



**LOCAL
VOICES
UNITED**

Elevating Florida's Voices

From Sidewalks to the State Capitol

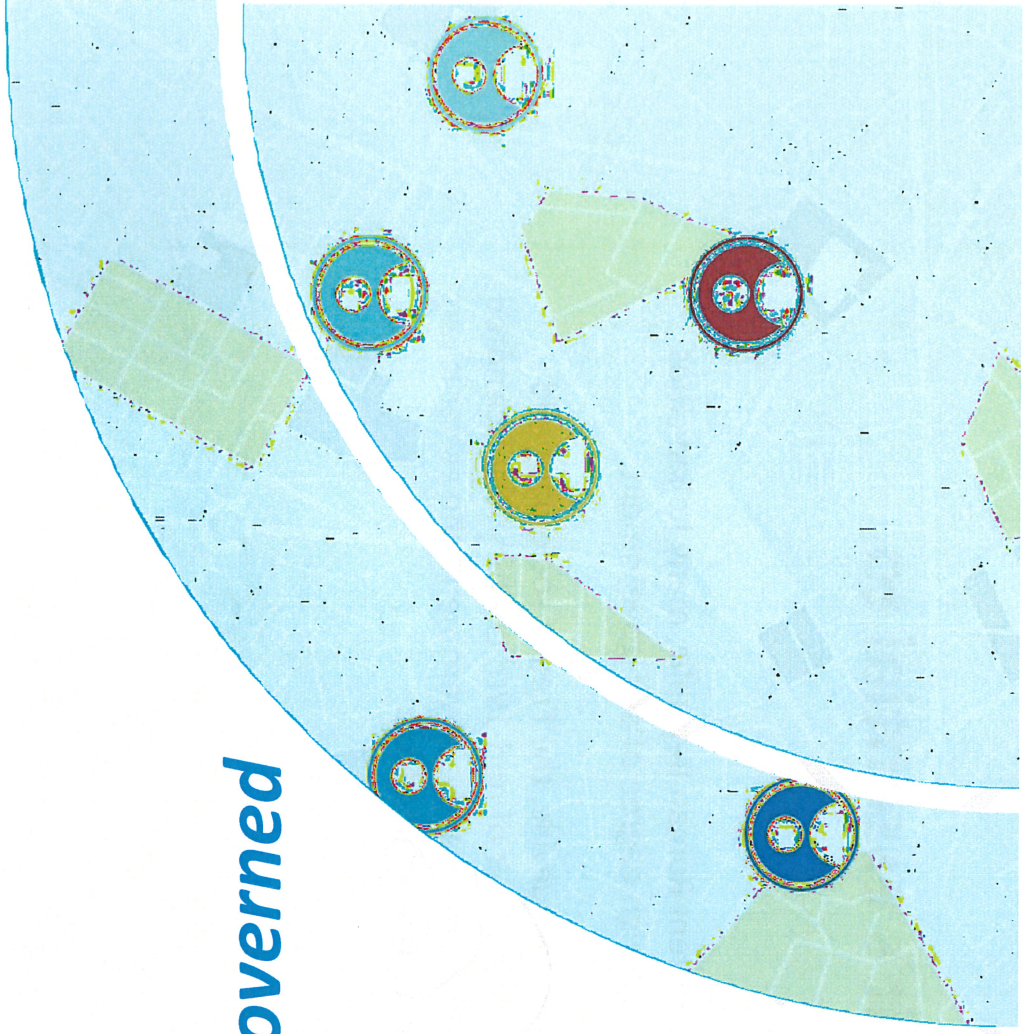
A simple idea...

Government
Self-Government
Control Self-Government Control
Control Grassroots Localism
Grassroots
Home
Rule

Local
Control
Local Making
Government Local
Localism
Home Making
Decision
Grassroots
Local Self-Government
Grassroots
Localism
Decision
Home
Grassroots
Localism
Localism
Home
Grassroots
Localism
Control
Making



**A community is governed
best
by those who
live in it.**



This isn't a new idea. In fact, it's essential to American self-government.



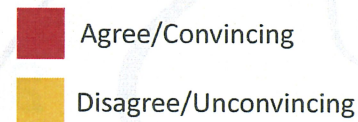
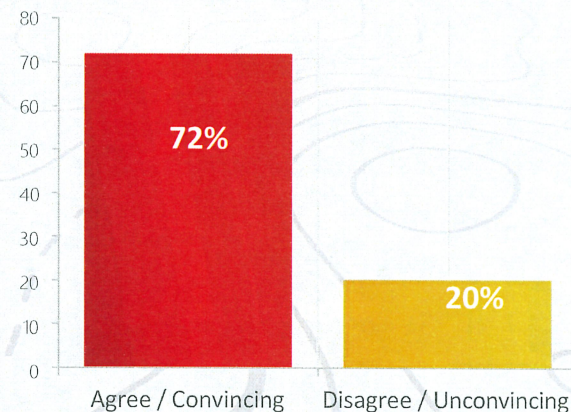
- In the ancient Roman Republic, many Italian cities enjoyed a high degree of self-government.
- Alexis de Tocqueville, the French sociologist and political observer of mid-19th century America noted that the more local the government, the easier it was for citizens to get involved.

The government closest to the people is most accountable to the people.

That's why it's in our **state constitution.**

- **Voters** passed a constitutional amendment more than 50 years ago to safeguard local decision making.
- Recent surveys show that they *still* support it. 72% of voters agree...

"My local city government is more connected to my needs and better reflects local values than the state government."



Benefits of Local Decision-Making

Competition

Local decision making promotes competition between localities for businesses and residents.

Responsiveness

Local governments have better information on their citizens' preferences.

Lower Stakes, Fewer Mistakes

In local government, mistakes are more contained and easier to remedy.

Participation in Democracy

It is usually much easier to talk to your local government, and much easier to change it.

LOCAL DECISION-MAKING

Benefits of **Local Decision-Making**

Less Ideological, More Capable:

Local government is focused on the practical "business of government."

Greater Public Support:

As distant governments have gained more power, they have not gained more trust.

Diversity, Decentralization:

As America has grown more diverse, the need for flexible local decision making is greater than ever.



U.S. Senator
Mike Lee
(R-UT)

Local Decision-Making is **Bipartisan**

“A renewed focus on local governance would lower the stakes of political conflict [and] encourage innovation on public policy.”

- “Decisions made at lower (local) levels of government are more likely to be consensus decisions.”
- “Top-down solutions are an all-or-nothing bet, with catastrophic consequences in the case of failure.”

“That is the true beauty of localism. Hundreds of years after the Founding, it still offers our country the best way forward.”



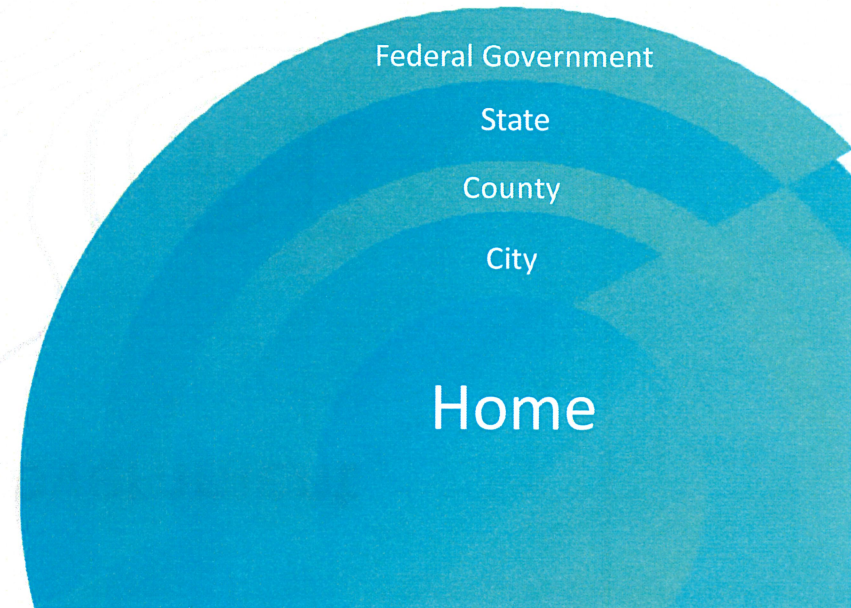
State Senator
Jason Pizzo
(D-Miami)

Local Decision-Making is **Bipartisan**

Sen. Pizzo's "Bullseye" Theory of Local Decision-Making:

- Government at the local level has a far more direct impact on your life than government in a far away state capitol.

“The most important government entity is the one at the closest to the center of the bullseye.”



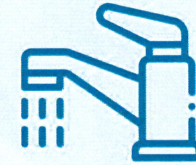
The most impactful government is **local**



Did the garbage get
picked up at your
curb?



Did your street lights
come on?



Did your faucet
have running
water?

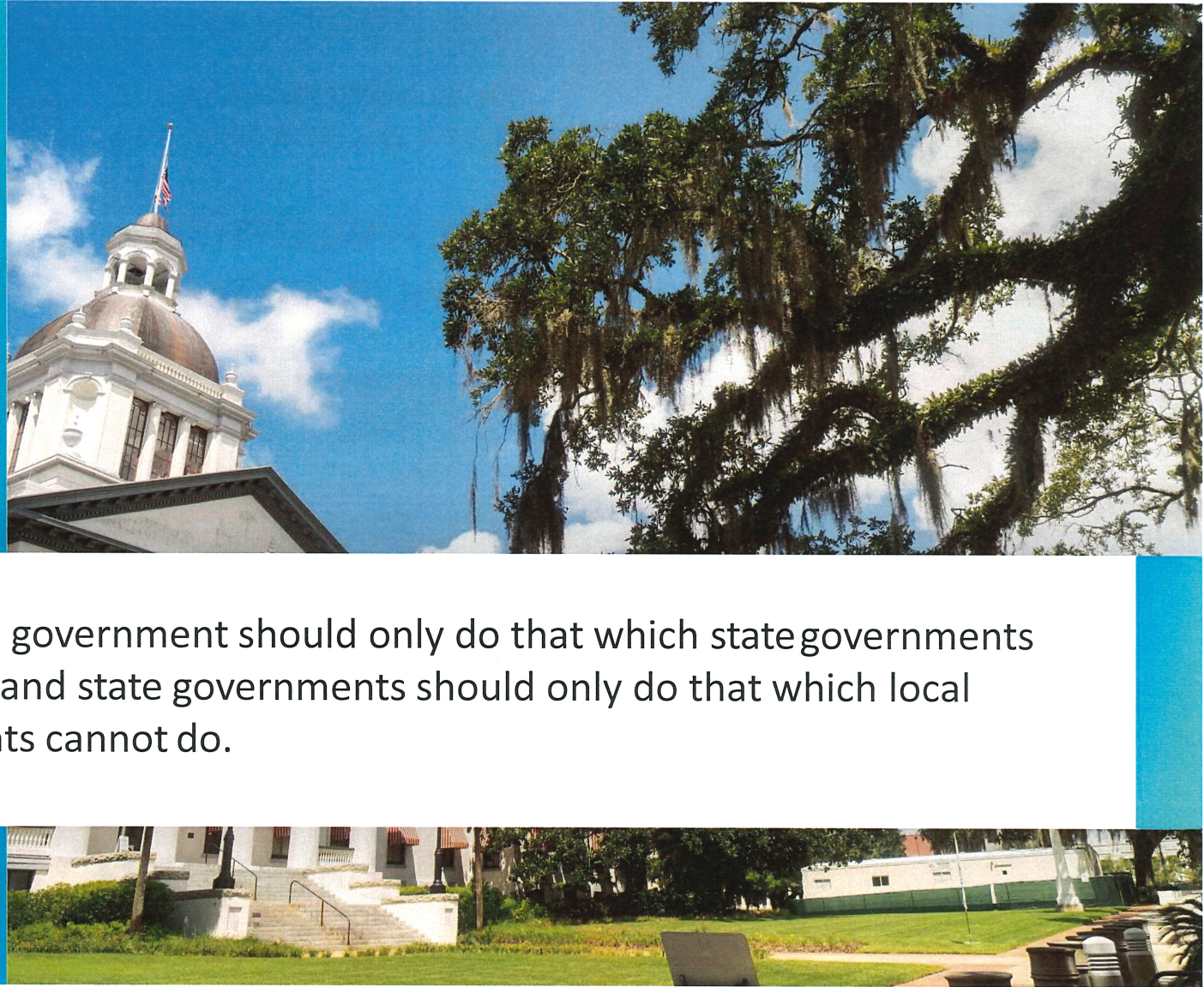
***“The place closest to your home and your heart is
the most important.”***

- Sen. Pizzo



Our Guiding Principle

The federal government should only do that which state governments cannot do, and state governments should only do that which local governments cannot do.



Troubling Trends

- In recent years, **state overreach** into traditional areas of local decision-making has been **increasing**.











**Number of Preemptions
passed from 2010-2021:**

92

- It is important that we maintain "**checks and balances**" between state and local government.

Attacks on Home Rule

In recent years, preemptions have been passed on a host of issues from banning tree trimming ordinances to overturning local elections.

-  Cell phone towers and telecom infrastructure
-  Short-term rentals
-  Local tree trimming regulations
-  Billboards and other commercial signage
-  Home-based business regulations
-  Plastic bags
-  Sunscreen
-  Overturn local elections

Issue Spotlight:

Local Zoning Authority

- Zoning laws and ordinances help protect the character of local communities.
- Zoning ordinances promote efficient development and help regulate use.
 - For example, a community may wish to zone some areas for residential homes and others for manufacturing to prevent a factory from being built in a neighborhood.
- Zoning ensures that local communities are protected and that the right infrastructure is in place to serve the different needs of business and residents.



Investing in Infrastructure



Safe neighborhoods




Protecting EVERYONE'S property rights

Issue Spotlight:

SB 224: Regulation of Smoking in Public Places

- The statewide preemption prohibiting local governments from regulating smoking in parks and beaches is a perfect example of how a one-size-fits-all approach doesn't work.
- Local bans on smoking in public places have been overturned by courts due to state preemption laws.
- SB 224 *empowers* communities to decide for themselves whether or not smoking is appropriate for public places like parks and beaches.

A photograph of a road intersection with a red text overlay. The background shows a paved road with white dashed lines and a white arrow pointing right. There are green trees and bushes on the left and right sides. A speed limit sign with the number 5 is visible on the right. The sky is blue with white clouds. A large red rectangle with a yellow vertical bar on its right edge is overlaid on the image, containing white text.

*“If you don’t tell them (your elected official) what to do, you leave them free to do whatever they choose ... if they don’t hear from you, **you give them permission to go the other way.**”*

Joel Blackwell, author of *Personal Political Power, How Ordinary People Can Get What They Want From Government*

LOCAL VOICES UNITED



TAKE ACTION:



**SCAN to “like”
on Facebook**



**TEXT “local voices”
to 50457**

