

**MINUTES OF THE
NORTHWEST COUNCIL OF ELECTED OFFICIALS MEETING**

Tuesday, January 13, 2026
12:00 Noon – 1:00 PM

La Pizzeria
5632 W. Sample Rd.
Margate, FL 33063

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Antonio V. Arserio, City of Margate, called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance. Self-introductions were made around the room.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Jacqueline M. Railey	Coconut Creek
Commissioner Sandra L. Welch	Coconut Creek
Commissioner Joseph McHugh	Coral Springs
Vice Mayor Sharon Thomas	Lauderdale Lakes
Commissioner Tycie Causwell	Lauderdale Lakes
Mayor Antonio V. Arserio	Margate
Vice Mayor Anthony N. Caggiano	Margate
Commissioner Arlene R. Schwartz	Margate
Commissioner Joanne Simone	Margate
Commissioner Tommy Ruzzano	Margate
Commissioner Darrell (Dee) Lewis-Ricketts	North Lauderdale
Mayor Richard Walker	Parkland
Commissioner Cindy Murphy-Salomone	Parkland
Commissioner Neil Kanterman	Parkland
Assistant Deputy Mayor Latoya S. Clarke	Sunrise
Commissioner Neil C. Kerch	Sunrise

ALSO PRESENT:

Cale Curtis, City Manager	Margate
Larry Vignola, Assistant City Manager	Margate
David Tolces, City Attorney	Margate
Susan Trevarthen, City Attorney's Office	Margate
Jennifer Johnson, City Clerk	Margate
Isamar Viveros, Assistant City Clerk	Margate
Howard Pavillard, Clerk Coordinator	Margate
Patrick Garmon, IT Director	Margate
Theresa Brier	District Director
Alex Rogoff	District Director Staff
Linda Beauport	District Aide

PRESENT VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM

Representative Christine Hunschofsky	State Representative
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1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of the meeting minutes for the month of December 10, 2025, hosted by the City of Coral Springs.

Vice Mayor Anthony N. Caggiano of the City of Margate moved to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sandra L. Welch, City of Coconut Creek. There was a unanimous voice vote of approval.

2. OLD BUSINESS

None

3. NEW BUSINESS

A. Legislative Update from City Attorney David Tolces and Attorney Susan Trevarthen from Weiss Serota Helfman Cole & Bierman, P.L., and Representative Christine Hunschofsky, District 95.

Mayor Antonio V. Arserio, City of Margate, asked City Attorney David Tolces, City of Margate, to provide an update on the gift law that Broward County Commissioners amended to remove the reporting requirements.

City Attorney David Tolces, City of Margate, stated he provided a memo for the City of Margate and would be happy to share it with other cities.

Representative Christine Hunschofsky joined the meeting via Zoom and began her legislative update on property taxes. She stated that only one of the House bills was ready for the floor, Bill HJR 209. She stated it is for a \$200,000 homestead exemption if a resident has property insurance. However, Representative Christine Hunschofsky stated that none of the property tax resolutions are on the agenda for the meeting on Thursday. She shared the Governor's State of the State Address regarding eliminating homestead and property taxes. She also stated that sovereign immunity is on the agenda.

Mayor Antonio V. Arserio, City of Margate, inquired regarding the property taxes on ballots.

Representative Christine Hunschofsky responded that some bills have been vetoed or rejected. She expressed her sentiment regarding the next session.

Commissioner Arlene R. Schwartz, City of Margate, asked regarding linking property tax and insurance.

Mayor Antonio V. Arserio, City of Margate, inquired regarding home rule impact fees, accessory dwelling units, and Live Local.

Discussion ensued regarding affordable housing and vacation rentals.

Attorney Susan Trevarthen, Weiss Serota Helfman Cole & Bierman, P.L., inquired about the status of the open carry bill.

Commissioner Tommy Ruzzano, City of Margate, asked regarding Live Local and golf courses. He additionally asked a question about Broward County Public Schools.

City Attorney David Tolces, City of Margate, presented attorney Susan Trevarthen from Weiss Serota Helfman Cole & Bierman, P.L. as the next speaker.

Attorney Susan Trevarthen began discussing Senate Bill 180. She stated that a couple of bills have been introduced that reduce the scope of SB 180. She mentioned a specific bill introduced by Senator Nick DiCeglie, who originally sponsored SB 180, which changes the geographic scope. She stated the various instances in which the new bill will help alleviate issues from SB 180. She mentioned that the new bill does not address section 28.

Discussion ensued regarding Senator DiCeglie's bill.

Mayor Antonio V. Arserio, City of Margate, commented that he supports Senator DiCeglie's bill because it better reflects the spirit of the law. Also, he spoke about the City of Margate class-action lawsuit.

Attorney Susan Trevarthen, Weiss Serota Helfman Cole & Bierman, P.L., continued discussing the matter of Live Local. Additionally, she mentioned the new municipal liability for discriminatory housing practices, which did not survive last year's session but is back this year.

City Attorney David Tolces, City of Margate, shared a legislative update. He shared information regarding the public camping bill and the City of Winter Haven. He stated that the Florida League of Cities sent a list of eighteen (18) land-use-related bills that have been filed. He specifically expanded on Senate Bill 48 regarding dwelling units and House Bill 313.

Commissioner Neil C. Kerch, City of Sunrise, asked if it would apply if it was an HOA.

City Attorney David Tolces, City of Margate, continued discussing Senate Bill 526 regarding standard building applications; House Bill 145 on the topic of sovereign immunity cap legislation; and Senate Bill 1350 related to affordable housing property tax exemption legislation.

Commissioner Sandra L. Welch, City of Coconut Creek, asked the attorney regarding legislation and Artificial Intelligence.

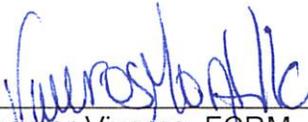
4. SCHEDULE OF NEXT MEETING

Mayor Antonio V. Arserio of the City of Margate announced that the February 2026 Northwest Council of Elected Officials meeting would be held by the City of Parkland.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Darrell (Dee) Lewis-Ricketts, City of North Lauderdale, motioned to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Tycie Causwell, City of Lauderdale Lakes. There was a unanimous voice vote of approval.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.



Isamar Viveros, FCRM
Assistant City Clerk