

## **EXHIBIT A**

**Position:** The City SUPPORTS the constitutional right to govern themselves under municipal Home Rule powers. The City of Cape Coral and 410 incorporated cities support the Florida League of Cities efforts to strengthen and protect local decision-making. The Legislature's persistent intrusion into local finances must stop, so cities can provide the financial stability and essential services required by its residences and local businesses. Floridians have had the ability to govern themselves under municipal Home Rule powers for nearly 50 years, and should continue to do so. This right to govern ourselves locally, under Municipal Home Rule powers is being increasingly eroded and limited by actions of the Florida Legislature. Actions of the Florida Legislature take power away from Florida citizens to ensure their chosen municipal government provides their desired level of services, offers their desired quality of life and otherwise meets their need in a timely and effective manner.

**Background:** In Florida, local self-government is not a gift of the Legislature.... It is the expressed will of the people. It was added to the Florida Constitution nearly 50 years ago by a statewide vote of the electorate. Floridians voted to empower themselves with the right of local self-government, or Home Rule. As the only form of voluntary government, Florida's municipalities are the embodiment of this right.

### **Request:**

- Let cities work to develop innovative responses to problems affecting our communities; and
- Let cities work to deliver the services our citizens depend on; and,
- Let cities work to create an environment for economic development and prosperity; and,
- Let cities work to preserve the unique qualities and address unique challenges (pre-platted) that make our communities special; and,
- Let cities work to serve and protect every resident and valued visitor.

*\*The content of this exhibit was mostly provided by the Florida League of Cities; [www.floridaleagueofcities.com/advocacy](http://www.floridaleagueofcities.com/advocacy).*