

Submitted by Terry Schaefer

I attended the Manasota League Of Cities meeting on November 19, 2025. following is a list of the topics discussed;

1. Ed Farmer, representing Waste Pro and Peter Simmons, representing Woodard & Curran Law Office, Associate Members, were both present and provided remarks describing their respective services.
2. There was a thorough review of the DeSantis push to eliminate real estate taxes. All members stated their opposition and debated the best approach to opposition and how cities can educate their citizens of the risks and lack of valid alternatives along with the possible loss of vital services if eliminated. There was general agreement that each city needed to formulate the most effective response to clarify the issue and defend this vital Home Rule authority. I have suggested to Judy that we meet with Andrew Kaley our lobbyist, Erica to discuss the educational plan to citizens and meeting with the Manatee County Delegation to express our concerns. In addition, a meeting with Congressman Buchanan is suggested to register our concern and to determine his opinion of the suggestion. Topic to on the 1-8-26 agenda.
3. There was a review of the status of SB180, Ch. Bishop indicated that her discussions with County Delegation members who agreed there are problems with the Bill and that amendments will likely be heard.
4. Brian Williams, Palmetto, the current Treasurer has indicated he will be retiring in January and a replacement will be named at the January 8th meeting. I was asked to accept and indicated I would consider acceptance. The hiring of a bookkeeper was discussed which I support. Two resumes and proposals were provided to members with the note that the decision to hire and selection of the person will be on the January agenda. Total resources were \$78,970.51 as of 10-31-25. The Florida League of Cities presently funds MLOC \$1,230 monthly plus the members cities and associate member annual dues. City dues are \$600. Annually. The creation of a budget was previously approved and is expected to be finalized following the bookkeeper decision and approval of the amended By-Laws.
5. All members were invited to attend the FLOC Annual Conference December 4th-6th in Orlando.
6. I invited all members to attend our 75th Anniversary on December 5th at City Park.
7. Next meeting: January 8th, 10:00 am at the LBK Chambers.