



POLICY BRIEF | LOCAL GOVERNMENT REPORTING AND INFORMATION ABOUT COUNTIES AND MUNICIPALITIES

Information about local government spending, debt, and more should be published in a manner that is timely, understandable, and accessible to Floridians. The following two bills offer a policy solution to ensure this practice is the norm.

PCB SAC 20-03 (Ingoglia) LOCAL GOVERNMENT REPORTING: requires local governments to submit annual reports of financial and economic information to the Department of Financial Services (DFS).

- Currently, local governments must annually submit certain budget information to the Office of Economic and Demographic Research. The bill instead makes DFS responsible for collecting the information and releasing it to Floridians in a specific manner.
- Under the bill, DFS will be responsible for an interactive website where Floridians can review and compare the local data from all Florida counties and municipalities.
 - Among other statistics, the website must include the up-to-date population, unemployment rate, and government revenue per resident for the local government. The site will also show the local government's ranking compared against all others for each category of information collected.
- DFS will create and mail an annual local government report to all households with a registered Florida voter that depicts the fiscal and economic data of each county and municipality specific to the recipient's location. The report card must provide the rank of the county or municipality for each category – including categories such as government spending and debt per resident, as well as median income.
- The information in the annual report and on the interactive website *is* public, but it is currently difficult for Floridians to access because it is not consolidated in one place. Additionally, the information is hard to understand when the metrics are isolated.
- The bill changes that by collecting and publishing the information in one location to help residents see how their local governments compare with others across the state.

PCB SAC 20-02 (Ingoglia) INFORMATION ABOUT COUNTIES AND MUNICIPALITIES: proposes an amendment to the Florida Constitution to require the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) to provide yearly information about counties and municipalities, as prescribed by general law, to residents. The required information would allow residents to compare economic and non-economic factors of each local government.

- This bill, along with Local Government Reporting, works to equip Floridians with information about their local governments. When they have this knowledge, they can make better decisions about where they choose to live, who they choose to vote for, and how they choose to get involved in their communities.

Please refer to the bill texts and staff analyses for further information.