

PROPERTY TAX CHECKLIST

A TURN-KEY GUIDE

Sustained presence matters, and this tool is designed to help you stay engaged with residents and stakeholders throughout the next several months.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Florida law places strict limits on how cities may communicate about ballot measures. Understanding these rules before you begin is essential to protecting your city and yourself.

What the Law Says

Florida Statute 106.113(2) prohibits local governments from spending public funds on any communication sent to electors concerning an issue, referendum, or amendment that is subject to a vote. This applies **regardless of whether the communication is factual, educational, or neutral**. The restriction covers political advertisements, mailers, social media posts, emails to voters, and any other elector-directed communication about the ballot measure. *This is a blanket prohibition. There is no "education exception" for public funds. Even purely factual information about the amendment is restricted if it is sent to electors using city resources.*

What Your City CAN Do (Official Capacity)

The statute carves out the following permitted activities:

- ▶ Report on official actions of the governing body in an accurate, fair, and impartial manner.
- ▶ Post factual information on a government website or in printed materials available at city facilities.
- ▶ Host and provide information at a public forum (e.g., a budget workshop or town hall open to the public).
- ▶ Provide factual information in response to an inquiry from a resident, reporter, or other party.
- ▶ Conduct standard government operations, including budget analysis, financial planning, and work sessions that address the city's fiscal outlook, regardless of the cause of the fiscal change.

What You CAN Do (Personal Capacity)

Florida Statute 106.113(3) preserves your right as an elected official to express a personal opinion on any issue at any time. When acting in your **personal capacity**, you may:

- ▶ Author op-eds, letters to the editor, and personal social media posts expressing your personal views.
- ▶ Speak at civic group meetings, chambers, rotary clubs, and other forums as an individual.
- ▶ Appear in campaign materials or at campaign events.
- ▶ Make personal donations to political committees.
- ▶ Talk to reporters and share your perspective on the amendment.





DO NOT

(Public Funds/Official Capacity)

Send mailers, emails, or texts to voters about the amendment using city resources.

Use city letterhead, email, or social media accounts to advocate for or against the amendment.

Direct city staff to create materials urging voters to vote yes or no.

Spend city funds on ads, flyers, or videos about the ballot measure.

Frame city communications as “educational” to get around the prohibition. The law does not distinguish between education and advocacy when public funds are used.



OK

(Personal Capacity/Permitted Activities)

Post factual budget information on your city website.

Write a personal op-ed using your own name, email, and time.

Hold a publicly noticed budget work session analyzing your city’s financial outlook.

Respond to a reporter’s inquiry with factual information about your city’s budget.

Speak at a civic club meeting on your own time, sharing your personal views.



**When in doubt, consult
your city attorney
before acting.**

