

WE LIVE *Local*

Local Lives = Local Decisions

Your local government is under siege... by our own state legislature!

In the last two years, the state legislature has made 141 attempts to take away local government's "Home Rule" - the ability to govern itself, including setting budgets, maintaining reserves, redeveloping aging neighborhoods, and more. State lawmakers have preempted local government's ability to solve problems locally, especially in protecting neighborhoods from vacation rentals and properly locating communications towers, among other things.

As the legislature gears up for 2019, the attempted power grab has already begun.

State lawmakers think they know better than local government about the services we provide.

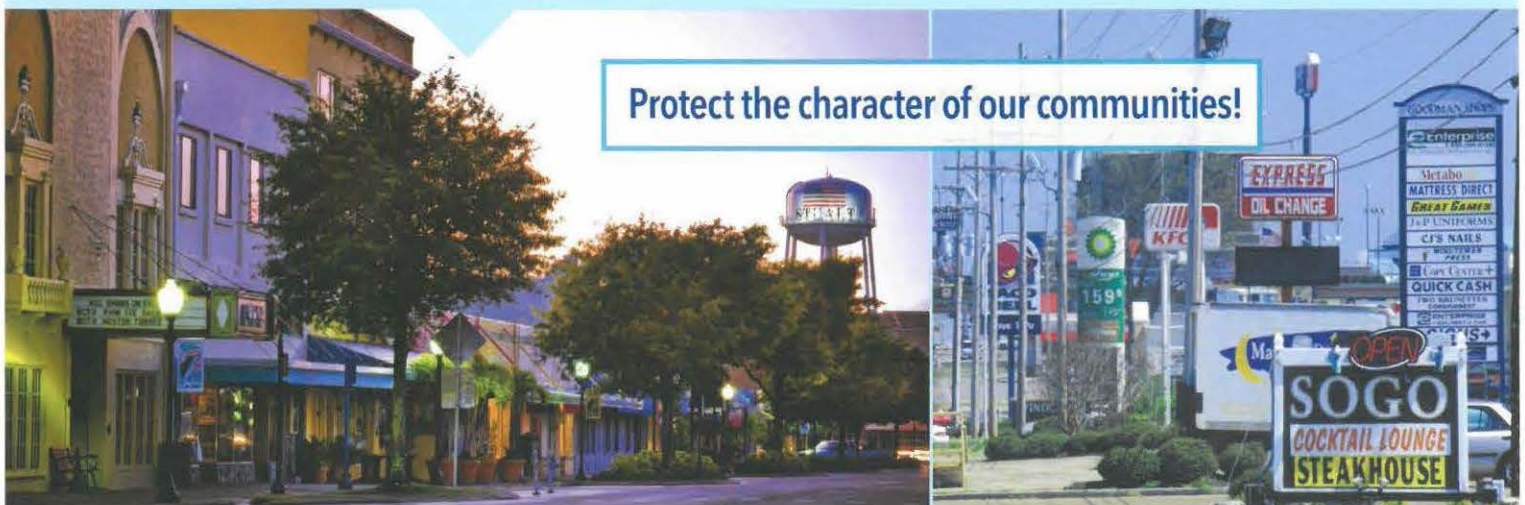
Rules designed for Miami or Orlando do not apply to all 412 Florida cities and 67 counties. State legislation that takes decision-making out of the hands of locally elected leaders, takes away Home Rule.



Without the tools provided by Community Redevelopment Agencies (CRAs), the renaissance in downtown Fort Pierce would have never happened. Throughout our region, the improvements CRAs created have been repaid many times over. Yet over the last two years the legislature has only been a few votes short of crippling existing CRAs and banning new ones. Don't let the legislature destroy this important community improvement catalyst.

Fort Pierce's Sunrise Theatre is just one example of the effectiveness of CRA investment.

Why should a legislator from Leon or Orange County have any say about when you hold local elections, how you cut your trees, what businesses can locate in your neighborhood, or what your downtown streetscape should look like? State legislators voted to take decisions like these out of local hands in order to cater to corporate lobbyists or special interests.



Protect the character of our communities!

One of the main responsibilities local government has is to set a balanced budget that funds the services you want and sets aside reserves for emergencies, like hurricane clean-up. When state government passes unfunded mandates or self-serving schemes that reduce the local tax base, counties and towns are faced with reducing the services that directly affect your quality of life – first responders, road maintenance, parks, environmental and water quality projects.



Okeechobee doesn't have much in common with Miami or Orlando. The pace of life is different, local needs and challenges are different. Who makes better decisions for the people who live in Okeechobee? 160 people in Tallahassee or locally elected city or county commissioners who live, work and raise their families right next door?



Rules made with Miami in mind may do harm to rural communities



The state took away local government's ability to regulate vacation rentals. So, if your neighbor has turned their home into a 24-hour rental party house, your city, town or county can't do anything about it. And, the 160 legislators who did that don't have to run into you at the grocery store or neighborhood restaurant to defend their decisions.

Have a problem? Need help? Where do you want to go to address your issue? Tallahassee or your local city hall or county offices? Who do you want to talk to? One of 160 legislators from across the state who meet a few months a year or local council or commission members elected by you, accountable to you and available in your own hometown all year 'round?

"The government closest to the people serves the people best." - Thomas Jefferson

HELP take back Home Rule, local control and local accountability.

Visit www.tcrhc.com or www.FloridaLeagueOfCities.com/WeLiveLocal to learn more and for tools to help make your voice heard!



#HOMERULE