

# Protect Local Control & Rural Florida

## Why SB 180 Must Be Repealed or Fixed

### SB 180 is a power grab.

It removes counties and cities' ability to manage growth and protect their communities. Instead, it hands control to developers and Tallahassee.

### The Problem with SB 180

- **Strips Local Power:** Blocks counties and cities from passing stronger growth rules.
- **Vague & Dangerous:** The phrase “more restrictive or burdensome” is undefined. Developers are already using it to threaten lawsuits.
- **Undermines Voters:** Citizens elect local leaders to plan for growth, not special interests.

### Why Local Control Matters

- **Protects Rural Lands:** Farms, ranches, and open space are vanishing under sprawl. Once lost, they're gone forever.
- **Keeps Communities Safe:** Local governments need flexibility to protect wetlands, manage flooding, and prepare for hurricanes.
- **Respect Citizens' Choice:** Growth decisions should be made close to the people, not dictated from Tallahassee.

### Close the Loophole in Florida's Conservation Easement Law: Florida Statute 704.06

1. Florida law currently allows conservation easements to be released by the state to the landowner.
2. This loophole undermines the "perpetual" nature of conservation easements, potentially allowing protected lands to be developed or altered without proper oversight
3. There is no statutory requirement for the return of public funds if a conservation easement is dissolved, meaning taxpayers could be left without recourse when protected lands are lost.

## Priorities

- ✓ **Repeal or Amend SB 180:** Restore the authority of counties and cities to protect their own communities.
- ✓ **Protect Rural Florida:** Save farmland, water resources, and our natural heritage from unchecked sprawl.
- ✓ **Defend Home Rule:** Let citizens and their local governments decide what's best for their community.
- ✓ **Protect the Wildlife Corridor:** Close the Loophole in Florida's Conservation Easement Law FS 704.06