



2017 State Legislative Priorities



Margate City Commission

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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

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 when 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.

The City of Margate SUPPORTS:

- Legislation that changes the percentage value of each year of service credit earned for the FRS benefit calculation of local elected officials to match the Regular Class percentage.

Unfunded Mandates

The City of Margate OPPOSES:

- New unfunded mandates for local governments.

GROWTH MANAGEMENT/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ISSUES

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 municipalities' home rule authority to set impact fees or implement transportation concurrency.

PUBLIC SAFETY ISSUES

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.

Medical Cannabis

The City of Margate SUPPORTS:

- Legislation that preserves municipal home rule authority through its planning and zoning function to regulate where medical cannabis dispensaries are located within City limits.

Synthetic/Designer Drugs

The City of Margate SUPPORTS:

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

TRANSPORTATION ISSUES

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

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.

Oil Drilling/Fracking

The City of Margate SUPPORTS:

- Legislation that would limit or eliminate drilling for oil and the process known as Fracking in the State of Florida.

HOUSING ISSUES

Sober Homes

The City of Margate SUPPORTS:

- Legislation that strengthens oversight and regulation of Sober Homes and any legislative efforts to allow a local government to have the flexibility to protect its neighborhoods and residents and to protect those who are currently living in, or who choose to further their recovery by living in, a Sober Home environment or other half-way house facility.

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

Gaming Expansion

The City of Margate 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 such as bills that would limit or restrict the authority of local governments to levy special assessments or bills that would limit the authority of local governments to impose special requirements on contractors that bid public contracts.

Community Redevelopment Agencies (CRAs)

The City of Margate SUPPORTS:

- Legislation that improves municipalities' use of community redevelopment agencies to effectively carry out redevelopment and community revitalization in accordance with home rule.

Charter School Accountability

The City of Margate SUPPORTS:

- Legislation that continues to increase efforts in charter school accountability.

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:

- Public records reform to discourage or eliminate schemes designed to generate violations of public records law and disrupt agency operations.

Fireworks

The City of Margate SUPPORTS:

- Legislation that provides greater home rule authority to regulate the use and sale of fireworks.

LOCAL PROJECT FUNDING

Northwest Focal Point Senior Center (Senior Center)

The City of Margate SUPPORTS:

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

FRDAP Grant Funding

The City of Margate SUPPORTS:

- Appropriations included in the state budget to fund the City of Margate FRDAP grant applications.