



February 10, 2016

A Municipal Elections Preemption bill will be considered by the Senate Ethics and Elections Committee as early as Tuesday, February 16 at 4:00 p.m.

Please Contact Members of the Senate Ethics and Election Committee and Urge them to Oppose any Preemption of Municipal Election Dates.

City Officials: If this issue has not been on your radar, it needs to be...

If passed, this legislation would require more than 60% of Florida cities to amend their municipal charter to appease the Legislature and have a November election cycle.

It has risen to the top of our priority list.

We've done the research: 260 Florida cities hold elections *outside* the month of November.

Are YOU prepared to completely relinquish control of your election date and **give up Home Rule authority**? If not, **you need to take action.**

This egregious legislation would trigger a **domino effect of challenges for cities, including:**

- The undermining of your Municipal Charter
- Mandatory changes to existing term limits in many cities (which may require municipal charter amendments)
- Imminent voter fatigue due to a longer ballot, and the likelihood of voters not voting on important local issues
- Partisan influence that would undermine the current non-partisan nature of municipal elections
- The inability for cities to accommodate seasonal residents (which most cities address by implementing an election schedule that works best for the community)

More Details:

Last week, [HB 7059](#) (Caldwell) passed the FL House of Representatives. This bill 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 Senate Ethics and Elections Committee has indicated that the committee will take up similar legislation as a proposed committee bill (PCB) as early as Tuesday, February 16. The committee has not released the PCB, but we anticipate it will be similar to HB 7059.

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.

Please contact your Senators and Senators on the Senate Ethics and Elections Committee and Urge them to Oppose any legislation that Preempts Municipal Election Dates.

Senate Ethics and Elections Committee – Oppose Preemption

Senator	District	TLH Phone	E-mail
Garrett Richter, Chair	R-23	(850) 487-5023	richter.garrett@flsenate.gov
John Legg, V. Chr.	R-17	(850) 487-5017	legg.john@flsenate.gov
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Geraldine Thompson	D-12	(850) 487-5012	thompson.geraldine@flsenate.gov

Click [Here](#) for Additional Talking Points:

You can also use the League's advocacy tool [Capitol Connection](#) to e-mail Senators.

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

Thank you for your advocacy efforts.