



# City of Coral Gables

## 2025 Legislative Agenda

### **I. LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**

#### **PRESERVATION OF HOME RULE & PREEMPTION OF LOCAL REGULATIONS**

- Oppose legislation that diminishes local governments' broad exercise of home rule powers pertaining to the health, welfare, safety, and quality of life of their communities.
- Oppose legislation that creates procedural hurdles to the exercise of home rule authority, such as enacting ordinances and conducting charter referendum.

#### **PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT**

- Support legislation that prioritizes the health and protection of Biscayne Bay and allocates needed funding for the Bay's conservation.
- Support funding programs to implement new sewer facilities and to modernize aging ones.
- Support funding programs for septic-to-sewer conversion, especially for low-income residents.
- Support legislation that requires inspections of residential septic tanks and sewer lines for real estate transactions.
- Support legislation that allows pre and post-consumer food scraps, plants, trees, trimmings or leaves from plants or trees, and certified compostable materials to be included in the definition of "recovered materials" in Florida Statute Section 403.703(28).

#### **TRANSPORTATION**

- Support funding programs that prioritize safety for all road users.
- Support legislation that preserves local control of transportation planning and provides for a more equitable transportation funding formula between municipalities and counties, including additional dedicated revenue options for municipal transportation infrastructure and transit projects.
- Support legislation that allows municipalities to receive transportation infrastructure funding directly from the State and Federal government and focuses on area specific needs like traffic congestion.

#### **REAL PROPERTY IMPROVEMENTS & INSURANCE RATES**

- Support efforts to decrease homeowner's, business owner's, and flood insurance rates by expanding programs like the My Safe Home Florida Program and the My Safe Florida Condominium Pilot Program, and through increased tax breaks on insurance bills.
- Support programs that enable homeowners and business owners to harden and improve their homes in an affordable manner.

- Enhance Florida Building Code to require the Windstorm Ratings of the High Velocity Hurricane Zone in order to reduce windstorm insurance costs in Florida.

#### **VACATION RENTALS**

- Oppose legislation that further preempts local governments from regulating vacation rentals; which decrease available stock of affordable housing, decrease surrounding residential property values, and cause economic harm to the hotel industry.
- Preserve the grandfather clause in Section 509.032(7)(b), Florida Statutes, which allows local regulations adopted on or before June 1, 2011, to remain in effect.

#### **ZONING AUTHORITY AND BUILDING DESIGN ELEMENTS**

- Oppose legislation that would preempt a local government's authority to enact zoning regulations, including regulating building design elements for one-and two-family dwellings.
- Preserve the carve out in Section 163.3202, Florida Statutes for cities with architectural review boards established before January 1, 2020.

#### **DEMOLITION OF HISTORIC HOMES**

- Eliminate the preemptions in Section 553.79, Florida Statutes that prohibit the City from meaningfully reviewing, restricting, or denying demolition permits for historic homes in certain flood zones that are at or below base flood elevation.

#### **LIVE LOCAL ACT**

- Support collaborative solutions to address the statewide housing crisis; but oppose amendments to the Live Local Act that further preempt the city's zoning code, circumvents its public hearing processes, and mandates development incentives related to use, height, density, and parking without consideration of compatibility with surrounding development or residential neighborhoods, or impacts to existing infrastructure and the local populous.

#### **CONDOMINIUMS**

- Support legislation that balances the need to maintain the structural integrity of condominium buildings while making the process affordable for individual unit owners, like low-interest or zero interest loans for special assessments and repairs.

#### **PROTECTION OF CITY'S TREE CANOPY**

- Repeal Section 163.045, Florida Statutes which preempts the City's ability to review or prevent certain tree pruning and removal on private property.
- In the alternative, support legislation that requires more transparent and robust risk assessments, criminal and civil penalties for acts of perjury, mitigation requirements, and creates exceptions for emergency tree pruning and removal necessitated by storms or accidents.

## **BOATING REGULATION**

- Support legislation that criminally penalizes reckless boating and violating a navigational rule if either causes serious bodily injury or death to a person(s).
- Include killing an unborn child in the definition of boating under the influence (BUI) manslaughter.
- Criminally penalize willful abandonment of a boating crash where bodily injury or death occurred to a person(s).

## **SCHOOL BUSES**

- Support legislation that imposes stricter signage and traffic regulations on private school buses and other motorists in their vicinity.

## **STALKING STATUTE AMENDMENT**

- Expand stalking prohibitions in Section 784.048, Florida Statutes to ensure application to third parties, drones, cameras and other recording devices, and add additional protections for law enforcement officers.
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## **II. FUNDING REQUESTS**

### **GRANADA BASIN SANITARY SEWER INFLOW AND INFILTRATION REHABILITATION**

- The City seeks \$500,000 in matching funds to rehabilitate inflow and infiltration issues within the Granada Basin's portion of the City's sanitary sewer. This portion of the sewer has reached its useful lifespan and through cracks in the clay pipping permits groundwater and stormwater to seep in. This penetrating water stresses the City's system and feeds excess quantities into Miami-Dade County's water treatment facilities, resulting in higher fees for the City and increased operating costs for the County.

### **ADA IMPROVEMENTS IN THE CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT**

- The City seeks \$310,000 in matching funds to make necessary Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) improvements throughout its Central Business District. This project includes the installation of accessible parking spaces and curb ramps to ensure compliance with ADA standards and improve accessibility for all residents and visitors. These improvements are vital for providing safe and equitable access to public spaces and promoting an inclusive business community.

### **ROAD SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS**

- The City seeks \$375,000 in matching funds to install traffic safety countermeasures within a heavily trafficked residential area adjacent to South Dixie Highway. This project includes the construction and installation of speed tables and cushions, feedback signs, and intersection improvements. The City is committed to eliminating roadway fatalities and serious injuries by working with State and County stakeholders to address issues on State and County owned roads, and through locally funded projects focused on citywide impacts.