

2017 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

# HOME RULE IN THE HEADLINES

AN FLC REPORT

**“States and Cities in Power Struggle Over Local Laws”**

**- Wall Street Journal**

**“Preemption Prevents Innovation”**

**- U.S. News & World Reports**

**“Fighting City Hall: Push for more state control angers cities and counties”**

**- Tampa Bay Times**

**“Cities must fight back in war on home rule”**

**- Gainesville Sun**

**“Florida Legislature Tries To Limit Home Rule This Session”**

**- WFSU**

**“Florida mayors rail against legislative threats to home rule”**

**- Florida Times-Union**

**“This session it’s Tallahassee vs. locals”**

**- Daytona Beach News-Journal**

**“Local control’ may be House without home”**

**- Naples Daily News**

**“Local leaders say too many choices are taken away by politicians in Tallahassee”**

**- St. Augustine Record**



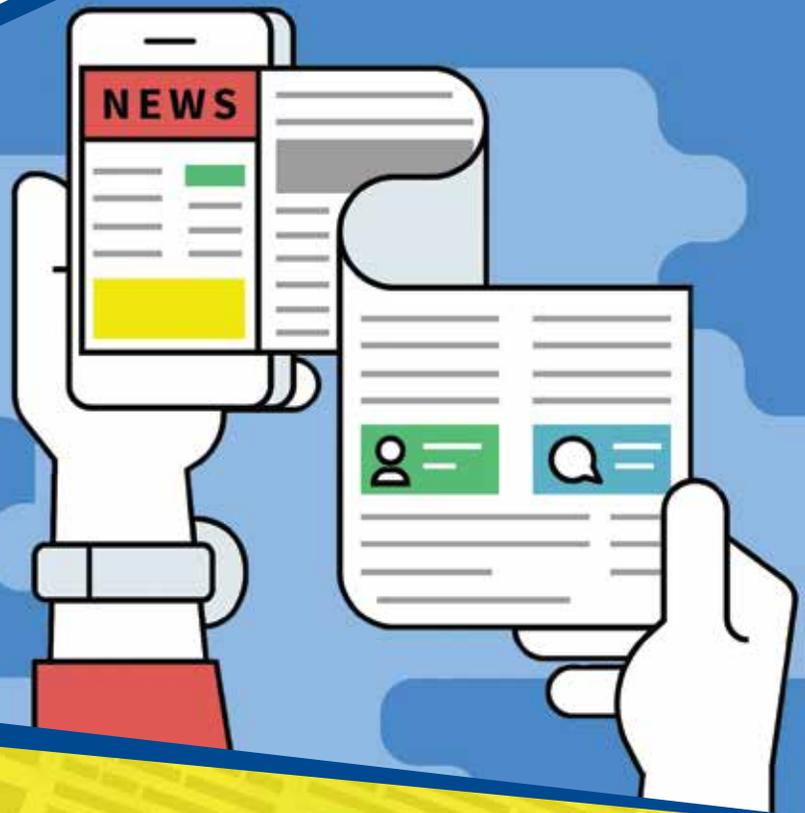
A summary of the news media’s coverage of the League’s priority issues, newspaper editorials in defense of self-government and published opinion-editorials by League members.

The news media plays a significant role in disseminating information and its reporting often influences viewpoints in the court of public opinion. Thanks in part to efforts by the Florida League of Cities and numerous municipal officials, the news media in Florida has certainly taken notice of a growing trend in the state Legislature – the erosion of local control.

This year, Florida’s cities saw countless bills filed during the legislative session that sought to preempt municipalities’ ability to make decisions at the local level. Florida’s constitution empowers local governments with the right of local self-government. Strong Home Rule powers ensure that government stays close to the people it serves.

In the midst of this unprecedented attack on Home Rule powers, editorial boards and reporters across the state took a stand against the Legislature’s attempted power grab. The Legislature’s intrusion on local control undermines the constitutional right of local citizens to govern themselves.

We thank the reporters, editors and city officials who helped shine a light on the need to protect Florida’s Home Rule Powers Act.



## BY THE NUMBERS

**81** articles published on FLC Priority Issues

**32** articles advocating for local control

**21** editorials in defense of Home Rule powers

**10** opinion-editorials authored by FLC-member city officials

# POWER QUOTES

## Stop power grabs by state lawmakers

*Gainesville Sun* ■ March 1, 2017  
"Republican lawmakers seeking to wrest power from Washington seem to have no problem concentrating it in Tallahassee rather than on the local level."

## Our opinion: House Bill 17 just a bad idea

*Tallahassee Democrat* ■ February 27, 2017  
"Before we enumerate all the ways in which this is a bad idea, let's discuss what this bill is really about, and that is legislators' continuing efforts to erode local government control."

## Don't stiff local control, Tallahassee

*Orlando Sentinel* ■ March 8, 2017  
"With few exceptions, local leaders are in the best position to set local policy. They have a personal stake in the success or failure of those policies."

## Why not just let the locals decide?

*Northwest Florida Daily News* ■ March 21, 2017  
"Cities and counties should be allowed to thrive or decline based on their preferences, not the Capitol's."

## Legislature wants to run the show? No

*St. Augustine Record* ■ April 16, 2017  
"The legislature can't run itself, let alone governments it basically knows nothing about."

## State power grabs will hurt local governments

*Ocala StarBanner* ■ March 31, 2017  
"The Florida Legislature doesn't want to fight city hall — it wants to take it over."



## Faulty state bills would erode local control

*Naples Daily News* ■ March 28, 2017  
"Citizens create their own municipal governments and elect their own local leaders for a sound reason -- it's where local decisions should be made."

## Let communities set rules on rentals

*Herald-Tribune* ■ March 20, 2017  
"This is a case of big state government butting into local affairs for no good reason. Local governments are in the best position to respond to everyone's concerns, and to act to protect everyone's interests."

## State shows little respect for home rule

*Daytona Beach News-Journal* ■ April 2, 2017  
"The Legislature either doesn't trust local governments to do the right thing, or it wants to hoard those powers for itself."

## Home rule is under attack in Tallahassee

*TCPalm* ■ March 24, 2017  
"The essence of home rule is self-governance. There is no such thing as a one-size-fits-all form of governance when it comes to the hundreds of city and county governments in Florida."

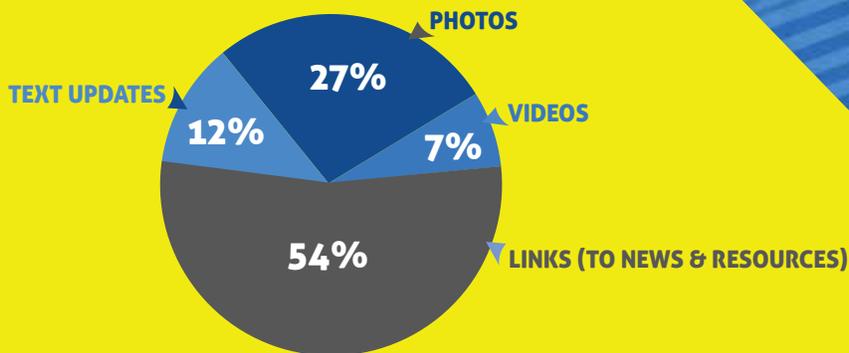
# SOCIAL MEDIA BUZZ

The conversation surrounding legislative activities and local control didn't end with conventional media coverage. Often using the hashtag #HOMERULE, city officials, League staff and legislators shared news, photos and insights throughout the 2017 legislative session (March 7 - May 8).

## By the Numbers (Facebook and Twitter)

Total Posts.....	<b>525</b>
Impressions.....	<b>330,145</b>
Engagements.....	<b>5,367</b>
Shares/Retweets.....	<b>1,169</b>
Tags/Mentions.....	<b>444</b>
Link Clicks.....	<b>2,290</b>

## Types of Content



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