Agenda

LOCAL GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY TASK FORCE

Meeting 04
March 24, 2021
Zoom Webinar

I.	**Call to order**	Chair
II.	**Roll call**	Administrative Assistant
III.	**Update on local elections research requested by the chair**	Chair, Members
		Rebecca O'Hara, Deputy General Counsel, Florida League of Cities, Inc.
IV.	**Discussion and vote on task force initiatives**	Chair, Members
		OPPAGA staff as needed
V.	**Discuss statutory requirement for task force report**	Chair, Members
		OPPAGA staff as needed
VI.	**Task force next steps**	Chair, Members
VII.	**Other business**	Chair and Members
VIII.	**Public comment**	Open to public
IX.	**Closing remarks**	Chair

- **When announced by the chair, public comment will begin.**
- **During the meeting, those members of the public who wish to participate may do so by presenting 1) spoken comments using the Hand Raise function in Zoom Webinar or 2) written comments using the Q&A function in Zoom webinar.**
- **Before providing any comments, please present your full name, the organization you represent, if any, your city and county of residence, and the agenda item your question addresses.**

Task Force Members' Interests for Future Initiatives

Local Government Administration and Operations

1. Elections
   - Changing elections to same date statewide, cost savings
   - Election Cycles: Off-cycle elections are expensive and usually have significantly less turnout therefore they are inherently inefficient. I am not referring to special elections that may occur due to vacancy. However, being a supporter of many elements of home rule; perhaps if a local government wishes to engage in the practice of off cycle elections then maybe it should affect their access to state funds. As much as possible of FSS Chapters 97-107 should be uniform throughout the state.
   - Early Voting Sites: Due to the impacts on infrastructure from Hurricane Michael, counties in the panhandle region have been granted greater elasticity, by executive order, to select locations for early voting. Perhaps these standards should be statutorily expanded statewide, as early voting has proven to be both popular and efficient.

2. Public Meetings
   - Legal notices, one public hearing in city government
   - Virtual meetings and let cities/counties implement in extraordinary circumstances, i.e. state of emergency or local emergency
   - Waiver of physical quorum in meetings, regular , land-use etc.
   - Interlocal agreements honored to eliminate duplicative services between local governments and possibly county, ie. Merge transit with incentives for both to do as a money loser.
   - Printed Public Notification Requirements FSS Chapters 50, 166 etc.: Change statutory requirements to permit full migration to digital platforms to increase outreach and reduce costs. This should also provide greater transparency.
   - Second Reading for Municipal Ordinances: Eliminate the requirement. Treat all local governments the same.

3. Reporting
   - Financial Reporting: Local Governments should not be compelled, by the state, to produce specific reports for research or reference. If needed components can be included in Annual Reports or CAFR's to fulfill specific requirements, that seems reasonable.
   - Repetitive reporting and possible sunsetting so these rules get examined maybe every 10 years. Statute reporting requirements and is it necessary, costs - vs- benefits

4. Pension Plans (FSS Chapters 175 & 185): What specific barriers exist that impede migration into FRS?

5. Unfunded mandates, state must provide funding if required

Business Requirements

6. Local Business Tax (LBT) Occupancy License
   - LBT Redundancy: Without getting into the home rule aspects of this, at a minimum, I would just address this: Should a business located within a municipality also be required obtain a county LBT certificate?
   - LBT required for Home Based Businesses: This seems odd. Why is this necessary?

7. Mandate Electronic Permitting Capability (Submissions, Adjustments and Payments). Welcome to the 21st Century.

Facilities and Utilities

8. Local Government Facilities: How can state government compel or perhaps incentivize, the collaboration of multiple government entities in the same community, when they are building new or expanding existing facilities? (Counties, County Constitutional Officer's Operations, Special Districts, School Districts, Municipalities) The fewer fully exempted parcels on a tax roll the better.

9. WMD's and Local Government (Water Management & Stormwater) Should review be required by both local authority and WMD district?

Special Purpose Local Governments

10. Special Districts
    - Look at all special districts. Duplicative reporting, justifying continuing with that special district and is it still meeting the original guidelines when put in place
    - Special Districts: How can they be more efficient operationally, both in the normal course of business and within an emergency management framework?

Miscellaneous

11. COVID -19 Related Local Government Efficiencies: Right now, I would just say we should leave some space for this one as events continue to unfold.

12. Occupational licenses – not interested in removing in chartered governments for public safety purposes only. It does have a public safety component due to, way to know what services/businesses your govt. has available in case of an emergency.

13. Minority reporting - not interested in removing until we see if there has been a cost savings versus benefits to the governments.

Florida League of Cities
Center for Municipal Research & Innovation
MiniSurvey Series – Municipal Elections Procedures

The Center for Municipal Research & Innovation conducted a survey of the 412 municipalities in Florida to determine how municipal elections are handled in each city. The survey was conducted electronically from January 24-February 16, 2017 with a response rate of 69% or 286 cities.

Key Take-Aways

Of municipalities who responded:

- **42% of cities hold municipal elections during the November general election.**
  - Of those cities that do not hold elections for city officials in November, the vast majority hold their municipal elections in March and April (69%).
- **68% of cities do not hold primary elections.**
  - Of those cities that do hold primaries, the most popular months are August (36%) and March (19%).
- **55% of cities do not require run-off elections.**
  - Of those cities that do require run-off elections in certain situations, the most popular months are November (33%) and March (19%).

- **91% of cities contract with the local supervisor of elections to run their municipal elections.**
  - Of those cities that contract with the local supervisor of elections, 75% pay for the services provided.
  - Just over ¼ of municipalities indicate that the supervisor of elections has requested their municipal elections be held during a specific time frame.
  - More than ¾ of municipalities state that allowing the supervisor of elections to determine in what year their elections are held would affect the city officials' staggered terms of office.

Pages 2-3 of this report contain additional graphs of the data collected. Contact Research Analyst Liane Schrader at lschrader@flcities.com for the survey questions or additional information.

The FLC Center for Municipal Research & Innovation is the primary source of local government research and resources at the Florida League of Cities. The Center serves as a link between Florida's public policy researchers and municipal governments, bridging the gap between academics and public policy makers and administrators. More information on the Center can be found at www.floridaleagueofcities.com/Research Material.aspx.

Surveys are completed by members of each individual municipality and the FLC staff does not verify or cross-reference responses with other sources.

Municipal Election Procedures

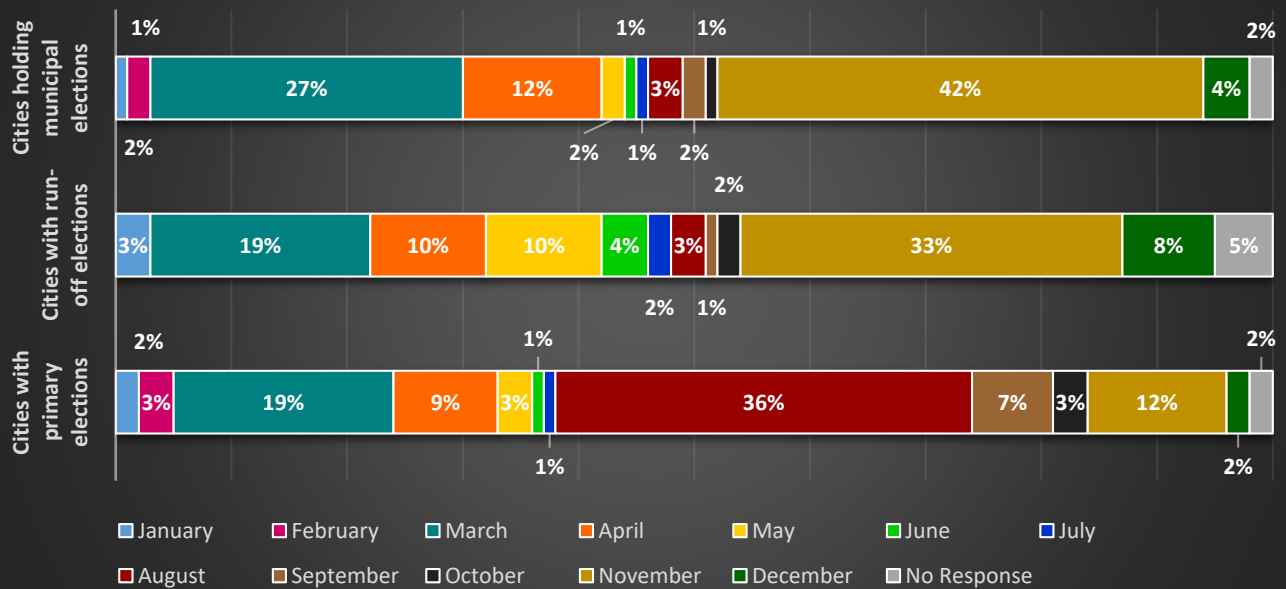- Cities that hold municipal elections for city officials during the November general election — 42%
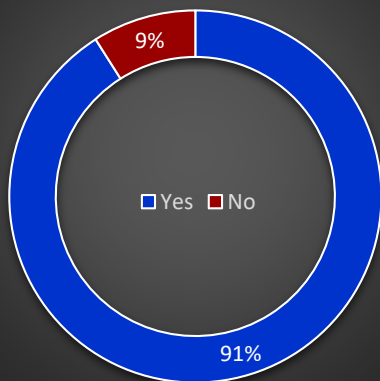- Cities that require a run-off election in certain situations — 44%
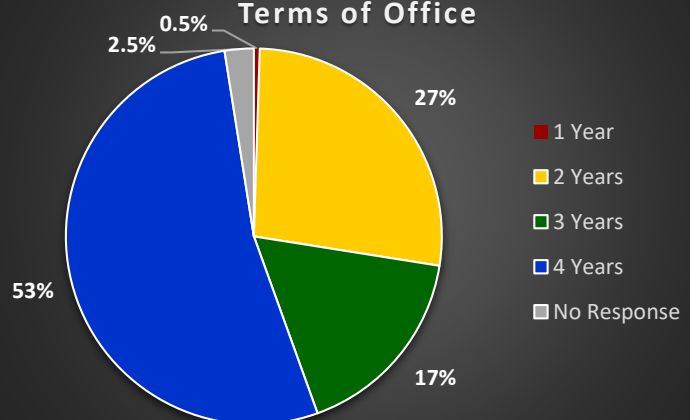- Cities that hold a primary election — 32%

When Municipal Elections Are Held

Cities holding municipal elections: 1%, 27%, 12%, 1%, 1%, 3%, 2%, 42%, 4%, 2%, 1%, 2%

Cities with run-off elections: 2%, 3%, 19%, 10%, 10%, 4%, 3%, 2%, 33%, 8%, 5%, 2%

Cities with primary elections: 2%, 3%, 19%, 9%, 3%, 1%, 36%, 7%, 3%, 12%, 2%, 2%, 2%, 1%, 1%

Legend: January, February, March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November, December, No Response

Cities with Staggered Terms of Office

- Yes — 91%
- No — 9%

Cities with Length of Municipal Terms of Office

- 1 Year — 2.5%
- 2 Years — 27%
- 3 Years — 17%
- 4 Years — 53%
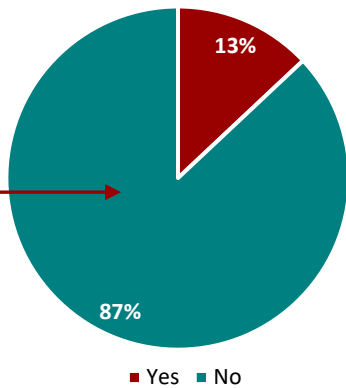- No Response — 0.5%

Cities that Contract with the Local Supervisor of Elections
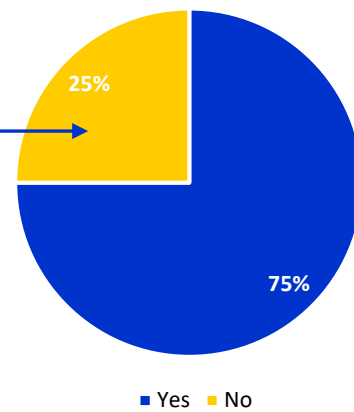
9%

91%

■ Yes ■ No
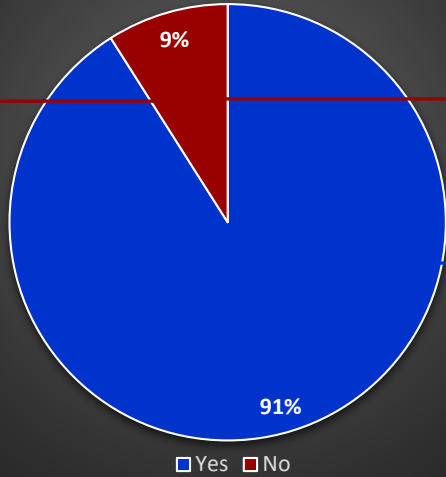
Cities Running Their Own Elections that Maintain Their Own Voter Rolls

30%

70%

■ Yes ■ No
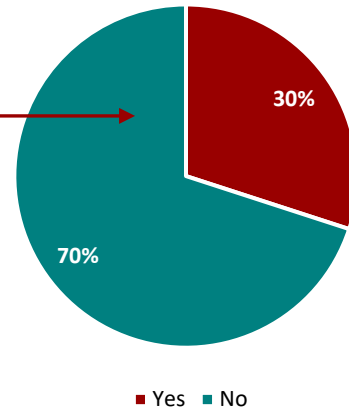
Cities Running Their Own Elections that Maintain Their Own Voting Equipment
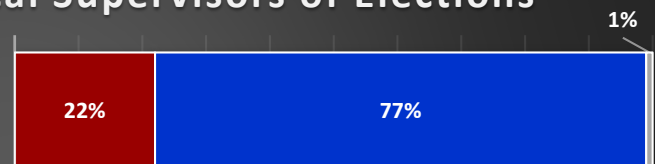
13%

87%

■ Yes ■ No

Cities that Contract with the Local Supervisor of Elections and Pay for Those Services
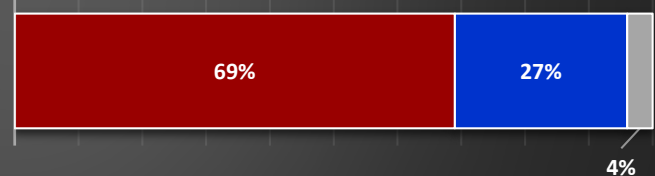
25%

75%

■ Yes ■ No

Municipal Elections & Local Supervisors of Elections

1%

Cities whose staggered terms of office would be affected if supervisor of elections was allowed to determine election years

22%   77%

Cities where local supervisor of elections has requested city hold elections during a specific time

69%   27%

4%

■ No ■ Yes □ No Response

I would like to submit the attached position letter on behalf of Chairman Larry Hirshman of the South Trail Fire Protection & Rescue Service District to be included in the record for the March 24, 2021 meeting that is scheduled for 1:00pm EST.

Gene Rogers

Fire Chief| EFO
South Trail Fire Rescue

Office: 239-433-0080 ext. 1011
Mobile: 239-770-3070
GRogers@southtrailfire.org
www.Southtrailfire.org
5531 Halifax Ave, Fort Myers, Florida

He is still in the Fire! ... We Counted 4.

Board of Commissioners

Larry Hirshman
Chairman

Jeff Haugh
Vice Chairman

John F. Anderson II
Secretary-Treasurer

Ron Tarantino
Commissioner

Ken Brown
Commissioner

Administration

Gene Rogers
Fire Chief

Chris Wolfe
Assistant Fire Chief

Dave Bollen
Assistant Chief

03-19-2021

Office of Program Policy Analysis & Government Accountability,
Local Government Efficiency Taskforce:

Please allow me to voice the concerns of our entire agency, and its elected officials, regarding HB 1103/SB 1624 Year 2021 (Special District Accountability).

The South Trail Fire District has always taken pride in its efficiency, compliance and transparency. We value our direct relationship with the public and remain fully accountable to our constituents. We are the subject matter experts in providing these essential services to OUR COMMUNITY.

We routinely conduct board meetings, budget hearings, annual financial audits (conducted by accredited external sources) and many other layers of needed transparency aimed at providing the very best fire and life safety services to the citizens and visitors we protect and serve. For the South Trail Fire District, adding the proposed redundant layers would only serve to convolute a process that has continually proven to be highly effective for nearly fifty years. We are already in compliance with the spirit of the legislation being proposed.

Nearly 100% of the funding our Fire District currently receives is returned to our citizens through the personalized and focused services we provide them. It is a pure form of local government that operates effectively and efficiently under Florida's Sunshine Law. This system of local government works well.

The additional complexities proposed in HB 1103/SB 1624 are already being provided for within South Trail's current service-delivery method. If our District was ever alleged to be deficient, there are already checks and balances in place to address any Special District that may be found to be substandard. Those checks and balances are: the Department of Economic Opportunity, the Florida Auditor General, the Joint Legislative Auditing Committee (JLAC), the Division of Bond Finance and the Division of Retirement, the Auditor General (if directed by JLAC Section 11.45, F.S.). Adding duplication only serves to add confusion and cost to our citizens that already enjoy this level of oversight from their Fire District.

Our Position: The South Trail Fire Protection & Rescue Service District is already providing its constituents with the levels of oversight that are being discussed in this proposed legislation. To that end, the funding we currently receive would be put to better use by allowing our District to simply prove compliance moving forward as we continue to enhance to level of fire and life safety services we provide.

Respectfully,

Larry Hirshman
Chairman, South Trail Fire Protection &
Rescue Service District

5531 Halifax Ave. Fort Myers, FL 33912-4403
Administration Phone: 239.433.0080 Prevention Phone: 239.482.8030
WWW.SOUTHTRAILFIRE.ORG

ISSUE #	RECOMMENDATIONS	IMPROVED EFFICIENCY
DATA MANAGEMENT		
DM 1	The Task Force commends the Governor and Legislature for their support and approval of a comprehensive state data catalog and dictionary.	Yes
DM 2	The Task Force recommends reviewing and revising data management policies that inhibit data sharing between state agencies, with a focus on safeguarding confidential or exempt constituent information while allowing for greater shared utilization of such data.	Yes
DM 3	The Task Force recommends reviewing current technology projects and evaluating different methods and processes for ensuring that data can be aggregated, sorted, stored, and shared among different agencies.	Yes
DM 4	The Task Force recommends developing analytics use cases to pilot new data sharing policies and developing the automation processes that allow government to be more proactive.	Yes
DM 5	The Task Force recommends the use of application programming interfaces or API's to expedite data sharing while maintaining security.	Yes

ISSUE #	RECOMMENDATIONS	IMPROVED EFFICIENCY
	DIGITAL CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT	
DCE 1	The Task Force recommends developing standardized guidelines, style guides, and playbooks to guide state agencies in developing digital properties in order to promote a standardized approach to digital development.	Yes
DCE 2	The Task Force recommends evaluating and implementing open source frameworks for websites and other user facing interfaces provided by other governmental agencies, like the United States Digital Service, in order to efficiently adopt industry best practices without having to develop new methods from scratch.	Yes
DCE 3	The Task Force recommends reviewing and improving search capabilities on government web properties to allow constituents to easily locate necessary information. This should also be considered as an opportunity for transforming www.myflorida.com.	Yes
DCE 4	The Task Force recommends developing and implementing messaging guidelines for digital properties with a focus on ensuring that communications can be rapidly disseminated among constituents.	Yes
DCE 5	The Task Force recommends creating mobile friendly applications and websites that allow for user-friendly interaction with government agencies.	Yes

ISSUE #	RECOMMENDATIONS	IMPROVED EFFICIENCY
DIGITAL IDENTITY MANAGEMENT		
DIM 1	The Task Force recommends developing standardized guidelines for government services password requirements.	Yes
DIM 2	The Task Force recommends adopting open source software solutions like the General Services Administration's www.login.gov that promote efficiency through tools like single sign on.	Yes
DIM 3	The Task Force recommends reviewing ongoing efforts for identity management and validation strategies that are already being developed within governmental agencies in order to efficiently seize on any technologies that have already been proven.	Yes
DIM 4	The Task Force recommends developing and promoting plans to continuously monitor and improve the identity management services in order to prevent cybersecurity compromises and breaches.	Yes

ISSUE #	RECOMMENDATIONS	IMPROVED EFFICIENCY
EMERGING INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES		
EIT 1	The Task Force recommends researching and assessing emerging and innovative technologies that can be deployed within state government to increase efficiency in operations.	Yes
EIT 2	The Task Force recommends the utilization of Artificial Intelligence, or AI and predictive analytics in promoting efficiency and evaluating trends in government services across policy verticals.	Yes
EIT 3	The Task Force recommends researching and assessing which processes could be automated within agencies and categorizing the automation by level of difficulty.	Yes
EIT 4	The Task Force recommends evaluating different RPA technologies that can be implemented, including their cost, expertise required for implementation, training requirements, and how broad the scope of benefit from implementation.	Yes
EIT 5	The Task Force recommends creating a roadmap for deploying emerging innovative technologies to different agencies with increasing levels of sophistication.	Yes
EIT 6	The Task Force recommends creating a cost analyzing structure to measure the time and cost savings that are realized from emerging innovative technologies.	Yes

ISSUE #	RECOMMENDATIONS	IMPROVED EFFICIENCY
AGILE METHODOLOGIES IN PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING		
AP 1	The Task Force recommends reviewing planned procurement and contracting opportunities that allow for agile and scalable products and services.	Yes
AP 2	The Task Force recommends reviewing and revising procurement procedures and policies to allow greater flexibility and speed from procurement teams in order to respond to the demands of rapidly evolving technologies and procurement methods.	Yes
AP 3	The Task Force recommends reviewing contract policies and developing approaches which allow for flexible procurement contracts that can be modified as needed, so that as technological need for services like cloud storage increases, contract provisions allow for a timely response and scalable response.	Yes
AP 4	The Task Force recommends reviewing future technology procurements with a focus on acquiring technology that is modular, scalable and supports and promotes data interoperability.	Yes

ISSUE #	RECOMMENDATIONS	IMPROVED EFFICIENCY
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES DATA INTEROPERABILITY		
HHS 1	The Task Force recommends that additional use cases be completed to support long-term savings and efficiencies that may be gained from transforming the state's aging Health and Human Services platforms with as a service or "aas" services.	Yes

ISSUE #	RECOMMENDATIONS	IMPROVED EFFICIENCY
CLOUD FIRST		
CF 1	The Task Force recommends full adherence by state agencies on the cloud-first strategy outlined in 282.206 and recommended by the 2015 Government Efficiency Task Force.	Yes

ISSUE #	RECOMMENDATIONS	IMPROVED EFFICIENCY
ENTERPRISE ARCHITECTURE		
EA 1	The Task Force commends the Governor and Legislature for directing the Florida Digital Service to formulate an enterprise architecture and recommends that this be drafted in a manner that supports the Cloud First strategy.	Yes

ISSUE #	RECOMMENDATIONS	IMPROVED EFFICIENCY
CYBERSECURITY		
CS 1	The Task Force endorses the continued work of the Florida Cybersecurity Task Force and would recommend that the Governor and Legislature consider both interim and final recommendations from this group as their work culminates in February 2021.	Yes

ISSUE #	RECOMMENDATIONS	IMPROVED EFFICIENCY
DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION		
DT 1	The Task Force recommends that additional use cases be completed to support the long-term savings and efficiencies that may be gained from transforming Florida's aging IT systems.	Yes
DT 2	The Task Force recommends reviewing and revising policies to guide agencies to collaborate on large digital projects in order to promote uniformity and drive savings through economies of scale.	Yes
DT 3	The Task Force recommends developing frameworks and policies that promote building digital properties that can naturally adapt to the platform they are being used on, as to avoid the cost required by developing different versions.	Yes

ISSUE #	RECOMMENDATIONS	IMPROVED EFFICIENCY
FLEET MANAGEMENT		
FM 1	The Task Force recommends that the Department of Management Services act on their statutory authority to surplus passenger vehicles that are underutilized and present a significant maintenance liability.	Yes
FM 2	The Task Force recommends that the Department of Management Services utilize telematics to determine the use of vehicles within the state's passenger vehicle portfolio. Telematics may be used to measure trends and opportunities for economies of scale.	Yes
FM 3	The Task Force recommends using the new software tools to identify fleet use policies that can be improved to streamline the usage of the state passenger vehicle fleet based on age, utilization, cost, and/or need.	Yes
FM 4	The Task Force recommends evaluating the state's entire fleet management structure to determine areas where privatization can be utilized to reduce cost.	Yes
FM 5	The Task Force recommends exploring usage patterns to identify where fleet vehicles could be best replaced by private industry alternative, like state rental contracts.	Yes
FM 6	The Task Force recommends developing future strategic plans for the long-term strategy of initial procurement, maintenance, use, and disposal.	Yes

ISSUE #	RECOMMENDATIONS	IMPROVED EFFICIENCY
REAL ESTATE MANAGEMENT		
REM 1	The Task Force recommends transferring operations, including maintenance, construction, procurement, and vendor management, to the Florida Department of Management Services for buildings over 50,000 square feet in order to drive savings through efficiencies of scale.	Yes
REM 2	The Task Force recommends monetizing aging and underutilized properties in the state building portfolio by selling assets and investing the revenue on remaining buildings within the portfolio.	Yes
REM 3	The Task Force recommends evaluating public-private partnerships that can leverage state assets for redevelopment, revitalization, and monetization of state buildings/parcels.	Yes
REM 4	The Task Force recommends reviewing policies to encourage 21st century space planning that promote modernization of buildings within the current portfolio. This should focus on promoting a 21st Century Workforce Experience that fosters collaboration, efficiency, use of technology, and a new generation entering the workforce.	Yes
REM 5	The Task Force recommends that the Department of Management Service implement strategies for state-maintained parking structures to be used for revenue generating opportunities during night and weekend hours when facilities are closed.	Yes
REM 6	The Task Force recommends that the Department of Management Services consider utilizing the bond capacity of the Florida Facilities Pool to invest in the certain assets in the state building portfolio.	Yes

Report of the

Governor's Task Force on Citizen Safety and Protection

Lieutenant Governor Jennifer Carroll
Chairwoman
December, 2012

REPORT OF THE GOVERNOR'S
TASK FORCE ON CITIZEN SAFETY AND PROTECTION

December 2012

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Mission Statement, Guiding Principles, and Scope of Work

MISSION STATEMENT

"The Task Force on Citizen Safety and Protection will review Chapter 776, F.S., and its implementation, listen to the concerns and ideas from Floridians, and make recommendations to the Governor and Florida Legislature to ensure the rights of all Floridians and visitors, including the right to feel safe and secure in our state."

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1. *Provide forums where Floridians have the opportunity to be heard regarding Chapter 776, Florida Statutes.*
2. *Develop trust by bring objectivity to the meetings, listening with an open mind and maintaining a calm and productive environment.*
3. *Ensure an open and honest discussion of relevant laws, rules, regulations, and programs.*
4. *Protect the rights of all Floridians and visitors to feel safe and secure in our state.*

SCOPE OF WORK TO ACCOMPLISH MISSION

1. *Determine where and when public hearings should be held in the state with a rationale based on Guiding Principles.*
2. *Define the listening processes to be used in these public hearings.*
3. *Develop communication plan with multiple and varied media forms to ensure all interested citizens have the opportunity to participate.*
4. *Review and discuss Chapter 776, F.S. and its implementation.*
5. *Conduct meetings and consolidate information including relevant data, including national comparisons.*
6. *Prepare a report for Governor Scott and the Florida Legislature by the start of the legislative session.*

Methodology

The Task Force on Citizen Safety and Protection was established by Governor Rick Scott on March 22, 2012. Governor Scott appointed Lieutenant Governor Jennifer Carroll as Chair and Reverend R.B. Holmes, Jr. as Vice Chair. Governor Scott charged the Task Force with holding public hearings, taking testimony, soliciting ideas, reviewing all matters related to the rights of all Floridians to feel safe and secure in our state, and draft a report to the Governor and the Legislature.

The Task Force established Guiding Principles and a Scope of Work to accomplish the mission. In accordance, the Task Force established meeting dates and locations that encompassed a cross-section of the state in terms of geographic locations. The Task Force set meeting agendas that included presentations by subject matter experts and testimony from the general public. To accomplish the task of reaching the broadest segment of the population, all meetings were aired live on the Florida Channel and a website and social media accounts were developed to provide a transparent process and to allow input from citizens. The website, http://www.flgov.com/citizensafety, includes input from citizens, all materials reviewed by the Task Force, agendas, meeting minutes, speaker bios, archived video of meetings, and contact information.

The Task Force held public meetings in Tallahassee, Longwood, Arcadia, West Palm Beach, Cutler Bay, Jacksonville, and Pensacola.

The Task Force invited subject matter experts to make presentations that were relevant to the mission. The subject matter experts included individuals with expertise in law enforcement investigations, prosecution, legal defense, neighborhood watch, private security, data analysis (university professors), civil rights, and second amendment rights.

Core Recommendations

After holding seven public meetings across the state, hearing from a broad array of relevant subject matter experts, and considering over 9,000 pieces of correspondence, 550 phone calls, 60 comment cards, 140 public comments at Task Force meetings, and over 30 documents, the Task Force recommends the following:

1. **The Task Force concurs with the core belief that all persons, regardless of citizenship status, have a right to feel safe and secure in our state. To that end, all persons have a fundamental right to stand their ground and defend themselves from attack with proportionate force in every place they have a lawful right to be and are conducting themselves in a lawful manner.**

2. **The Task Force recommends the Legislature examine the term "Unlawful Activity" as used in Chapter 776, Florida Statutes and provide a statutory definition to provide clarity to all persons, regardless of citizenship status, and to law enforcement, prosecutors, defense attorneys, and the judiciary.***

   > ***Discussed definition of "unlawful activity" to give guiding language to the courts to ensure uniform application of the law with the intent to protect the innocent person.**

   > a. **Task Force member Katherine Fernandez Rundle proposed a definition as "Unlawful activity" means any criminal activity that is punishable under the laws of this state, but does not include activity that is a 'noncriminal' violation as defined in s. 775.08(3).**

    b. **Task Force member Krista Marx proposed that the definition should include temporal proximity of the unlawful activity to the use of force.**

    c. **Task Force member Stacy Scott proposed that some county or municipal ordinance violations should not be included in the definition.**

    d. **Task Force member Edna Canino proposed that the definition exclude citizenship status.**

The Task Force heard numerous "what if" examples related to the definition of "Unlawful Activity" as used in Chapter 776, Florida Statutes. Questions that were raised included whether the term applied to all unlawful activity including misdemeanors, ordinances, and minor traffic violations. A lack of definition of the term could cause inequality in the application of the law across the state. The Task Force does not intend to usurp the authority of the legislature by drafting specific language but merely advise the legislature that there may be unintended consequence and misapplication of the law if the term is not clarified.

1. **The Task Force recommends associations, law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, defense attorneys, and the judiciary increase training and education regarding self defense laws to ensure uniform and fair application of Chapter 776, Florida Statutes and other related criminal statutes.**

   The Task Force heard testimony from citizens, law enforcement, prosecutors, and defense attorneys that Chapter 776, Florida Statutes, although well intended, is not always fairly and equitably applied across the state. The Task Force heard examples of specific self defense cases where individuals felt the law was not fairly applied. Although the Task Force's mission was not to retry individual cases, there was enough evidence presented to suggest that education among the parties including law enforcement, prosecutors, defense attorneys, the judiciary, and the citizens of the State of Florida could contribute to a more uniform, just, and fair application of the law.

2. *The Task Force recommends the Legislature review applicable standards for recognized neighborhood watch groups, as defined in s. 30.60 and s. 166.0485, Florida Statutes, to define the role of neighborhood watch participants as limited to observing, watching, and reporting potential criminal activity to law enforcement. The participant's purpose is not to pursue, confront, or provoke potential suspects.*

   The Task Force heard testimony from a neighborhood watch volunteer, crime prevention coordinator, and private security companies regarding standards for neighborhood watch groups.

The standards for neighborhood watch groups ranged from the loosely organized to sophisticated organizations that employed written policies and procedures and strict standards for volunteers. The Task Force learned through these presentations that neighborhood watch volunteers are residents of their respective communities who volunteer their time; however, there are usually no requirements to participate or training provided to them. This could result in occurrences of volunteers acting outside the scope of the intent of neighborhood watch, which is to observe and report only.

3. ***The Task Force recommends the Legislature examine the definition of "criminal prosecution", as defined in 776.032(1), Florida Statutes, to remove any ambiguity for law enforcement to fully complete their investigation.***

The Task Force heard examples of law enforcement expressing concern for the definition of "criminal prosecution." The concerns were that law enforcement was not assured of the ability to fully investigate by detaining or arresting upon probable cause a person engaged in use of force.

4. ***The Task Force has considered the Florida Supreme Court's 2010 decision in <u>Peterson v. State</u>. The Task Force believes the pre-trial adversarial proceeding set out in that case is proper.***

5. ***The Task Force recommends the Legislature consider whether civil immunity provision should extend to innocent third-party victims.***

6. *The Task Force recommends the Legislature consider funding further study of the correlation and causation to include variables such as race, ethnicity, gender, application and fairness of the law in regards to the expansion of self defense laws in the State of Florida, including a statistical comparison with other states. The Task Force recommends any report be issued by 2015 with periodic updates.*

7. *The Task Force recommends the Legislature review Florida's 10-20-Life law to eliminate any unintended consequences, disproportionate use of the law, and to restore some sentencing flexibility to the courts.*

8. *The Task Force considered a recommendation to change the word "presumption" to the word "inference" in 776.013(1) and (2), Florida Statutes. However, the Task Force rejects that recommendation.*

APPENDIX A
TASK FORCE CHARGE

APPENDIX B
TASK FORCE MEMBERSHIP

APPENDIX C
MAP OF TASK FORCE MEMBERS
AND MEETING LOCATIONS

APPENDIX D
CHAPTER 776, FLORIDA STATUTES