

2026

Legislative **PRIORITIES**

CITY OF HOMESTEAD

100 CIVIC COURT,

HOMESTEAD, FL 33030

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ELECTED OFFICIALS



Mayor
Steven D. Losner



Vice Mayor
Jenifer N. Bailey
Seat 4



Councilwoman
Kimberly Konsky
Seat 1



Councilman
Sean L. Fletcher
Seat 2



Councilman
Larry Roth
Seat 3



Councilwoman
Erica G. Ávila
Seat 5



Councilman
Clemente Canabal
Seat 6

CHARTER OFFICIALS

Nzeribe “Zerry” Ihekwaba, PhD, PE
City Manager

Elizabeth Sewell, MPA, MMC
City Clerk

Weiss Serota Helfman Cole + Bierman, P.L.
City Attorney

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Home Rule and Preemption: *SUPPORT* preservation of local home rule; *OPPOSE* any legislation that preempts, limits, or erodes municipalities' constitutional home rule powers, which allow local governments to protect the health, safety, welfare, and quality of life of their residents.

State Funding, Cost Shifts and Unfunded Mandates: *SUPPORT* preservation of existing funding for City programs. *OPPOSE* any additional cost shifts or unfunded mandates from the state to the City, and any reductions in City revenue, revenue sharing, or funding from the state. *OPPOSE* any measure that would adversely affect City revenues, including measures affecting or relating to property taxes.

Protect Previous State Funding: *SUPPORT* efforts to secure the same level of state funding for City programs as the previous year.

Promote Partnerships: *SUPPORT* partnerships with the state, other counties, municipalities, statewide associations, and any other entity that would help create favorable outcomes for the City.

POLICY PRIORITIES

Urging Tax Exemption for City-Owned Properties: Urging the Florida Legislature to enact legislation exempting municipalities from the obligation to pay ad valorem or other taxes on city-owned properties, thereby ensuring equitable fiscal treatment and preserving municipal resources for public benefit.

Urging Condominium Law Reforms to Enhance Affordability and Safety: Urging the Florida Legislature to enact legislation that would reform the current laws applicable to condominiums in a way that promotes both affordability and safety.

Live Local Act Revisions: *SUPPORT* revisions to the Live Local Act (Fla. Stat. § 125.01055(7)) to provide for greater local control of zoning dependent on data and analysis specific to each jurisdiction, allowing adjustments to be made based on affordability, density, building height and other development regulations and to ensure community input.

Property and Casualty Insurance: *SUPPORT* legislation to ensure that policyholders are not de-populated from Citizens without affirmative consent from the policyholder, if the offer from a private insurance company exceeds 20 percent of their Citizens premium. *ADVOCATE* for new options for policyholders to re-enroll in Citizens under the same terms that would have been available to the policyholder if the policy had never been part of a “takeout.”

Opposing Legislation to Abolish Property Taxes in Florida: *OPPOSE* any legislation that seeks to eliminate or substantially reduce local ad valorem (property) taxes, which serve as the primary revenue source for municipalities to fund essential public services such as police, parks, and infrastructure maintenance. Abolishing property taxes would severely constrain local governments’ ability to meet operational and capital needs, shift fiscal burdens to less stable revenue sources, and undermine the principle of local home rule and financial independence that ensures responsive governance.

Opposing Procedural Barriers to Local Governance: *OPPOSE* any legislation that imposes unnecessary procedural or administrative barriers on municipalities in the exercise of their home rule authority, including the enactment of ordinances, adoption of charter amendments, or conduct of local referenda. Such measures erode local self-governance, delay policy implementation, and undermine the ability of cities to respond efficiently and effectively to the needs of their residents.

Oppose Increases to Sovereign Immunity Caps: *OPPOSE* legislation that seeks to increase the current liability limits under Section 768.28, Florida Statutes, governing lawsuits against municipalities.

Opposing Preemption of Municipal Utility Authority Beyond City Boundaries: **OPPOSE** any legislation that seeks to restrict, regulate, or preempt a municipality’s authority to provide, manage, and set rates for utility services—such as water, sewer, and electric—outside its municipal boundaries. Such legislation undermines local control, disrupts established intergovernmental service agreements, and limits the ability of cities to recover costs and reinvest in critical infrastructure. Preserving municipal discretion over utility operations ensures efficient regional service delivery, financial stability, and the continued protection of ratepayers and taxpayers alike.

Public Safety and Recruitment Retention: **SUPPORT** legislation and funding to enhance recruitment and retention of municipal public safety personnel, helping communities maintain effective emergency response and public safety services.

Independent ZIP Code Designation for the City of Homestead: **SUPPORT** the assignment of independent ZIP Code(s) to the City of Homestead to ensure clear municipal identification, improve operational efficiency, and distinguish the City from neighboring unincorporated communities.

Mobility Impact Fee Reinvestment within Municipal Boundaries: **SUPPORT** legislation requiring counties to reinvest at least 60% of mobility impact fees collected within incorporated municipalities back into those same jurisdictions to ensure equitable infrastructure funding, enhance local transportation networks, and uphold the principle of home rule.

Preservation of Community Redevelopment Agencies (CRAs): **OPPOSE** any legislation that would eliminate or restrict the operation of Community Redevelopment Agencies, recognizing their essential role in revitalizing blighted areas, promoting economic development, and advancing affordable housing and community improvement initiatives.

Open Carry Restrictions in Public Facilities: **SUPPORT** legislation that explicitly exempts public facilities such as courthouses, government buildings, polling places, schools, and other restricted locations from any requirement to permit open carry, following the ruling of the First District Court of Appeals of Florida in *McDaniels v. State of Florida*, thereby preserving the safety and integrity of those spaces.

CAPITAL PRIORITIES

Wastewater Collection Systems

New Lucy Street Wastewater Force Main: SUPPORT the installation of approximately 11,500 linear feet of new 24-inch sanitary sewer force main along SW 328th Street (Lucy Street) to increase wastewater conveyance capacity, improve system reliability, and support future development. Estimated Cost: \$17,000,000.

Krome Avenue Gravity Sewer Line Upsizing: SUPPORT the enhancement of wastewater infrastructure by improving key sewer systems to meet future demand and reduce system vulnerabilities. Estimated Cost: \$2,500,000.

Flagler Avenue Gravity Sewer Line Upsizing Phase II: SUPPORT the modernization of key sewer systems to improve capacity and meet growth needs. Estimated Cost: \$2,500,000.

Water Distribution Systems

Drinking Water Storage Tank (Near Homestead-Miami Speedway): SUPPORT the construction of a new 1-million-gallon ground-level storage tank with booster pumps at the water tower near the Homestead-Miami Speedway to expand capacity, improve reliability, and ensure sustainable water service for areas of high traffic such as the Homestead Regional Park and the Homestead-Miami Speedway. Estimated Cost: \$3,000,000.

Drinking Water Storage Tank (Wittkop Park): SUPPORT the construction of a new 1-million-gallon ground-level storage tank with booster pumps at the Wittkop Water Treatment Plant to expand capacity, improve reliability, and ensure sustainable water service for the growing community. Estimated Cost: \$3,000,000.

Krome Avenue Water Main Upsizing: SUPPORT upgrades to water mains to ensure reliable service for the community and address aging infrastructure. Estimated Cost: \$1,250,000.

Flagler Avenue Water Main Upsizing: SUPPORT improvements to aging water infrastructure to ensure dependable service for residents. Estimated Cost: \$1,250,000.

Upgrade of Undersized/Aged Water Mains Phase I: SUPPORT the upgrade of aging water mains in District 1 to improve service reliability and capacity. Estimated Cost: \$13,000,000.

Upgrade of Undersized/Aged Water Mains Phase II: SUPPORT the upgrade of aging water mains in District 4 to enhance water service quality and reliability. Estimated Cost: \$15,250,000.

Upgrade of Undersized/Aged Water Mains Phase III: SUPPORT the upgrade of undersized water mains in District 3 to ensure efficient and reliable service. Estimated Cost: \$3,050,000.

Public Streets & Rights-of-Way Infrastructure Improvements

NE 18th/SW 162nd Avenue Roadway Expansion: SUPPORT updates to improve capacity to meet the mobility and safety needs of this fast-growing area of Homestead. Estimated Cost: \$4,050,000.

Bridge #874250, 1436 E. Mowry Drive: SUPPORT critical structural upgrades to ensure safety and accommodate modern traffic demands on this essential transportation link. Estimated Cost: \$4,250,000.

Bridge #874308, SW 147th Avenue: SUPPORT necessary structural repairs to maintain the safety and functionality of this bridge for vehicular and pedestrian traffic. Estimated Cost: \$4,100,000.

Bridge #874353, West of SW 137th Avenue: SUPPORT improvements to address environmental challenges and ensure safe passage for vehicles, pedestrians, and cyclists. Estimated Cost: \$5,675,000.

Bridge #874315, SW 344th Street and SW 137th Avenue: SUPPORT full upgrade of this critical bridge to address structural deficiencies and meet modern safety standards. Estimated Cost: \$4,300,000.

Electric Utilities

NW and SW Undergrounding of Existing Overhead Electric Facilities: SUPPORT the conversion of overhead power lines with a focus on antiquated lines to underground systems to improve reliability and storm resilience. Estimated Cost: \$15,000,000.

Police Department / Emergency Management

Police Substation / Emergency Operations Center in East Homestead: SUPPORT the construction of a state-of-the-art police substation with an emergency operations center to enhance law enforcement presence, improve response times, provide critical

services, and ensure effective disaster preparedness and response to the rapidly growing East Homestead community and Homestead at-large. Estimated Cost: \$15,000,000.

Homestead Joint Operations Center (JOC): SUPPORT the establishment of a permanent Joint Operations Center in Homestead fortified against Category 5 hurricanes and can be utilized by law enforcement agencies in the region to enhance regional emergency preparedness, response, and coordination among federal, state, and local agencies. Estimated Cost: \$2,000,000.

NON-CAPITAL PRIORITY

Human Services

Elderly Meal Program: SUPPORT the establishment of a City-operated senior nutrition program providing both congregate meals and home-delivered Meals on Wheels to serve elderly residents, reduce food insecurity, and promote health, wellness, and independence. Estimated Cost: \$1,000,000.

SUPPLEMENTAL CAPITAL PROJECTS

Wastewater Treatment Systems

UV4000 Retirement Upgrade Kingdom Technology: SUPPORT the upgrade of outdated ultraviolet systems to maintain compliance with environmental standards and ensure effective wastewater treatment. Estimated Cost: \$1,500,000.

Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Process Filter Upgrade: SUPPORT upgrades to advanced filtration systems to improve wastewater treatment efficiency and resilience. Estimated Cost: \$10,250,000.

Sequencing Batch Reactors (SBR) Decanter Upgrade: SUPPORT the upgrade of critical wastewater treatment components to ensure reliability and address community needs. Estimated Cost: \$1,000,000.

Biosolids Handling and New Digester: SUPPORT infrastructure upgrades to improve wastewater processing, reduce costs, and enhance sustainability. Estimated Cost: \$6,250,000.

Sequencing Batch Reactors (SBR) Blowers Upgrade: SUPPORT the installation of energy-efficient equipment to modernize wastewater treatment processes. Estimated Cost: \$2,500,000.

Expansion of Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP): SUPPORT increased treatment capacity to meet anticipated population growth and development demands. Estimated Cost: \$81,250,000.

Wastewater Effluent Rapid Infiltration Trenches (RIT) Rehabilitation: SUPPORT rehabilitation efforts to enhance wastewater treatment operations and aquifer recharge capabilities. Estimated Cost: \$1,350,000.

Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Operations & Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Building: SUPPORT the construction of a centralized facility to ensure uninterrupted water and wastewater services during emergencies. Estimated Cost: \$8,125,000.

NEW Ultra Violet (UV) Disinfection Facility for the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP): SUPPORT the addition of modern UV disinfection systems to ensure redundancy, resiliency, and sustainability. Estimated Cost: \$6,400,000.

New Digester Blower Building: SUPPORT the construction of a new building to house and protect wastewater treatment equipment, ensuring resilience and operational safety. Estimated Cost: \$875,000.

Septic to Sewer Conversion & Swale (Pavers): SUPPORT a program to transition from septic systems to sewer infrastructure, improving environmental and public health. Estimated Cost: \$8,500,000.

Water Treatment Systems

Drinking Water Storage Tanks: SUPPORT the construction of additional water storage to enhance the city's capacity and emergency preparedness. Estimated Cost: \$6,250,000.

Water Wells Electric Panel Upgrade: SUPPORT the upgrade of outdated electrical panels to improve efficiency, reliability, and energy savings for critical water systems. Estimated Cost: \$500,000.

Electric Utilities

New Onsite Generator: SUPPORT the addition of a high-capacity onsite generator to enhance energy resilience and meet critical service demands during emergencies. Estimated Cost: \$31,250,000.

Power Plant Upgrades - Modernize and Overhaul Engine-Generator Unit 19: SUPPORT upgrades to the largest onsite generator to ensure reliable local energy production and support critical infrastructure. Estimated Cost: \$6,250,000.

Outage and Work Management Software: SUPPORT the expansion of software systems to streamline utility operations, improve efficiency, and enhance customer service. Estimated Cost: \$325,000.

Distribution Storm Hardening: SUPPORT infrastructure upgrades to strengthen the electrical grid against storm impacts and ensure continued service during severe weather. Estimated Cost: \$1,875,000.

Upgrading Standard Electric Meters with AMI Meters: SUPPORT the transition to advanced metering infrastructure to improve energy management and customer engagement. Estimated Cost: \$3,125,000.

SMART Grid Flexibility Expansion – Installation of Additional Automated Feeder Switches: SUPPORT the expansion of automated systems to enhance grid flexibility, reduce outages, and improve service reliability. Estimated Cost: \$712,500.

Throwover Switch to Second Main Electrical Feed into City Hall: SUPPORT the installation of a backup switch to ensure uninterrupted power to City Hall and emergency operations. Estimated Cost: \$625,000.

Transmission Circuit Alternate Source: SUPPORT the development of a redundant transmission circuit to ensure uninterrupted power supply and enhance grid reliability. Estimated Cost: \$5,875,000.

Second Electrical Feed into the Homestead-Miami Speedway: SUPPORT the installation of a second underground electrical circuit to ensure uninterrupted power during critical events. This project will enhance grid stability, increase capacity, and provide reliable backup power for the Speedway and surrounding areas. Estimated Cost: \$950,000.

Parks, Recreation, and Open Spaces (PROS)

Biscayne-Everglades Greenway Bike Trail: SUPPORT the completion of a scenic bike trail connecting national parks and promoting recreation and tourism. Estimated Cost: \$1,250,000.

Cybrarium Renovation of 3rd Floor: SUPPORT the development of a state-of-the-art space for learning, career support, and historical preservation. Estimated Cost: \$625,000.

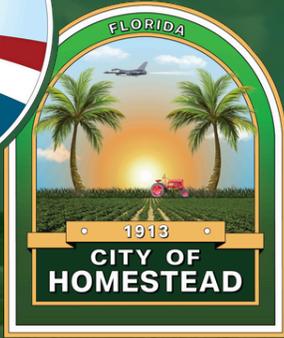
Solid Waste

Solid Waste Transfer Station: SUPPORT the development of a solid waste transfer station to streamline waste management operations and improve service efficiency. Estimated Cost: \$4,000,000.

Innovation & Technology Department (ITD)

Telecommunications Deployment and Upgrade: SUPPORT the enhancement of telecommunications infrastructure to improve broadband access and support citywide smart technologies. Estimated Cost: \$625,000.

IT Cybersecurity Upgrades: SUPPORT the implementation of enhanced cybersecurity measures to protect critical infrastructure and city systems. Estimated Cost: \$625,000.



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