



# Leon County

## Board of County Commissioners

301 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida  
(850) 606-5300 [www.leoncountyfl.gov](http://www.leoncountyfl.gov)

### MY VIEW

## **Leon County, Stronger Than Even a Year Ago**

*Vincent S. Long, Leon County Administrator*

2015 was another year of significant progress for Leon County toward realizing an ambitious vision for our community and setting the standard for performance, fiscal stewardship and best practices for local governments everywhere. We completed major infrastructure projects, launched bold policy initiatives, and enhanced efficiencies, created innovations, and improved service delivery to our citizens. Overall, from our operations and finances, to our core practices and organizational culture, we are stronger today than we were even a year ago.

Each year I present an annual report to the Board of County Commissioners which also serves as an important state of the County to our community. Here are just a few highlights from the report that am proud to say demonstrate the dependability of the Board of County Commissioners and the dedication of the employees of Leon County in doing what we said we would do in 2015.

We said we would continue to be an effective leader and a reliable partner in growing and diversifying our local economy.

And we did, by growing our tourism economy dramatically in 2015 and literally setting the stage for becoming a premiere destination for entertainment at the new Capital City Amphitheater. From hosting regional running events at the Apalachee Regional Park to coordinating signature events like Word of South, we drew tens of thousands of visitors and saw a tourism economic impact of \$963 million.

We said we would continue to protect and enhance our unique quality of life so that people are safe, healthy and connected to their community.

And we did, by expanding and improving our beautiful parks countywide, including the renovation of Miccosukee Community Park, and through a partnership between the County, City and United Way, we created the Kearney Center for the homeless where we brought together critical service providers to help those in need.

We said we would engage citizens not only as taxpayers, but as co-creators of our community.

And we did, as citizens shaped the future of our community through their work on the sales tax extension. And through the Club of Honest Citizens and other forums when we invite our community to engage face to face with county officials on issues that matter most to them.

Among our many commitments to our citizens, we said we would continue to be a model local government which our citizens believe in and others benchmark against.

And we did in 2015, by continuing to be good fiscal stewards during a slowly recovering economy. We refinanced the County's debt service, which will save \$585,000 over the next two years; we added funds for sidewalks and right-of-way maintenance; increased funding for social service agencies and public safety to address critical needs in our community; and continued to reduce positions, even as property values increased. And we did all of this while keeping the property tax millage rate unchanged.

In all the ways we touch the lives of our citizens each day, we at Leon County not only do what we say we are going to do, but we do it putting people first and striving every day to set the standard in public service.

While we will continue to face the same challenges of communities and governments everywhere else, Leon County has proven to be a government that listens to the citizens we serve, solves our problems, and ensures that our community continues to be a place like nowhere else, as demonstrated through the pages of the 2015 Annual Report. As always, I appreciate your feedback.

Please find the complete report at [www.LeonCountyFL.gov/AnnualReport](http://www.LeonCountyFL.gov/AnnualReport).

#### **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

Vince Long became County Administrator on July 1, 2011, and has worked for Leon County since 1995. He can be reached at (850) 606-5300 or [LongV@LeonCountyFL.gov](mailto:LongV@LeonCountyFL.gov).

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