

**January 2026**



**FLORIDA BLACK CAUCUS  
OF LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS**



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**A Message From President Campbell**



Greetings FBC-LEO Members and Friends!

Happy New Year! Thank you for your continued dedication to serving your communities and strengthening our Caucus with progress and purpose.

We pause to honor the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., whose vision continues to guide our work. As we reflect over his life, we should be reminded that leadership requires courage, compassion, and a steadfast commitment to justice. His call to create "beloved communities" resonates deeply with the mission of FBC-LEO. Whether through uplifting youth, expanding opportunity, or advocating for equitable policies, each of us play a vital role in advancing his dream.

Important reminders as we move into 2026:

### **2026 FBC-LEO Scholarship Essay Contest**

The essay contest is now open and closes February 11, 2026. Please encourage your 11th and 12th grade students to participate in this meaningful opportunity. This is a wonderful chance for youth to showcase their ideas, earn recognition, and contribute to meaningful conversations about technology and ethics.

## **2026-2027 Board Nominations**

Board nominations are open through February 28, 2026. Your voice helps shape the future of your organization. Please consider serving and submit your nominations.

## **2026 Membership Renewal Notices**

Membership dues invoices will be sent out this month. Stay tuned and ensure your membership is up to date for another year of collaboration and growth.

Together, lets make 2026 a year of unity, growth, and meaningful change.

Warm Regards,



President Justin Campbell

Commissioner, City of Palatka

**Member Highlight**



Commissioner Longworth was first elected in 1995. Since then, he has served eight unopposed consecutive terms and has held the office of Mayor five times. A mentor, a builder, a steady and principled voice, and a champion for community empowerment, he reflects the values of FBC-LEO.

A committed community advocate, Commissioner Longworth has led transformative efforts in Bartow from establishing the Mayor's Youth Council to pioneering neighborhood revitalization, racial equity initiatives, and the preservation of historic Black cemeteries.

His leadership extends beyond his city. He is a Past President of the Florida Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials, a Past President of the Florida League of Cities, and a longtime state and regional municipal leader.

Commissioner Longworth's life is also grounded in service through faith and family. He's an active member at St. James African Methodist Episcopal Church, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, and numerous civic organizations and professional associations in insurance and financial advising. He and his wife Pat fostered more than 30 children.

FBC-LEO proudly recognizes his enduring contributions and decades of long commitment to uplifting communities across Florida.

**2026 FBC-LEO Essay Scholarship Contest**



# Essay Contest

Deadline:  
**February 11, 2026**  
at **5:00 p.m. ET**

For more information, visit [fbcleo.org/essay-contest](https://fbcleo.org/essay-contest)

[Click Here For More Information and to Submit  
Your Essay](https://fbcleo.org/essay-contest)

## 2026-2027 Board of Directors Nominations



**Now accepting nominations for the 2026-2027 FBC-LEO Board of Directors.**

As an FBC-LEO member, serving on the Board of Directors is an opportunity to develop strategic plans and make a lasting impact on your association. FBC-LEO can benefit from your ideas and perspective.

Nominations are being accepted for the following positions:

- Treasurer
- Assistant-Treasurer
- Secretary
- Assistant Secretary
- Parliamentarian
- Regional Coordinator/Membership Director (North)
- Regional Coordinator/Membership Director (South)
- Historian
- Chaplain
- Sergeant-At-Arms

All positions will serve for one year.

Eligible members must be a Regular Member in good standing and have been a Regular Member for at least one year.

New officers will be sworn in at the Annual Conference that will be held in April of 2026.

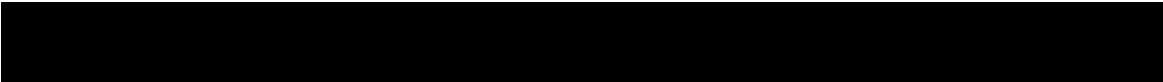
[Submit Here](#)

## **Regional Membership Drive Events**

We're thrilled to kick off new regional events and a statewide membership drive launching this year—designed to expand engagement, strengthen connections, and grow our FBC-LEO family like never before.

Stay tuned—more exciting details are on the way!

Thank you for your leadership and commitment. Let's make 2026 a powerful year of collaboration, growth, and impact.



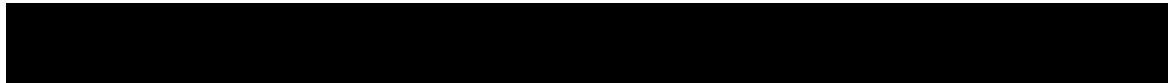
**Legislative Action Days**

Every year during the legislative session, city officials from across the state meet in Tallahassee to visit lawmakers and advocate for local decision-making. This is a valuable opportunity for members to get to know their legislators and to experience the legislative process at work.

**2026 Legislative Action Days will be held in Tallahassee on January 26-28, 2026.**

[Register Here](#)





## FLC's Institute for Elected Municipal Officials (IEMO)

February 6-7, Jacksonville

Calling all newly elected officials! The Institute for Elected Officials I (IEMO I) is a two-day, in-person program designed specifically for newly elected officials and those with less than one term in office. Participants gain practical training in council responsibilities, budgeting and finance, parliamentary procedures, ethics, and effective leadership - plus the opportunity to connect with peers from across Florida.



[Save Your Spot](#)

## FBC-LEO Apparel Store



🎉 The FBC-LEO Apparel Store is OPEN! 🎉

Get ready to show your FBC-LEO pride in style! Our official apparel store is now live, and it's packed with fresh gear you'll love.

Whether you're representing at events or just want to sport your FBC-LEO spirit every day, this is your chance to grab high-quality apparel that speaks volumes.

[Shop Here](#)

**2026 FBC-LEO Annual Conference**



**SAVE** the  
**DATE**

**2026 ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

**April 15-17, 2026**

Embassy Suites by Hilton Tampa  
USF Near Busch Gardens | Tampa, FL





[CLICK HERE TO COMPLETE THE FORM](#)

**SAVE THE DATE**

FBC-LEO Board of Directors  
Meeting

January 20, 2026, EST. via  
Zoom

5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

[Register Here](#)

FBC-LEO General  
Membership Meeting

January 20, 2026, EST. via  
Zoom

6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

[Register Here](#)

2026 FBC-LEO Annual  
Conference

April 15-17, 2026

Embassy Suites USF Tampa  
near Busch Gardens

**Registration Opening  
Soon!**

**Find Us on Social Media**



**Click on the icons below to follow us on Facebook, LinkedIn, YouTube and Twitter!**



[Florida Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials](#)