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Issue 2 | 2012

Hello!

Here's the second issue of the *FLGC monthly email*, which provides updates on the Florida Local Government Coalition. Stay informed, stay engaged. And please, [share your feedback!](#)

New Member - Welcome to FLGC!

[Florida Regional Councils Association](#) (FRCA)

Save the Date - Friday, October 12, 2012:

The Coalition will celebrate its one-year anniversary in September 2012.

Representative(s) from the Florida Local Government Coalition's membership are invited to **meet in Central Florida on October 12, 2012 to strategically plan for the upcoming year**. We recommend one or two representatives from your association attend this meeting.

As the Coalition continues to grow, it is important to have the *members* of the Florida Local Government Coalition come together to determine what the next steps will be.

During this meeting the Steering Committee will formally approve the Coalition's next steps, and then the committees* will work to accomplish these approved goals.

More details, including an agenda and specific location, will be distributed as they develop.

*Advocacy, Communications Framework, and Professional Development/Resource Sharing

Special Delivery:

- **ISSUE BRIEF:** New from the Center for State and Local Government Excellence: "[Legal Constraints on Changes in State and Local Pensions](#)." It describes existing legal protections for pensions and reviews recent court decisions that have separated core benefit accruals from cost of living adjustments (COLAs).
- **SURVEY:** The 2012 Florida Water Rate Survey is now available: [Click here](#) for a copy. The survey, completed by Raftelis Financial Consultants, is intended to provide insight into water pricing practices currently used by governmental utilities throughout Florida. It includes information for more than 170 governmental water utilities in Florida, ranging from small utilities serving a population of less than 10,000 to the largest utilities in Florida serving populations of 500,000 or more.
- **SURVEY:** Florida's regional planning councils in association with the U.S. Economic Development Administration, U.S. Department of Energy, and the Florida Energy Office are **identifying strategies to diversify Florida's energy future and reduce reliance on foreign energy sources**. Two surveys have been created to better understand the current energy infrastructure in Florida from both a residential and non-residential perspective. To take either survey, please [click here](#). Responses are kept anonymous. The information gathered by this survey will be used to **inform policy decisions pertaining to Florida's future energy needs**.

Amendment 4:

Because [Amendment 4](#) has severe negative fiscal impact on Florida's local governments, the Florida Local Government Coalition opposes it. Read more about the Coalition's position on the constitutional amendments [here](#).

[Keep It Local, Florida](#)* will be providing essential information on Amendment 4. The FLGC encourages you to **share your associations' contact information** for its membership and staff** to ensure that important communication from *Keep It Local, Florida* is widely distributed.

To submit contact information or to learn more, please [contact us](#).

**Keep It Local, Florida is a grassroots coalition for Home Rule. It's sole focus is to support local control for Florida's many communities.*

It pursues this objective by conducting grassroots advocacy, producing multimedia content and deploying an extensive information network to take its case directly to the public, the press and the policymakers.

***Any contact information submitted will only be used to receive important information from Keep It Local, Florida about local government issues.*

Need a blurb?

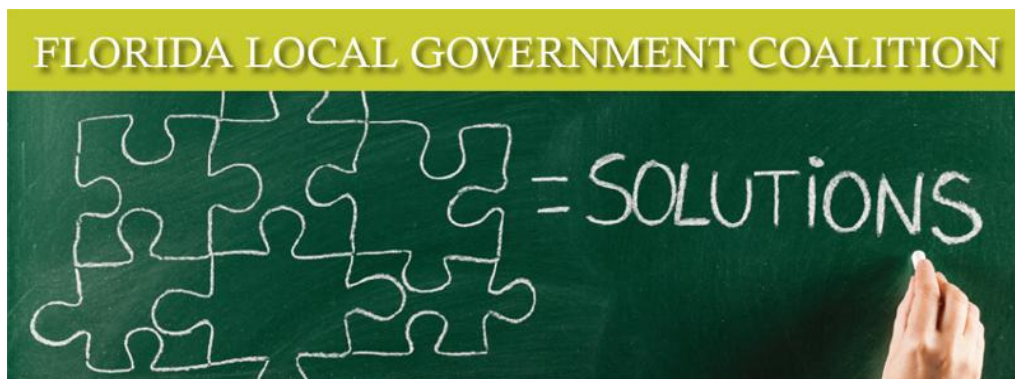
Here's a quick recap to share with your staff and/or Board of Directors:

The Florida Local Government Coalition will celebrate its one-year anniversary in September 2012. With over 20 members, the Coalition continues to expand and pursue membership from associations who work for/with local governments. Over the past year the Coalition has had many accomplishments, which included the following:

- The steering committee established four strategic goals, and created three committees (Advocacy, Communications Framework and Resource Sharing/Professional Development) to support those goals.
- FLGC launched a website, floridagovcoalition.com, to provide a central platform for training opportunities and resources.
- FLGC launched a monthly email to keep members informed and engaged.

- FLGC launched a facebook page to engage members, organizations and citizens
- The FLGC's advocacy committee took a position of opposition on Amendment four, one of the proposed constitutional amendments that will be on Florida's November 2012 ballot.
- The FLGC visited several members' conferences and presented voter-education on the proposed constitutional amendments that will impact local governments.

It's important to have the members of the Florida Local Government Coalition come together to determine what the next steps will be. Representatives from the Coalition's membership will meet in Central Florida on Friday, October 12, 2012 (location TBD) to strategically plan for the upcoming year. The steering committee will formally approve the Coalitions next steps, and then the committees will work to accomplish these goals.



We'd love to hear from you. Contact [us](#) at anytime.

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