

## 2021 State Legislative Priorities

The City of Clearwater will seek funding through grants and other sources to assist in implementing projects and providing services to meet the needs of our citizens and improve their quality of life.

### Imagine Clearwater

- \$10 million
- Transform the City's waterfront Downtown park into additional greenspace featuring playgrounds, gardens, an entertainment venue, and a bluff walk. Imagine Clearwater will improve the connection between the waterfront and Downtown, while increasing vibrancy and economic activity.

### North Ward Elementary

- \$3 million
- Rehabilitate and preserve the historic North Ward School for adaptive reuse. This project will preserve the historic building, help to revitalize the surrounding low to moderate-income neighborhood, and provide a transition into the Seminole Boat Ramp area.

### Issues to Support

We support legislation and programs that benefit municipalities and assist in implementing services to meet the needs of our citizens and improve their quality of life including:

- Provide full funding of the Florida State and Local Housing Trust Funds and ensure those funds be used exclusively for affordable housing.
- Repeal the state preemption of vacation rental property laws to allow local governments to regulate such properties to protect the health and welfare of their residents, visitors and businesses.
- Preserve the statewide program that assists local governments with maintaining Spring Training facilities.
- Establish a framework for a state water infrastructure and water quality funding program that includes sustainable utility practices and intragovernmental coordination.
- Allow municipalities to establish smoke-free zones within the boundaries of a city park.
- Develop funding opportunities to coordinate state resiliency programs with those of local governments.
- Increase funding for mental health services.
- Repeal the state preemption on tree removals for residential properties to allow local governments to regulate tree preservation, removals and replacements to protect the environment and the health and welfare of their residents, visitors and businesses.
- Authorize the Fish and Wildlife Commission to establish a derelict vessel prevention program and allow law enforcement to relocate vessels at risk of becoming a public nuisance.
- Designate all waters of the State to be No Discharge Zones and penalize individuals who discharge sewage, treated or untreated, from any vessel.

- Provide an additional exemption that would restrict the licensed carry of concealed weapons or firearms for ticketed concert events on public property.
- Provide intergovernmental coordination that supports sustainability and resiliency efforts at the county and municipal levels.
- Expand Medicaid eligibility requirements to include household incomes up to 138 percent of the federal poverty level.

#### Issues to Oppose

We oppose legislation that is detrimental to Clearwater and other municipalities including:

- Erosion of local self-government (Home Rule), a constitutional right Floridians supported in a statewide vote 53 years ago.
- Increased regulation of, or restrictions on, municipal operations and budgeting.
- Preemption of local government's ability to regulate Airbnb rentals, or similar marketplaces, that allow individuals to rent out unused spaces in their homes for lodging.
- Weakening existing laws related to offshore oil drilling in the Gulf of Mexico.
- Restriction or elimination of Community Redevelopment Agencies.
- Imposed consolidation of municipal and county services.

*In addition, the City will support the Florida League of Cities in pursuing its legislative priorities.*