

Former Vice Mayor Terri Finnerty, Ed.D. Recognized by the Florida League of Cities as a Home Rule Hero for Third Year in a Row for Her Advocacy Role in the 2020 Legislative Session

Each year municipal officials are recognized by the Florida League of Cities for their hard work and dedication advocating for their cities with state legislators. The 2020 session started on January 14th and ended on March 13th. Scott Dudley, Director of Legislative Affairs for FLC, reported the Home Rule Hero Award is the League's way of showing it's appreciation each year to the few municipal officials who make an extraordinary effort advocating for their cities. These are people who stand out for their high level of participation and effectiveness. This is the FLC way of thanking them and recognizing them for their efforts.

As the old adage goes, "all politics is local". Home Rule Heroes understand successful advocacy starts at home, not in Tallahassee. No one – not even a professional lobbyist – can tell a city's story better than a local official. These stories can turn the abstract into the concrete, and it is essential for helping legislators understand how their decision may impact their communities back home.

Home Rule Hero Award Recipients are selected annually by the League's legislative team following each legislative session. Some of the factors considered are:

- Attendance at Florida League of Cities' Legislative Action Day during the legislative session
- Participation in FLC House and Senate "Candidate Forums" during election season
- Participation in FLC's Monday morning "Call-ins" during the legislative session
- Participation in FLC's Pre- and Post-Legislative Session Webinars
- Timely response to, and action on, FLC's Legislative Alerts
- Attendance at FLC's Legislative Conference
- Meeting with legislators in their district
- Participation in FLC's Legislator "Key Contact" program
- Meeting with legislators in Tallahassee during committee weeks or during session
- Placing articles on FLC priority issues in local or city news media
- Setting up opportunities for legislators and their staff to visit their city – Commission meetings
- Attending local legislative delegation meetings to discuss municipal issues