

2017 Legislative Day ACTION SHEET



We can have technology without preemption: Vote no on SB 596 & HB 687

Preempting local community control over local taxpayer facilities from private wireless companies

SB 596 (Sen. Hutson) and HB 687 (Rep. La Rosa) would, among other technical provisions, prohibit DOT and local communities from prohibiting or even merely regulating the collocation of small wireless facilities in public rights-of-way. Both bills limit the fees (\$15 maximum) counties can charge communication facility companies to locate on taxpayer funded infrastructure.

Important Points:

- **Taxpayers shouldn't foot the bill:** Both SB 596/HB 687 limit the fees counties can charge the for-profit wireless companies, like AT&T and Verizon, to just \$15 per item on county infrastructure. Wireless companies made billions in profit last year and pay private property owners and even other government entities outside Florida much, much more than just \$15. By limiting what counties can charge these companies for their use of taxpayer-funded and maintained utilities poles amounts to a taxpayer subsidy to private for-profit companies.
- **Let's work together:** Counties want to bring new and faster technology to their communities but it shouldn't be on the back of taxpayers. These private for-profit companies need to pay their fair share and defer to public safety experts on where these facilities should go.
- **The Communications Services Tax red herring:** Proponents of this legislation argue that attachment fees should be capped because local governments receive the communications services tax (CST). However, there is no relationship between the CST and the use of county poles. And more importantly the CST is paid by us - the consumers - NOT wireless companies.
- **Protect public safety and community standards:** Local right-of-way regulations are needed to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public, while maintaining community design standards. Under these bills, counties would be unable to apply basic safety and aesthetic standards to the collocation of small cells.
- **Stop the Preemption:** Both bills limit local communities from prohibiting, regulating, or charging for the collocation of these wireless facilities on taxpayer funded infrastructure like traffic signals and light posts.

FAC Contact

To learn more about this issue and related legislative information contact Eric Poole via email at epoole@fl-counties.com.

Billions in profits but they want taxpayers to pay?



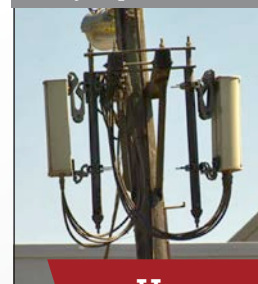
\$170 BILLION
*in Profits**

Willing to pay = \$15.00
for each tower?

Seriously?

*Per Forbes Magazine, for the first 9 months in 2015 profits for wireless companies

Do you prefer this?



... or THIS?



Home rule works.

Bad for communities; bad for businesses; bad for Florida: Vote no on HB 17 & SB 1158

Preempting local governments from regulating business

HB 17 (Rep. Fine) and SB 1158 (Sen. Passidomo) would preempt local governments with regards to regulation of businesses, professions, and occupations unless it is expressly authorized by the state. The preemption is extended to associated, licenses and/or permit fees.

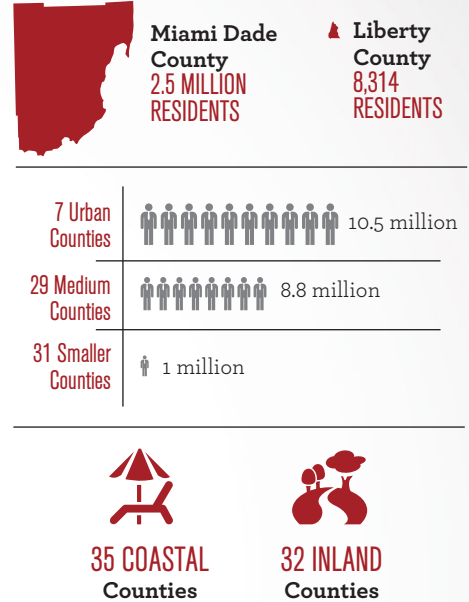
Important Points:

- **It doesn't work in Washington and it won't in Tallahassee:** The top-down approach doesn't work when Washington impinges on the freedom and autonomy of the states—it does not work when Tallahassee does the same to local communities.
- **Local governments are nimbler, yes nimbler, than state government:** Businesses should not be forced to navigate the state legislative process for minor matters that are easily addressed at the local level. This would particularly be problematic for small businesses.
- **The local courthouse is more accessible than the state house:** Local governments are the most accessible venue to resolve business concerns because they are closest to the people and most familiar with their communities. Tallahassee is not equipped to address every problem in every community.
- **Regulatory certainty would end:** HB 17 and SB 1158 represent a complete change in Florida law and it is impossible to imagine all the consequences of such a change creating economic uncertainty and discouraging investment and innovation.
- **Economic investment at risk:** HB 17 / SB 1158 would effectively void any requirements of permits or contracts that are not explicitly authorized under Florida statutes, opening permits and agreements to challenges by anyone in the community, including competitors.

FAC Contact

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One size doesn't fit all:



A tax shift is not a tax cut: Vote No on SJR 1774

Increasing the Homestead Property Tax Exemption

SJR 1774 by Senator Tom Lee is a proposed constitutional amendment that would increase the homestead exemption by \$25,000, creating a super-exemption of \$75,000 for the first \$100,000 of the value of homestead property. While homestead property owners may appreciate the exemption, it shifts the tax burden to our local business and non-homesteaded property owners.

Important Points:

- **This is a tax SHIFT not a tax CUT.** The tax burden will be placed on local business owners and non-homestead property owners who must choose between more taxes or fewer services.
- **Small counties hit the hardest:** Florida's 29 fiscally constrained counties that are at or near the 10 mill cap will have no choice but to cut the limited services they are barely able to provide today.
- **Citizens will get less with less:** The additional exemption means that counties that choose to maintain their current millage rates must make tough choices about the services provided to their citizens.

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It's a tax shift to businesses.



Only tough choices:

