another type of plan.

# ALTERNATIVE AND RENEWABLE ENERGY

The Miami-Dade League of Cities will support legislation that incentivizes the development and implementation of a meaningful statewide renewable and alternative energy policy and that encourages the development of new technologies to help create jobs and industries in Florida. Such a policy, at a minimum should:

- Include a renewable energy standard;
- Provide tax incentives for the use of renewable energy sources;
- Enhance competitive procurement by public entities of all renewable energy supplies;
- Ensure the ability of Florida municipalities to obtain and use renewable energy;
- Foster energy-efficient policies and practices in areas such as mass transit and transportation;
- Commission a study with regard to the feasibility and implementation of undergrounding utilities and investing in renewable energy resources; and
- Provide technical assistance and funding for municipalities to assist in the implementation of the statewide renewable and alternative energy policy

## MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL PRIORITIES (2011)

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

- Call for proportionate funding and/or replacement of federal stimulus funding due to Miami-Dade County Public Schools, as well as no further reductions that would constitute the replacement of federal stimulus monies in the education funding formula for Kindergarten through 12th grade;
- Eliminate the penalties assessed to schools for failing to comply with class size reduction requirements;
- Produce an equitable education funding formula, which addresses the drawing of funds appropriately due to Miami-Dade County Public Schools and reverses the adverse effects associated with the replacement of the District Cost Differential by the Compression Adjustment Formula in the formula; and
- Address the funding crisis created by unpaid taxes involved in assessment challenges, by requiring that any taxpayer that challenge his/her/its property tax assessments be required to pay at least seventy-five percent (75%) of the current tax bill which the taxpayer admits in good faith to be owing.

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