

Minutes
Florida League of Cities, Inc. Annual Conference
August 17-19, 2017
World Center Marriott, Orlando, Florida

The Florida League of Cities' 91st Annual Conference was held at the World Center Marriott in Orlando, Florida, on August 17-19, 2017. There was an attendance of more than 1,000 delegates and guests, representing approximately 200 city governments.

Principal speakers included former Dallas Police Chief David O. Brown, National League of Cities President Matt Zone and attorney John "Mac" Stipanovich.

On Thursday, August 17, 2017, delegates began arriving for various workshops and events of the annual conference. In the morning, a "Continuing Education in Ethics: Have You Completed Your Hours?" workshop was held. That afternoon, the League's legislative policy committees and the Federal Action Strike Team (FAST) conducted meetings, and an orientation session was available for first-time conference attendees. Two pre-conference workshops, "The Opioid Epidemic: Your City's Role" and "Vacation Rental Meeting," were also held. That evening, the President's Welcome Reception was held for all conference delegates to attend.

Friday morning began with the first round of concurrent sessions featuring "Saving Lives on Our Roads: Local Initiatives that Change Behaviors" and "The History of Home Rule and Preserving the Right to Local Self-Government." Round two topics were: "How to Plan for and Fund Timely Response and Recovery," "Public Records and Increasing Transparency through Technology" and "Get Counted: Updating Your Census Data," which were followed by the Opening General Session. During the session, former Dallas Police Chief David O. Brown was the keynote speaker and Commissioner Jeffrey Krauskopf of Stuart was announced as the winner of the E. Harris Drew Municipal Official Lifetime Achievement Award.

That afternoon, three additional rounds of concurrent sessions were held. Round three topics were: "Low-Cost Opportunities to Enhance City Services and Resident Satisfaction: A Decade of Ongoing Strategies," "Competing for Talent in the Public Sector: Navigating Today's Talent Market," "The New Homestead Exemption: What Will It Cost, Who Pays and Can It be Stopped," and "Social Advocacy: Connecting with Legislators in 140 Characters or Less." Round four topics were: "Councils and Chiefs: A Public Safety Dialogue," "Keys to Success: City Ballot Initiatives," "Being Right is Not Enough: Effective Political Communication" and "Wireless Communications Infrastructure: Preparing for 5G." Round five topics were: "Preparing for Cyber Threats Against Your City," "Amending the Constitution: A Look Inside the 2017 Constitution Revision Commission (CRC)" and "Council-Manager Relations: Evaluating Your City Manager."

Also that day, the Resolutions Committee, Legislative Committee, Advocacy Committee and Nominating Committee met, and the Florida Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials

held a breakfast meeting. The Board of Directors met Friday afternoon, and in the evening a Florida League of Cities Membership Networking Event was held.

On Saturday, several local/regional leagues held breakfast meetings and a session for Youth Councils was held.

At 9:00 a.m. that morning, President Susan Haynie, mayor of Boca Raton, called the Business Session to order and announced that a quorum of delegates was present. Voting delegates were requested to be seated in the designated area. President Haynie advised delegates that if it were necessary for a Division of the House to be called, an explanation of the system of casting weighted votes would be provided in advance.

The meeting was conducted in accordance with the League's By-Laws and *Robert's Rule of Order*. Each voting delegate was properly registered and received voting credentials and ballots identifying the delegate's weighted vote. Members were also advised they could split their vote; however, a single voting delegate must cast the total of each city's vote. Harry Morrison, the League's general counsel, served as parliamentarian.

The first order of business was motion duly made and seconded to approve the 2016 conference minutes as posted on the League's website. The motion was adopted.

President Haynie then recognized the chairs of the League's five policy committees and thanked them and committee members for their service.

She also recognized the chairs of the Federal Action Strike Team and the Advocacy Committee thanking them for their service. She then announced there was no unfinished business to come before the membership of the Florida League of Cities.

President Haynie called for a report of the Resolutions Committee. Chairman Gil Ziffer, League first vice president and commissioner of Tallahassee, introduced each resolution and moved its adoption. Each motion was duly seconded and each resolution was adopted.

**A RESOLUTION OF THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.,
EXPRESSING APPRECIATION TO BOCA RATON, FLORIDA, FOR
ITS SUPPORT OF SUSAN HAYNIE AS PRESIDENT OF THE
FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES.**

WHEREAS, Susan Haynie, mayor of Boca Raton, Florida, served as president of the Florida League of Cities from 2016 through 2017; and

WHEREAS, the citizens, councilmembers and staff of Boca Raton were most understanding of the demands placed upon Mayor Haynie in her role as president of the League; and

WHEREAS, during her presidency, Mayor Haynie focused on creating the “Safe Cities, Safe Florida Initiative” to provide educational opportunities, to strengthen partnerships and to share tools and resources for Florida’s cities to better protect their citizens in times of crisis; and

WHEREAS, the membership and staff of the League recognize the commitment of the City of Boca Raton to Mayor Haynie’s presidency ensured her active participation in League activities and unselfish service to the League, and permitted her to successfully promote the programs, projects and philosophy of the League during the past year; and

WHEREAS, the membership and staff of the League also wish to recognize and personally thank Executive Assistant Pamela Gregory Johns and all of the dedicated Boca Raton city staff for their efforts in providing outstanding assistance to President Haynie and the FLC staff in coordinating her duties with the city and with the League; Pamela and all city staff went above and beyond the call of duty, and their outstanding contributions to this effort are applauded and greatly appreciated.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.:

Section 1. The Florida League of Cities’ membership and staff do officially and personally appreciate the commitment Boca Raton’s citizens, councilmembers and staff made to Mayor Haynie’s presidency.

Section 2. A copy of this resolution be presented to the City of Boca Raton.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Florida League of Cities, Inc., in conference assembled at the League’s 91st Annual Conference, at the Orlando World Center Marriott, Orlando, Florida, this 19th Day of August 2017.

**A RESOLUTION OF THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.,
RECOGNIZING THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 23-29, 2017, AS
“FLORIDA CITY GOVERNMENT WEEK,” AND
ENCOURAGING ALL FLORIDA CITY OFFICIALS TO SUPPORT
THIS CELEBRATION BY PARTICIPATING IN THE “MY CITY:
I’M PART OF IT, I’M PROUD OF IT!” ACTIVITIES.**

WHEREAS, city government is the government closest to the people, and the one with the most direct daily impact upon its residents; and

WHEREAS, city government is administered for and by its citizens, and is dependent upon public commitment to and understanding of its many responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, city government officials and employees share the responsibility to pass along their understanding of public services and their benefits; and

WHEREAS, Florida City Government Week is a very important time to recognize the significant role played by city government in our lives and to spread the word to all Floridians that they can shape and influence this level of government, which is closest to the people; and

WHEREAS, the Florida League of Cities and its member cities have joined together to teach students and other citizens about municipal government through a variety of different projects and information.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.:

Section 1. The Florida League of Cities, Inc., encourages all city officials, city employees, school officials and citizens to participate in events that recognize Florida City Government Week and to celebrate it throughout Florida.

Section 2. The Florida League of Cities, Inc., supports and encourages all city governments to promote, sponsor and participate in “My City: I’m Part of It, I’m Proud of It!”

Section 3. A copy of this resolution be provided to Florida Governor Rick Scott, the Florida Cabinet, Florida School Boards Association and the membership of the Florida League of Cities, Inc.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Florida League of Cities, Inc., in conference assembled at the League’s 91st Annual Conference, at the Orlando World Center Marriott, Orlando, Florida, this 19th Day of August 2017.

**A RESOLUTION OF THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.,
URGING THE 2017-18 CONSTITUTION REVISION
COMMISSION TO STRENGTHEN MUNICIPAL HOME RULE
AUTHORITY AND FURTHER RESTRICT UNFUNDED STATE
MANDATES.**

WHEREAS, Section 2 of Article XI of the Florida Constitution establishes and describes the duties, powers, structure and function of the Constitution Revision Commission (CRC); and

WHEREAS, the CRC meets every 20 years, and it is meeting in 2017-18 for only the third time in the state’s history, and is reviewing and will recommend changes to Florida’s constitution that may appear on the 2018 general election ballot for the consideration of Florida’s voters; and

WHEREAS, the CRC is composed of 37 members: the attorney general of Florida, 15 members appointed by the governor, nine members appointed by the speaker of the House, nine members appointed by the Senate president, and three members appointed by the chief justice of the Florida Supreme Court; and

WHEREAS, the Florida League of Cities was created in 1922 to work for the general improvement of its members, Florida's municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the Florida League of Cities believes that local self-government is the keystone of American democracy and constitutional municipal home rule authority should be preserved, protected and expanded; and

WHEREAS, municipalities are the only optional form of government, created to serve the needs and desires of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, municipalities are the governments closest to the people and are governed by citizen legislators who have distinguished themselves in the community and as public servants; and

WHEREAS, the more than 2,000 municipal elected officials, representing over 400 cities that comprise the Florida League of Cities, recognize the CRC will weigh in on a variety of proposals that potentially affect municipal home rule authority and the ability of city officials to respond to the needs and conveniences of their citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Florida League of Cities finds it is in the best interest of its members to have local perspectives and concerns adequately voiced before the CRC.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.:

Section 1. The Florida League of Cities, Inc., urges the CRC to adopt proposals that strengthen municipal home rule authority and further restrict unfunded state mandates.

Section 2. This resolution shall become effective upon adoption and shall remain in effect until repealed and hereby repeals all conflicting resolutions.

Section 3. A copy of this resolution be provided to Governor Rick Scott, House Speaker Richard Corcoran, Senate President Joe Negron, CRC Chairman Carlos Beruff, the 36 members of the CRC, and the membership of the Florida League of Cities, Inc.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Florida League of Cities, Inc., in conference assembled at the League's 91st Annual Conference, at the World Center Marriott, Orlando, Florida, this 19th Day of August 2017.

**A RESOLUTION OF THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.,
OPPOSING AMENDMENT 1, WHICH CREATES AN
ADDITIONAL HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION, TO FLORIDA'S
CONSTITUTION AND URGING VOTERS TO REJECT IT ON
THE 2018 GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT.**

WHEREAS, Florida’s current property tax system is riddled with carveouts and loopholes that benefit some property taxpayers at the expense of others; and

WHEREAS, this system is inherently convoluted, impractical and unfair; and

WHEREAS, during the 2017 Legislative Session the Florida Legislature passed HJR 7105, a proposed constitutional amendment, which will be placed on the 2018 general election ballot as “Amendment 1”; and

WHEREAS, Amendment 1 increases by up to \$25,000 the current homestead exemption for non-school property taxes by exempting the assessed value of a homestead property between \$100,000 and up to \$125,000; and

WHEREAS, Amendment 1 exacerbates the problems with the current property tax system; and

WHEREAS, although Amendment 1 masquerades as a tax cut, it is essentially a backdoor tax hike on many Floridians; and

WHEREAS, Amendment 1 disrupts the revenue stream largely used by cities, towns and village to fund law enforcement and fire protection; and

WHEREAS, Amendment 1 shifts the tax burden to small business owners and non-homestead property owners, who are likely to face higher property taxes as a result; and

WHEREAS, some state legislators preach tax cuts while passing unfunded mandates; and

WHEREAS, the political priorities of these legislators come at the expense of Florida’s cities, towns and villages and their taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, the Revenue Estimating Conference estimates in the first year of implementation, Fiscal Year 2020-19, the proposed constitutional amendment will have a negative fiscal impact on local communities of approximately \$645 million.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.:

Section 1. The Florida League of Cities, Inc. urges Floridians to be aware that Amendment 1 is not a true tax cut.

Section 2. The Florida League of Cities, Inc. urges Florida’s residents to VOTE NO on Amendment 1 on the 2018 General Election ballot.

Section 3. A copy of this resolution be provided to the membership of the Florida League of Cities, Inc. and other interested parties.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Florida League of Cities, Inc., in conference assembled at the League's 91st Annual Conference, at the Orlando World Center Marriott, Orlando, Florida, this 19th Day of August 2017.

**A RESOLUTION OF THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.,
URGING CONGRESS TO MAINTAIN FUNDING FOR THE
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM.**

WHEREAS, the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program was enacted and signed into law by President Gerald Ford as the centerpiece of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974; and

WHEREAS, the CDBG program has as its primary objective "the development of viable urban communities, by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment and expanding economic opportunities, principally for persons of low and moderate income"; and

WHEREAS, the CDBG program has considerable flexibility to allow municipalities to carry out activities that are tailored to their unique affordable housing and neighborhood revitalization needs; and

WHEREAS, the National League of Cities, the U.S. Conference of Mayors, the National Association of Counties, and state and local government-sector associations are unanimous in their support of the CDBG and the need to keep this program intact; and

WHEREAS, according to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the CDBG is most commonly used to support activities that improve the quality of life in communities; to promote energy conservation and renewable energy resources; for construction of and improvements to public infrastructure such as streets, sidewalks, and water and sewer facilities; and for small business assistance to spur economic development and job creation/retention; and

WHEREAS, since 2010, Congress has cut CDBG funding by more than \$1 billion; and

WHEREAS, nationally, for every dollar of CDBG funding invested in a project another \$4.05 is leveraged from other sources; and

WHEREAS, the CDBG program has created or retained more than 421,000 jobs for low- and moderate-income persons through a variety of economic development activities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.:

Section 1. The Florida League of Cities, Inc., urges Congress to provide at least \$3 billion in formula funding for CDBG.

Section 2. A copy of this resolution be sent to the Florida Congressional Delegation, the National League of Cities, the secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the membership of the Florida League of Cities, Inc.

Section 3. This resolution shall become effective upon adoption and shall remain in effect until repealed and hereby repeals all conflicting resolutions.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Florida League of Cities, Inc., in conference assembled at the League's 91st Annual Conference, at the World Center Marriott, Orlando, Florida, this 19th Day of August 2017.

**A RESOLUTION OF THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.
URGING CONGRESS TO MAINTAIN FUNDING FOR FEDERAL
PROGRAMS THAT PROVIDE NEEDED RESOURCES FOR
FLORIDA'S CITIES.**

WHEREAS, in the five years since federal budget sequestration was enacted under the Budget Control Act of 2011, funding for discretionary programs has fallen by approximately \$2 trillion; and

WHEREAS, these cuts have impacted every city in America and have made the challenges of fostering greater economic opportunity even more difficult; and

WHEREAS, cities are using every tool at their disposal to stretch the value of local tax dollars to provide needed services to their citizens; and

WHEREAS, earlier this year, President Trump released his budget proposal for the 2018 which recommends cutting more than \$54 billion in funding for domestic programs that cities rely on; and

WHEREAS, the administration's proposed budget recommends eliminations or drastically cutting funding for several important federal programs that provide assistance to cities, including:

- Eliminating the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program;
- Eliminating the HOME program;
- Eliminating the TIGER grant program;
- Eliminating the Federal Transit Administration's New Starts grants program;
- Eliminating the National Flood Insurance Program's Flood Hazard Mapping program;

- Cutting \$500 million from the water and wastewater loan and grant program for rural water projects;
- Cutting \$326 million from the Superfund program;
- Cutting \$11 million from the Brownfields program; and
- Cutting \$239 million from the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant program, among many other proposed cuts

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.:

Section 1. That the Florida League of Cities, Inc., urges Congress to pass a budget that preserves full funding for important federal programs that help cities better serve the needs of their citizens.

Section 2. A copy of this resolution be sent to President Donald Trump, the Florida Congressional Delegation, the National League of Cities, and the membership of the Florida League of Cities, Inc.

Section 3. This resolution shall become effective upon adoption and shall remain in effect until repealed and hereby repeals all conflicting resolutions.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Florida League of Cities, Inc., in conference assembled at the League's 91st Annual Conference, at the World Center Marriott, Orlando, Florida, this 19th Day of August 2017.

**A RESOLUTION OF THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.,
URGING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND
CONGRESS TO PRESERVE THE CURRENT TAX-EXEMPT
STATUS OF INTEREST EARNED ON MUNICIPAL BONDS AND
REJECT ANY PROPOSAL THAT WOULD REDUCE OR
ELIMINATE THE FEDERAL TAX EXEMPTION ON INTEREST
EARNED ON MUNICIPAL BONDS.**

WHEREAS, since 1913, when the federal income tax was imposed, the interest earned on municipal bonds has been exempt from federal taxation; and

WHEREAS, municipal bonds have been the primary method by which state and local governments finance public capital improvements and infrastructure construction such as schools, hospitals, water and sewer systems, roads, highways, utilities, public safety structures, bridges and tunnels; and

WHEREAS, the projects funded through municipal financing are engines of job creation and economic growth; and

WHEREAS, the \$3.7 trillion municipal bond market is the primary financing tool used by municipalities and other governments to finance three-quarters of the total U.S. investment in infrastructure projects that provide essential services; and

WHEREAS, local governments save an average of 25 to 30 percent on interest costs with tax-exempt municipal bonds, as compared to taxable bonds, due to investors accepting a lower interest rate on tax-exempt bonds; and

WHEREAS, these savings allow state and local governments to invest more in critical infrastructure and essential services and provide construction jobs while holding down the cost to taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, over the last few years, several proposals have included a proposed reduction or elimination of the current tax exemption on interest earned from tax-exempt municipal bonds; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that if the tax exemption had been fully eliminated over the last decade, it would have cost state and local governments an additional \$495 billion in interest expense; and

WHEREAS, Internal Revenue Service data shows that more than 50 percent of municipal bond interest is paid to individuals 65 years of age and older, who in many cases live on fixed incomes; and

WHEREAS, without the tax-exemption for municipal bonds, state and local governments either would pay far more to raise capital – a cost that ultimately would be borne by taxpayers through higher taxes – or be forced to reduce infrastructure spending.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.:

Section 1. The Florida League of Cities, Inc., urges President Donald Trump and Congress to preserve the current tax-exempt status of the interest earned on municipal bonds and oppose any attempt to cap or eliminate the tax exemption on the interest earned on municipal bonds.

Section 2. A copy of this resolution be sent to President Donald Trump, the Florida Congressional Delegation, the National League of Cities and the membership of the Florida League of Cities, Inc.

Section 3. This resolution shall become effective upon adoption and shall remain in effect until repealed and hereby repeals all conflicting resolutions.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Florida League of Cities, Inc., in conference assembled at the League's 91st Annual Conference, at the Orlando World Center Marriott, Orlando, Florida, this 19th Day of August 2017.

**A RESOLUTION OF THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.,
URGING CONGRESS TO REAUTHORIZE THE NATIONAL
FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM.**

WHEREAS, floods are the most common and most destructive natural disaster in the United States and Florida; and

WHEREAS, the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 created the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) in response to the lack of available private flood insurance and continued increases in federal disaster assistance due to floods; and

WHEREAS, the NFIP allows property owners in participating communities to buy insurance to protect against flood losses; and

WHEREAS, flooding is a serious risk in Florida due to the state's geography and proximity to water, both inland and coastal; and

WHEREAS, this issue is a critical concern for our state, as Florida has the largest number of participants in the NFIP and pays four times more into the program than it receives in claim payments; and

WHEREAS, on July 6, 2012, the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 was signed into law, reauthorizing the NFIP through September 30, 2017; and

WHEREAS, as a government program, the NFIP should treat its customers equitably and should adhere to insurance principals that rates must not be excessive, inadequate or unfairly discriminatory; and

WHEREAS, properties should be rated based on their ability to withstand risk, not their use or ownership structure; and

WHEREAS, necessary increases in premiums should be implemented with regard to customers' ability to absorb those increases; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Senator Rubio, U.S. Senator Nelson and other U.S. senators are sponsors of bi-partisan legislation titled the Sustainable, Affordable, Fair, and Efficient National Flood Insurance Program Reauthorization Act (SAFE NFIP), S. 1368, which would reauthorize the NFIP program for six years; and

WHEREAS, this legislation would include provisions increasing the limitation on liability relating to Increased Cost of Compliance (ICC), clarifying programs and responsibilities for mold damage and expanding coverage under the program for both residential and nonresidential properties.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.:

Section 1. The Florida League of Cities, Inc., supports S. 1368 and urges Congress to reauthorize the National Flood Insurance Program, which addresses accuracy in flood mapping, transparency and broader-based solutions for funding.

Section 2. A copy of this resolution be sent to President Donald Trump, the Florida Congressional Delegation, the National League of Cities and the membership of the Florida League of Cities, Inc.

Section 3. This resolution shall become effective upon adoption and shall remain in effect until repealed and hereby repeals all conflicting resolutions.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Florida League of Cities, Inc., in conference assembled at the League's 91st Annual Conference, at the Orlando World Center Marriott, Orlando, Florida, this 19th Day of August 2017.

**A RESOLUTION OF THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.,
URGING CONGRESS TO PRESERVE THE PROPERTY
ASSESSED CLEAN ENERGY (PACE) PROGRAMS.**

WHEREAS, in 2010, the Florida Legislature enacted legislation creating the Property Assessed Clean Energy, or PACE, program, which allows local governments to make loans to property owners for the purpose of installing renewable energy devices on their property and to collect payments on the loan through a special assessment; and

WHEREAS, 32 states plus the District of Columbia have passed laws enabling local governments to develop PACE programs; and

WHEREAS, the building sector accounts for 39 percent of the nation's energy use, 72 percent of its electricity use, one third of all global greenhouse gas emissions and represents the single largest, most accessible opportunity for deep emission cuts in the United States; and

WHEREAS, PACE financing programs are an innovative local government solution to help property owners finance energy efficiency and renewable energy improvements – such as energy efficient boilers, upgraded insulation, new windows, solar installations, etc. – to their homes and businesses; and

WHEREAS, investing in cost-effective energy efficiency and renewable energy improvements to homes and businesses can save energy, cut utility bills up to \$140 billion per year, create thousands of local jobs, reduce reliance on fossil fuels, and dramatically reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, the PACE program removes many of the barriers of energy efficiency and renewable energy retrofits that otherwise exist for residential homeowners and businesses, particularly the high upfront cost of making such an investment and the long-term ability to reap the benefits of cost savings; and

WHEREAS, a recent study by the University of North Carolina, Center for Community Capital, found default risks are on average 32 percent lower in energy efficient homes and recommends the lower risks associated with energy efficiency should be taken into consideration when underwriting mortgages; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Energy strongly supports PACE, and in 2010, the department dedicated \$150 million to assist in the development of local PACE programs and issued guidelines to ensure that PACE programs meet safety and soundness requirements and adequately protect property owners, taxpayers, and investors in the bond and mortgage markets; and

WHEREAS, locally administered PACE programs are an exercise of the traditional authority of local governments to utilize the tax code for public benefit; and

WHEREAS, PACE programs help local governments meet a core obligation to their citizens to maintain housing stock and improve housing opportunities for all citizens; and

WHEREAS, despite PACE's great promise, the Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA) and the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency on July 6, 2010, issued statements that immediately forced existing PACE residential programs to halt operations and froze the development of dozens of other residential PACE programs nationwide; and

WHEREAS, despite the FHFA directive, many commercial and a few residential PACE programs are operating or are in development in hundreds of municipalities across the country; and

WHEREAS, S. 838 and H.R. 1958, the Protecting Americans from Credit Expansion Act, is legislation that would require PACE to be subject to the Truth in Lending Act requirements, the same requirements that mortgage bankers must follow for home loans; and

WHEREAS, this legislation would hamstring a local government's ability to use local tax assessments in the manner in which they were designed, taking away another tool in the local government tool box to encourage residential energy improvements.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC., THAT:

Section 1. The Florida League of Cities, Inc., urges Congress to oppose S. 838 and H.R. 1958 and consider alternative legislation that focuses on expanding consumer

protection and disclosure requirements, without threatening this successful energy financing program.

Section 2. The Florida League of Cities, Inc., urges Congress to adopt legislation that clearly reaffirms the right of state and local governments to use special assessments and similar property obligations to protect and improve housing stock for the public good, including energy efficiency improvements, by directing federal regulators to enforce underwriting standards that are consistent with guidelines issued by the U.S. Department of Energy for PACE financing programs or by implementing any other appropriate measure.

Section 3. The Florida League of Cities, Inc., urges the FHFA to work with local governments seeking to establish PACE programs that benefit from the same senior lien status of all other projects that are funded through municipal assessments that improve private property and meet public policy objectives.

Section 4. That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Florida Congressional Delegation, the National League of Cities, the secretary of the U.S. Department of Energy and Florida Governor Rick Scott.

Section 5. That this resolution shall become effective upon adoption and shall remain in effect until repealed and hereby repeals all conflicting resolutions.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Florida League of Cities, Inc., in conference assembled at the League's 91st Annual Conference, at the Orlando World Center Marriott, Orlando, Florida, this 19th Day of August 2017.

**A RESOLUTION OF THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.,
URGING CONGRESS TO SUPPORT LEGISLATION THAT
WOULD PRESERVE STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS'
AUTHORITY TO CREATE REASONABLE RULES RELATED TO
UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS.**

WHEREAS, cities recognize domestic unmanned aircraft systems (UAS), or drones, have many potential benefits and help improve city services, such as infrastructure inspection, search and rescue, firefighting, security at large gatherings and accident investigations; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has registered more than 750,000 drone operators, far more than the 200,000 manned aircraft in the United States, and by 2021, the FAA estimates there will be up to 4 million drones; and

WHEREAS, last year, more than 1,700 drone incident complaints were filed with the FAA, an increase of 47 percent over the previous year, and these incidents include drones that have crashed through the windows of skyscrapers and onto bridges, as well as

drones that force medevac and wildfire fighting helicopters to take evasive action to avoid collision; and

WHEREAS, these incidents are happening throughout the nation, but more than half have occurred in just five states, including Florida; and

WHEREAS, communities should be able to enact reasonable time, manner and place restrictions to meet their particular needs; and

WHEREAS, the FAA released rules on UAS that recognize city leaders should play a role in regulating how, when and where drones operate in their cities; and

WHEREAS, as UAS or “drones” become more prevalent, local governments have a legitimate and important role in developing and enforcing regulations and guidelines for UAS that protect life and property and maintain quality of life; and

WHEREAS, as with any emerging technology, government at all levels will have to work together and with industry to develop regulations and guidelines that balance industry interests and public health, safety and welfare; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Senators Dianne Feinstein, Richard Blumenthal, Mike Lee and Tom Cotton are sponsors of S. 1272, the Drone Federalism Act; and

WHEREAS, S. 1272 would establish a framework for federal, state, local and tribal governments to work together to manage the use of recreational and commercial drones; and

WHEREAS, S.1272 recognizes the FAA's general authority over the national airspace while preserving the authority of state, local and tribal governments to issue additional restrictions on low-altitude drone operations below 200 feet.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.:

Section 1. The Florida League of Cities, Inc., supports the Drone Federalism Act and urges U.S. Senators Bill Nelson and Marco Rubio to support this legislation because it would allow local governments to participate in the regulation of drones by enacting reasonable restrictions on the time, manner and place of operation of civil unmanned aircraft operating below 200 feet above ground level.

Section 2. The Florida League of Cities, Inc., opposes additional federal preemption of local government authority to regulate UAS.

Section 3. A copy of this resolution be provided to President Donald Trump, the Florida Congressional Delegation, the National League of Cities, the U.S. Conference of Mayors, Florida Governor Rick Scott and the membership of the Florida League of Cities, Inc.

Section 4. This resolution shall become effective upon adoption and shall remain in effect until repealed and hereby repeals all conflicting resolutions.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Florida League of Cities, Inc., in conference assembled at the League's 91st Annual Conference, at the Orlando World Center Marriott, Orlando, Florida, this 19th Day of August 2017.

**A RESOLUTION OF THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.,
URGING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO CLARIFY THE DE-
OBLIGATION PROCESS OF PREVIOUSLY APPROVED
DISASTER RELIEF FUNDS.**

WHEREAS, the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Stafford Act) establishes the statutory authority for most federal disaster response activities, especially as they pertain to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and its programs; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Stafford Act is to provide continued and orderly assistance from the federal government to state and local governments to relieve hardship and assist in disaster recovery; and

WHEREAS, the Stafford Act authorizes FEMA to obligate funds to states and local governments to help recover from natural disasters that cause widespread damage to homes, businesses and critical infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the ability of state and local governments to recover successfully from natural disaster events is due in large part to their partnership with FEMA and the financial assistance that it provides under the Stafford Act; and

WHEREAS, it is through this partnership that local governments seek FEMA's approval of recovery projects that include authorized costs to be reimbursed by FEMA once the projects are completed; and

WHEREAS, FEMA has sought to retroactively de-obligate previously approved recovery funds from local governments, despite the passage of many years since the recovery funding was originally approved and despite the local governments' expenditure of such funds in accordance with the grant's requirements; and

WHEREAS, FEMA's retroactive de-obligation of previously approved recovery funds weakens the intent of the Stafford Act; and

WHEREAS, local governments do not have the resources or expertise to fully respond to the voluminous FEMA requests for information and documentation relating to their post-disaster recovery expenses and efforts; and

WHEREAS, Congress enacted Section 705(c) of the Stafford Act, titled "Binding Nature of Grant Requirements," to protect recipients of disaster assistance from these retroactive de-obligations; and

WHEREAS, in May of this year, H.R. 1678, the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, sponsored by U.S. Representative Lois Frankel, unanimously passed the U.S. House of Representatives; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Senator Bill Nelson introduced S. 709, the Disaster Assistance Improvement Act of 2017, and U.S. Senator Marco Rubio introduced S. 1641, the Post-Disaster Fairness to States Act; and

WHEREAS, these three bills include a provision that amends the Stafford Act to change the three-year statute of limitations by which FEMA can recover payments to begin once the Project Worksheet is transmitted, rather upon completion of the final expenditure report for the entire disaster; and

WHEREAS, this provision would provide more fiscal certainty to local governments that receive FEMA disaster assistance funds; and

WHEREAS, Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart (R-25-FL) and other members of Congress have also been working to improve the FEMA Public Assistance Grant Program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.:

Section 1. The Florida League of Cities, Inc., urges the federal government to clarify the process whereby FEMA can declare previously approved funds distributed to local governments for disaster relief efforts are de-obligated so as to ensure the de-obligation process:

1. complies with Section 705(c) of the Stafford Act;
2. includes a reasonable time frame for municipalities to respond to information requests; and
3. requires FEMA to make timely decisions on appeals filed by municipalities that face the potential rescission of previously appropriated federal funds.

Section 2. The Florida League of Cities, Inc., expresses appreciation to U.S. Representative Lois Frankel, U.S. Senator Bill Nelson, U.S. Senator Marco Rubio, U.S. Representative Mario Diaz-Balart and other members of Florida's Congressional Delegation for their efforts to improve the FEMA disaster recovery funding de-obligation process.

Section 3. The Florida League of Cities, Inc., urges the U.S. Senate to pass legislation to improve the FEMA Public Assistance Grant Program.

Section 4. A copy of this resolution be sent to President Donald Trump, the Florida Congressional Delegation, the National League of Cities and the membership of the Florida League of Cities, Inc.

Section 5. This resolution shall become effective upon adoption and shall remain in effect until repealed and hereby repeals all conflicting resolutions.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Florida League of Cities, Inc., in conference assembled at the League's 91st Annual Conference, at the Orlando World Center Marriott, Orlando, Florida, this 19th Day of August 2017.

There being no further resolutions, President Haynie expressed appreciation to Chairman Gil Ziffer and the members of the Resolution Committee for their efforts.

President Haynie then called for a report of the Legislative Committee. Chairman Gil Ziffer, League first vice president and commissioner of Tallahassee, introduced the priority statements and moved its adoption. Each motion was duly seconded and each priority statement was adopted.

Local Self-Government Priority Statement:

The Florida League of Cities seeks to strengthen and protect the fundamental concept of local self-government, and will OPPOSE legislative efforts to impede the constitutional right Florida's citizens have enjoyed for nearly 50 years to govern themselves under municipal Home Rule powers. Additionally, the Florida League of Cities OPPOSES the Legislature's persistent intrusion into local finances, which are necessary to provide financial stability and essential services uniquely required by municipal residents and local businesses.

Communications Services Tax Protection Priority Statement:

The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS reforming the Communications Services Tax in a manner that is revenue neutral; provides for a broad and equitable tax base; provides for enhanced stability and reliability as an important revenue source for local government; and provides a uniform method for taxing communication services in Florida. Reform should promote a competitively neutral tax policy that will free consumers to choose a provider based on tax-neutral considerations.

Community Redevelopment Agencies Priority Statement:

The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS legislation to improve municipalities' use of community redevelopment agencies to effectively carry out redevelopment and community revitalization in accordance with Home Rule.

Sober Homes Priority Statement:

The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS legislation requiring certification for all recovery residences and recovery residence administrators to ensure that this vulnerable population is protected and that recovery residence administrators have the competencies necessary to appropriately respond to the needs of residents.

Transportation Funding Priority Statement:

The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS legislation that preserves local control of transportation planning, provides for a more equitable transportation funding formula between municipalities and counties, and provides for additional dedicated revenue options for municipal transportation infrastructure and transit projects.

Water Funding Priority Statement:

The Florida League of Cities will SUPPORT legislation to provide long-term, recurring and adequate state funding, that is equitably distributed throughout the state, for local government water resource and water quality improvement projects and infrastructure, including, but not limited to, projects that: reduce nutrient and pollutant loading from wastewater sources; mitigate storm water and flooding impacts; and increase available water resources and supplies.

President Haynie then called for a report of the Nominating Committee. Chairman Matthew Surrency, League past president and mayor of Hawthorne, offered the following nominations:

For President: Commissioner Tem Gil Ziffer, Tallahassee. President Haynie called for additional nominations. There being none, Chairman Surrency moved that the nominations be closed and a unanimous vote be cast for Commissioner Ziffer for president. The motion was duly seconded and adopted without dissent.

For First Vice President: Vice Mayor Leo Longworth, Bartow. President Haynie called for additional nominations. There being none, Chairman Surrency moved that the nominations be closed and a unanimous vote be cast for Vice Mayor Leo Longworth for first vice president. The motion was duly seconded and adopted without dissent.

For Second Vice President: Councilman Isaac Salver, Bay Harbor Islands. President Haynie called for additional nominations. There being none, Chairman Surrency moved the nominations be closed and a unanimous vote be cast for Commissioner Salver for second vice president. The motion was duly seconded and adopted without dissent.

Chairman Surrency then announced the committee's nominees for the Board of Directors representing the 14 districts were as follows: (1) Mayor Kurvin Qualls, Jay; Council Member Shannon Hayes, Crestview; (2) Vice Mayor Mary Lawson Brown, Palatka; (3) Mayor Bob Apgar, DeLand; Mayor Bill Partington, Ormond Beach; (4) Mayor Carol McCormack, Palm Shores; Mayor Kathy Meehan, Melbourne; (5) Mayor Louie Davis, Waldo; Commissioner Elise Denison, Leesburg; (6) Mayor Ray Bagshaw, Edgewood; Commissioner Rosemary Wilsen, Ocoee; (7) Mayor Tom Pospichal, Auburndale; Mayor Marlene Wagner, Lake Hamilton; (8) Commissioner Heather Gracy, Dunedin; Mayor Leslie Notaro, Belleair Beach; (9) Mayor Thomas Campenni, Stuart; (10) Mayor Linda Yates, North Port; (11) Mayor Rachel Keesling, Punta Gorda; (12) Vice Mayor Pro Tem Andy Amoroso, Lake Worth; Commissioner Keith James, West Palm Beach; Councilwoman Dawn Pardo, Riviera Beach; (13) Commissioner Margaret Bates, Lauderhill; Vice Mayor Dan Daley, Coral Springs; Mayor Gary Resnick, Wilton Manors; Mayor Greg Ross, Cooper City; Commissioner Iris Siple, Pembroke Pines; Councilmember Susan Starkey, Davie; Mayor Dan Stermer, Weston; (14) Councilman Jon Burgess, Homestead; Mayor Claudia Cubillos, El Portal; Mayor Jordan Leonard, Bay Harbor Islands; Councilwoman Felicia Robinson, Miami Gardens.

President Haynie called for additional nominations. There being none, Chairman Surrency moved that the nominations be closed and a unanimous ballot be cast for the nominees as presented. The motion was duly seconded and adopted without dissent.

Chairman Surrency then moved the committee's nominees for the Board of Directors representing the 10 most populous cities: Jacksonville – Councilman Reginald Brown; Miami – Commissioner Francis Suarez; Tampa – Mayor Bob Buckhorn; St. Petersburg – Mayor Rick Kriseman; Orlando – Commissioner Tony Ortiz; Hialeah – Mayor Carlos Hernandez; Tallahassee – Commissioner Nancy Miller; Fort Lauderdale – Mayor Jack Seiler; Port St. Lucie – Mayor Greg Oravec; Cape Coral – Councilmember Jim Burch.

President Haynie called for additional nominations. There being none, Chairman Surrency moved that the nominations be closed and a unanimous ballot be cast for the nominees as presented. The motion was duly seconded and adopted without dissent.

Chairman Surrency then announced that the By-Laws provide that past presidents serving in office also serve on the Board of Directors and those individuals are: Mayor Randall Wise, Niceville; Commissioner Scott Maddox, Tallahassee; Commissioner Scott Black, Dade City; Mayor Frank C. Ortis, Pembroke Pines; Mayor Joy Cooper, Hallandale Beach; Mayor Pat Bates, Altamonte Springs; Councilman P.C. Wu, Pensacola; Mayor Matthew Surrency, Hawthorne; and Mayor Susan Haynie, Boca Raton.

The League's By-Laws call for elected officials who have been in elected office for 50 or more years, to have an automatic seat on the League Board.

Chairman Surrency further advised based on the By-Laws, that currently, Commissioner Roy Shiver of Florida City serves in that position.

Also, the League's By-Laws call for an automatic Ex-Officio, non-voting member from the Florida City and County Management Association. This year, Auburndale City Manager Bobby Green will serve in that position. He is the Immediate Past President of FCCMA.

President Haynie then thanked Chairman Surrency and the Nominating Committee for their efforts and congratulated the newly appointed Board of Directors of the Florida League of Cities.

There being no comments for the "Good of the Order" and no further business to come before the membership of the League, upon motion by Mayor Surrency, the Business Session was adjourned.

The Second General Session featured presentations by NLC President Matt Zone and U.S. Senator Bill Nelson, and a keynote address by Mac Stipanovich. At this time, President Haynie recognized the Years of Service Award recipients; the Defender of Home Rule and Florida Municipal Achievement Awards were presented; the youth councils in attendance were recognized; and the Florida League of Cities President's End of Year Video was shown.

Following the Second General Session, the League's past presidents were recognized during a luncheon held in their honor. Past presidents in attendance were: Dick Greco Jr.; Robert "Bo" Donly; Eric Smith; Ilene Lieberman; Clarence Anthony; Samuel Ferreri; David Rigsby; Frank Satchel; Commissioner Scott Maddox, Tallahassee; Dottie Reeder; Mayor Frank C. Ortis, Pembroke Pines; Carmine Priore; Mayor Pat Bates, Altamonte Springs; Councilperson P.C. Wu, Pensacola; Lori Moseley; and Mayor Matthew Surrency, Hawthorne. Also, during the luncheon, President Gil Ziffer was installed and appropriate recognition was provided.

Following lunch, a workshop titled "Media Training: Taking Control of YOUR Message in the New World of Media" was available for attendees. The League's Board of Directors also met that afternoon.

During the "Inaugural Celebration" that evening, delegates enjoyed entertainment and the 91st Annual Conference was adjourned.