

# The Keys to a New Era of State and City Partnerships



## Major Points from the *Keys to the Cities* Task Force

- Cities play a major role in economic growth for our state.
- State leaders should work to protect local self-government and create a new partnership with cities.
- The state should pay for its own good ideas.
- Taxpayers should know which government imposes financial burdens upon them.
- Create a new intergovernmental committee for better state/local relationships.
- Tax policies should be equitable, comprehensive and flexible so that cities can continue to provide services.
- Revenue caps would hinder economic activity and create fiscal uncertainty.
- State policy changes should be made to avoid a municipal public safety pension benefits crisis.
- The Department of Community Affairs should limit its regulatory authority to matters of substantial state importance and reduce impediments to economic development in the planning process.
- Cities are partners in the environmental stewardship of our state resources and can find more practical and cost-efficient means for enforcement of laws and policies.
- As a provider of clean drinking water, cities seek relief from over-regulation in the permitting process.
- Cities want to partner with the state to help develop a comprehensive and cohesive state energy policy.
- Cities are the center of economic activity in our state and can encourage job creation through the continued development of Florida's business-friendly environment.

The Keys to the Cities Task Force was created by Florida League of Cities President Joy Cooper, mayor of the City of Hallandale Beach, with an eye toward creating a new partnership with state leaders. Chaired by John "Jack" P. Seiler, mayor of the City of Fort Lauderdale, the 37-member task force developed the *Keys to the Cities* resource document to highlight issues important to Florida's cities. Dr. Scott Paine, chair of the Department of Communication at the University of Tampa, served as facilitator. The document, presented to Governor Rick Scott following his inauguration, is written from the perspective of more than 400 communities. For a copy of *Keys to the Cities*, contact the Florida League of Cities at (850) 222-9684 or visit [www.flcities.com](http://www.flcities.com).