

News Release

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## **Leon County Government Awarded Technology Honors**

One of the top ranked Florida counties, Leon County exceeds national benchmarks

For three consecutive years, Leon County has earned top honors by harnessing technology to increase services and efficiencies for its citizens. The County ranked among the top 10 in its population category according to the 2015 Digital Counties Survey conducted by the Center for Digital Government (CDG) and the National Association of Counties (NACo).

The annual survey evaluates how counties use information, communications and digital technologies to serve their citizens and streamline operations. Survey questions were asked in a variety of areas such as computing, networking, applications, data and cyber security, open government and mobile services. Hundreds of submissions were judged by a panel of experts. The results identify the very best examples of counties that are aligning technology to support strategic priorities.

"Counties across the country are harnessing technology to enhance services, maximize efficiency and save money," said NACo Executive Director Matthew Chase. "The Digital Counties Survey recognizes county innovation that strengthens communities and builds a stronger America."

Leon County Government is dedicated to providing reliable, effective technology and telecommunication solutions and services throughout the organization and to Leon County citizens. That mission has helped earn the County a growing number of national awards and recognitions.

"For the Board of County Commissioners, technology is important in how we engage and stay connected with citizens," said Leon County Commission Chairman Mary Ann Lindley. "Online services and communication is more important today than ever before."

(More)

In the past year, Leon County has completed or made substantial progress on important technology projects. Projects include making the Leon County main website mobile responsive for smartphone users, thereby getting them connected with resources in a more intuitive way; providing web portal access to requests for proposals, bids and other purchasing information on Procurement Connect; enhancing the Leon County Emergency Information Portal to better provide real-time updates on weather and emergency events; upgrading the library system's website and social media presence; and finally, outfitting the library system with 300 new computers for public access, all with increased Internet speeds.

"Online technology has become the way our residents connect with offline services," said Leon County Administrator Vincent S. Long. "We often go online to find a book at a nearby branch library, or a bike trail, or even to check on building permits. Staff works hard behind the scenes to make all that possible. It's no surprise we are one of the highest ranked Florida counties on the list."

The Center for Digital Government is a national research and advisory institute on information technology policies and best practices in state and local government. The National Association of Counties brings county officials together to advocate with a collective voice on national policy, exchange ideas and build new leadership skills, pursue transformational county solutions, enrich the public's understanding of county government and exercise exemplary leadership in public service. Founded in 1935, NACo represents more than 3,000 counties.

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