What is Local Decision-Making?

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It gives each city the flexibility to craft its laws specifically to its unique needs. Voters put Home Rule powers in the Florida Constitution more than 50 years ago. These powers state that any city can adopt laws as long as the law doesn't conflict with state or federal law. An easy way to understand it is: Local Voices Making Local Choices.

Why should I care about local decision-making?

Thomas Jefferson said "government closest to the people serves the people best." If a city wants to install a stoplight, add a traffic sign, build a holding pond to prevent flooding or hold a parade, it doesn't need to ask the Legislature for permission. As long as it doesn't violate state law, cities have the flexibility and independence to serve their citizens' needs and preferences. We trust our local leaders to enforce laws "at home" and to make necessary changes as a city grows.

So, what's the issue?

Over the past 20 years, we have seen a growing trend of one-size-fits-all bills filed on behalf of corporate special interests. These legislative policies suggest that each community has the same needs and circumstances, whether you live in a big metropolitan area or a small town. Florida is large – and each community is remarkably different. Think about St. Augustine versus Miami. Or Key West compared to Pensacola. That's why local decision-making is so important.

How can I get involved in the mission to protect and promote local decision-making?

Make your voice heard! Pledge your support to protect local self-government. Tell your legislators to focus on statewide issues and leave the local ones to the officials you elected. Get in touch with your state legislators and tell them, "We need local voices making local choices!" Share this message on social media. We have resources available for you to use to learn more and get engaged. Find them at *localvoicesunited.com*.

To learn more, text Local Voices to 50457 and visit *localvoicesunited.com*

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