

2024 Legislative Focus



We A.R.E. the Suncoast League of Cities Advocacy – Regionalism - Empowerment

**1M
Residents
in 26
Member
Cities**

We represent more than 1M residents in 26 member cities. We support legislation that builds greater regional resiliency to:

- ensure **long-term sustainability**
- address critical **economic infrastructure** needs
- support municipalities as they continue **delivering exceptional services** to their communities

Legislative Focus #1: Resiliency & Sustainability

- Florida ranks first in the country with **\$116B in weather related damages.**
- Critical community-wide investments in resilient infrastructure include beach renourishment, sand dune raising, new seawall construction, and implementing flood-proof building structures.
- Cities are planning multiphase approaches to address stormwater storage, water quality, beach renourishment, and flood abatement.
- Recognize doing nothing is just buying time: spend \$13B now or lose \$81B later



Spend 13B now or lose 82B later

Legislative Focus #2: Costs of Doing Municipal Business

A majority of SLC Member Municipalities bear the costs of operating civic services and facilities that give our communities their identity.

	Marinas
	Bike and jogging trails
	Planning
	Pools
	Outdoor courts and fields
	Beach access
	Code enforcement
	Parks
	Senior citizens programs
	Building permits and inspection

In delivering robust services to our communities, municipalities typically:

- Pay the majority of costs shared with counties to provide certified firefighters and EMS, wastewater, stormwater, and reclaimed water treatment.
- Use private contractors to provide a majority of residential solid waste and recycling services.
- Pay the majority of costs shared with private contractors to provide business solid waste removal service.
- Split costs with counties to provide sworn police and school resource officers.

Our Legislative Focus 2024


Legislative Focus #3:

Economic Infrastructure

Traffic/Transportation

- **Traffic congestion** and public transportation remain stalwart obstacles to growth and health of our cities.



-  Long commute times interfere with productivity and overall quality of life.

- Public transportation issue remains one of the region's greatest challenges.

- The region must have a powerful voice to solve its transportation needs with one goal: to improve mobility, connectivity and transit options.



Economic Diversification

- Nearly one in four business and information services firms in Florida call the Suncoast Region home including some of the top names in banking, finance and insurance.



- Legislators must continue to prioritize efforts to develop and sustain a thriving local economy by focusing on the attraction, expansion and retention of high wage jobs and capital investment.



PRIORITY

Focus on attraction, expansion and retention of high wage jobs and capital investment.

Housing

- According to the National Low Income Housing Coalition, a person working an \$11 hour minimum wage job would have to work 92 hours a week to afford a one-bedroom rental in the region.

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- An individual renter needs to earn at least \$85,000 annually to pay rent and live comfortably in the region. Average income in region is well below that at \$57,500.



- Housing affordability, both rental and ownership, has worsened for the region over the last five years. This has implications for the area's attractiveness for talent as well as for new

27 Member Cities We Represent

Town of Bellair

City of Belleair Beach

City of Belleair Bluffs

City of Clearwater

City of Dade City

City of Dunedin

City of Gulfport

Town of Indian Shores

Town of Kenneth City

City of Largo

Lealman Special Fire District

City of New Port Richey

City of Oldsmar

City of Pinellas Park

City of Port Richey

Town of Redington Beach

City of Madeira Beach

City of Safety

Harbor, City of Seminole

City of South Pasadena

Town of St. Leo

Town of St. Pete Beach

City of St. Petersburg

City of Tampa

City of Tarpon Springs

City of Temple Terrace

City of Treasure Island

The Suncoast League of Cities

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