



TOWN OF LONGBOAT KEY

Town of Longboat Key Press Release

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Mayor Ken Schneier and Commissioner B.J. Bishop Honored with 2023 Home Rule Hero Award

Mayor Ken Schneier and Commissioner Bishop have been recognized for advocacy efforts during the 2023 Legislative Session

Town of Longboat Key, FL – Home Rule Hero Awards were presented by Florida League of Cities' President Jolien Caraballo at the May 11, 2023 ManaSota League of Cities meeting held at Longboat Key Town Hall, 501 Bay Isles Road, Longboat Key. From FLC President Caraballo: "Our city officials use their voices to raise up critical issues before our State legislators. Mayor Ken Schneier and Commissioner BJ Bishop from Longboat Key are two outstanding role models for how that works gets done."

The Florida League of Cities (FLC), the united voice for Florida's municipal governments, recognized Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier and Commissioner B.J. Bishop with a 2023 Home Rule Hero Award for their hard work and advocacy efforts during the 2023 Legislative Session. Both Mayor Schneier and Commissioner Bishop worked tirelessly throughout session to promote local voices making local choices, protect the Home Rule powers of Florida's municipalities and advance the League's legislative agenda.

"The League and its legislative team appreciate the individual advocacy efforts undertaken by municipal officials throughout the State," said FLC Chief of Legislative Affairs Casey Cook. "Home Rule Heroes are some of our biggest advocates for protecting local decision-making. These League members stand out for their high level of participation, knowledge, and effectiveness. This year's Home Rule Heroes continuously advocated for their communities throughout the 2023 Legislative Session."

Home Rule is the ability for a city to address local problems with local solutions with minimal State interference. Home Rule Hero Award recipients are local government officials, both elected and nonelected, who consistently responded to the League's request to reach out to members of the Legislature and help give a local perspective on an issue.

Mayor Schneier stated "It is a true honor to be named an FLC home rule hero, especially this year as the Advocacy Team had great success in turning away most of the proposals designed to weaken local government and render it less effective. We will continue to press for decisions to be made by government closest to the people. Thanks, FLC!"

Commissioner Bishop shared her thoughts on receiving this honor. "Working on behalf of the citizens of Longboat Key with our Federal and State elected officials has been a humbling experience. These officials are greatly appreciative of personal experiences and knowledge of issues as they impact our community. Jim Boyd and Fiona McFarland were particularly helpful in moving funding forward for our asbestos mitigation efforts." Commissioner Bishop served for over 15 years on the Longboat Key Planning & Zoning Board, most of that time as Chair. She has served on the Town Commission for over three years. Prior to moving to Longboat Key, she served in elected office as Mayor, Vice Mayor and Council member in Leesburg VA, as well as a member of the Leesburg Planning Commission.