

RESOLUTION NO. 2013-4

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC. URGING AND ENCOURAGING THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES AND FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES TO SUPPORT AND ENDORSE THE FLORIDA WATER AND LAND CONSERVATION AMENDMENT.

WHEREAS, an amendment to the Water and Land Conservation Act will be placed on the November 2013 ballot where the voters of the State of Florida will determine if funds should be dedicated to acquire and restore Florida conservation and recreation lands; and

WHEREAS, protection of the quality and quantity of Florida's drinking water sources is a primary responsibility of our state; and

WHEREAS, the State of Florida is known for beautiful rivers, lakes, streams, spring sheds, wetlands, forests, wildlife habitat and beaches and shores, and these natural assets are central to our quality of life and economic vitality; and

WHEREAS, outdoor recreation in Florida represents a \$38 billion annual industry, employing 329,000 people, and over 6.4 people annually hunt, fish, or view wildlife in our state; and

WHEREAS, restoration of the Florida Everglades is the most comprehensive ecological restoration in the world's history, and impacts the drinking water of a large portion of Florida's residents; and

WHEREAS, our state has a longstanding commitment to protection of outdoor recreation lands, including recreational trails, parks, and urban open space; rural landscapes; working farms and ranches; historic and geologic sites; and

WHEREAS, for 19 years, with bi-partisan support of every governor and legislature that served from 1990 through 2008, Preservation 2000 and Florida Forever were funded annually at \$300 million per year; and

WHEREAS, Florida Forever has not received significant, sustained, or predictable funding since 2009; and

WHEREAS, Article II Section 7 of the Florida Constitution states, "It shall be the policy of the state to conserve and protect its natural resources and scenic beauty," and yet since 2009 funding for land conservation, management, and restoration, including Florida Forever has been cut drastically; and

WHEREAS, Florida Cities and Counties have benefited from state land conservation, management, and restoration programs, including Preservation 2000 and Florida Forever; and

WHEREAS, Florida Cities and Counties have benefited directly by receiving grants from state land conservation, management, and restoration programs, including the Florida Communities Trust, Florida Recreation Development Assistance Grants (FRDAP), the Florida Historic Preservation grants, and the Florida Greenways and Trails program; and

WHEREAS, acquisition, management, restoration of natural systems, and the enhancement of public access or recreational enjoyment of conservation lands requires a sustainable, dedicated source of state funding; and

WHEREAS, the documentary stamp tax has been the historic sources of state funding for conservation and recreation in Florida; and

WHEREAS, the Water and land Conservation amendment will dedicate less than 1 percent of the budget of the State of Florida to protecting Florida's water and land, without increasing taxes; and


WHEREAS, 82 of 100 Florida city and county land conservation ballot measures have been approved since 1988 by voters throughout the state, including almost every major urban county, many by overwhelming margins in excess of 70 percent, and an average of 63 percent; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY Miami-Dade County League Of Cities, Inc.

Section 1. The Board of Directors of the Miami-Dade County League of Cities, Inc. that we endorse the Florida Water and Land Conservation Amendment and encourage support of this amendment by the Florida League of Cities, Florida Association of Counties, and other organizations that seek to enhance the quality of life throughout the State of Florida.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the Miami-Dade County League of Cities, Inc. at regular meeting assembled this 12th day of September, 2013.

ATTEST:



OLIVER GILBERT, III
SECRETARY



DEEDE WEITHORN
PRESIDENT