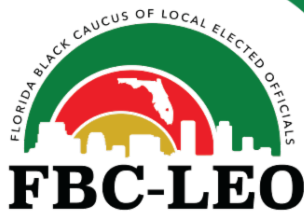


January 2023



FLORIDA BLACK CAUCUS  
OF LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS

Happy  
New Year

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## 2023 FBC-LEO Dues



**2023 FBC-LEO dues invoices were emailed on January 4th.**

If you did not receive the invoice or would like a copy of the dues invoice to be sent to someone other than yourself, please notify staff at [fbcleo@flcities.com](mailto:fbcleo@flcities.com).

NOTE: To stay current and offer the most benefit to members, the board approved an increase in membership dues to \$150.00.

Thank you for your membership. We appreciate your continued support of FBC-LEO.

## President's Message



Greetings FBC-LEO Members and Friends,

As we gear up for a new and prosperous year, I hope that everyone was able to celebrate this holiday season in a meaningful and special way.

This year, I am eager to continue to build upon the foundation we have laid for FBC-LEO, with our continued community involvement and new membership opportunities for supporting members, with a dues amount of \$100.

If you know of someone who qualifies and is interested in participating in the FBC-LEO Essay Contest, please encourage them to submit their application as soon as possible because the deadline is Friday, January 13, 2023. The essay contest is open to 11th- and 12th-grade students living in cities with an FBC-LEO member. The winning essay will receive a \$1,000 scholarship for college or technical school expenses.

Membership dues for 2023 were invoiced on January 4th, which included an increase for regular and associate members of \$150. **Please encourage your**

**colleagues to join the association so that we may continue to increase our capacity to support one another.**

Looking ahead to this year, please save the date for our 2023 Annual Conference, be sure register to attend and invite your peers and colleagues. This event is open to members and nonmembers, all elected and nonelected officials. The 2023 Annual Conference will be held March 2-3, 2023, at the Embassy Suites Lake Buena Vista South in Kissimmee. Registration deadline is February 16th.

[Register here](#)

Your commitment to FBC-LEO and your respective municipalities is greatly appreciated.

**Morris West**

President Morris West  
Commissioner, City of Haines City

## FBC-LEO Webinar

**Uniting Local Voices Webinar**  
**Tuesday, January 31, 2023**  
**2:00 PM - 3:00 PM ET**



**FBC-LEO**  
**WEBINAR**  
FREE AND OPEN TO NONMEMBERS.

**Program Summary:**

Florida is a complex and diverse state with over 400 unique communities. What's best for one municipality isn't always best for another. Join host **Jeff Branch** and panelists as they explore how to unite local voices and strengthen the role of residents in advocating for our cities and their services.

**Panelists:**

**Scott Dudley**, Director of Field Advocacy and Federal Affairs, Florida League of Cities

**Dianne Williams-Cox**, Commissioner, Tallahassee

**Joshua Simmons**, Vice Mayor, Coral Springs

[Register here](#)

**2023 Annual Conference**



# 2023 Annual Conference

**March 2-3, 2023**

Embassy Suites Lake Buena Vista South  
Kissimmee

**Registration is open!**

**2023 FBC-LEO Annual Conference  
March 2-3, 2023  
#FBCLEO2023**

**Embassy Suites by Hilton Orlando  
Lake Buena Vista South  
Kissimmee, Florida**

**Room Rate: \$169.00 + tax per night**

**Registration deadline: February 16, 2023**

**Member/NonMember Registration: \$200.00**

**Non-Government Registration: \$250.00**

**Guest dinner ticket: \$75.00**

**Note:**

A guest ticket is required for anyone attending the dinner, who is **NOT** a registered conference attendee.

Click the "View Conference Announcement" button for more registration information and to download the registration form.

**View Conference  
Announcement**

**Click Here to Register  
Online**

For additional information or assistance with registering, please contact [hhogarth@flcities.com](mailto:hhogarth@flcities.com) or **850.222.9684**.

**2023 Conference Agenda**

### THURSDAY, MARCH 2, 2023

- 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. **Registration Open**
- 10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. **Opening Address and Welcome**
- 10:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. **Opening Keynote Address**  
Speaker: *Wayne Messam*, President, Florida League of Mayors, and Mayor, City of Miramar
- 11:00 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. **Grassroots Advocacy: Effective Persuasion for Community Impact**  
Speaker: *Scott Dudley*, Director, Field Advocacy and Federal Affairs, Florida League of Cities
- 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. **Networking Luncheon**  
Speaker: *Deric Feacher*, City Manager, City of Daytona Beach
- 1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. **Finding Funds: A Guide to the Grant-Writing Process**  
Speaker: *Lisa King*, Florida Funding Resources Manager, Halff Associates
- 3:15 p.m. - 4:15 p.m. **Sustainability**  
Speakers: *Michael Dexter*, Manager, Southeast Sustainable Recovery Center; *Ann Livingston*, State Policy Program Director, Southeast Sustainable Recovery Center
- 4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. **Intra-Organizational Methods to Address the Affordable Housing Crisis**  
Speaker: *Frank Wells*, President & Chief Impact Officer, Bright Community Trust
- 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. **President's Dinner**

### FRIDAY, MARCH 3, 2023

- 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. **Registration Open**
- 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. **Proper Conduct during Public Meetings**  
Speaker: *Scott Paine, Ph.D.*, Professor Emeritus, FLC University
- 10:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. **2023 Legislative Preview**  
Speaker: *Jeff Branch*, Liaison, FBC-LEO, and Senior Legislative Advocate, Florida League of Cities
- 11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. **Closing Keynote Address: The Role of Data in Building an Equitable Social Infrastructure**  
Speaker: *Rick Whitted*, President and Chief Executive Officer, U.S. Hunger
- 12:15 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. **Lunch and Learn Field Trip: Kissimmee City Hall with a Demonstration of the City's Innovative Underground Refuse System** (included with registration fee)
- 2:00 p.m. **Conference Adjourns**

**Cancellation Policy:** To receive a refund, cancellations must be submitted in writing and received by 5:00 p.m. on February 16, 2023.

Please email cancellation requests to [hhogarth@flcities.com](mailto:hhogarth@flcities.com). Refunds will be issued after the conference minus a \$50.00 administrative fee.

There will be no refunds for cancellations or "no-shows" after February 16, 2023.

## 2023 FBC-LEO Essay Contest

**CONTEST CLOSES THIS WEEK!**

**Affordable Housing and Homelessness  
Essay Contest for 11th and 12th Graders**

**Prize: \$1000 Scholarship**

**#FBCLEOCONTEST23**



# Essay Contest

**Deadline: January 13, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. ET**

**For more information visit <https://fbcleo.org/essay-contest/>**

The **Florida Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials** is sponsoring a statewide essay contest on the connection between affordable housing and homelessness.

This contest assists 11th- and 12th-grade students **in FBC-LEO member municipalities** pursuing post-high school education. We encourage students to learn and write about affordable housing and its connection to homelessness.



**Entries must be emailed by January 13, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. ET.** Essays will be judged by a committee comprised of members from the Florida Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials Board of Directors.

The winner will receive a \$1,000.00 scholarship for the Florida college or technical career institution of their choice. The selected essay will be published in the association's newsletter, and the winner will be recognized at the FBC-LEO Annual Conference on March 2-3, 2023.

FBC-LEO members are asked to encourage 11th- and 12th-graders in their city to participate in the essay contest. The contest will also be promoted on our social media platforms.

**Please promote this contest by doing the following:**

- Share the application with local 11th- and 12th-grader teachers and encourage them to share it with their students.

**Click the "Download Application" button below to view the full essay prompt and contest rules.**

[Download Application](#)

[More Information](#)

## Stay in the Legislative Loop

**The 2023 regular Legislative Session is  
March 7 - May 2, 2023**



The **Florida League of Cities** 2023 Legislative Action was approved by the membership during the 2022 Legislative Conference. Advocacy efforts during the next Legislative Session will focus on five priorities: Enterprise Fund Transfers, Mobility Plans, Short-Term Rental, Accessible Housing, and Water Resources Planning and Comprehensive Watershed Management. Membership also adopted policy positions on Property Tax Protection, Residential Zoning, Transportation Funding, and Water and Wastewater Plant Operator Licensure.

[Click here](#) to learn more.

## Events & Training Opportunities



### Upcoming FLM Webinar

#### Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

**Speaker: Senior Advisor to the President and  
White House Infrastructure Coordinator Mitch Landrieu**

**Thursday, January 19, 2023  
2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. ET  
Via Zoom**

**Register for January 19**

## 2023 Meeting and Events

**SAVE THE DATE**

**Be sure all of the upcoming FBC-LEO events are on your calendar.**

**2023 FBC-LEO  
Annual Conference**

March 2-3, 2023  
Embassy Suites Orlando  
Room Rate: \$169.00 + tax per night

[Register here](#)

**General Membership Meeting**

Tuesday, May 9, 2023  
6:00 p.m. ET via Zoom

[Register here](#)

**Annual Breakfast Meeting  
Registration opening soon**

Friday, August 11, 2023  
7:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. ET  
Hilton Orlando Bonnet Creek  
(In conjunction with FLC Annual  
Conference, August 10-12, 2023)

**Find Us on Social Media**



**Click on the icons below to follow us on Facebook, LinkedIn, YouTube  
and Twitter!**

**Florida Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials**

