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## More Than 150 Florida Mayors Sign Letter Encouraging Congress to Provide Financial Aid to Cities

*Florida's cities have received little to no funding from previous federal stimulus packages, and this letter emphasizes the importance of including municipalities in this congressional package*

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**TALLAHASSEE, Fla.** – Today, more than 150 mayors from across Florida joined in support by [providing a letter](#) to the state's congressional delegation and other federal officials requesting direct federal funding assistance to municipalities to help with the COVID-19 pandemic. To date, Florida's cities have received little to no funding as part of the federal CARES Act. With Congress working on the next stimulus package, Florida's mayors want to make sure their voices are heard. They are speaking in support of the state's cities, towns and villages and the residents and businesses that would benefit from any federal support. The **Florida League of Mayors** and **Florida League of Cities** partnered with the **U.S. Conference of Mayors** in this collaborative effort.

"This was our last chance to advocate to Congress on the importance of providing direct federal funding to Florida's municipalities, which have been significantly impacted by COVID-19," said **Kevin Ruane, president of the Florida League of Mayors and mayor of the City of Sanibel**. "We hope this letter, which includes the support of more than 150 of my fellow mayors, helps reinforce the important role cities play in providing essential services our communities rely on and how vital federal support is in ensuring we're able to continue providing those services."

**Isaac Salver, president of the Florida League of Cities and council member of the Town of Bay Harbor Islands:** "COVID-19 has resulted in major public health and safety challenges requiring increased demand for the critical services Florida's municipalities provide. Florida's cities, towns and villages are the backbone of America. For our country to recover, it needs to start at the local level, which is why we're asking for support from our federal partners."

**Francis X. Suarez, mayor of the City of Miami:** "Our city's resources have been greatly impacted due to COVID-19. While I'm incredibly proud of the innovative ways my staff has managed to continue effectively serving our communities, direct federal funding is crucial to our ability to keep serving our residents. I am proud of my fellow mayors for coming together and requesting financial support from our federal partners to assist us in managing through this pandemic."

**Jane Castor, mayor of the City of Tampa:** “We are at a critical moment for both our country and our municipalities. I would hope that our leaders at the federal level would not pass a stimulus package that doesn’t include support for cities, given the important role we play in the health and strength of our nation’s economy. There’s still time for Congress to act and ensure cities can continue supporting and protecting our residents and businesses.”

**Terrill Hill, mayor of the City of Palatka and president-elect of the Florida League of Mayors:** “My city has been impacted by COVID-19 just like every other city in Florida. I’ve seen firsthand how our communities rely even more on the essential services we provide and, more importantly, what would happen if we’re unable to continue providing them. Cities are not asking for a bailout. Rather, we’re asking for a stronger federal-local partnership by supporting local jobs and small businesses, maintaining essential services and keeping neighborhoods safe during this crisis.”

The letter was signed by a total of 163 Florida mayors and was delivered to Senator Marco Rubio, Senator Rick Scott, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and officials in the Trump administration.

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*Founded in 1922, the Florida League of Cities is the united voice for Florida’s municipal governments. Its goals are to promote local self-government and serve the needs of Florida’s cities, which are formed and governed by their citizens. The League believes in “Local Voices Making Local Choices,” which focuses on the impact citizens and city leaders have in improving Florida’s communities. For more information, visit [flcities.com](http://flcities.com).*

*The Florida League of Mayors is an organization for mayors, founded and developed by mayors. Only mayors are eligible for membership. The organization provides the mayors of Florida with the ability to explore, in great depth, areas of mutual concern and opportunity. Governed by a 21-member Board of Directors and staffed by the Florida League of Cities, the Florida League of Mayors forges a powerful voice that serves Florida’s cities well. For more information, visit [floridamayors.org](http://floridamayors.org).*