

2026 Legislative Priorities

Policy Agenda and
Appropriation Requests

September 25, 2025
Commission Meeting

**CORAL
GABLES**[®]
THE CITY BEAUTIFUL



<p>2025 Legislative Overview</p> <p>Sponsors: Senator Garcia, Representative Busatta</p>	<p>Final Funding</p>
<p>Coral Gables Police Department High Water Rescue Vehicle</p> <p>Requested: \$250,000</p>	<p><u>\$250,000</u></p> <p><u>Fully funded</u></p>
<p>Coral Gables Granada Basin Sanitary Sewer Inflow and Infiltration Rehabilitation</p> <p>Requested: \$500,000</p>	<p><u>\$500,000</u></p> <p><u>Fully funded</u></p>
<p>Coral Gables ADA Improvement in the Central Business District</p> <p>Requested: \$310,000</p>	<p>\$310,000</p> <p>Vetoed</p>
<p>Coral Gables Road Safety Improvements</p> <p>Requested: \$375,000</p>	<p>\$375,000</p> <p>Vetoed</p>

WHAT IS THE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA?

- ❖ Annual set of policy and funding priorities adopted by the City Commission
- ❖ Guides the City's lobbying efforts during the State legislative session
- ❖ Reflects the Commission's priorities and City's best interests

LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

Developed with input from:

- ❖ *Department Directors & Assistant Directors*
- ❖ *City Manager & Executive Team*
- ❖ *Lobbying Team*
- ❖ *Coral Gables City Commission*

Reflects collective feedback and shared priorities

Policy Priorities Overview

- Preservation of Home Rule & Preemption of Local Regulations
- Protection of the Environment & Tree Canopy
- Transportation & Mobility
- Housing and Zoning Authority (Live Local Act)
- Public Safety, Stalking Statute, Sovereign Immunity
- Property Tax Relief for Vulnerable Floridians
- Cybersecurity Protection
- Supporting Excellence in Education

2026 Policy Priorities



City of Coral Gables 2026 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 referenda.

HOME IMPROVEMENTS & PROPERTY INSURANCE RATES

- Support efforts to decrease homeowner'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 to harden and improve their homes in an affordable.

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 that addresses area-specific needs, such as traffic congestion.

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, circumvent its public hearing processes, or mandate development incentives regarding use, height, density, and parking without consideration of compatibility with surrounding developments and neighborhoods, or the impact on existing infrastructure and the local populace.

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 infrastructure.
- 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 as part of real estate transactions.

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.
- Alternatively, support legislation that requires more transparent and robust risk assessments, penalizes acts of perjury, imposes a mitigation requirement for non-emergency removal, and creates exceptions for emergency tree pruning and removal necessitated by storms or accidents.

SCHOOL BUSES

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

STALKING STATUTE AMENDMENT

- Expand the 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.

SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY (Lawsuits-suits against the government)

- Oppose legislation that would increase the \$300,000 per-occurrence limit and/or eliminate the \$200,000 per-claimant limit contained in Section 768.28, F.S.

REDUNDANT COMMUNICATION INFRASTRUCTURE POLES

- Amend Section 366.97, Florida Statutes to require attaching entities to remove their pole attachments from redundant poles within 180 days after receipt of notice that pole is to be removed and mandate the elimination of redundant utility poles by the pole owner.

EXPAND PROPERTY TAX RELIEF FOR VULNERABLE FLORIDIANS

- Urge Florida Legislature to expand property tax relief for people with disabilities, Alzheimer's patients, and low-income caregivers.

ELECTRIC BIKE AND MICROMOBILITY SAFETY

- Support legislation that grants municipalities the authority to regulate the safety and operation of electric bicycles and similar micro mobility devices.

PROTECTING CYBERSECURITY INFORMATION

- Oppose repeal of §119.0725, F.S., which protects agency cybersecurity information from public disclosure to safeguard against cybersecurity threats.

SUPPORTING EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

- Support legislation that advances excellence in education by maintaining adequate funding, expanding access to rigorous academic opportunities, and strengthening the teaching profession, while fostering safe learning environments to ensure Florida remains a top destination for businesses and residents to succeed.

2026 STATE APPROPRIATION REQUESTS

- Gravity Sanitary Sewer Pipe Rehabilitation – \$450k request
(\$900k total)
- Traffic Calming & Safety – \$400k request
(\$800k total)
- Downtown Drainage / Flood Mitigation (Phase 2) – \$450k request
(900k total)
- Ponce Corridor Waterway Flood Mitigation – \$450k request
(900k total)
- Generators for Emergency Response Continuity – \$500k request
(1M total)
- Environmental Remediation of Debris Management Site- \$900k request
(\$1.8M total)

Total Appropriation Request: \$3.15M

NEXT STEPS

- ❖ *These priorities guide the City's 2026 legislative efforts*
- ❖ *Commission adoption of the legislative priorities provides a unified platform for advocacy*
- ❖ *Collaborative lobbying efforts at State and federal level on legislative priorities*

Thank You

State Representative Demi Busatta
Senator Ileana Garcia

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