



From the Office of...

# Nick Maddox

Leon County Commissioner, At-Large

*"Educate and inform the whole mass of the people... They are the only sure reliance for the preservation of our liberty."*

-Thomas Jefferson

## September, 2013

### **Taxes, Gas Prices, the Cost of Services and Other Unpleasant Thoughts**

I really used to love September. The start of autumn, the sound of marching bands, and, of course, the crack of the pigskin all filled my heart with memories of childhood fun and Friday night high school victories. Unfortunately, September has a very different connotation these days – budget hearings.

My first year on the Commission I was filled with that naïve enthusiasm a Commissioner has when he has never sat through the budget process. I did my homework and made decisions that I truly believe were the best for our community. I am by nature a fiscally conservative guy who does not want to see government waste. My job in Leon County has been made easier by the fact that our County Administration does an exceptional job at keeping costs low. Leon County has the lowest net budget per capita and has only six employees per 1,000 residents which ranks us second lowest in employees per capita among all 67 counties in Florida. Those facts are good news for our taxpayers.



Follow my blog at <http://nick-maddox.blogspot.com> or click the picture above.

Every year I attempt to make decisions that are in the best interest of our residents and this means decisions that will have positive impacts for decades to come. This year the BOCC was tasked with reviewing the Transportation Trust Fund. This is the money we collect from taxes on gas that is used to repair and maintain our road infrastructure and transportation maintenance. We have been collecting 7 cents of the allowable 12 cents for many years. Because we are required to share this gas tax with the City of Tallahassee it does not cover our transportation maintenance costs. In fact, we have been subsidizing the transportation fund with general revenue money to the tune of \$2.6 million a year which is projected to go up to \$4.2 million by 2018. By implementing the fully allowable gas tax, we will not only decrease our dependence on subsidies for a fund that is intended to be self-sustaining we will also be able to leverage additional state and federal dollars.

I am going to vote to implement the additional 5 cents. This was not an easy decision; however, I decided when I entered office that I would never consider a property tax increase until our enterprise funds are self-sustaining as policy dictates. The reality is I do not want to pay this tax either. I drive a big vehicle that is not the most efficient, but I do accept that because I use the roads I should be responsible for their maintenance. Approximately 30% of the people who use our roads are not Leon County residents and they will be paying this tax as well.

Ultimately local government does not control the market price of gas, but we can control our fiscal responsibility. By imposing this tax we maximize state and federal dollars and stop using general revenue subsidies for transportation maintenance. The public hearings are September 17 and 24.... I am listening.

*"Certainty? In this world nothing is certain but death and taxes."*

-Benjamin Franklin -

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nick". The letters are cursive and fluid.

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# Commission Meeting Schedule

## September 10, 2013

1:00 pm: Board of County Commissioners Workshop on Consideration of Bond Community Health Center, Inc. FY 2014 Funding

3:00 pm: Regular Meeting

6:00 pm: Public Hearings (listed below)

## September 17, 2013

6:00 pm: Public Hearings (listed below)

## September 24, 2013

3:00 pm: Regular Meeting

6:00 pm: Public Hearings (listed below)

*\*All Workshops, Meetings and Public Hearings are subject to change .\**

## Upcoming Public Hearings

### September 10, 2013 - 6:00 pm

First and Only Public Hearing on a Proposed Ordinance Entitled "Refueling Assistance for Persons with Disabilities

First and Only Public Hearing on a Proposed Resolution to Adopt the Non-Ad Valorem Assessment Roll for Fire Rescue Services Assessment

First and Only Public Hearing on a Proposed Resolution to Adopt the Non-Ad Valorem Assessment Roll for Solid Waste Disposal Services Assessment



View the BOCC agenda at [www.leoncountyfl.gov](http://www.leoncountyfl.gov) or click the picture above.

Second of Two Public Hearings on a Development Agreement between Leon County and Bannerman Forest, LLC, Bannerman Crossings V, LLC, Bannerman Crossings II, LLC, and Summit Holdings VIII, LLC

**September 17, 2013 - 6:00 pm**

First and Only Public Hearing to Levy an Additional Five-Cent Gas Tax

First Public Hearing Regarding Tentative Millage Rates and Tentative Budgets for FY 2013/2014

**September 24, 2013 - 6:00 pm**

First and Only Public Hearing to Amend Chapter 10 of Leon County Code of Laws Relating to Grade Change Limitations in Topographic Alterations (Continued from July 9, 2013)

Second Public Hearing on Adoption of Millage Rates and Budgets for FY 2013/2014

*Public hearings are held at the Leon County Courthouse, 5th Floor (301 South Monroe Street)*

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