

Board of County Commissioners
Leon County, Florida

Workshop on 2010 State and Federal Legislative Priorities

October 27, 2009
1:30-3:00 p.m.

Leon County Board County Commission Chambers
Leon County Courthouse, 5th Floor

Board of County Commissioners

Workshop Request

Date of Meeting: October 27, 2009

Date Submitted: October 20, 2009

TO: Honorable Chairman and Members of the Board

FROM: Parwez Alam, County Administrator
Vincent Long, Deputy County Administrator
Ken Morris, Director of Legislative Affairs and Economic Development
Shington Lamy, Special Projects Coordinator

SUBJECT: Workshop on 2010 State and Federal Legislative Priorities

STATEMENT OF ISSUE:

This workshop seeks Board consideration of the state and federal legislative priorities to guide the County's lobbying efforts for the 2010 state legislative session and the second session of the 111th Congress.

BACKGROUND:

Historically, the Board has conducted a workshop with staff on legislative priorities to guide the County's lobbying efforts. In recent years, staff has utilized this forum to receive Board direction on and approval of priority legislative issues to guide the County's lobbying efforts at both the state and federal level.

ANALYSIS:

Upon the close of the state legislative session each year, staff solicits legislative appropriations and policy requests from the County's departments. A follow-up working session is conducted with staff to compile a proposed list of new policy issues and appropriations requests, as well as others sought in previous sessions, for Board consideration. Staff has identified seven appropriation requests for the 2010 state and federal legislative cycles (please see Attachment #1). Additionally, staff has identified 13 policy statements for the 2010 state legislative session (please see Attachment #2).

Rather than ask the Board to rank projects in priority order, staff is seeking Board assent to the state and federal substantive and appropriations issues presented here to be included in the County's 2010 State and Federal Legislative Programs. Upon Board approval, staff and the contract lobbying teams will pursue all of the legislative issues approved by the Board, and in so doing, place appropriate priority on the issues given the opportunities that arise during the legislative process. Notwithstanding this, staff will assign priority to any issue that the Board directs to receive a special level of attention in 2010. Staff would also like to welcome the addition or deletion of issues that the Board deems appropriate for our 2010 legislative efforts.

It is important to note that in addition to the specific Leon County issues identified herein by staff, much of the County's legislative efforts each session are focused on statewide issues in conjunction with the Florida Association of Counties (FAC). FAC will finalize their 2010 legislative program during their legislative conference on December 4, 2009. These issues are often times the most critical issues facing the County during the state legislative session. The Board will have an

opportunity to communicate its legislative priorities prior to the 2010 legislative session, when the County hosts the Leon County Legislative Delegation for a public hearing in the Leon County Commission Chambers prior to the legislative session. It is important for the Board to be active participants in the legislative process by testifying on behalf of the County and working with the legislative delegation. Staff will continue to keep the Board involved in legislative issues through agenda items, resolutions, memorandum, "call to action" emails, and weekly *Capital Updates* throughout session.

**PROPOSED LEON COUNTY 2010 STATE & FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE SESSION:
Appropriation Requests**

(Please Note: For complete information on each, see Attachment #1)

The Board's practice of retaining professional contractual lobbying services, at both the state and federal levels, has been based primarily on increasing the County's chances of obtaining legislative appropriations. Staff works throughout the year to identify County projects for which to submit state and federal appropriations requests. Shortly after the Board adopted its legislative priorities and appropriation requests last year, the Legislature announced that it would not accept Community Budget Issue Requests (CBIRs) due to the state's severe budget constraints. As a result, no County projects were awarded a state legislative appropriation in 2009. Given the state's financial hardship, the state lobbying team concentrated on supporting County policy issues and protecting state programs that assist local governments. Examples include the perseverance of the County's three year \$792,624 grant for the expansion of the mental health services within the local criminal justice system, the continuation of the State Aid to Libraries program, and the exclusion of EMS transport fees from SB 2282, which prohibited local governments from charging fees for all other first responder services.

Earlier this month, the Legislature notified the public that once again it would not open the CBIR system to consider appropriation requests (Attachment #3). With this knowledge in hand prior to the Board's annual workshop to set the County's legislative priorities and appropriation requests, staff has refined the Board's top appropriation requests to avoid unrealistic expectations for securing funding for local projects. Most of the County's efforts for funding community projects will be through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) and the federal appropriations process including the reauthorization of Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU).

Given the importance of securing federal stimulus funds, the County entered in to a 12-month contract with Governance Inc. on March 26, 2009, to enhance the County's ability to receive stimulus funds. Governance Inc. has provided assistance in preparing grant applications for direct funding, contacting key staff at the state and federal levels to gather information on funding opportunities, and coordinating its efforts with County staff and regional stimulus partners. The state contract lobbying team, the Capitol Alliance Group, has also provided assistance relating to the ARRA to compliment Governance Inc. and spearheaded a meeting between the Governor, Chairman Desloge, and Mayor Marks to advocate regional projects for stimulus funding. Staff has provided quarterly agenda items to the Board on the ARRA and the next update is scheduled for the Board's December 8, 2009 meeting.

The 2010 appropriation requests identified below include costly capital projects ranging from transportation projects to public safety needs. In order to maximize the chances for federal funds, the County will seek to partner with the City on several projects important to the community including the Public Safety Complex, Capital Circle NW/SW, and the Lafayette Street Pedestrian Tunnel.

The County has had recent success in obtaining state grants for its parks and library programs. The Parks and Recreation Division has applied for a grant under the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program (FRDAP) for playground equipment at the Daniel B Chaires Park. The program provides a 100% match for acquisition, development, and improvement of land for public outdoor recreation. The Board has previously authorized staff to submit the grant application for the playground equipment. Staff will monitor the Legislature's ability to dedicate funds during the 2010 session to the FRDAP program for the playground equipment at the Daniel B Chaires Park.

The County has also applied for a \$500,000 Department of State Public Library Construction Grant for the Eastside branch library. The Department of State has ranked this County project #5 statewide but it will be difficult for the Legislature to fund this program with its \$2.6 billion shortfall.

The following is the proposed Leon County 2010 State and Federal appropriation requests:

<u>Leon County/ City of Tallahassee Public Safety Complex</u>	\$5 million
Construction of a new facility (total project cost \$50 million) \$23 million set aside by County	
<u>Capital Circle NW/SW S.R. 20 Intersection Improvement</u>	\$15 million
Construction widening to six lanes and construction of two stormwater ponds.	
<u>Woodville Highway</u>	\$3.4 million
Design for widening from Gaile Ave. to Capital Circle – six lanes	
<u>Woodville Sewer</u>	\$500,000
Design of Woodville Sewer System	
<u>Lafayette Street Pedestrian Tunnel</u>	\$2.2 million
Pedestrian sidewalks for safe passage under rail tunnel Submitted SAFETEA-LU request	
<u>Chaires Park (FRDAP)</u>	\$112,500
Purchase of playground equipment	
<u>Eastside Branch Library (State Library Construction Grant)</u>	\$500,000
Construction of a new 12,000 square foot Eastside Branch Library	

PROPOSED LEON COUNTY 2010 STATE LEGISLATIVE SESSION
Policy Requests

(Please Note: For complete information on each, see Attachment #2)

Like most legislation, much of the County's legislative efforts are incremental and focused on issues that are built upon throughout several sessions. However, each year staff evaluates the trends and issues affecting all County programs and services to identify potential policy or "substantive" legislative issues. Significant substantive issues that have been identified for County participation range from the protection of charter county home rule to property tax reform; from continued state funding for state aid to libraries grant programs to increased funding for mental health services. The state's current fiscal challenges and revenue shortfalls are likely to dominate the Legislature's time this year. It will be important for the lobbying team to monitor the budgetary and programmatic decisions made by the Legislature to determine their effect, if any, on local governments in the form of cost shifts or additional responsibilities.

In addition to the substantive issues identified by the County, staff works daily with FAC and the Florida Association on Intergovernmental Relations (FAIR) to identify developing issues that effect counties during session's quick pace. In many cases, the County joins FAC and FAIR members to advocate for or against initiatives that would substantially impact counties (*Please note: FAIR members are representatives of local governments from across the state.*) It is also important to note that the Deputy County Administrator, Vincent Long, is the 2010 Chairman of the Legislative Policy Committee for the Florida City and County Manager's Association (FCCMA). As such, he will be coordinating the legislative policy efforts of the city and county managers throughout the state. Please find below a listing of the proposed Leon County 2010 state legislative session policy requests. Each request provides a brief overview of the issue and indicates the specific legislative action recommended:

Section I. Finance and Tax

Property Tax Reform

Issue: After several years of property tax reform legislation, the Legislature has yet to resolve the inequities of the property tax system. The 2007 legislative rollback and the 2008 Legislature's support of Amendment 1 have left public desire for additional reform efforts. The Taxation and Budget Reform Commission's proposal (Amendment 5) to replace the Required Local Effort (RLE) with other revenues was removed from the November 2008 ballot.

The Governor was successful during the 2009 legislative session in getting his priority property tax measure placed on the 2010 general election ballot. SB 532 is a combination of a first time homebuyer exemption and a reduction in the non-homestead cap to 5%. The 25% first time homebuyer exemption, up to \$100,000, would be phased out by 20% each year over a five-year period.

Action: Staff recommends that Leon County support legislation that would provide an equitable tax system for all types of property owners and oppose property tax reform efforts that would significantly restrict the ability of counties to provide high quality services and address critical community needs. In addition, staff recommends the Board oppose any legislation that would erode local home rule by turning over the allocation of property tax revenues to the Legislature.

2005 Lobbying Gift Ban

Issue: In 2009, a legislative committee took up the gift ban issue for the first time since its passage in 2005. The Senate Ethics and Elections Committee took testimony from several small businesses and business groups on the impact of the 2005 gift ban including representatives from restaurants, bars, hotels, coffee shops, the Greater Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce, and the Florida Restaurant and Lodging Association. Immediately following the testimony, the Vice-Chairman moved to temporarily postpone the bill but Senator Lawson demanded a vote be taken. Despite the supportive testimony, the Ethics and Elections Committee rejected SB 1506 by a 7-1 vote.

Action: The 2005 lobbying gift ban is an important economic issue for the local community. Staff recommends the Board, in partnership with the City, local business community, and the Leon County Legislative Delegation continue to pursue a legislative remedy to offset the negative impact on the local economy.

Section II. Growth Management, Environment, Transportation & Infrastructure

Growth Management Reform

Issue: The 2008 Legislature passed another growth management bill, coincidentally numbered SB 360 and referred to as the "Community Renewal Act," which has put DCA at odds with the sponsor of the legislation over the interpretation and implementation of several provisions of the bill. Further, several local governments have filed a lawsuit challenging the new SB 360 and the unfunded mandates included within the legislation. It is unclear at this time whether there will be a glitch bill to clarify the sponsor's intent of mandating Transportation Concurrency Exemption Areas (TCEAs) within Dense Urban Land Areas (DULAs).

Action: Continue to monitor growth management issues and advocate the County's position through the Florida Association of Counties and County's Planning Department. Carefully review the joint DCA/DOT mobility fee study that is required to be submitted to the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House by December 1, 2009.

Climate & Sustainability

Issue: Leon County has been a leader in the State of Florida in addressing the need for reductions in greenhouse gases. Initiatives to reduce greenhouse gases at the state and federal level are now starting to come to fruition; however collaborative efforts with local governments are rare or established in the form of unfunded mandates.

Action: Support programs and grant opportunities that promote energy efficiency and sustainability without placing unfunded mandates on local governments.

Energy

Issue: The technologies and market for the expansion of alternative and renewable energies continue to grow at a steady pace. However, the United States' dependency on foreign oil has led to the consideration of drilling off of the Florida Gulf Coast. Proponents advocate that drilling will reduce US dependency on foreign oil, create jobs, and increase tax revenues. Opponents are skeptical that drilling off of the Florida Coast would produce enough oil to reduce national dependency while risking the state's coastline and tourism industry to potential oil spills.

Action: Continue to support programs that reduce dependency on foreign oil and promote energy efficiency along with the use of alternative and renewable energies.

Section III. Health and Social Services

Mental Health

Issue: Improve the shortage of local treatment opportunities and reduce the number of mentally ill in the county jail. On September 11, 2007, the Board adopted an Enabling Resolution to establish a Criminal Justice, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse Reinvestment Advisory Council in order to apply for the Criminal Justice, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse Reinvestment Grant created by the 2007 Legislature. The County was awarded an implementation grant for mental health services in the amount of \$792,624 over a three year period.

Action: Support continued funding of the Criminal Justice, Mental Health, & Substance Abuse Reinvestment Grant Program for counties and any other opportunities to expand mental health care services across the region.

Section IV. Public Safety

State Prisons

Issue: Corrections Budget

Action: Continue to support state legislative efforts to enhance diversion programs and lower corrections costs.

County Jail

Issue: There may be a proposal to create a state jail system for offenders serving between 12-18 months. The program will target less serious offenders by separating them from the more violent offenders sentenced for a longer period in the state prison system.

Action: Ensure that this state jail proposal is funded and operated by the state.

Issue: Interim Reports

Action: Carefully review the numerous interim reports on corrections spending, diversion programs, and judicial sentencing discretion that may assist in the crafting of legislation to route more offenders from prison sentences to the county jail system.

Issue: Juvenile Justice Funding

Action: Monitor funding levels and the potential reduction of local alternative and prevention programs to ensure that no further burden for treatment and prevention of juveniles is shifted to counties (a \$90 million cost shift to counties for DJJ costs was approved in 2005).

Probation

Issue: Jail Overcrowding / Expanded Use for House Arrest

Action: Monitor any changes affecting house arrest and support its expanded allowable use as a condition of probation in misdemeanor and traffic offenses.

Issue: Pretrial Release

Action: Monitor any changes to statutes affecting pretrial release and advocate continued support for program.

Section V. General Government

Protection of State Workforce

Issue: State workers comprise a substantial percentage of Leon County's population, contributing to our community, economy and diversity. In a year with significant budget challenges, the Legislature approved a budget that called for a 2% pay reduction for state employees earning more than \$45,000 a year with exception to employees under the state university system. However, upon signing the state budget, Governor Crist vetoed the proviso language calling for the 2% pay reduction and directed all state agencies to trim their operating budgets to balance the state budget.

Action: Monitor state workforce issues, and advocate for the continued protection of the state workforce.

Libraries

Issue: The State Aid to Libraries allocations to Leon County have declined through the years even though local expenditures for library services have increased. The Operating Grants for State Aid to Libraries have declined in Leon County from \$405,019 in 2001 to \$171,486 in 2009.

Action: Continue to support full or expanded funding for State Aid to Libraries.

Section VI. Statewide Issues

State Cost-Shift Opposition

Issue: The 2004 Legislature passed a bill shifting \$90 million in state costs for the predisposition of juvenile offenders to counties. This legislation will impact Leon County annually, and resulted in a \$1.4 million expense in 2005 alone. In 2005, the Legislature upheld the cost shift despite counties' strong opposition. In 2007, the Legislature created the Public Defender Conflict Counsels, requiring counties to bare the burden of providing facilities, security, technology, and communication needs under *Article V* of the state constitution. Subsequently, the County was successful in challenging the constitutionality of the 2007 cost shift through the judicial process.

Action: Support the continued state funding of state programs and oppose any cost shifts to counties.

Charter County Preemption

Issue: Charter preemption legislation has been pursued on state matters and to resolve contentious political battles between cities and counties. The Florida League of Cities has not aggressively pursued charter preemption legislation since 2006 but staff will continue to monitor legislation to protect the counties' home rule authority.

Action: Coordinate with the Florida Association of Counties and charter counties to oppose charter county preemption legislation.

Sunshine Review

Issue: The Florida Legislature is held to a lesser standard than state agencies and local governments in meeting the intent of Florida's Sunshine Law.

Action: Support a constitutional amendment that requires the Florida Legislature to operate under the same Sunshine Law as local government officials.

Florida Association of Counties (FAC) Issues

Issue: FAC represents 66 counties at the Legislature on issues that have broad statewide appeal, such as the opposition of unfunded mandates or cost shifts to counties (such as the \$90 million DJJ cost shift that was passed in 2005), growth management, annexation, revenue-sharing, and water management issues. FAC will finalize their 2010 legislative program during their legislative conference scheduled for December 4, 2009.

Action: Support the 2010 FAC legislative program unless specific issues conflict with the County's issues.

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE ISSUES:

The second session of the 111th Congress is expected to begin in early January of 2010. The Board's practice has been to focus the County's federal legislative program on appropriations issues but has added specific substantive issues from time to time. Most substantive issues that the County has at the federal level are coordinated through the County's National Association of Counties (NACO) representation. At the Board's request, the federal appropriation requests have been combined with the state appropriations requests (Page #3 of the Analysis Section).

Staff continually works with Patton Boggs throughout the year to advocate for the County's targeted appropriation requests. Staff coordinates regularly with Patton Boggs by phone and e-mail to strategize on key federal budget issues and to identify new federal grant funding that could potentially fund County project requests. In addition, Patton Boggs works with the County to identify additional grant sources and has been submitting monthly memoranda to update the Board on their federal lobbying activities in order to further improve communication between the Board and their federal lobbying firm.

For the fiscal year 2010 budget, staff had initially been working with the County's federal contract lobbyist, Patton Boggs, to coordinate the County's efforts to attain funding for five projects. Two of those projects, Capital Circle Southeast and the Lake Jackson Ecopassage, have been recommended for stimulus funds and withdrawn from congressional consideration for funding. In the House transportation appropriations bill, Congressman Boyd has successfully earmarked \$250,000 for Woodville Highway. Patton Boggs is currently working with the congressional delegation from both chambers to maximize federal funding opportunities through the transportation appropriations bills and best position the County for federal transportation funds.

The House Commerce-Justice-Science subcommittee has also tentatively included \$200,000 for the Joint Public Safety Complex in its fiscal year 2010 mark up. Patton Boggs anticipates that the fiscal year 2010 omnibus appropriations bill will not be approved until early 2010 given the heightened political issues have been debated throughout the summer and fall months such as the economy and healthcare reform. Subsequently, Patton Boggs will begin advocating for the County's appropriation requests outlined on page three for the FY 2011 federal budget.

In recent years, Patton Boggs has pursued substantive issues on behalf of the County including federal climate legislation, efforts to secure the 114 acre U.S. Forest Service (USFS) parcel near the corner of Capital Circle and Woodville Highway for the relocation of the North Florida Fairgrounds, and numerous transportation issues. Most recently, Patton Boggs has been advocating for universal comprehensive healthcare as approved by Resolution 09-65 on September 22, 2009, and for the restoration of passenger rail service through North Florida.

On October 16, 2008, President Bush signed the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008 (PRIIA) which required Amtrak to submit a plan to Congress for restoring passenger rail service between New Orleans, LA and parts of Florida. Section 226 of the bill gave Amtrak nine

months to submit the plan to Congress detailing how it could restore passenger rail service to the region. On July 16, 2009, Amtrak submitted its Gulf Coast Service Plan Report as required by PRIIA and outlined the three most feasible options for restoring service to North Florida and the Gulf Coast Region. The three options include projected timelines, costs, and anticipated passenger rider-ship. The timing of the report and the readiness of the project exclude the North Florida passenger service from consideration for ARRA funds. However, Congress is expected to include significant funding for alternative modes of transportation in its SAFETEA-LU transportation package which is expected to provide \$48.7 billion for surface transportation infrastructure. Recently, Congress extended the existing SAFETEA-LU program which was set to expire on September 30, 2009, by one month in order to craft an 18-month extension before finalizing the full SAFETEA-LU transportation package.

Congressman Boyd has already submitted two SAFETEA-LU requests on behalf of Leon County. The first request is to widen Woodville Highway (\$28 million) from Gaile Avenue to Capital Circle. The second request would construct the Lafayette Street Pedestrian Tunnel (\$2.2 million) under the CSX railroad adjacent to the Florida Department of Transportation headquarters. This provides the opportunity of funding one large scale project and one small project in the community. Patton Boggs has been providing detailed memorandums to the Board and County staff on the reauthorization of SAFETEA-LU as Congress has begun marking up the Surface Transportation Authorization Act of 2009. Patton Boggs was critical to the County's success in 2005 in acquiring \$16.1 million of SAFETEA-LU funding for the widening of Capital Circle NW from I-10 to U.S. 90.

OPTIONS:

- 1) Approve the 2010 state legislative issues and 111th Congress (2nd session) federal legislative issues as presented.
- 2) Approve the 2010 state legislative issues and 111th Congress (2nd session) federal legislative issues as amended by the Board.
- 3) Board Direction.

RECOMMENDATION:

Option #2

Attachments:

- #1: 2010 State and Federal Legislative Session Appropriation Request Forms and Related Materials.
- #2: 2010 State Legislative Session Policy Request Forms and Related Materials.
- #3: October 6, 2009 memorandum regarding Community Budget Issue Requests.

2010 Appropriation Request Form

Please Check: Federal Appropriation: X State Appropriation: _____

Department/Division: Administration Contact: Alan Rosenzweig

Phone: 606-5300 Fax: 606-5301 E-Mail: Rosenzweiga@leoncountyfl.gov

Project Title: Leon County/City of Tallahassee Public Safety Complex

1. Project Description:

On December 13, 2006, Leon County, the Leon County Sheriff, and the City of Tallahassee executed a Memorandum of Agreement to pursue a joint dispatch center for the purposes of dispatching all law enforcement, fire, and emergency medical services. Subsequently, the County and City agreed to expand the facility to include the Emergency Medical Services Center, Transportation Management Center, Emergency Operation Center, and administrative space for the Tallahassee Fire Department, to form the Public Safety Complex.

2. Purpose of Project and Outcome Expected:

Currently, the City of Tallahassee dispatches Tallahassee law enforcement officers and firefighters while the Sheriff's Office dispatches Sheriff Deputies and EMS personnel. The placement of the joint dispatch center in the Public Safety Complex will ensure that the closest available unit is dispatched to an emergency, reducing the response time during a critical emergency in a coordinated manner. In addition, the consolidation of the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and the Tallahassee Fire Department Administrative offices within the Center will enhance the sustainability of the facility, optimize the support systems and allow the project to take financial advantage of larger volume contracts while reducing the long-term operating and maintenance costs.

On October 13, 2009, the County and City held a joint meeting to authorize the negotiation and execution of a contract for construction management services in support of the Public Safety Complex.

3. Service Provided/Benefit to State:

This project will improve the coordination of both emergency and non emergency calls for efficient deployment of public safety resources. A public safety complex is in the best interest of the health and safety of the community.

4. Population Served:

All Leon County and City of Tallahassee residents, transients, and visitors.

5. Projected Dates for Construction/Operation:

Based upon funding, construction could begin in early 2010. The Public Safety Complex will be located on a County-owned property.

6. Funding:
Federal Funding Requested (as applicable): **\$5 million for construction**
State Funding Requested (as applicable): **\$5 million for construction**
Present or Pending Funding Sources (including county): **\$47 million**

2010 Appropriation Request Form

Please Check: Federal Appropriation: X State Appropriation: X

Department/Division: Blueprint 2000 Contact: Jim Davis

Phone: 701-2740 Fax: 701-2790 E-Mail: james.davis@Blueprint 2000.org

Project Title: Capital Circle NW/SW (State Road 20 Intersection Improvement)

1. Project Description:

The project is to widen the intersection of SR 20 on Capital Circle NW/SW to six-lanes and for the construction of two large stormwater treatment ponds to support stormwater improvement adjacent to the road. The intersection of SR 20 and CCNW is an important junction in the efficiency of traffic movements along both roadway corridors. Construction of CCNW/SW, from US 90 to just north of the SR 20 intersection, is funded primarily by Blueprint 2000 with \$46.8 million currently available (including \$8 million in SAFETEA-LU funds). However, with the recent reduction in sales tax receipts, and other potential difficulties with the bond market, construction of the intersection improvements at SR 20 is unfunded. An additional \$15 million is required to construct the intersection improvements at the SR 20 and CCNW/SW juncture. The project also includes significant landscaping as well as bicycle and pedestrian amenities.

2. Purpose of Project and Outcome Expected:

Capital Circle is a major arterial roadway circling the Tallahassee urban area. It links a major expressway (Interstate 10) with US 27 and US 90, and US 319. Segments of Capital Circle have been widened with a significant portion of the improvements being either directly funded or advance-funded by the City of Tallahassee or Leon County.

With the recent reduction in sales tax receipts, and other potential difficulties with the bond market, construction of the intersection improvements at SR 20 is unfunded. An additional \$15 million is required to construct the intersection improvements at the SR 20 and CCNW/SW juncture. This project is currently at 95% design completion and all of the right-of-way will be acquired within 180 days. The project is a joint funded effort with Blueprint 2000 handling the design and construction and FDOT funding right-of-way costs. FDOT provided \$42 million for right-of-way costs.

3. Service Provided/Benefit to State:

The Leon County and Tallahassee Commissions through their "Southern Strategy" are attempting to spur economic growth in the southern area of the County and City with a combination of roadway improvements, sector planning efforts, growth management and economic incentives. This project also provides a much needed connector between the Tallahassee Regional Airport, US 27 and US 90 East, which provides access to Interstate 10. This also serves as one of the primary evacuation routes from the central coastal panhandle.

4. Population Served:
All regional coastal residents of neighboring counties will benefit from this project. The current Annual Average Daily Traffic count is 20,400 and is expected to increase to 40,900 by the year 2030.

5. Projected Dates for Construction/Operation:
Construction would commence once funding is available with a duration of 18-24 months.

6. Funding:
Federal Funding Requested (as applicable): **\$15 million**
State Funding Requested (as applicable): **\$15 million**
Present or Pending Funding Sources (including county):

2010 Appropriation Request Form

Please Check: Federal Appropriation: X State Appropriation: _____

Department/Division: CRTPA Contact: Harry Reed

Phone: 891-6815 Fax: 891-6809 E-Mail: Harry.Reed@talgov.com

Project Title: Woodville Highway

1. Project Description:

This project is for the design of Woodville Highway to widen the existing two-lane segment to four lanes from Gaile Avenue to Capital Circle.

2. Purpose of Project and Outcome Expected:

Woodville Highway connects to major arterials systems including Capital Circle and Monroe Street and serves as a major evacuation route from the Coastal Highway (US 98). This road is frequented by residents of Wakulla County that work in Leon County. It is anticipated that the volume of traffic will continue to increase as the Capital Circle Office Complex, which houses a number of state agencies, continues to expand.

Funding has been identified for a corridor study, PD&E study and for design. During the FY 06/07 budget process the Board budgeted \$2.1 million for Woodville Highway. On September 18, 2007, the Board approved a Joint Project Agreement with FDOT to perform a PD&E study for a portion of Woodville Highway from Gaile Avenue to Capital Circle. On March 11, 2008, the Board authorized the expenditures of funds up to \$175,000 to match funds from FDOT to perform a Corridor Master Plan for a portion of Woodville Highway from Gaile Avenue to Commerce Boulevard.

This project is #5 on the CRTPA Priority Project List. At the completion of this project it is anticipated that there will be significant improvement in commuter access through southern Leon County and northern Wakulla County, improved freight movement from the coast and improved hurricane evacuation options.

A corridor study is currently being conducted and is expected to be completed in late 2010. The PD&E study which has been funded is expected to be completed in 2011.

3. Service Provided/Benefit to State:

Leon County and the City of Tallahassee through their joint "Southern Strategy" are attempting to spur economic growth in the southern area of the city/county with a combination of roadway improvements, sector planning efforts, growth management and economic incentives. Woodville Highway also serves as one of the primary evacuation routes from the central coastal panhandle.

4. Population Served:
All regional coastal residents of neighboring counties will benefit from this project. The current Annual Average Daily Traffic count is 12,900. This road serves as one of two links to the coast via Wakulla County.

5. Projected Dates for Construction/Operation:
Due to the time necessary for the corridor study, project design, and right-of-way acquisition, construction commencement will be determined by FDOT.

6. Funding:
Federal Funding Requested (as applicable): **\$3.4 million for design**
State Funding Requested (as applicable):
Present or Pending Funding Sources (including county): **\$2.1 million for PD&E and design**

Attachment: CRTPA Project Priority List

Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency
Major Priority Project List
 Fiscal Year 2011 - Fiscal Year 2015

2009 Ranking	Project			Next Phase for Funding
	Roadway	From	To	
1	Bicycle and Pedestrian Projects (\$1,000,000 funding set aside)			
2	Capital Circle, NW/SW	US 90	Orange Avenue	Construction
3	Capital Circle, SW	Crawfordville Rd	Orange Avenue	Design
4	Capital Circle, SE/SW	Woodville Highway	Crawfordville Rd	ROW
5	Woodville Highway (SR 363)	Tram Rd	Capital Circle, SE	Design
6	Pensacola Street (SR 366)	Appleyard Drive	Blountstown Highway	Design
7	Orange Avenue (SR 373)	Springhill Rd	Adams Street	Design
7	Crawfordville Road (US 319)	Munson Slough	LL Wallace Road	Construction
8	Woodville Highway (SR 363)	Capital Circle, SE	Natural Bridge Rd	PD&E
9	Blountstown Highway (SR 20)	Capital Circle, NW	Aenon Church Rd	Design
10	Apalachee Parkway (US 27)	Blair Stone Road	Capital Circle, SE	Design
11	Crawfordville Road (US 319)	LL Wallace Road	Buck Miller Road	ROW
12	Capital Circle, NW (SR 263)	Gearhart Road	US 27	PD&E
13	Monroe Street (US 27)	Interstate 10	Crowder Road	PD&E

2010 Appropriation Request Form

Please Check: Federal Appropriation: X State Appropriation: X

Department/Division: Public Works/Engineering Services Contact: Tony Park/ Joe Brown

Phone: 606-1500 Fax: 606-1501 E-Mail: tonyp@leoncountyfl.gov

Project Title: Woodville Sewer Project

1. Project Description:

This project is for the design of a sewer system to provide sewer services to approximately 1,432 homes or properties located within the Woodville area of Leon County. These homes are located upstream to Wakulla Springs and threaten one of the world's largest and deepest freshwater springs.

2. Purpose of project and outcome expected:

Providing sewer service will eliminate the need for septic tanks which, in the event of failure, can cause environmental concerns and impacts.

3. Service Provided/Benefit to State:

The Leon County Comprehensive Plan provides that all waste water is to be treated and disposed of in a manner that protects natural resources and public health. (Note: The State of Florida has acquired more than half of the 6,500 acre buffer zone around Wakulla Springs acknowledging the importance of preserving this natural habitat).

4. Population Served:

Approximately 1,500 homes directly impacted in Leon County. Wakulla Springs is also home to a state park that has thousands of visitors each year.

5. Projected Dates for Construction/Operation:

During the County's FY 07/08 budget workshop, the Board discontinued the funding of non-mandatory capital projects. A number of sewer projects were approved for discontinuation including the Woodville project. Due to the time necessary for the studies, project design, and right-of-way acquisition, construction may not commence for several years.

6. Funding:

Federal Funding Requested (as applicable): **\$500,000 for design**

State Funding Requested (as applicable): **\$500,000 for design**

Present or Pending Funding Sources (including county): **\$250,000 from the Florida Legislature for construction**

2010 Appropriation Request Form

Please Check: Federal Appropriation: X State Appropriation: _____

Department/Division: CRTPA Contact: Harry Reed

Phone: 891-6815 Fax: 891-6809 E-Mail: Harry.Reed@talgov.com

Project Title: Lafayette Street Pedestrian Tunnel

1. Project Description:

The project is for the construction of a Pedestrian Tunnel beneath the CSX railroad bridge on Lafayette Street. The tunnel will be of adequate size to permit pedestrian and bicycle traffic to pass under the existing CSX railroad tracks.

All other funding phases are complete (PD&E and design). Funding for the projects construction was programmed by the Florida Department of Transportation to occur in fiscal year 2006/2007 (\$1.2 million); however, the bids for the project's construction came back at over double the project's estimated cost (and funding amount). As a result, the project has not been constructed and the pedestrian safety issue remains.

2. Purpose of project and outcome expected:

The project's purpose is to address pedestrian hazard issues associated with the fact that the street's existing sidewalk terminates at the narrow railroad bridge. This creates a safety hazard for pedestrians by requiring pedestrian to physically walk into Lafayette Street travel lanes in order to pass under the railroad bridge.

3. Service Provided/Benefit to State:

The Lafayette Pedestrian Tunnel project is adjacent to Capital Cascades Park which is under development. This park will provide stormwater and trail improvements and is seen as supporting the the revitalization of in-town and southside neighborhoods within Tallahassee through the creation of an urban greenway.

4. Population Served:

Construction of the project will facilitate pedestrian movement by safely connecting neighborhoods to the east of the railroad underpass.

5. Projected Dates for Construction/Operation:

Should funding become available, construction of this project could be completed in 6-12 months.

6. Funding:

Federal Funding Requested (as applicable): **\$2.2 million**

State Funding Requested (as applicable):

Pending Funding Sources (including county): **\$321,000**

2010 Appropriation Request Form

Please Check: Federal Appropriation: _____ State Appropriation: X

Department/Division: Parks & Recreation Contact: Pat Plocek

Phone: 606-1475 Fax: 606-1471 E-Mail: plocekp@leoncountyfl.gov

Project Title: **Daniel B. Chaires Park Playground Equipment (FRDAP)**

1. Project Description:
This project is for playground equipment at the Daniel B. Chaires Park through the Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program (FRDAP) Grant Process.
2. Purpose of project and outcome expected:
Currently, Chaires Park does not have any playground equipment. This grant would enable playground equipment to be installed and improvements to be made to the trail system at Chaires Park.
3. Service Provided/Benefit to State:
Provide playground equipment that will provide an active exercise activity for children.
4. Population Served:
This unit will serve the population between Mahan Road and Tram Road from the City line to the County line.
5. Projected Dates for Construction/Operation:
At the present time, without State funding this project would not be constructed for at least five years.
6. Funding:
Federal Funding Requested (as applicable):
State Funding Requested (as applicable): **\$112,500**
Present or Pending Funding Sources (including county): **\$37,500**

2010 Appropriation Request Form

Please Check: Federal Appropriation: _____ State Appropriation: X

Department/Division: Public Service/Library Contact: Helen Moeller

Phone: 606-2665 Fax: 606-2601 E-Mail: helenm@leoncountyfl.gov

Project Title: **State Public Library Construction Grant for the Eastside Branch Library**

1. Project Description:

The grant would fund \$500,000 toward construction of a new Eastside Branch Library in Leon County.

2. Purpose of project and outcome expected:

The 12,000 square foot new branch library will serve the large population residing in the Eastside sector of Leon County. This area is anticipated to serve approximately 40,000 residents with full library services. Library services assist people of all ages through programs, books, media, computer classes, literacy classes and other educational services. Library services can improve educational attainment, retention, and provide and economic benefit to the community.

3. Service Provided/Benefit to State:

Library services to the public have a positive impact on education and the economy. The LeRoy Collins Leon County Public Library participates in Ask-A-Librarian, the statewide 24/7 reference service. The LeRoy Collins Leon County Public Library System lends over 3,000 materials a year to other libraries in the state, a value of \$90,000. The library is open to all residents of Florida for Internet service, computer use, and all programs. Location in the capital city of Florida brings many statewide visitors who are welcomed to the library to use computers, attend programs, use research services and the Internet.

The Florida Department of State ranked the Eastside Library #5 on its FY10-11 Public Library Construction Grant Priority List. The priority list will be presented to the Legislature as part of the state budget process.

4. Population Served:

The entire population of Leon County will benefit from the State Construction Grant through its six library facilities, bookmobile, and outreach services.

5. Projected Dates for Construction/Operation:

The branch library could be completed by late 2010.

6. Funding:

Federal Funding Requested (as applicable):

State Funding Requested (as applicable): **\$500,000 for construction**

Pending Funding Sources (including county): **\$5.5 million**

2010 State Legislative Session
Legislative Proposal

Attachment # 2
Page 1 of 17

Department / Division: County Administration Contact Person: Ken Morris

Phone: 606-5300 Fax: 606-5301 E-Mail: morrisk@leoncountyfl.gov

Topic: Property Tax Reform

Problem/Need:

After several years of property tax reform legislation, the Legislature has yet to resolve the inequities of the property tax system. The 2007 legislative rollback and the 2008 Legislature's support of Amendment 1 have left public desire for additional reform efforts. The Taxation and Budget Reform Commission's proposal (Amendment 5) to replace the Required Local Effort (RLE) with other revenues was removed from the November 2008 ballot.

The Governor was successful during the 2009 legislative session in getting SB 532 approved by the Legislature and placed on the 2010 general election ballot. SB 532 is a combination of the Governor's first time homebuyer proposal and the reduction in the non-homestead cap to 5%. It provides a 25% homestead exemption, up to \$100,000, for a resident that has not owned a home for eight years. The exemption would be phased out by 20% each year over a five-year period. SB 532 also reduces the 10% non-homestead cap that was approved by Amendment 1 (January 2008) to 5%. This proposed constitutional amendment will be placed on the 2010 general election ballot for voter approval.

Several legislative leaders have publicly supported additional property tax reform efforts that do not resolve the tax inequities. Property tax reform proposals may be popular among legislators this year as they begin campaign season for the 2010 elections.

Recommended County Position, Recommended Change in Florida Statutes:

Staff recommends that Leon County support legislation that would provide an equitable tax system for all types of property owners and oppose property tax reform efforts that would significantly restrict the ability of counties to provide high quality services and address critical community needs. In addition, staff recommends the Board oppose any legislation that would erode local home rule by turning over the allocation of property tax revenues to the Legislature.

2010 State Legislative Session
Legislative Proposal

Department / Division: Administration Contact Person: Vince Long/Ken Morris

Phone: 606-5300 Fax: 606-5301 E-Mail: morrisk@leoncountyfl.gov

Topic: **2005 Lobbying Gift Ban**

Problem/Need

At the 2007 Annual Board Retreat, the Board discussed the impact of the 2005 gift ban law on the local economy and expressed a desire to support legislation that would alleviate the negative impact of the gift ban law on local merchants. Each year, many statewide associations, local governments, and business groups converge on the Capitol to lobby legislators on their particular issues. Often times, these groups host multi-day events and evening events to meet with legislators in a less formal setting, requiring hotel accommodations for these groups. Since the implementation of the gift ban law, many legislators and staff avoid these events because they are prohibited from accepting food and beverages unless the event is free and open to the public. For this reason, several groups cancelled or shortened their annual legislative events in 2006 and 2007.

Senator Lawson filed a bill on February 15, 2007 to prevent the gift ban law from applying to annual events held within the Tallahassee Downtown Improvement Authority but withdrew the bill the following week. The bill was intended to relieve local businesses from the consequences of the 2005 gift ban bill and encourage legislator participation in annual events. Senator Lawson's office recommended that the County, City, and local business community study this issue further to quantify the impact of the 2005 gift ban before approaching the Legislature next year.

On July 10, 2007, the Board approved an agreement between the Leon County Tourist Development Council and Florida State University for an economic analysis of the 2005 Florida gift ban law on the local economy. The study found a \$4.1 million negative impact to the local economy during March and April of 2007 due to the lobbying gift ban. With the analysis in hand, Senator Lawson and Representative Ausley filed legislation in 2008 that would have exempted food and beverages from the gift ban that are associated with events, meetings, and functions that serve a legislative, community, or governmental purpose not to exceed a total value of \$19.

In 2009, a legislative committee took up the gift ban issue for the first time since 2005. The Senate Ethics and Elections Committee took testimony from several small businesses and business groups on the impact of the 2005 gift ban including representatives from restaurants, bars, hotels, coffee shops, the Greater Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce, and the Florida Restaurant and Lodging Association. Immediately following the testimony, the Vice-Chairman moved to temporarily postpone the bill but Senator Lawson demanded a vote be taken. Despite the supportive testimony, the Ethics and Elections Committee rejected SB 1506 by a 7-1 vote.

Recommended County Position, Recommended Change in Florida Statutes:

The 2005 lobbying gift ban is an important economic issue for the local community. Staff recommends the Board, in partnership with the City, local business community, and the Leon County Legislative Delegation continue to pursue a legislative remedy to offset the negative impact on the local economy.

2010 State Legislative Session
Legislative Proposal

Department / Division: Administration Contact Person: Vince Long/Ken Morris

Phone: 606-5300 Fax: 606-5301 E-Mail: morrisk@leoncountyfl.gov

Topic: **Growth Management Reform**

Problem/Need

The 2005 Legislature passed significant growth management reform, often referred to as SB 360, ranging from school planning to water supply funding. In 2007, the Legislature extended local governments' financial feasibility requirements to a 10 or 15 year planning period to meet school and road concurrency. For example, if a local government does not have complete roadway capacity within five years, it must show a 10 or 15 year priority list to address deficiencies. The deadline for each local government to update its capital improvements schedule to demonstrate financial feasibility was also extended by one year to December 1, 2008.

The 2008 Legislature passed another growth management bill, coincidentally numbered SB 360 and referred to as the "Community Renewal Act," which designates certain counties and cities as "Dense Urban Land Areas" (DULA). DULAs are defined as a local government with an average of at least 1,000 people per square mile or a county, including the municipalities located therein, which has a population of at least one million people. The City of Tallahassee was one of 246 cities and counties included on the list. Leon County does not meet either definition but the City of Tallahassee is considered a DULA because it has over 1,000 residents per square mile. Therefore, the portion of the County that is within the urban services area but outside of the City will be included under the DULA provisions of the bill.

The sponsor of the bill and the Secretary of DCA have sparred over several provisions in the bill including whether or not the bill mandates transportation concurrency exemption areas (TCEAs) for local governments designated as DULAs. Several local governments have filed a lawsuit challenging the new SB 360 and the unfunded mandates included within the legislation. It is unclear at this time whether there will be a glitch bill to clarify the sponsor's intent of mandating TCEAs within DULAs.

Recommended County Position, Recommended Change in Florida Statutes:

Continue to monitor growth management issues and advocate the County's position through the Florida Association of Counties and County's Planning Department. Carefully review the joint DCA/DOT mobility fee study that is required to be submitted to the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House by December 1, 2009.

2010 State Legislative Session
Legislative Proposal

Department / Division: County Administration Contact Person: Maggie Theriot

Phone: 606-5300 Fax: 606-5301 E-Mail: TheriotM@leoncountyfl.gov

Topic: Climate & Sustainability

Problem/Need:

Leon County has been a leader in the State of Florida in addressing the need for reductions in greenhouse gases. Initiatives to reduce greenhouse gases at the state and federal level are now starting to come to fruition; however collaborative efforts with local governments are rare or established in the form of unfunded mandates.

For example, the 2007 Legislature mandated local governments use a nationally recognized green building program when constructing new buildings. In 2008, the Legislature required local governments to achieve a 75% recycling goal of its solid waste by 2020.

Recommended County Position, Recommended Change in Florida Statutes:

Support programs and grant opportunities that promote energy efficiency and sustainability without placing unfunded mandates on local governments.

2010 State Legislative Session
Legislative Proposal

Attachment # 2
Page 6 of 17

Department / Division: County Administration Contact Person: Ken Morris
Phone: 606-5300 Fax: 606-5301 E-Mail: Morrisk@leoncountyfl.gov

Topic: Energy

Problem/Need:

Much of the nation's energy supply comes from coal, oil, natural gas, or radioactive elements. These energy sources are considered non-renewable because once they are removed from the ground and used; they cannot be replaced within human time scales. Alternatively, renewable energy is an energy source that is either nearly infinite (sun, wind and water), or constantly renewing, like municipal solid waste.

The technologies and market for the expansion of alternative and renewable energies continue to grow at a steady pace. However, the United States' dependency on foreign oil has led to the consideration of drilling off of the Florida Gulf Coast. Proponents advocate that drilling will reduce US dependency on foreign oil, create jobs, and increase tax revenues. Opponents are skeptical that drilling off of the Florida Coast would produce enough oil to reduce national dependency while risking the state's coastline and tourism industry to potential oil spills.

Recommended County Position, Recommended Change in Florida Statutes:

Continue to support programs that reduce dependency on foreign oil and promote energy efficiency along with the use of alternative and renewable energies.

2010 State Legislative Session
Legislative Proposal

Department / Division: Administration

Contact Person: Ken Morris

Phone: 606-5300

Fax: _____

E-Mail :MorrisK@Leoncountyfl.gov

Topic: **Mental Health Services**

Problem/Need

Despite annual funding of the Apalachee Center for Human Services, Inc., there is still a local need to treat mentally ill individuals. The Leon County Jail houses many mentally ill inmates who burden the jail with escalating pharmaceutical costs.

In 2007, Representative Ausley successfully passed HB 1477, creating the Criminal Justice, Mental Health, & Substance Abuse Reinvestment Grant Program for counties. The purpose of the Matching Grant Program is to provide funding to counties to plan, implement, or expand initiatives that increase public safety, and improve the accessibility and effectiveness of treatment services for adults and juveniles who have a mental illness or substance abuse disorders. The Legislature provided \$3.85 million in 2007 to target people who are in, or at risk of entering, the criminal or juvenile justice systems.

On September 11, 2007, the Board adopted an Enabling Resolution to establish a Criminal Justice, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse Reinvestment Advisory Council in order to apply for the Criminal Justice, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse Reinvestment Grant created by the 2007 Legislature. The County was awarded an implementation grant for mental health services in the amount of \$792,624 over a three year period.

Recommended County Position, Recommended Change in Florida Statutes:

Support continued funding of the Criminal Justice, Mental Health, & Substance Abuse Reinvestment Grant Program for counties and any other opportunities to expand mental health care services across the region.

2010 State Legislative Session
Legislative Proposal

Department / Division: Administration Contact Person: Ken Morris
Phone: 606-5300 Fax: 606-5301 E-Mail: morrisk@leoncountyfl.gov

Topic: Public Safety: Jail Overcrowding, Pre-trial release, Probation and State Correctional Issues

Problem/Need

Jail overcrowding issues has been one of the Board's top priorities for several years. For fiscal year 2006-2007, the Board allocated \$1.4 million for the renovation of the jail annex. The purpose of the funding was to help alleviate the inmate overcrowding in the jail. In addition, \$300,000 was allocated to the Public Safety Coordinating Council (PSCC) in FY 07 and another \$100,000 in subsequent years to review and recommend alternative programs to the Board which would assist in decreasing the jail population.

During the 2008 legislative session, the Legislature passed SB 1722 which was designed to lower costs for corrections by reducing the need to build new prisons. The bill reduced corrections spending by more than \$7 million and included a newly created state funded diversion program within the Department of Corrections. The new program was appropriated \$700,000 for the initial year of implementation and is estimated to potentially divert nearly 400 offenders in the fiscal year. Although the diversion program will target a significant number of offenders, the Legislature did not provide funding for the additional staff needed to implement this new program.

Recommended County Position, Recommended Change in Florida Statutes:

- 1) Corrections Budget: Continue to support state legislative efforts to enhance diversion programs and lower corrections costs.
- 2) Expanded Use for House Arrest: Monitor any changes affecting house arrest and support its expanded allowable use as a condition of probation in misdemeanor and traffic offenses.
- 3) Pre-trial Release Program: Monitor any changes to statutes affecting pretrial release and advocate continued support for program. There has been a national push to eliminate the use of public money for pretrial release programs.
- 4) Juvenile Justice Funding: Monitor juvenile justice funding levels and the potential reduction of local alternative and prevention programs to ensure that additional burdens for juvenile treatment and prevention is not further shifted to counties (As you may recall, a \$90 million cost shift to counties for predisposition costs of juvenile offenders was approved by the Legislature in 2005).

5) State Jail Proposal: Secretary McNeil of the Florida Department of Corrections (DOC) has suggested that the DOC may file legislation to create a state jail system for offenders serving between 12-18 months. The program will target less serious offenders by separating them from the more violent offenders sentenced for a longer period in the state prison system. This program will also keep the offender in or near their home county. The funding responsibility of this proposal and the supervision of inmates have yet to be determined but staff will monitor this issue to gauge its effect on the County.

6) Interim Reports: Carefully review the numerous interim reports on corrections spending, diversion programs, and judicial sentencing discretion that may assist in the crafting of legislation to route more offenders from prison sentences to the county jail system.

2010 State Legislative Session
Legislative Proposal

Department / Division: Administration Contact Person: Vince Long/Ken Morris

Phone: 606-5300 Fax: 606-5301 E-Mail: morrisk@leoncountyfl.gov

Topic: Protection of State Workforce

Problem/Need

State workers comprise a substantial percentage of Leon County's population, contributing to our community, economy and diversity. Protecting the jobs of these workers from privatization and advocating for fair wages has always been a top priority of the Board during the legislative cycle.

In a year with significant budget challenges, the Legislature approved a budget that called for a 2% pay reduction for state employees earning more than \$45,000 a year with exception to employees under the state university system. However, upon signing the state budget, Governor Crist vetoed the proviso language calling for the 2% pay reduction and directed all state agencies to trim their operating budgets to balance the state budget.

State employees last received a raise in FY 2007, in the amount of 3%, followed by a one-time \$1,000 bonus in FY 2008. To assist all state employees in FY 2010, the Legislature committed to maintaining healthcare benefits for its employees without increasing out-of-pocket expenses. To accomplish this, the state will pick up the full cost of the health insurance premium increases for state employees estimated at \$299 for an individual and \$677 for family coverage. The Legislature also imposed a 2% pay reduction for itself on top of the 5% reduction from the previous year. According to the Governor's Office, the FY 2010 budget has required the state to layoff 159 state employees.

Recommended County Position, Recommended Change in Florida Statutes:

Monitor state workforce issues, and advocate for the continued protection of the state workforce.

2010 State Legislative Session
Legislative Proposal

Department / Division: Public Services Contact Person: Helen Moeller

Phone: 606-2600 Fax: 606-2601 E-Mail: helenm@leoncountyfl.gov

Topic: State Aid to Libraries

Problem/Need

The previously inherent incentive of the State Aid to Libraries program was to in enhance local library services by increasing local expenditures. This resulted in a corresponding increase in state dollars. However, the incentive no longer exists. The State Aid to Libraries allocations to Leon County have declined through the years even though local expenditures for library service have increased. The State Aid to Libraries program funding has declined in Leon County from \$405,019 in 2001 to \$171,486 in 2009.

Public libraries bridge the digital divide by providing computers, internet connections, online reference service 24/7, costly specialized databases, and books in multiple formats to meet the changing needs of the public. Public libraries also provide after school programs and summer reading programs that supplement the state educational system.

Recommended County Position, Recommended Change in Florida Statutes:

Staff recommends that the Board continue to support increased state funding of libraries and stop the decline of the state percentage in State Aid to Libraries.

2010 State Legislative Session
Legislative Proposal

Department / Division: Administration Contact Person: Vince Long/Ken Morris

Phone: 606-5300 Fax: 606-5301 E-Mail: morrisk@leoncountyfl.gov

Topic: **State Cost Shifts to Counties/Revenue Shifts**

Problem/Need

During a special session in 2004, the Legislature passed a bill shifting \$90 million in state costs for the predisposition of juvenile offenders to counties. Upheld by the Legislature in 2005, this cost shift impacts Leon County's budget annually, and resulted in a \$1.4 million expense in 2005 alone. Staff estimates this cost shift will reach \$2 million in FY 10.

In 2007 the Legislature created the Public Defender Conflict Counsels, requiring counties to bare the burden of providing facilities, security, technology, and communication needs under *Article V* of the state constitution. Leon County, the host of the second judicial circuit for Franklin, Gadsden, Jefferson, Liberty, and Wakulla Counties, is responsible for approximately 22 additional employees. The estimated cost to provide these 22 employees with the services outlined in *Article V* was approximately \$300,000 annually. Subsequently, the County was successful in challenging the constitutionality of the 2007 cost shift through the judicial process.

Recommended County Position, Recommended Change in Florida Statutes:

As the Legislature crafts the state budget with billions less in revenue from last year, it is important for local governments to monitor the potential cost shift of state programs. These cost shifts can occur in any field including health and human services, public safety, or general government. Staff recommends that the Board oppose any state unfunded mandates or cost shifts to counties.

2010 State Legislative Session
Legislative Proposal

Department / Division: County Administration Contact Person: Ken Morris

Phone: 606-5300 Fax: 606-5301 E-Mail: morrisk@leoncountyfl.gov

Topic: **Charter Preemption**

Problem/Need

Charter preemption legislation attempts to void any county charter, ordinance, land development regulation, or countywide special act governing the use, development, or redevelopment of land, unless it has been approved by a vote of the electors of the municipality and approved by a vote of the electors of the charter county.

Charter preemption legislation has been pursued on state matters and to resolve contentious political battles between cities and counties. The Florida League of Cities has not aggressively pursued charter preemption legislation since 2006 but staff will continue to monitor legislation to protect the counties' home rule authority.

Recommended County Position, Recommended Change in Florida Statutes:

Coordinate with the Florida Association of Counties and charter counties to oppose legislation that limits, restricts, or preempts charter county home rule authority.

2010 State Legislative Session
Legislative Proposal

Department / Division: Administration

Contact Person: Ken Morris

Phone: 606-5300

Fax: _____

E-Mail :MorrisK@Leoncountyfl.gov

Topic: Sunshine Review

Problem/Need

Article I, Section 24 of the Florida Constitution requires that meetings of the Legislature be open and noticed. The rules of procedure of each House of the Legislature must provide that all legislative committee and subcommittee meetings of each House and Joint Conference Committees be noticed and open to the public. All prearranged gatherings, between MORE THAN TWO members of the Legislature or between the Governor, the President of the Senate, or the Speaker of the House of Representatives, for which the purpose of which is to agree upon formal legislative action must be properly noticed and open to the public.

The strict application of the law which is applied to local government officials when two members of the same agency meet specifically prohibit discussion about substantive matters upon which the agencies' members may vote in the future. These same restrictions DO NOT however apply to the Florida Legislative members.

The Legislature is held to a lesser standard than state agencies and local governments, and many cities and counties throughout Florida have adopted resolutions, including Leon County, recommending the Legislature to hold itself to a stricter standard or similar to local governments.

Recommended County Position, Recommended Change in Florida Statutes:

Support a constitutional amendment that requires the Florida Legislature to operate under the same Sunshine Law as local government officials.

Attachment: Resolution R08-57 Supporting a Constitutional Amendment Requiring the State Legislature to Operate Under the Same Sunshine Laws as County Officials.

RESOLUTION NO. R08-57

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA, TO SUPPORT A CONSTITUTIONAL
AMENDMENT THAT REQUIRES STATE LEGISLATURE
TO OPERATE UNDER THE SAME SUNSHINE
LAW AS COUNTY OFFICIALS

WHEREAS, Florida's Government-in-the-Sunshine Law enacted in 1967 established a right of access to most meetings of boards, commissions, and other governing bodies of state and local governmental agencies; and

WHEREAS, Governor Charlie Crist proclaimed March 16-22, 2008, and Sunshine Week for the citizens of the State of Florida and stated "The role of Florida's government is to serve the people of Florida, and open government gives the people the tools they need to hold their elected officials accountable;" and

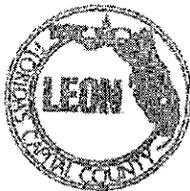
WHEREAS, our counties and municipalities live by this law and ensure that government business is conducted in the open for all people to see; and

WHEREAS, all Florida government is better served when all elected officials live in the Sunshine.

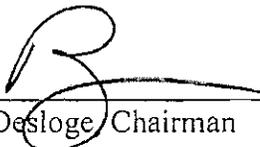
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of County Commissioners for Leon County, Florida, hereby urge the Florida Legislature to enact specific legislation which would apply the full effect of Florida's "Sunshine Law," §286.011, Florida Statutes, to all activities and all meetings of the Florida Legislature and the members of the Florida Legislature, or, in the alternative, to propose a Constitutional Amendment to be adopted by the voters which makes the Sunshine Law applicable to the Florida Legislature and all meetings of its members.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution be provided to the Chair of the Commission on Open Government, Florida Governor Charlie Crist, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Florida Senate, and all counties in Florida.

DULY ADOPTED by the Board of County Commissioners, Leon County, Florida this 25th day of November, 2008.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA

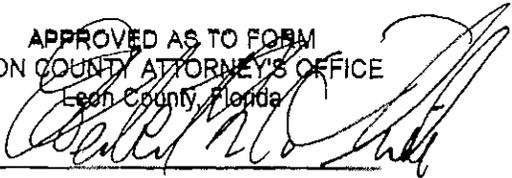


Bryan Desloge Chairman

ATTEST:



BOB INZER, CLERK OF THE COURT
LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA

APPROVED AS TO FORM
LEON COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
Leon County, Florida
By: 

2010 State Legislative Session
Legislative Proposal

Department / Division: Administration Contact Person: Vince Long/Ken Morris

Phone: 606-5300 Fax: 606-5301 E-Mail: morrisk@leoncountyfl.gov

Topic: **Florida Association of Counties**

Problem/Need

FAC represents 66 counties at the Legislature on issues that have broad statewide appeal, such as the opposition of unfunded mandates or cost shifts to counties (such as the \$90 million DJJ cost shift that was passed in 2005), growth management, annexation, revenue-sharing, and water management issues. FAC will finalize their 2010 legislative program during their legislative conference scheduled for December 4, 2009.

Recommended County Position, Recommended Change in Florida Statutes:

Support the 2010 FAC legislative program unless specific issues conflict with Leon County's interests.



The Florida House of Representatives
Office of the Speaker

Larry Cretul
Speaker

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members, Florida House of Representatives
FROM: Larry Cretul, Speaker 
DATE: October 6, 2009
RE: Community Budget Issue Request System (CBIRS)

The fiscal challenges continuing to face our state have maintained our need to focus efforts on solutions to balance the state's budget. Accordingly, as we determined last year, we will again not be opening the Community Budget Issue Request System (CBIRS) this year. We again hope to avoid creating unrealistic funding expectations in our communities given the continuing decline in expected state revenues.

We look forward to continue working with you in tackling the great challenges before us.