

LOCAL GOVERNMENT POLICY GUIDE



1. Start with the Official Legislative Platforms

Each metro area typically has an online portal where all local legislation, meetings, and agendas are published. Below are links to key portals for major Florida cities:

- **Fort Lauderdale:** [Fort Lauderdale City Commission](#)
- **Jacksonville:** [Jacksonville Legislation Portal](#)
- **Miami-Dade:** [Miami Dade Legislative Hub](#)
- **Naples:** [Naples City Council](#)
- **Orlando:** [Orlando City Policy Portal](#)
- **Tampa:** [City of Tampa Laws and Ordinances](#)
- **West Palm Beach:** [West Palm Beach City Commission](#)

2. Review the Calendar or Agendas Tab

Most portals feature a **Calendar** or **Agendas** section that provides a schedule of upcoming meetings, public hearings, and discussions. Reviewing this regularly will help you stay informed about what is coming up for discussion or vote, and when you can attend or participate.

- **Look for:**
 - **Council/Commission Meetings**
 - **Public Hearings**
 - **Workshops or Committee Meetings**

3. Understand Who's Serving on Which Committee

Knowing which city/county officials are serving on committees or boards related to issues that concern you is essential for effective engagement. Most portals will list current committee assignments.

- **Key Tip:** Identify members of committees such as the **Planning and Zoning Board, Transportation Committees**, or **Public Safety Committees** to track decisions that align with your interests.

4. Attend Meetings or Participate Virtually

Engagement can be done in-person or virtually. You can sign up to speak during public comment periods or simply attend meetings to stay informed.

- **How to Participate:**
 - **In-Person:** Visit meeting locations (usually city halls or designated government buildings).
 - **Virtually:** Many cities provide links for virtual participation or public comment, especially after the pandemic.

5. Submit Comments or Speak During Public Comment

You can submit written comments or sign up to speak during public comment periods at meetings. Be sure to follow the procedures outlined in the meeting agendas for submitting public comments.

- **Tip:** Check the agenda for deadlines to submit comments or the rules for registering to speak at the meeting.

6. Follow Up

After meetings or hearings, follow up with committee members or staff to ensure your concerns are addressed and to track the progress of relevant legislation.

- **How to Stay Updated:**
 - **Subscribe to Notifications:** Many portals allow you to subscribe to notifications for specific legislation or committee updates.

For more assistance on local policy, please contact Brandon at bjohnson@flnonprofits.org