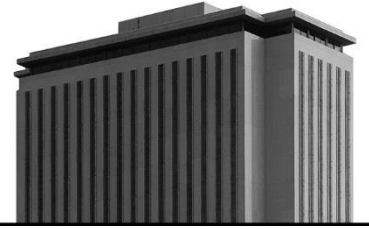




LEGISLATIVE ISSUE BRIEFS



Municipal Elections

The Florida League of Cities OPPOSES legislation that restricts a municipality's Home Rule authority to set municipal election dates.

Background:

Elections for municipal officers are conducted during the general election in November of even-numbered years unless the governing body of a municipality has adopted an ordinance to change the dates for qualifying and for the election of members of the governing body of the municipality.

The majority of Florida's 411 cities, towns and villages, do not hold municipal elections in November. In fact, only 151 hold November elections.

Cities are responsible for the cost of city elections and usually contract with the local supervisor of elections to conduct municipal elections on their behalf. Alternatively, cities may conduct their own elections using their own voting system and equipment and not contract with the local supervisor of elections.

Final Status:

HB 7059 (State Affairs Committee, Caldwell) would have preempted to the state the authority to establish the dates of elections of municipal officers. Among other things, the bill provided that the terms of incumbent elected municipal officers affected by the change in election dates would have been extended to the next municipal election. HB 7059 was amended on the House floor requiring municipalities that have a runoff format for elections to have the primary election 10 weeks prior to the general election. In addition, the amendment exempted cities that conduct their own elections without the use of the county supervisor of elections from the requirements of the bill.

HB 7059 passed the House by a vote of 70-47 but died when it was not considered by the Senate.

Revised: 3/16/2016