



January 29, 2016

**HB 7059 (Caldwell) relating to Municipal Elections will be considered by the full House of Representatives on Tuesday, February 2**

**Please Contact Members of the Florida House of Representatives and Urge them to Oppose this Preemption of Municipal Election Dates.**

**HB 7059** preempts the authority of cities to set the date for city elections. Click [here](#) for a link to the staff analysis for the bill.

The bill requires all municipal elections within a county to be held on the same date as the general election in even numbered years, or on a like date in odd numbered years, or both, as determined by the Supervisor of Elections. This provision is designed to accommodate cities with even and odd numbered year terms.

If all the cities within a county and the Supervisor of Elections agree, an alternative fixed date each year may be set for city elections. These provisions provide extraordinary powers to Supervisors of Elections over city election cycles.

The bill expressly preempts any conflicting charters, ordinances, and general or special laws.

The bill provides for an orderly transition in office by extending the terms for affected incumbent city officers.

The bill is effective for city elections occurring after January 1, 2017.

**Talking Points:**

- Currently, cities have elections at different times of the year on either even or odd numbered years. This proposal preempts the flexibility currently enjoyed by municipalities to set their own elections according to local needs.
- Changes to length of term of office and dates of elections may require municipal charter amendments. Charter amendments will require an additional referenda election.

- Consolidating various elections for local office into a general election has the possibility to create a longer ballot and therefore increase the possibility of "under voting", the practice in which a voter does not fill out all questions on a ballot.
- Consolidating elections may have a negative effect on voter turnout and the non-partisan nature of municipal elections.

**Contact information for the Florida House of Representatives is attached or click [here](#). You can also use the League's advocacy tool [Capitol Connection](#) to e-mail Representatives.**

Should you have any questions, please contact: David Cruz at [dcruz@flcities.com](mailto:dcruz@flcities.com) or Kraig Conn at [kconn@flcities.com](mailto:kconn@flcities.com).

**Thank you for your advocacy efforts.**