



CITY OF  
**MARGATE**  
Together We Make It Great

# **2016 STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**

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**CITY OF MARGATE  
5790 MARGATE BLVD  
MARGATE, FL 33063  
954-972-6454**

***Joanne Simone, Mayor  
Tommy Ruzzano, Vice Mayor  
Joyce W. Bryan, Commissioner  
Lesa Peerman, Commissioner  
Frank B. Talerico, Commissioner***

***Douglas E. Smith***  
City Manager  
954-935-5300  
dsmith@margatefl.com

***Adam S. Reichbach***  
Assistant to the City Manager  
954-935-5300  
areichbach@margatefl.com

***David K. Sigerson, Jr., Esq.***  
Lobbyist, City of Margate  
954-336-3544  
sigersonatlaw@aol.com

***The City of Margate urges Governor Rick Scott and the members of the Florida Legislature to provide for the following legislative priorities of the City of Margate.***

**TAX REFORM, FINANCE, AND OTHER BUDGET RELATED ISSUES**

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***Develop Fair and Equitable Tax Structure***

**The City of Margate SUPPORTS:**

- Legislation that provides a fair and equitable tax structure and provides Margate with the flexibility to provide the level of services desired by our citizens.

**The City of Margate OPPOSES:**

- Arbitrary caps on property assessments, municipal expenditures, or municipal revenues.

***Homestead Exemption***

**The City of Margate OPPOSES:**

- Legislation that would eliminate the “recapture” rule for homestead and non-homestead properties.

***Communication Services Tax (CST)***

**The City of Margate SUPPORTS:**

- Legislation that would reduce or eliminate CST revenue for local governments unless replaced by other revenue or sources of revenue so as to make local governments “whole”.

***Local Business Tax Receipts (LBTR)***

**The City of Margate OPPOSES:**

- Complete elimination of the Local Business Tax Receipts or restrictions that would reduce Local Business Tax Receipts revenue to local government.

***Law Enforcement Services Assessment (LESA)***

**The City of Margate SUPPORTS:**

- Legislation that authorizes local governments to levy special assessments to fund police services similar to a fire fee, contingent upon reduction of the municipality’s ad valorem millage so that the assessment would be revenue neutral.

***Florida Retirement System (FRS)***

**The City of Margate SUPPORTS:**

- A requirement that any FRS legislation be analyzed for its fiscal impact on the local government contribution rate.

**The City of Margate OPPOSES:**

- Legislation that increases the FRS contribution rates for municipalities and employees.

***Unfunded Mandates***

**The City of Margate OPPOSES:**

- New unfunded mandates for local governments.

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**GROWTH MANAGEMENT/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ISSUES**

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***Resources for Small Businesses***

**The City of Margate SUPPORTS:**

- Legislation that dedicates state economic development resources to small businesses with an emphasis on technical assistance, access to capital, public infrastructure, and urban infill.

***Public Private Partnerships***

**The City of Margate SUPPORTS:**

- Legislation that provides municipalities with increased flexibility to enter into public-private partnership agreements pursuant to state law or by home rule authority.

***Brownfields***

**The City of Margate SUPPORTS:**

- Legislation that provides sufficient additional tax credits and other incentives to ensure the continued success of Florida's Brownfield Programs in the future.

***Referenda for Comprehensive Planning***

**The City of Margate SUPPORTS:**

- Legislation that provides local government the tools to fund and implement sound planning practices and opposes preemption of this authority by referenda.

***Impact Fees***

**The City of Margate OPPOSES:**

- Legislation that restricts a municipality's home rule authority to set impact fees or implement transportation concurrency.

**PUBLIC SAFETY ISSUES**

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***Concealed Weapons and Firearms***

**The City of Margate SUPPORTS:**

- Legislation that seeks to regulate or prohibit the discharge of firearms for sporting purposes within residential neighborhoods.

***Law Enforcement Trust Fund (LETF)***

**The City of Margate OPPOSES:**

- Legislation that eliminates the requirement that expenditure requests from the Law Enforcement Trust Fund (LETF) originate from the Sheriff or Chief of Police.

***Motor Vehicles ("Minor Traffic Safety Act")***

**The City of Margate SUPPORTS:**

- The Minor Child Safety Act as filed in 2014 as HB 61 or any related legislation covering the same issues involving: texting while driving, driver education or limiting the number of minor passengers in a vehicle operated by a minor.

***Synthetic/Designer Drugs***

**The City of Margate SUPPORTS:**

- Legislation that classifies Synthetic or Designer drugs as controlled substances.

**TRANSPORTATION ISSUES**

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***Local Control of Transportation Planning***

**The City of Margate SUPPORTS:**

- Legislation that preserves local control of transportation planning.
- Legislation that provides additional funding options for local transportation infrastructure projects.

***Relocation of Utilities***

**The City of Margate OPPOSES:**

- Legislation that mandates local governments and their taxpayers bear the cost of relocating utility equipment when the equipment is located within a public utility easement or right-of-way and needs to be relocated for public purposes.

**ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES**

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***Florida Clean Indoor Air Act***

**The City of Margate SUPPORTS:**

- Amending the Florida Clean Indoor Air Act to allow municipalities and counties to restrict smoking on certain public properties.

***Government-Owned Utilities***

**The City of Margate OPPOSES:**

- Legislation that requires municipal utilities that sell utility service outside of its incorporated limits be regulated by the Public Service Commission.

***Stormwater Fee Collection***

**The City of Margate SUPPORTS:**

- Legislation that clarifies all users of a stormwater utility, including governmental entities, are required to pay stormwater charges to fund the cost of operation and maintenance of such a utility.

***Water Resources***

**The City of Margate SUPPORTS:**

- Legislation that provides recurring sources of funding for local government programs and projects that protect water resources, improves water quality and quantity, and expands the use of alternative water sources.

***Fracking***

**The City of Margate SUPPORTS:**

- Legislation that would limit or eliminate the drilling practice known as Fracking.

## **HOUSING ISSUES**

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### ***Sadowski Act Funding for Affordable Housing Trust Fund***

#### **The City of Margate SUPPORTS:**

- Legislation that requires state housing trust fund monies be used exclusively for funding local government affordable housing initiatives.

## **MISCELLANEOUS ISSUES**

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### ***Gaming Expansion***

#### **The City of Margate is SUPPORTS:**

- Legislation that would continue to provide revenue sharing to the City from the Seminole Indian Gaming Compact with the State of Florida.

### ***Home Rule***

#### **The City of Margate OPPOSES:**

- Legislation that impedes or restricts municipal home rule.

### ***Community Redevelopment Agencies (CRAs)***

#### **The City of Margate OPPOSES:**

- Legislation that impedes home rule over CRAs or reduces TIF contributions.

### ***Labeling of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs)***

#### **The City of Margate SUPPORTS:**

- Legislation that requires a label indicating if a food product contains GMOs.

### ***Puppy Mills***

#### **The City of Margate SUPPORTS:**

- Legislation that establishes state regulation of puppy mills and pet shops that sell puppies to the public.

### ***Public Records***

#### **The City of Margate SUPPORTS:**

- Legislation that discourages or eliminates schemes designed to generate violations of public records and that limits harassing or unreasonable public records requests.

## **LOCAL PROJECT FUNDING**

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### ***Northwest Focal Point Center (Senior Center)***

#### **The City of Margate SUPPORTS:**

- Maintenance of State funding for the Northwest Focal Point Center (Senior Center).

### ***Water Project(s)***

#### **The City of Margate SUPPORTS:**

- Appropriations included in the state budget to fund local water projects, including those projects submitted for consideration by the City of Margate.