



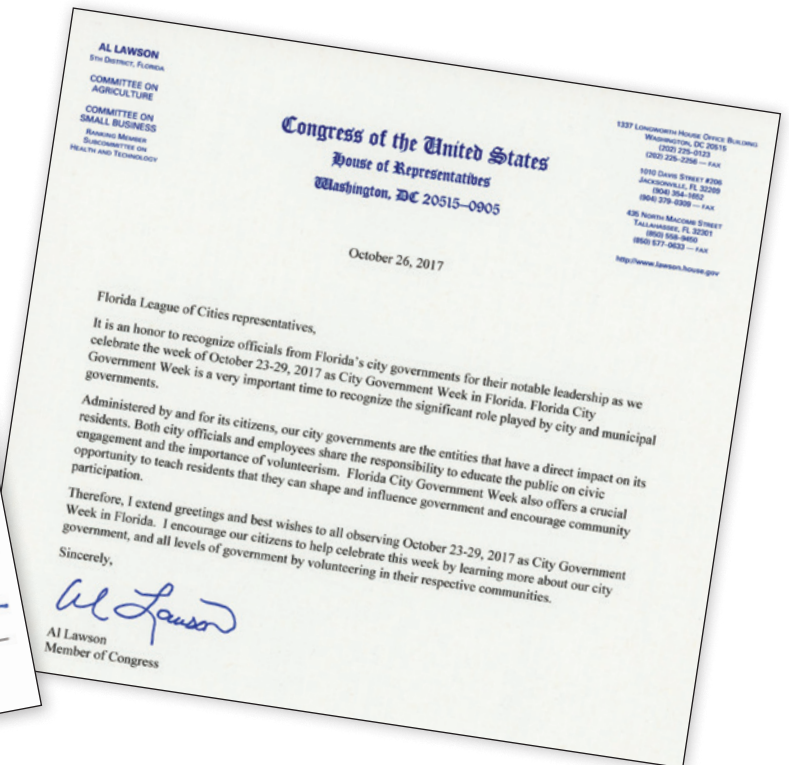
# 2017 Florida City Government Week

During October 23-29, cities throughout Florida held activities to celebrate and educate

**F**lorida City Government Week is an annual program sponsored by the Florida League of Cities. This weeklong celebration raises awareness about the importance of municipal government and its daily impact on residents. The goal is to educate citizens about how city government runs and give them the opportunity to learn what their city has to offer.

This year, League members were encouraged to spread the word throughout their cities through community service, special events and education. The following summaries highlight special events and projects to celebrate Florida City Government Week, which was also recognized through a proclamation from **Gov. Rick Scott** and a congratulatory letter from **Congressman Al Lawson**.

Compiled by Eryn Russell  
Florida League of Cities



## We Hope to Include You in 2018

It's not too early to start thinking about how your city will celebrate **2018 Florida City Government Week**, which will be held October 22-28. If your city has never celebrated the week, use the summaries in this article to generate ideas for your event. Visit [FLCityWeek.com](http://FLCityWeek.com) for more information. Contact Sharon Berrian at [sberrian@flcities.com](mailto:sberrian@flcities.com) or (850) 222-9684 if you have any questions.

**BOWLING GREEN**

**Bowling Green** kicked off its first year participating in Florida City Government Week by inviting residents to see the passing of its resolution and to learn about the importance of cities. During the city's Fall Festival, the mayor and volunteers greeted children with "My City" buttons and bumper stickers. Bowling Green held a photo contest for school-aged children to take a picture with a city landmark. Bowling Green's goal was to promote the city while building a strong community spirit and pride.

**BRANFORD**



**Branford** Town Clerk Donna Hardin and Mayor Mickey Dempsey shared city government books with Branford High School's civics teachers. During an assembly at the high school, Hardin and Dempsey explained city government to students. Following the assembly, both officials participated in the homecoming parade and distributed "My Town" buttons and bumper stickers.

**CAPE CANAVERAL**

Over the course of Florida City Government Week, departments and contracted agencies from the **City of Cape Canaveral** came together to educate approximately 350 students from all grades at Cape View Elementary School and encourage their participation in the city government. All city departments, the Brevard County Sheriff's Office Cape Canaveral Precinct and Canaveral Fire Rescue led the events. Third graders joined Mayor Pro Tem Brendan McMillan and staff for a mock city council meeting.



**COCOA**



During Florida City Government Week, the residents of **Cocoa** were invited to an open house that featured table-top displays from each city department. Residents spoke with city staff and representatives about services offered and they asked questions about other city issues. Residents also created a mural about why they love Cocoa that will be displayed at City Hall. Along with the open house, Cocoa held an online scavenger hunt to promote city services to residents.

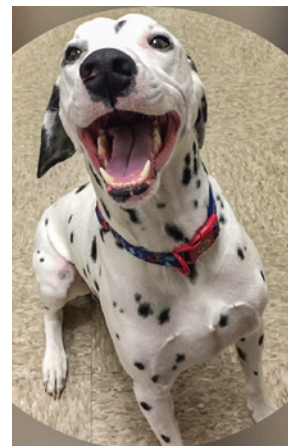
**CRESTVIEW**

The **City of Crestview's** elected officials and department heads held several events during Florida City Government Week. The week began with an open house on Monday following the city's regular workshop, and ended by serving citizens at a local restaurant on Historic Downtown Main Street.



**DAVENPORT**

The **City of Davenport** invited its residents to an open house for Florida City Government Week to meet with their city commissioners and staff. Each department set up tables to highlight current projects and displayed equipment and gear, including the city's original traffic signal and two water meters from the 1920s. Residents could register to vote, learn about city recycling and meet with the city's Police and Fire departments. Spot, the Fire Department's mascot, greeted residents at the door.





**DAVIE**

As part of Florida City Government Week, students from Summit Questa Montessori School were invited to tour **Davie Town Hall**. Students visited the Town Council chambers and observed town staff performing daily tasks in the Budget and Finance, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs, Public Works, Utilities Customer Service and Town Clerk's offices. Students then met with Mayor Judy Paul and Councilmember Susan Starkey to ask town- and government-related questions.



**DEBARY**

The **City of DeBary** celebrated Florida City Government Week by inviting its residents to an activity-filled evening. The evening began with a welcome from the mayor and an Air One fly over. Throughout the evening, residents toured the police and fire stations, watched governance presentations in the council chambers, and watched several competitions between the Police and Fire departments, including a football toss, trike relay race and basketball-shooting competition.

**DEFUNIAK SPRINGS**

**DeFuniak Springs** Mayor Bob Campbell wanted to engage residents using the "My City: I'm Part of It, I'm Proud of It" theme. The city hosted activities throughout Florida City Government Week in hopes of reaching all residents. The week kicked off with the presentation of the city's proclamation and continued with presentations from the Public Works Department, Fire Department, Police Department and airport, and a meet and greet with elected officials, city staff and the new city manager.



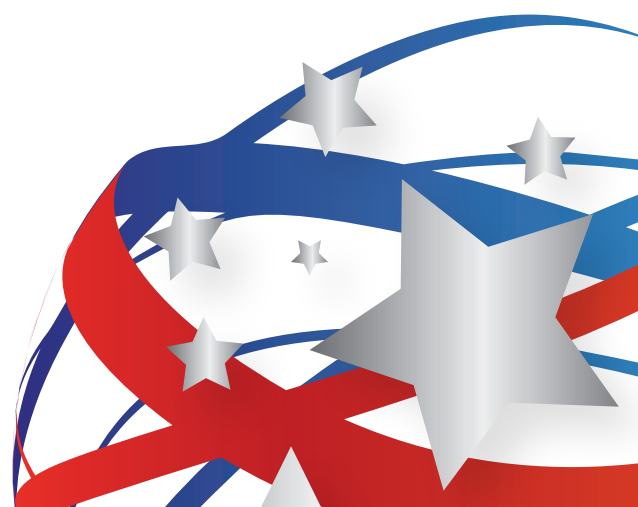
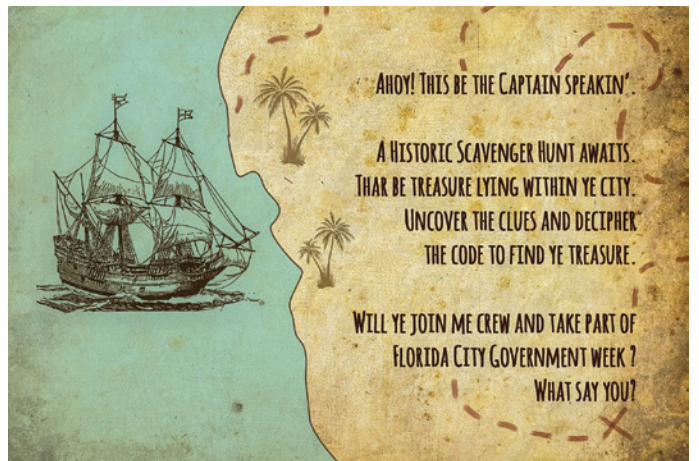
**DELRAY BEACH**



To launch Florida City Government Week, **Delray Beach** Mayor Cary Glickstein joined two students at Carver Middle School in the reading of the city's new proclamation. Afterward, the mayor spoke to several classes on the importance of city government. Students had the opportunity to ask questions, drawing upon the knowledge they learned in their civics class.

**FORT PIERCE**

During the week, **Fort Pierce** celebrated what makes the city great, including its rich history. The city hosted a historic scavenger hunt to give residents an opportunity to discover clues that would teach them about Fort Pierce's heritage. At each stop along the way, residents interacted with city employees to help them uncover the hidden message.





**FRUITLAND PARK**

The **Fruitland Park City Commission** issued a proclamation recognizing students of great achievement. They recognized Sophia Hurtt, who attends the Villages Charter School, and the 2017-2018 Fruitland Park Elementary School National Elementary Honor Society students with academic performance of 3.5 or higher who volunteer in the community.



**GREENACRES**

During Florida City Government Week, **Greenacres** celebrated by inviting local children to City Hall to learn about the importance of voting and held a mock election. Children learned about the city clerk's position, traveled to the Public Works Department to see mechanics work on a fire truck engine, and visited the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office to learn about safety.



**HAINES CITY**



The **City of Haines City** invited local children, aged 13-17, to participate in a writing contest themed "What I Love About My City." Three winners were chosen. Inez Cruz, the first-place contest winner, read her essay during the City Commission meeting.

**HAVANA**

For Florida City Government Week, the **Town of Havana** invited 30 students of various ages to visit the council chambers. Havana also invited seventh grade students to a special program that included a tour of council chambers and town departments, along with lunch on the lawn at Town Hall.



**HILLARD**

The **Town of Hilliard** invited local fourth graders to participate in an essay contest themed "If I were Mayor for the day." Three winners – Brian Wheat, Emma Dillard and Kaylee Hobbs – were selected. They were invited to a Town Council meeting where the mayor read their essays and presented each winner with a prize.





**HOLLY HILL**

Seventh grade students in **Holly Hill** conducted a mock city commission meeting with the mayor, city commissioners and city clerk. The mock agenda allowed the students to vote on issues and learn from city staff about their positions on the topics being discussed. Students then toured City Hall and various departments, including the Police Department.



**KISSIMMEE**

The **City of Kissimmee** celebrated Florida City Government Week by hosting an array of events. These included a poster contest, a showcase by the Public Works Department, a trivia contest and a virtual tour of City Hall and its departments. The celebrations concluded with “Coffee with a Commissioner.”

**JUPITER**



For Florida City Government Week, the **Town of Jupiter** created a “Get Involved” campaign to encourage its residents to participate in their local government by attending all town public meetings. Jupiter tested its residents about different town departments through “Did You Know” facts that were sent out via social media and email blasts.

**LAKE CLARKE SHORES**



**Lake Clarke Shores** President Pro-Tem Robert M. W. Shalhoub visited a local preschool to read “D is for Democracy,” and he passed out coloring books from the Police Department. The town also hosted “Coffee with the Town Administrator & Chief of Police” for residents to learn about town projects, ask questions and share concerns or ideas. The gathering was so successful that the town hopes to continue inviting residents to meetings held every few months.

**LAKE PARK**

In the **Town of Lake Park**, 72 fifth-grade students and their teachers celebrated Florida City Government Week by participating in a mock commission meeting, city department skits, a public works demonstration, and a tour of Town Hall, the library and sheriff’s office.



**LEESBURG**

The **City of Leesburg** celebrated Florida City Government Week in a variety of ways. The city hosted an “I Love Leesburg” community appreciation event for all city workers, and created “What Makes Leesburg Great” videos and a webpage to celebrate the week. The city also partnered with the Leesburg Center for the Arts for a photo contest, and handed bumper stickers and buttons to residents visiting City Hall.





**LYNN HAVEN**

**Lynn Haven** invited its residents to participate in a variety of activities surrounding Florida City Government Week. The week began with coffee with the mayor and commissioners. Activities included the mayor speaking to seventh grade civics students, and the Lynn Haven Senior Center distributing buttons and bumper stickers. Educational fire safety demonstrations were held, and the Lynn Haven Library invited children to story time.



**MARGATE**

Twenty-one students from **Margate STEM Magnet Middle School** joined the City Clerk's Office at City Hall for a Student Government Day. The day provided student council members with a hands-on experience of how local government works. Students participated in a mock commission meeting alongside city staff and officials, and toured various departments to increase their understanding of how city government impacts the quality of life for residents.

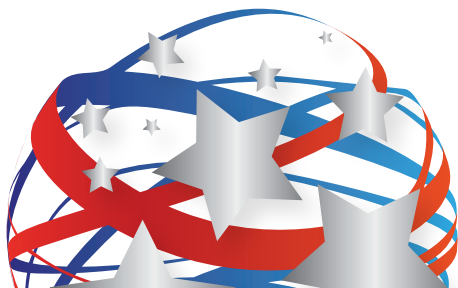
**MELBOURNE**

**Melbourne** conducted daily social media posts to highlight the city and its services. The posts included information about water distribution lines, public safety officers, and parks and recreation facilities and programs that are available to residents. In addition, city volunteers were recognized for their combined 1,000 years of service.

**MIAMI SPRINGS**



During Florida City Government Week, **Miami Springs** invited residents to City Hall for tours and conversations about the city. Residents enjoyed coffee and doughnuts and inquired about various departments and services. Miami Springs also posted an informational video on certain departments (see [youtu.be/dywTXsPjZVO](http://youtu.be/dywTXsPjZVO)).



**MIRAMAR**

**Miramar** created a weeklong initiative to get its residents involved in Florida City Government Week. The week was kicked off by a proclamation from Mayor Wayne M. Messam, followed by a state-of-the-city address, a social media contest, shared press release and distribution of "My City: I'm Part of It I'm Proud of It" stickers and buttons.



**MOUNT DORA**

Florida City Government Week in **Mount Dora** began with an ice cream social for city volunteers as a thank you for their hard work. Mayor Nick Girone invited residents for coffee and doughnuts and an informal chat about the city and events. He also answered questions and addressed resident concerns. In addition, the city held a photo contest for residents to submit pictures that represent their city.



**MULBERRY**

**Mulberry** hosted three citywide events to engage its residents in the importance of municipal government. For the first time, city commissioners met with residents over ice cream. The city also held a teen leadership forum, inviting teenagers to learn about the importance of leadership in the workplace and college. The week ended with a Harvest Festival for all residents attended by the mayor, commissioners and city manager.





**NEW SMYRNA BEACH**

The **City of New Smyrna Beach** conducted a variety of activities for its citizens to experience city government. Residents met with commissioners for coffee, and witnessed the city's proclamation. High school civics students participated in a mock commission meeting, and residents participated in a walk with the city manager.



**NORTH BAY VILLAGE**

During Florida City Government Week, **North Bay Village** invited Treasure Island Elementary School students to a Village Commission meeting. The students conducted a mock commission meeting on the topic of keeping animals in small cages.

**OCEAN BREEZE**

For Florida City Government Week, the **Town of Ocean Breeze** invited residents to Town Hall for a civics education lesson. As a developing city with a diverse population, city leaders wanted their residents to learn what a town is and how it operates. At the meeting, "My Town: I'm Part of It, I'm Proud of It" bumper stickers and buttons were given to the 35 residents who attended.



**OLDSMAR**

Throughout Florida City Government Week, the **City of Oldsmar** posted items on its Facebook page highlighting different aspects of the city government. This included information about the City Council, city clerk, city manager and various departments. Residents were encouraged to share the posts to win a prize.



**ORANGE CITY**



The **City of Orange City** invited the Orange City Elementary Student Government Association for a day at City Hall. Twenty-seven students learned about what a city is, and the role of the City Council, mayor, city manager, and Police and Fire departments. The students ate lunch with the mayor and toured City Hall, and the Police and Fire departments.

**PALM BEACH GARDENS**

The **City of Palm Beach Gardens** held multiple events for residents and asked them to engage online with the #FLCityWeek hashtag.





**PARKER**

For Florida City Government Week, five Parker Elementary School fifth graders took on the roles of council members, mayor, city clerk and fire chief. Students toured the police and fire stations, Public Works Department and City Hall. The city invited its fifth graders to write an essay about how they would spend \$100,000 to make the **City of Parker** better. Students called for additional money for the Police and Fire departments, a park for the disabled and more.



**PEMBROKE PINES**

**Pembroke Pines** Mayor Frank Ortis hosted “Coffee with the Mayor” in the lobby of City Hall during Florida City Government Week. During the event, Ortis met with residents to discuss their ideas and concerns. Throughout the week, the city held a trivia game on its Facebook page about the history of Pembroke Pines. The city also put together a video about special events hosted throughout the year (see [youtu.be/yZCvFyYATTw](https://youtu.be/yZCvFyYATTw)).



**PORT ORANGE**

Florida City Government Week coincided with the **City of Port Orange’s** inaugural citizens academy, Port Orange University, where residents learned about the services the city provides. The Port Orange University class visited the water treatment plant to learn about the city’s field and lab operations. Later in the week, the city hosted a meet-and-greet with the city manager.

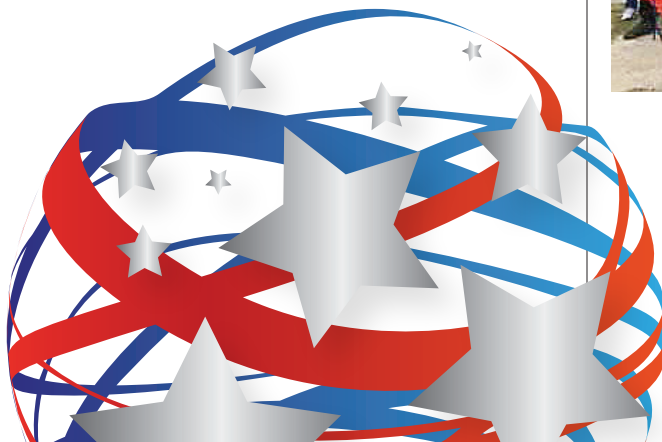


**PORT ST. LUCIE**

Throughout Florida City Government Week, the **City of Port St. Lucie** hosted a trivia contest on its Facebook page. Residents could log in and respond to a daily trivia question, with the winner receiving a prize.

**SANFORD**

The **City of Sanford** participated in Florida City Government Week in hopes of educating residents about municipal government. The city promotes government through its Citizens Academy class, in which 31 residents are enrolled. The Mayors’ Youth Council and city staff helped Keeping Sanford Sparkling, a local environmental group, in its great grassroots cleanup effort. The city will be creating a video series that guides viewers through local government procedures.





**SEMINOLE**

The **City of Seminole** invited more than 60 fourth graders to City Hall to learn about government and participate in an activity-filled day. Mayor Leslie Waters presented “My City: I’m Part of It, I’m Proud of It,” and began the day with a mock city council meeting. Corporal Dan DiFrancesco, the Pinellas County Sheriff’s public information officer, spoke to the children about the Sheriff’s Office and safety. Fire Chief Heather Burford entertained the children with a question-and-answer session and demonstrated firefighter gear.



**ST. AUGUSTINE**

**St. Augustine** city commissioners and first responders met with elementary school students each day of Florida City Government Week, to greet and participate in morning announcements. The Flagler College Student Government Association Executive Board met with Mayor Nancy Shaver and City Manager John Regan to discuss the challenges and rewards of municipal government and their roles in it.



**TEMPLE TERRACE**

The **City of Temple Terrace** launched a three-part program to celebrate Florida City Government Week. First, the city used social media to introduce city departments, department directors, city leaders and the services the city provides. City staff met with students at Florida College to address concerns and challenges for students about how municipal government works. Then, select students were invited to visit City Hall to shadow department directors and city leaders to experience their roles first hand.

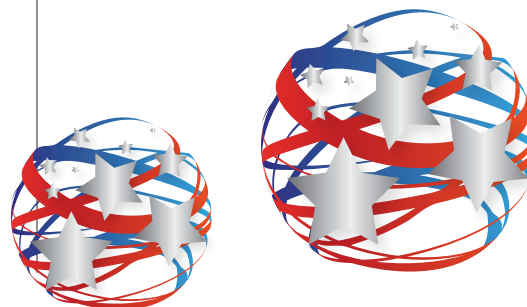
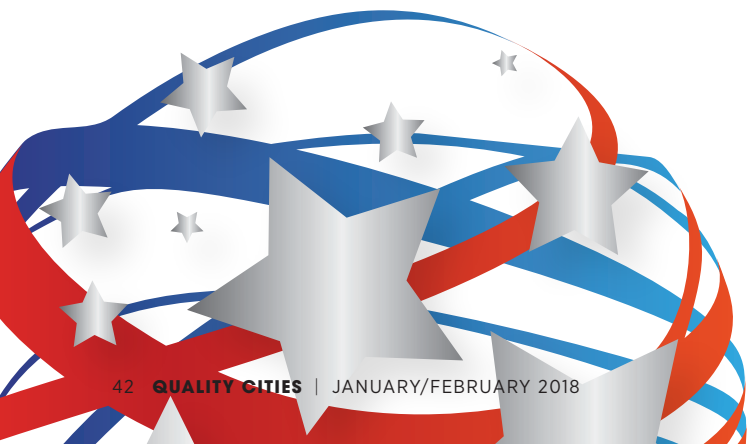
**VENICE**

To celebrate the “My City: I’m Part of It, I’m Proud of It” theme, the **City of Venice** held a poster contest for fourth and fifth grade students. The winners won pizza parties for their classmates, and winning posters were framed and hung in Venice City Hall. City officials gave a presentation on the purpose of Florida City Government Week and how municipal government reaches students’ lives.



**WEBSTER**

For Florida City Government Week, the **City of Webster** and **Sumter County** hosted Congressman Daniel Webster to speak about tax reform currently happening in the nation. Sumter Scenic Heritage Byway advocated for keeping Webster’s heritage alive through fundraising and beautification projects for the community. A Post Office representative displayed the ordinance from the post office’s inception. Throughout the week, Webster promoted its official designation as the only Florida Bee City, which raises awareness and enhances habitats for honey bees.





**WELLINGTON**

The **Village of Wellington** invited hundreds of high school students to Village Hall to participate in “Civics 101” to learn how their local government is run. Students elected their own council members and conducted a meeting featuring department presentations and resident questions. Throughout the week, social media engaged residents with several city-related topics including volunteerism, staff at work and civic engagement.

**WESTON**



For Florida City Government Week, the **City of Weston** continued its “I Led the Pledge” program, with students from Gator Run Elementary leading the pledge during commission meetings. Weston also hosted its first “Weston University” session on civic education. Students participated and gained hands-on experiences about municipal government.

**WINDERMERE**

For the 11th consecutive year, the **Town of Windermere** invited third graders to spend a half day learning about local government. Students were greeted by Mayor Gary Bruhn, who provided a town history and a presentation on town functions and services. Then, staff from **Ocoee’s** Police and Fire departments shared their job functions and showed students equipment, including lifesaving tools from the Fire Department.



**WINTER HAVEN**



The **City of Winter Haven** used Florida City Government Week as an opportunity to celebrate its 492 city employees and more than 41,134 residents. The city held its annual Fire Department open house, with more than 700 residents participating. The city also launched its first Winter Haven Youth Council. The city promoted the “My City” message through its premier event – Ghoul’s Day Out – along with passing out buttons and bumper stickers in the Services Division lobby.

**RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS:**

- Governor Rick Scott**
- City of Auburndale**
- City of Bowling Green**
- City of Cooper City**
- City of Crestview**
- City of Dade City**
- City of DeFuniak Springs**
- City of Delray Beach**
- City of Fruitland Park**
- City of Greenacres**
- Town of Hastings**
- Town of Hilliard**
- City of Holly Hill**
- Town of Juno Beach**
- Town of Jupiter**
- Town of Lake Clarke Shores**
- City of Lake Wales**
- City of Leesburg**
- City of Miramar**
- City of New Smyrna Beach**
- City of North Lauderdale**
- Town of Oakland**
- Town of Ocean Breeze**
- City of Okeechobee**
- City of Oldsmar**
- Town of Orange Park**
- City of Palm Beach Gardens**
- City of Palm Coast**
- City of Port Orange**
- City of Sanford**
- City of Seminole**
- City of St. Augustine**
- City of Sunrise**
- City of Tallahassee**



Eryn Russell is an assistant in the Florida League of Cities Membership Relations Department. 