



Yeline Goin
Executive Director
**Community Association
Leadership Lobby (CALL)**

ygoin@bplegal.com
www.callbp.com

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Tallahassee Office
204 South Monroe Street
Suite 203 Tallahassee,
Florida 32301-1800
Tel: 850.412.1115
Fax: 850.412.1120

**CALL Administrative
Office**
1 E. Broward Blvd.
Suite 1800
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33301
954.364.6012
call@bplegal.com

2016 Legislative and Community Association Resource Guide; 2016 Florida Community Living Survey; Petition to Reduce Fees; and Communities of Excellence (COE)-- CALL Alert for May 12, 2016

As we move past the 2016 Legislative Session, there are a number of projects that CALL has been working on that we want to share with you.

2016 Legislative and Community Association Resource Guide

First, we are pleased to let you know that CALL's 2016 Legislative and Community Association Resource Guide will be available very soon. Even though the legislative session ended without any significant piece of community association legislation passing, it is important to look back on the 2016 session and the bills that were filed, because it is likely that these issues will continue to be debated in the future. There is also legislation that we will be reviewing that passed during previous sessions, but that are now becoming more important electronic voting and fire sprinkler retrofitting opt-out.

This year's Guide will feature the following:

- Update on Electronic Voting and BPBALLOT
- Update on Fire Sprinkler Retrofitting and Opt Out Vote
- 2016 Bills of Interest that Passed and Did Not Pass
- Links to the legislative websites where you can access the final "Enrolled" version of the bills
- Case Summaries "Practical Pointers"



Upcoming Classes & Events

- for associations to help implement the 2016
- legislative changes and get ahead of potential changes in 2017
- A list of recommended "Action Items" for associations after the 2016 legislative session.

If you would like to pre-register to receive **CALL's 2016 Legislative and Community Association Resource Guide**, please register online at CALLBP.com. A PDF copy will be emailed to the email address you provide.

2016 Florida Community Living Survey

We want to know what's on the mind of community association residents in Florida. Based on feedback we received during this year's legislative session from our CALL members, we have created The 2016 Florida Community Living Survey. The Survey will be available starting today, June 12th, 2016 through July 8th, 2016.

If you're interested in sharing your views, please click on the following link: [The 2016 Florida Community Living Survey](#).

Your responses to questions about community associations will help us gain a better understanding of your needs and concerns.

CALL will publish the results on its site www.callbp.com and share them with representatives of business, government and the press, thus enabling you to have a stronger voice in issues that affect your home, quality of life and real estate investment.

The survey is completely confidential and only aggregated results will be reported. By way of thanks, five respondents who complete the survey and provide contact information will be selected at random to receive \$50.00 American Express gift certificate.

Petition to Governor and Legislative Leaders to Reduce Fees

One issue that we know is of concern to our

CALL members is the money that is swept yearly from the Division of Florida Condominiums, Timeshares, and Mobile Homes Trust fund (Trust Fund). Specifically, the State of Florida collects \$4.00 per unit each year from condominium and cooperative associations in our State. These funds are deposited in the Department of Business and Professional Regulation (Department), Division of Florida Condominiums, Timeshares and Mobile Homes Trust Fund (Trust Fund) and are earmarked for specific purposes, including, but not limited to (1) investigating complaints alleging violations of Chapters 718 and 719; (2) providing training and educational programs for board members and unit owners; and (3) providing for mandatory arbitration of disputes.

Sadly, each year for at least the past 6 years, that Trust Fund has been swept and the funds applied to General Revenue. As a result, approximately \$21.3 million has been removed from the Trust Fund with the result being unfavorable to Florida's large population of condominium and cooperative owners.

I recently sent a letter to Governor Rick Scott requesting the following:

- (1) The practice of "sweeping" the Trust Fund be immediately halted and all such funds earmarked for designated community association purposes be retained and utilized only for such purposes.
- (2) Section 215.32(2)(b)4.a., Florida Statutes, be amended to prohibit funds of the Division of Florida Condominiums, Timeshares and Mobile Homes Trust Fund from being transferred to general revenue.
- (3) The per-unit fee for condominium and cooperative unit owners be reduced, or in the alternative, the fee should be waived if the balance in the trust account is sufficient to cover the expenses of the Division.

I trust that Governor Scott and our legislative leaders will listen to our concerns and consider ways that we can reduce the cost of ownership for millions of individuals that live

in common ownership housing communities.

Communities of Excellence

If you are attending Florida Communities of Excellence conference and awards gala tomorrow, be sure to stop by and visit CALL at the Becker & Poliakoff booth. Both Diana Zayas-Bazan, our CALL Administrator, and I will be there to answer questions about CALL and our current projects. If you would like you will be able to take the Survey online at our booth.

Warm regards,



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This message was sent by The Community Association Leadership Lobby, 1 East Broward Blvd., Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33301