

City of Dania Beach Legislative Package for the 2011 Legislative Session

Home Rule

Home rule authority is the concept that local government is the closest to its citizens and the City Commission, as the duly elected local representative body of the citizens, is the proper authority to determine the needs of the community.

Most direct services to citizens come from City government. The City supports maintaining home rule authority and opposes any legislation that diminishes home rule.

Unfunded Mandates

Unfunded mandates are legislative programs, projects or other requirements that are created by the State (or Federal) government requiring City governments to expend local revenues to enforce or implement.

The City of Dania Beach supports legislation that requires thorough State analyses and identification of fiscal impacts of legislation affecting cities. Further, the City supports legislation that prohibits new unfunded mandates and identifies State funding sources when unfunded mandates are identified.

Revenue, Expenditure and Financial Issues

The City of Dania Beach supports legislation that protects the City's financial stability, revenues, and service-levels reflecting the needs of the residents of Dania Beach. This includes, opposition to state-mandated revenue or expenditure caps; support of legislation that provides comprehensive employee pension reform, and removes statutory mandates to offer subsidized insurance coverage to retirees.

-Revenue and Expenditure Caps

State-mandated revenue caps ignore the concept of Home Rule and restrict citizens' ability to receive levels and methods of service they desire.

The City of Dania Beach opposes State-mandated revenue or expenditure caps.

-Public Safety Special Assessment

Public safety services typically account for more than 50% of a city's general fund budgets. Though the public supports high quality public safety services, the cost is becoming a concern to taxpayers. That cost is funded as part of the general ad valorem taxes with other city services.

The City of Dania Beach supports legislation that enables municipalities to levy a revenue-neutral, voluntary special assessment for public safety services.

-Pension Reform Legislation

Pension costs are creating a large financial liability for cities and their taxpayers throughout the State of Florida. Current, costly pension mandates conflict with the Legislature's expressed desire to limit government spending.

The City of Dania Beach supports legislation that provides comprehensive municipal pension reform.

-Subsidized Retiree Insurance Coverage

Statutory requirements for public employers to offer ongoing subsidized health, hospitalization, and other insurance coverage for retirees has become onerous.

The City of Dania Beach supports legislation that removes statutory requirements for cities to offer insurance coverage to retirees.

Water Supply Funding

The City of Dania Beach supports legislation that improves the development and financing of water supply, quality and infrastructure needs. This includes funding for water resource development, reclaimed water, storm water retention strategies, and general water governance:

-Reclaimed Water

The City supports legislation removing reclaimed water from regulatory actions by water management districts allowing it to remain available for use as an element of a city's water supply plan and permitted discharge policy. Reclaimed water should be allocated to the water utility allowing municipalities to create mandatory reuse zones within their jurisdictions.

-Storm Water Retention Strategies as Alternative Water Supply

The City of Dania Beach support legislation that allows utilities to utilize storm water capture and storage systems as a means of augmenting public water supplies and improving environmental conditions in coastal waters. The City supports legislation allowing the State and water management districts to offer assistance in funding, legal and operational support toward the goal of developing storm water retention systems for water supply purposes.

-Water Governance

The City of Dania Beach supports legislation that enhances a city's participation in water management district regulatory policies.

Marine Economic Zone

Marine industries are vital to the economy and quality of life in Florida. Marine industries including marinas, boating, yachting, dredging and related activities must be protected.

The City of Dania Beach supports legislation recognizing the importance of marine industries in the region and endorses mitigation alternatives with particular regard to dredging.

Working Waterfronts

Access to water bodies, waterways, and recreational water activities are an invaluable resource in Florida. Water body access and opportunities require protection by government.

The City of Dania Beach supports legislation that increases funding sources and provisions to assist local government in obtaining properties to preserve or improve public access to Florida waterways and water bodies; preserving recreational and commercial working waterfronts; and constructing, improving, and maintaining boating projects and infrastructure.

Pain Clinics

Problem pain clinics are medical clinics that distribute large volumes of prescription pain medication with little supervision or regulation by government causing potentially unscrupulous dissemination of drugs. The proliferation of these clinics caused the City of Dania Beach to enact its own ordinance to restrict operation of these clinics in the City. These clinics are a statewide problem and are better regulated through state statutes.

The City of Dania Beach supports State legislation restricting and regulating pain clinics.

Growth Management/Redevelopment and Transportation

In 2010, voters rejected Amendment 4 to the Florida Constitution, requiring voters to approve all local comprehensive land use plan changes, preferring to continue to allow their local elected representatives to understand growth issues and make responsible decisions in line with Home Rule Authority. With the defeat of Admendment 4 the need to address deficiencies in the Growth Management Act still exists. This "one size fits all" legislation is not flexible enough to address local needs, such as redevelopment. Additionally, Dania Beach is the primary transportation hub of Broward County with Port Everglades, the Atlantic Ocean, the Intracoastal Waterway, the International Airport, the FEC and CSX railways, Interstates I-95 and I-595 and various roads and waterways.

The City of Dania Beach supports legislation limiting State regulatory power with regard to issues requiring interregional coordination; streamlining growth management processes and reporting requirements for fiscally constrained and built-out cities; and acknowledging home rule powers in the local application of the pending ordinance doctrine as established by the courts. The City supports legislation enhancing and protecting transportation and the utilization of land use policies that encourage the development of mass transit and establishment of a transportation funding allocation directly to City governments.

The City of Dania Beach supports legislation changing the Growth Management Act and the state comprehensive plan that will provide greater incentives for redevelopment.

Economic Development

The downturn in the national, state, and local economies has created serious budgetary and financial concerns for local governments and their taxpayers. Strong, effective policy leadership is essential to improve economic conditions and create employment and business opportunities.

The City of Dania Beach supports legislation that creates a comprehensive State economic development policy, enacts measures to promote and attract favorable business development, promote tourism and develop tourist-related industries, improve boating and marine industries opportunities, and improves the development of Casino gambling-related industries and activities.

School Resource Officers/Deputies

School Resource Officers/Deputies are police officers and deputy sheriffs that are assigned to public schools for maintaining the safety of the children and staff of area schools. In some counties the County School Board provides the funding or staffing of School Resource Officers. In Broward, local municipalities bear much of the cost for school resource officers/deputies. Funding of school resource officers/deputies is not the responsibility of City government.

The City of Dania Beach supports funding of school resource officers/deputies through State lottery and gambling revenues to the County School Boards, with the full responsibility of 100% funding through the County School Board.

Remote Traffic Signal Enforcement

Remote traffic signal enforcement is the establishment of remote cameras to monitor the running of red lights at intersections that show high accident or traffic signal infractions. Traffic infractions are a major public safety concern.

The City of Dania Beach supports legislation that protects and improves the ability of municipalities to conduct traffic signal enforcement through remote cameras.

Alternate and Renewable Energy

Alternate and renewable energy sources are forms of energy that differ from traditional forms of energy (e.g., fossil fuels, nuclear) that have no or diminished undesired environmental consequences (e.g., wind, solar, geothermal, hydroelectric, etc.) They lessen pollution and carbon emissions and naturally replenish.

The City supports legislation that encourages the development and implementation of a meaningful, cost-effective, statewide renewable and alternative energy policy that encourages the development of new and efficient technologies to help create jobs and industries throughout Florida in line with the action agenda of the Florida League of Cities.

Public Notice

Methods of effective communication with citizens have changed over the years. Citizens often receive information through direct mailing, physical posting of property, the Internet postings, publications, television, etc.

The City of Dania Beach supports legislation that authorizes municipalities to promote effective public notice for various matters via additional methods other than solely newspapers.

Florida League of Cities 2011 Legislative Action Agenda

The City of Dania Beach supports the Florida League of Cities 2011 Legislative Action Agenda (attachment 1).

Broward League of Cities 2011 Legislative Action Agenda

The City of Dania Beach supports the Broward League of Cities 2011 Legislative Action Agenda (attachment 2).