FCCMA Annual Conference
Florida’s Legislative Process: Working Together for the Betterment of Local Government
May 31, 2012

Why Get Engaged in State Policy Issues?

- Whether we like it or not, State policies and legislation will inevitably impact what we do at the local level!
- TABOR
- Internet Cafes & On-Line Gambling
- Property Tax Caps
- SB 88 (Separation/Severance Agreements)
- Pension Reform
- Mark Wandall Traffic Safety Act (RLC)
- Communications Services Tax
The FCCMA Board of Directors and the Legislative Policy Committee are reaching out to our members to become more engaged in the development of state-wide public policy and legislation.

Despite what might be thought otherwise, it is acceptable for FCCMA & ICMA members to be involved in such efforts.

ICMA Code of Ethics

Tenet 5

Submit policy proposals to elected officials; provide them with facts and advice on matters of policy as a basis for making decisions and setting community goals; and uphold and implement local government policies adopted by elected officials.
ICMA Code of Ethics

- **Tenet 7**

  - Refrain from all political activities which undermine public confidence in professional administrators. Refrain from participation in the election of the members of the employing legislative body.

FCCMA Committees

- **Past Presidents' Council**
  - The Past Presidents Council includes all Past Presidents of the FCCMA. They are tasked with specific projects as they arise. They also serve in an advisory capacity when asked by the CFLGE and the FCCMA Board of Directors.

- **Legislative Policy Committee**
  - The Committee monitors legislative activity and reports to the FCCMA Board and membership. They assist with a conference session and are often asked to draft *White Papers*. This Committee works closely with the Past Presidents’ Council.
In previous years, several Past Presidents, Lynn Tipton, FCCMA Executive Director, Bob Lee, CFLGE Executive Director, and the FCCMA Legislative Policy Committee Co-Chairs have met with key Florida legislative staff to build relationships and discuss ways in which the FCCMA could assist in improving awareness/understanding by Florida Legislators regarding legislative matters and specific bills that impact local governments.

Florida Legislative Committee representation has included staff from the Office of Economic and Demographic Research, Senate Committee on Community Affairs, House Committee and Military Affairs Policy Committee, House Economic Affairs Committee and with representatives from the Governor’s Office.

What topics have been covered:

- An overview of the FCCMA, including its difference from the FLC and FAC and the role of professional managers in local government;
- Shared staff-to-staff goals and vision in providing elected leaders the information necessary to develop a strong and sustainable growth;
- Addressed current legislative challenges including Pension Reform, TABOR, Growth Management; Water Quality; and Life after the LCIR.
Other FCCMA Legislative Committee Work

- **A Call for Public Pension Reform for Florida’s Local Governments: Priorities and Options**
  - *White Paper* presented by the FCCMA which helped serve as foundation for proposed 2011 state legislation
- **FLC “Keys to the City” Task Force**
  - Created by FLC with an eye toward creating a new partnership with Governor Scott and state leaders.
- **FCCMA City-State Relations Working Group**
  - Pension Reform, Agency Rulemaking, Presumptive Disability, Growth Management, CCNA, Emergency Communication Officer Certification, Post Employment Benefits.

Legislative Policy Committee Work

- **Legislative Agenda and Weekly Session Updates**
  - The Committee develops local government legislative priorities using Legislative Polices and Statements of both the FLC & the FAC.
  - The priorities serve as the foundation for regular General and Special Session updates, including Legislative Alerts (with special thanks to Ken Morris-Leon County) for the membership as bills progress through Florida Senate and House Committees and/or during critical chamber votes.
  - The Committee also provides FCCMA members with a roster of Senate and House Committee memberships so that members can be aware of where they may be able to personally assist in advancing Association priorities through key contacts and/or relationships.
  - At the close of the Annual Session, the Committee prepares a final report highlighting bills of interest to local governments that passed or failed the Annual Legislative Session.
Legislative Policy Committee Work

• Continued work with Beth Rawlins & Florida Business Watch re: TABOR Legislation
  • At FCCMA & FAC conferences and in District Sessions, members have been briefed about the dangers of proposed revenue cap legislation referred to as the Taxpayer’s Bill of Rights (TABOR).
  • The 2011 Legislature approved a less controversial version of TABOR that would replace existing state revenue limitations based on changes in personal income growth to changes in population and inflation. Excess revenues will be deposited into a Budget Stabilization Fund and either be used to support public education or returned to the public.
  • The Constitutional Amendment is considered less controversial because it does not include restrictions on local governments, however the long term effects of restricting state government revenues are likely to be felt at the local level.

Legislative Policy Committee Work

• In recent years, Beth Rawlins has embarked on an education campaign through Florida Business Watch directed at companies that do business with Florida’s local governments to serve as a “wakeup call” concerning the impact of revenue caps.
  • The economic impact of TABOR-like legislation is far reaching into the private sector and the initiative is designed to better inform private firms about the fiscal impacts it will have on their respective business models.
  • The Legislative Committee encourages the FCCMA membership to help identify private sector firms that do business with local governments to help educate that group about the impacts of TABOR. To date, hundreds of companies have been contacted and we believe a larger number of Florida contractors can become part of the educational process prior to the November 2012 General Election.
Legislative Policy Committee Work

- Over the past two years, the Legislative Committee has also worked closely with the *Florida Local Government Coalition*, comprised of representatives from various trade organizations representing local government officials including City Managers, Community Redevelopment personnel, City Clerks, Park & Recreation staff, etc.
- Updates available @:
  - [www.flgovcoalition.com](http://www.flgovcoalition.com)
  - [facebook](http://facebook.com)

As City Managers and appointed officials, we assist in the development of local policies and ordinances everyday with our respective governing bodies.

- The inherent administrative talents of our members can likewise be put to excellent use in the development of sound state-wide public policy!
- Please stay engaged and consider appointment to the FCCMA Legislative Policy Committee!
Questions?