

WORKSHOP

Workshop on the 2016 State and Federal Legislative Priorities

**Tuesday, September 15, 2015
1:30 – 3:00 p.m.**

**Leon County Board of County Commissioners' Chambers
Leon County Courthouse, 5th Floor**

**Leon County
Board of County Commissioners**

Notes for Workshop

Leon County Board of County Commissioners

Workshop Cover Sheet

September 15, 2015

To: Honorable Chairman and Members of the Board

From: Vincent S. Long, County Administrator 

Title: Workshop on the 2016 State and Federal Legislative Priorities

County Administrator Review and Approval:	Vincent S. Long, County Administrator
Department/ Division Review:	Alan Rosenzweig, Deputy County Administrator
Lead Staff/ Project Team:	Shington Lamy, Assistant to the County Administrator Andy Johnson, Special Projects Coordinator

Fiscal Impact:

This item does not have a fiscal impact. However, it recommends requests for state and federal appropriations as well as substantive policy positions that seek to avoid unfunded mandates and cost shifts to the County.

Staff Recommendations:

- Option #1: Approve the 2016 State and Federal Legislative Priorities, as amended by the Board.
- Option #2: Designate a Commissioner to host the Community Legislative Dialogue meetings for the 2016 state legislative session.

Report and Discussion

Background:

Each year, the Board conducts a workshop with the County's legislative staff and contract lobbyists to develop priorities for the upcoming state and federal legislative sessions. This workshop enables the County's legislative team to receive important guidance from the Board regarding priority legislative issues and directs the County's lobbying efforts for the upcoming year at both the state and federal level. In recent years, the Board has directed staff to refine the County's substantive policy priorities only to the most pressing issues and to support the Florida Association of Counties (FAC) and National Association of Counties (NACo) in achieving their respective legislative goals. Consistent with this direction, staff is seeking Board approval of the County's 2016 State and Federal Legislative Priorities, comprised of the state and federal policy and appropriations issues proposed herein.

Analysis:

Staff recommends several policy and appropriations priorities, arranged as follows:

- 14 appropriations requests for the 2016 state and federal sessions (Attachment #1)
- Seven substantive policy priorities for the 2016 state legislative session (Attachment #2)
- Six federal substantive policy priorities for the second session of the 114th Congress (Attachment #3)

The Board may wish to add, remove, and/or amend legislative priorities as deemed appropriate for the County's 2016 State and Federal Legislative Priorities. Upon Board approval, staff and the contract lobbying teams will pursue all of the legislative issues approved by the Board, placing appropriate emphasis on individual priorities according to the opportunities that arise during the legislative process. Notwithstanding this, staff will assign priority to any issue that the Board designates to receive a special level of attention in the upcoming legislative cycle.

Importantly, in addition to the issues specific to Leon County identified herein by staff, much of the County's legislative advocacy each session is focused on issues of statewide importance in conjunction with FAC. FAC will finalize its 2016 federal and state legislative program during the 2015-16 Legislative Conference on November 18-20, 2015. The statewide issues identified by the FAC membership are often the most critical issues facing counties during the state 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, as well as through the weekly *Capitol Update* memoranda during session.

PROPOSED LEON COUNTY 2015 STATE & FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

Appropriations Requests

(Please note: complete information on each request is included in Attachment #1)

The Board's practice of retaining professional contract lobbying services at both the state and federal levels enhances the County's ability to advocate for legislative appropriations to support important County projects. Staff works throughout the year to identify projects most suitable for state and federal appropriations requests. In prior state legislative sessions, specific forms have been utilized by legislative committees to request local funding for projects. In the past three sessions, there has been a specific process in place for requesting funding for local water projects. While it is not yet clear what process, if any, will be in place for requesting funding for local projects during the 2016 state legislative session, staff has prepared the information that will likely be required to support the proposed appropriations requests.

In recent years, the Florida Legislature and Governor Scott have placed a greater emphasis on grant programs through the executive branch and coordinating with state agencies to help fund infrastructure projects. Governor Scott vetoed \$461 million in the FY2015-2016 state budget, specifically striking projects that bypassed state agency review or that would not benefit the state as a whole. Each of the appropriations requests proposed is consistent with a statewide priority, and upon the Board's approval, staff and the County's lobbying team will begin discussing each project with state agencies and Leon County's legislative delegation members to advocate for state funding through the appropriate channels. In previous years, the County has had success in state funding for its parks and library programs through the legislative appropriations process. Similarly, two of the County's water quality appropriation requests were selected during the 2014 session to receive funding. Two additional projects were included in the Legislature's 2015 approved budget, although both were included in the Governor's vetoes.

The proposed appropriations requests for 2016 are categorized to mirror the Florida Legislature's conference committee process for appropriations. The conference committee process is utilized to reconcile bills with significant differences, as a bill must be passed by both chambers in precisely the same words and figures in order to become an act of the Legislature. Since each chamber develops its own version of the state budget independently, the conference committee process is typically used to negotiate specific differences between the chambers' respective spending plans. Conference committees are comprised of separate committees from the House and Senate. When negotiating differences in the state budget, conference committees are appointed by specific subject area – Criminal and Civil Justice; Education; Agriculture and Natural Resources; General Government; Health and Human Services; and Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development. For 2016, staff has identified 14 projects for funding in three subject areas: Agriculture and Natural Resources; Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development; and Health and Human Services.

Following are the proposed Leon County 2016 state and federal appropriation requests (for complete information on each, see Attachment #1):

Agriculture and Natural Resources Appropriations Requests:

**Items marked with an asterisk are identified for funding in more than one category.*

<u>Request:</u>	<u>Amount:</u>	<u>Project Phase:</u>
Woodville Sewer - Phase 1 & 2	\$7.2 million	Design & Construction
Harbinwood Estates Septic to Sewer	\$2.5 million	Design
Leon South Regional Water System	\$1.5 million	Design & Construction
Centerville Trace Septic to Sewer	\$1 million	Design
Fred George Restoration	\$1 million	Construction
Fords Arm Restoration*	\$3.97 million	Construction
Apalachee Regional Park*	\$500,000	Design & Engineering

Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development Appropriations Requests:

**Items marked with an asterisk are identified for funding in more than one category.*

<u>Request:</u>	<u>Amount:</u>	<u>Project Phase:</u>
Capital Circle Southwest - Segment 1 (Orange Avenue to Springhill Road)	\$30.0 million	Right-of-Way Acquisition
Capital Circle Southwest - Segment 1 (Orange Avenue to Springhill Road)	\$35.4 million	Construction
Capital Circle Southwest - Segment 2 (Springhill Road to Crawfordville Road)	\$31.0 million	Right-of-Way Acquisition
Capital Circle Southwest - Segment 2 (Springhill Road to Crawfordville Road)	\$22.7 million	Construction
Woodville Highway (Capital Circle to Paul Russell Road)	\$3.6 million	Right-of-Way Acquisition
Woodville Highway (Capital Circle to Paul Russell Road)	\$23 million	Construction
Fords Arm Restoration*	\$3.97 million	Construction
Apalachee Regional Park*	\$500,000	Design & Engineering

Health and Human Services Appropriations Requests:

<u>Request:</u>	<u>Amount:</u>	<u>Project Phase:</u>
Community Paramedic Program	\$925,000	Program Funding

PROPOSED LEON COUNTY 2015 STATE LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Policy Requests

(Please note: complete information on each request is included in Attachment #2)

The 2016 state legislative session will begin early on January 12, 2016 and will conclude on March 11, 2016 due to a bill passed in 2014 adjusting the dates of next year's session. Like most legislation, the County's policy requests are generally incremental in nature, focusing on issues that are built upon over the course of several legislative 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 maintaining the County's home rule authority to the protection of the state workforce. The state's current fiscal challenges and efforts to further reduce the size and scope of state government are likely to dominate the Legislature's time this year. It will be important for the County's lobbying team to monitor the budgetary and programmatic decisions made by the Legislature to determine their impact, if any, on local governments in the form of cost shifts or unfunded mandates.

During the 2015 legislative session, the Capitol Alliance Group worked to advance the Board's legislative priorities. For example, Capitol Alliance Group, along with our community partners, lobbied successfully to protect the state workforce from major revisions to the Florida Retirement System and from changes to the state's group health insurance program that would have increased the employee cost of the state's HMO plan. In addition, Capitol Alliance Group assisted in getting two of Leon County's water quality projects included in the Legislature's approved budget, although both were ultimately vetoed by the Governor.

In addition to the substantive issues identified by the County, staff works daily with FAC and the Florida Association for Intergovernmental Relations (FAIR) to identify developing issues that affect counties during the 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.

Following is a refined listing of the proposed Leon County 2016 state legislative policy requests. Each request provides a brief overview of the issue and indicates the specific recommended legislative action. More detailed information on each is included in Attachment #2.

Protection of State Workforce

Issue: 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.

The FY15/16 state budget included a net reduction of over 800 positions from the state workforce compared to the prior fiscal year. Staff is working to determine the number of eliminated positions that were based in Leon County; however, requests must be submitted to each department to obtain this information. Staff has reached out to each state agency individually and will provide a report to the Board when more information becomes available.

While the FY15/16 budget did not increase state employee health insurance premiums, which remain at \$50 per month for individual coverage and \$180

per month for family coverage for most employees, there have been attempts in the past several sessions to cap the state's total spending on employee health insurance and increase health insurance premiums of state employees. An unsuccessful bill considered last session also included a new health insurance system with four different benefit levels from which state employees could choose, but would have raised the employee contribution toward the state's HMO plan, which covers more than 50% of all state employees. It is expected that similar legislation affecting state employee health insurance will be pursued during the 2016 session.

During the past several sessions, the Legislature has sought to reform the Florida Retirement System (FRS). FRS is the primary retirement plan for public sector employees, 80% of which are county government agencies, district school boards, community colleges, and universities. In 2015, after an actuarial study released during the third week of the regular session, House Speaker Steve Crisafulli announced that the House would not pursue FRS reform in 2015. The study indicated that moving the state workforce away from the defined-benefit plan toward a defined-contribution plan would cost the state millions of dollars – a stark contrast to the significant savings projected by actuarial studies in 2013 and 2014. Accordingly, no bill was passed during regular or special session reforming the FRS. Staff will continue to closely monitor any movement related to the issue in 2016.

Action: Support the protection of the state workforce and oppose any reductions to state employee benefits.

State-Local Economic Development Partnerships

Issue: State-local partnerships for economic development are important tools that empower local governments and provide resources that lead to the creation of quality jobs, vibrant communities, and global economic competitiveness. During the 2015 legislative session, the Florida Enterprise Zone Program – a key component of the state-local economic development toolkit – was allowed to expire at the end of 2015 when no legislation was passed extending its statutory authorization. State evaluations of the Florida Enterprise Zone Program suggested that Enterprise Zones generally yield little return on state investment. However, the state narrowly defined return on investment as the increase in new state revenues per dollar of state program investment, without consideration of the local benefits stemming directly from the program, such as property valuation increases and community revitalization.

The Tallahassee-Leon County Enterprise Zone has stimulated an infusion of approximately \$5 million in state incentive awards to nearly 1,400 applications since its creation, creating an estimated 540 new jobs during the past decade. While the Florida Enterprise Zone Program will sunset on December 31, 2015, legislation passed during the 2015A special legislative session will preserve state enterprise zone incentives for existing businesses located within enterprise zones until December 31, 2018.

With the expiration of the Florida Enterprise Zone Program, it is essential to forge new state-local economic development partnerships through the greater use of targeted strategic investments. These investments should be designed to induce sustainable economic activity addressing each community's unique economic circumstances, resulting in a consistent positive return on investment for both state and local governments.

Action: Support legislation and appropriation that enhances the efficiency and effectiveness of the state and local government partnership in economic development.

Modification of the Eligibility for Levying the Local Option High Impact Tourist Development Tax to Include Counties that are Home to Preeminent State Research Universities as Designated by the Florida Legislature

Issue: Section 125.0104, F.S., authorizes five separate tourist development taxes that county governments may levy. Depending on a county's eligibility to levy, the tax rate applied to transient rental transactions varies from a minimum of three percent to a maximum of six percent. Proceeds from these levies are generally utilized by local governments to build tourist-related facilities and to promote and market tourism. One of these levies, the "High Tourism Impact Tax," is a discretionary (local option) one percent tax on transient rental transactions available to counties in which tourism is a significant component of the local economy.

This policy request recommends a statutory revision to allow counties that are home to the main campus of a Preeminent State Research University to levy the High Tourism Impact Tax in support of these universities in recognition of their economic benefit through tourism. Currently, Florida State University (Leon County) and the University of Florida (Alachua County) have achieved designation as Preeminent State Research Universities by reaching certain standards of academic and research excellence set forth in Section 1001.7065, F.S. Florida's Preeminent State Research Universities generate immense national and international tourism activity through hosting conferences, graduation ceremonies, short-term academic programs and symposia, and other functions. Preeminent State Research Universities receive state support for the enhancement of the university's research capabilities by recruiting faculty who are members of National Academies; showcasing university research products and facilities; enhancing national recognition of their programs in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics; and ranking among the top public universities in the nation. In turn, the growth in stature generates new tourism activity related to university functions.

The immediate past President and current President of Florida State University have addressed the Board at the last two Annual Retreats to share the university's vision for the Arena District. At the 2013 Retreat, the Board directed the County Administrator to work with Florida State University on the master planning effort including a potential partnership to realize the convention center space desired by the County and to bring back issues related to the County's financial participation and programmatic role for future Board consideration after the passage of the sales tax. Since that time, the Board also contemplated the possibility of supporting the convention center with tourism funds for its operational needs but has not made a formal commitment. More specifically, on October 14, 2014, the Board provided further guidance to the County Administrator to contemplate the potential for utilization of a 1/4 cent of tourism revenue to support the operational costs associated with the convention center once it is completed, based upon a future determination by the Board. Soon after, the County and City Commissions allocated up to \$20 million from the voter-approved sales tax referendum in support of the Arena District and convention center.

Florida State University recently completed the master planning of its Arena District and is currently engaged in a solicitation process with private developers for the \$400 million redevelopment of several downtown parcels in partnership with Leon County and the City of Tallahassee. The university's Arena District Master Plan calls for improvements to the Donald L. Tucker Civic Center along with the development of a convention center, a full-service hotel, the relocation of the College of Business, new entrepreneurial spaces, future in-fill academic buildings, and other elements in an effort to modernize its facilities and grow the campus footprint. The current solicitation process to negotiate with private developers which staff is participating in will better define the participation, programmatic, governance, and financial needs to make the arena district successful. Based on preliminary conversations with Florida State University, County staff is of the opinion that currently anticipated revenues will not satisfy the construction or operational costs associated with the desired convention center and ancillary improvements.

A convention center in the Arena District would serve the many business, civic, advocacy, and academic organizations that are drawn to the state capitol and its two premier institutions of higher learning. In recent years, many academic, research, and business groups affiliated with Florida State University have been forced to host their convention business hundreds of miles away from the main campus due to the lack of adequate meeting space. Proceeds from a local option High Impact Tourist Development Tax could be used to fund the construction, maintenance, operations, etc. of the convention center envisioned in the Arena District Master Plan in order to support the community's shared initiatives and long-term economic goals. The proposed statutory revision would enhance the Board's investment of up to \$20 million in local funds by ensuring that a dedicated revenue source is in place to support the long-term viability of the convention center.

Action: Support the revision of Sec. 125.0104, F.S. to modify the eligibility for levying the local option High Tourism Impact Tax to include counties that are home to Preeminent State Research Universities.

Springs Restoration

Issue: Last session, the House and Senate advanced separate legislation aimed at comprehensive water policy reform. Ultimately, neither chamber's bill passed, though both had advanced to the floor before the early end to the regular session. Last session's water policy legislation addressed water quality and quantity, springs and aquifer protection, septic tank remediation in springs protection areas, water use and conservation, and a variety of other measures. The legislature is expected to address comprehensive water policy reform again during the 2016 session.

Leon County has demonstrated a longstanding commitment to environmental protection and preservation, and springs protection more specifically. The County has designated a Primary Springs Protection Zone by ordinance, which is consistent with similar provisions contained in its Comprehensive Plan. The Primary Springs Protection Zone is designed to minimize the adverse impacts of development on groundwater recharge and aquifer water quality. In addition, Leon County has advanced several infrastructure projects aimed at restoring water quality within the Wakulla Springs Basin. Legislation considered during the 2015 session included provisions requiring the adoption of a remediation plan in certain circumstances to reduce nutrient impacts from onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems. Local governments are required to comply with such remediation plans, which typically include infrastructure projects implemented at the local level. Last year's legislation did not specify the level of state funding support for projects included in remediation plans, leaving open the possibility that the state may require local governments to conduct remediation projects with little state funding support. This provision would impose significant unfunded mandates on local governments in order to comply with these plans at the risk of state-imposed limitations on future development. As indicated above, Leon County has historically taken proactive steps to address water quality and springs protection; however, the state's requirements should account for the financial impact of remediation projects on property owners and the community.

Action: Support the prioritization of springs restoration funding, with a program designed to assist local governments with the cost of wastewater facility upgrades, septic tank connections, and septic tank abandonment.

Public Safety on College and University Campuses

Issue: Two bills were introduced during the 2015 regular legislative session, which would have allowed persons with a concealed carry permit to carry concealed weapons or firearm into college or university facilities. Under current law, even if a person has a concealed carry license, it is illegal to carry a weapon onto a college or university campus.

During the March 10, 2015 meeting, the Board unanimously approved a resolution supporting President Thrasher, President Mangum, and President Murdaugh in their unified opposition to allowing concealed weapons on university and college campuses. While neither bill passed during the 2015 legislative session, bills have already been filed in both the House and Senate for 2016 legislative session on this issue.

Action: Support of the position of the presidents of Florida State University, Florida A&M University, and Tallahassee Community College, based on last year's position, opposing statutory changes to Section 790.06, F.S. that would allow the concealed carrying of weapons into college or university facilities.

Public Records Exemption for EMTs and Paramedics

Issue: Under Chapter 119, Florida Statutes, the home addresses, phone numbers and photographs of firefighters are exempt from public records disclosure requirements, as well as the places of employment and schools of their spouses and children. This request seeks a similar statutory exemption for emergency medical technicians (EMTs) and paramedics, who respond to similar incidents as firefighters and are subjected to similar consequences of responding to those incidents, including being in danger of physical and emotional harm from disgruntled persons involved in incidents.

Action: Support the revision of Section 119.071(4)(d)2, F.S. to provide a similar exemption for personal information of EMTs and paramedics, as well as their immediate family members.

Florida Association of Counties (FAC) Issues

Issue: FAC represents 67 counties before the Florida 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 and the \$146 million in Medicaid retrospective reconciliation and billing system changes passed in 2012), growth management, annexation, revenue-sharing, and water management issues. FAC will adopt its 2016 legislative program during the 2015-16 Legislative Conference from November 18-20, 2015.

Action: Support the 2016 FAC legislative program unless specific issues conflict with Leon County's interests.

Community Legislative Dialogue Meetings

For the past five years, the County has hosted 'Community Legislative Dialogue' meetings before and throughout the legislative session to engage our community and regional partners in identifying shared legislative priorities and interests. These meetings are generally well-attended by representatives from the Leon County Legislative Delegation, higher education institutions, the Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce, Big Bend Minority Chamber of Commerce, the City of Tallahassee, Leon County School Board, Constitutional Officers, Tallahassee Memorial Hospital, and several other community partners. The participants agree that it has been helpful to hear priorities of others in the community and to identify shared issues.

Last year, the Board designated Commissioner Desloge to host these meetings. A total of three roundtable discussions were held with our community partners. The meetings were held during committee weeks prior to the start of the legislative session, in the middle of session, and after the end of session. If the Board would like to continue hosting the ‘Community Legislative Dialogue’ meetings for the 2016 legislative session, staff would typically recommend that the Chairman host these meetings each year. However, given the fact that Leon County is in the unique position this year of having a Commissioner serve as NACo 1st Vice President, the Board may wish to designate Commissioner Desloge to once again host these meetings for the 2016 session.

The Board also hosts annual the Leon County Legislative Delegation meeting prior to the legislative session in order to communicate its legislative priorities. This year’s Legislative Delegation Meeting has been scheduled for September 21, 2015.

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE ISSUES:

(Please note: complete information on each request is included in Attachment #3)

Each year staff evaluates the trends and issues affecting all County programs and services to identify potential policy or substantive legislative issues at the federal level. Most substantive issues that the County has at the federal level are coordinated through the County’s National Association of Counties (NACo) representation. Similar to previous years, the federal appropriation requests have been combined with the state appropriation requests.

Squire Patton Boggs, the County’s federal contract lobbying firm, has worked closely with staff on select federal policy issues and priorities that have been identified by the Board. Squire Patton Boggs was instrumental, for example, in the County’s efforts to encourage sufficient appropriations for the construction of the Veterans National Cemetery in Leon County.

One of the Board’s top federal legislative issues last year was the United States Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) and the United States Army Corps of Engineers’ (Corps) joint administrative rule entitled, “Definition of Waters of the U.S. Under the Clean Water Act.” This rule amends the current definition to expand the range of waters (and their conveyances) that are subject to federal jurisdiction. The rule, which became final on August 28, 2015, eliminates the distinction between traditional navigable waters (such as lakes, rivers, and streams) and conveyances such as ditches and drains. The rule applies regardless of flow or hydrologic connections. On September 23, 2014, the Board approved a resolution voicing concerns regarding the rule and a copy of the resolution was sent to the EPA and the County’s federal delegation. It is the County’s position that the EPA rule change will negatively impact the County’s ability to protect those resources and could put undue burden on local governments through onerous permitting requirements. While Congress has taken some steps to attempt a repeal of the rule, it is likely that the President would override any legislation affecting the rule.

Future challenges to the rule are expected to occur within the judicial, rather than the legislative branch. The EPA is expected to release a statement and/or guidelines regarding the implementation of the rule. Staff and Squire Patton Boggs will continue to monitor this issue and the effects of its implementation on County operations. At the FAC 2015-16 Policy Committee Conference in August, the membership opted to monitor the effects of the rule for the current year and formulate a policy statement next year for 2016-17 based on impacts reported by counties over the year.

On July 6, the U.S. Department of Labor's (DOL) Wage and Hour Division released a proposed rule to update and revise the regulations issued under the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) that would change the way employers implement the exemption from minimum wage and overtime pay for executive, administrative, and professional employees. This proposal could have a significant impact on counties and the number of employees that are eligible for overtime pay. The standard salary level required for exemption from overtime pay is \$455 per week (\$23,660 for a full-year worker), which was last updated in 2004. DOL seeks to update this salary level and more than double the current salary threshold for overtime pay eligibility to \$970 a week (\$50,440 for a full-year worker) in 2016. A final rule is expected in early 2016. Staff will be working to estimate the fiscal impact of the proposed rule, should it ultimately become effective, to Leon County. In addition, the County's legislative team will work with Squire Patton Boggs to monitor the evolution of the proposed rule and will provide a report to the Board at a later date.

Following is a refined listing of the proposed Leon County 2016 federal legislative policy requests for the second session of the 114th Congress. Each request provides a brief overview of the issue and indicates the specific recommended legislative action. More detailed information on each is included in Attachment #3.

Long-Term Surface Transportation Reauthorization

Issue:

In 2012, President Obama signed Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) into law. This legislation provided funding over two years (FY 2013 – FY 2014) in the amount of \$105 billion for surface transportation programs in the United States. MAP-21 is the first 'long-term' highway authorization enacted since 2005 was originally set to expire on September 31, 2014. Congress passed several short-term extensions of the act and to provide funding for the Highway Trust Fund (HTF) to ensure its continued solvency. Local governments use this funding to aid with the building and maintaining transportation infrastructure. Counties own and maintain 45% of America's roads (including more than 200,000 bridges), involved in the operation of 27% of public transit systems, however the share of federal and state funding to local governments for highways decreased by 10% between 1998-2011, which is now set to expire on October 29, 2015.

The U.S. Senate has passed a six-year transportation bill (the "DRIVE Act"); however, the bill only provides funding for three years through a combination of general revenue and trust funds. The House did not vote on the DRIVE Act or other surface transportation legislation prior to its summer recess, but is expected to address transportation reauthorization this fall. Another short-term extension of MAP-21 is expected in order to address transportation funding until a longer-term bill can be finalized.

Transportation stakeholders and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce argue that raising the gas tax is the most effective way to address the HTF funding issue. Ultimately, this request recommends passage of a multi-year surface transportation bill that provides long-term funding certainty, increases funding for county road and bridge projects, and enhances the role of counties in statewide transportation planning.

Action: Support a long-term surface transportation bill that provides funding at or above the current level of funding for surface transportation programs.

Full Funding of the Federal Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) Program

Issue: Roughly, 62% of counties in the United States have federal land within their boundaries. Although counties cannot collect property tax on federal land, they are still required to provide essential services for that land. For nearly 40 years, the PILT program has provided funding to counties and municipalities to offset lost tax revenue from federal land within their respective boundaries. NACo hosted a “PILT Fly-In” at the nation’s capital in 2014 for county leaders from across the nation to urge their respective members of Congress to support full PILT funding.

This request recommends full funding of the PILT program in FY2016. For FY 2015, PILT was extended with \$70 million in appropriations provided by the FY 2015 National Defense Authorization Act and \$372 million in appropriations provided by the FY 2015 Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act (P.L. 113-235). Together the two bills provided full discretionary funding of \$442 million for PILT in FY 2015. This year Leon County received approximately \$191,000 from the federal government in PILT funding due to the portion of Apalachicola National Forest in Leon County.

Action: Support federal legislation that includes full mandatory funding for PILT in the FY 2016 appropriations package and support a long-term strategy for a sustainable PILT program.

Collection of Sales Tax on Remote Transactions

Issue: Under current law, individuals who buy goods online are required to remit sales tax to the state individually; however, that provision is largely unheeded and not enforced. Economists estimate the state loses out on about \$400 million in revenue each year the tax goes uncollected. Purchases from these stores are not subject to sales tax due to the fact that they are not physically located in the state of Florida. The inability to collect an internet sales tax puts local ‘brick-and-mortar’ businesses in Florida at a disadvantage relative to out-of-state online retailers. Governor Rick Scott and several members of the Legislature view the implementation of internet sales tax legislation as a tax increase; therefore, efforts in the State Legislature have been unsuccessful.

Legislation regarding the implementation of an internet sales tax has been considered by both the State Legislature and Congress. On July 15, 2015, a bipartisan group of senators introduced the Marketplace and Internet Tax Fairness Act (MITFA). The bill (S. 2609) would combine two key issues important to counties:

- The Marketplace Fairness Act (MFA) as passed by the Senate in 2013, with a few minor technical corrections. MFA, which passed with the support of NACo, allows state and local governments to enforce existing sales taxes on remote sellers.
- A ten-year extension of the Internet Tax Freedom Act (ITFA). ITFA prohibits counties from collecting a tax on Internet access (typically a subscription service) until November 1, 2014. While a 10-year extension is not ideal for counties, NACo favors a temporary extension of ITFA in lieu of permanent measures like the Permanent ITFA (H.R. 3086) that passed in the House on July 14, 2014.

MITFA has garnered bipartisan support, with 14 Senators (11 Democrats and three Republicans) joining as cosponsors less than a week after its introduction.

Action: Support legislation that promotes an equitable and competitive environment between ‘brick and mortar’ businesses and remote businesses establishments operating in Florida.

Tax-Exempt Status of Municipal Bonds

Issue: Tax-exempt municipal bonds have been a fundamental feature of the United States tax code since 1913. Municipal bonds remain the primary method used by states and local governments to finance public capital improvements and public infrastructure projects that are essential for creating jobs, sustaining economic growth, and improving the quality of life for Americans in every corner of the country.

Funds generated from infrastructure bond financing help to build hospitals, water and sewer facilities, public utilities, roads, and mass transit. In the past decade, nearly \$288 billion of financing went to general acute-care hospitals; nearly \$258 billion to water and sewer facilities; nearly \$178 billion to roads, highways, and streets; nearly \$147 billion to public power projects; and \$105.6 billion to mass transit.

Action: Support the preservation of the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds.

Support for Future Growth of the VA Tallahassee National Cemetery

Issue: In November 2012, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced that it purchased land for a new national cemetery in Leon County. The VA purchased a 250-acre parcel along U.S. Highway 27, which will serve the burial needs for more than 83,000 veterans in North Florida, Southwest Georgia, and Southeast Alabama. The President's Budget request for FY 2014 included \$40 million for the cemetery, and Congress passed the requested amount in the FY 2014 Omnibus Appropriations Act.

Phase I of the Veterans National Cemetery began in late 2014. The initial phase of construction will provide 6,000 gravesites and accommodate both casket and cremains interment. Other features such as a front entrance on Apalachee Parkway, committal shelters, and a public information center with electronic gravesite locator and restrooms are also included in Phase I. It is anticipated Phase I will be completed in 2016. Future phases of construction are anticipated to be necessary within 10 years from the cemetery's opening. At build-out, the facility is planned to accommodate 133,000 gravesites.

Action: Support dedicated funding for the future growth of the VA Tallahassee National Cemetery.

National Association of Counties (NACo) Issues

Issue: The National Association of Counties (NACo) advocates with a collective voice on behalf of America's 3,069 county governments. Its membership includes urban, suburban, and rural counties. NACo's advocacy efforts are guided by a policy platform and single-subject policy resolutions adopted at each annual conference by policy committees and the full membership.

Action: Support NACo's 2015-16 legislative efforts unless specific issues conflict with Leon County's interests.

Staff coordinates regularly with Squire Patton Boggs by phone and e-mail to strategize on key federal budget issues and to identify new federal grant opportunities that could potentially fund County project requests. In addition, Squire Patton Boggs 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.

The NACo 2016 Legislative Conference is scheduled for February 20-24, 2016 in Washington, D.C. In the past, Commissioners and County staff have used the NACo Legislative Conference as an opportunity to meet with the Leon County Federal Legislative Delegation to advocate for the County's federal priorities. NACo is the only national organization that represents county governments in the United States. Due to Commissioner Desloge's leadership and commitment to local communities and home rule, he was elected 1st Vice President of NACo in July 2015. He will serve as 1st Vice President for a year, before ascending to become President of NACo. This provides Leon County a unique advantage in advocating the county's federal legislative priorities.

LOBBYING CONTRACTS:

The County utilizes contract lobbying services at the state and federal levels to further the County's legislative goals and in pursuit of appropriations for key local projects. The contract lobbying firms provide a daily presence by advocating the County's legislative priorities with the County's Delegations and legislative leaders. During the development of the FY 2013 budget, the Board agreed to extend both the federal and state contracts for a two-year period in order to unify the County's lobbying contract terms so they could be bid concurrently when they expire in 2015. At the October 28, 2014 Legislative Priorities Workshop (ratified at the December 9, 2014 Regular Meeting), the Board subsequently extended the lobbying contracts with both the state and federal lobbying teams for one year due to the early start date for the 2016 session to preserve the continuity of the County's legislative program. The Board's extension of the state and federal contracts by one year allows staff to issue an RFP for both services concurrently in 2016 per the Board's prior guidance. Staff will bring this item to the Board for consideration together with the end-of-session legislative report in early 2016.

Options:

1. Approve the 2016 state and federal legislative priorities, as amended by the Board.
2. Designate a Commissioner to host the Community Legislative Dialogue meetings for the 2016 state legislative session.
3. Board direction.

Recommendation:

Options #1 and #2.

Attachments:

1. 2015 State and Federal Legislative Appropriations Request and Related Materials
2. 2015 State Legislative Session Policy Requests and Related Materials
3. 2015 Federal Policy Requests and Related Materials



Leon County Board of County Commissioners

2016 Legislative Priorities Information Form

CONTACT INFORMATION

Department:	Public Works	Division:	Engineering Services
Contact Person:	Kathy Burke	Title:	Director
Email:	BurkeK@LeonCountyFL.gov	Phone:	850-606-1518

APPROPRIATION REQUEST

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State	
Project Title:	Woodville Sewer		
Program Category:	<input type="checkbox"/> Criminal & Civil Justice	<input type="checkbox"/> Health & Human Services	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture & Natural Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Tourism & Economic Development	
	<input type="checkbox"/> General Government/Operations	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	

Project Description:

This project is for the design of a sewer system to provide sewer services to approximately 1,500 homes or properties located within the Woodville area of Leon County. The City of Tallahassee 2030 Sewer Master Plan included the preliminary planning to connect Woodville to the City's Advanced Wastewater Treatment Facility. These homes are located upstream to Wakulla Springs and threaten one of the world's largest and deepest freshwater springs.

Septic systems in the Woodville area of Leon County have been identified as a major source of nitrate loading to the groundwater and Wakulla Springs. Wakulla Springs is a first magnitude spring and is the longest and deepest known submerged freshwater cave system in the world. Located just five miles south of the Leon County line, Wakulla Springs is an important part of the regional culture and recreational economy. The City and the County have dedicated \$85 million (\$42.5 million each) from the penny sales tax extension for projects that improve water quality across the County and the City, while preserving and improving sensitive land and bodies of water surrounding our community. The Woodville sewer project could meet the criteria to receive funding from this source.

Purpose of the Project and Services/Benefits Provided:

Nitrate reduction associated with septic tanks is a key component of the draft Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP) for the Upper Wakulla River. Existing septic tank discharge concentrations are reported to be between 40 to 60 mg/L nitrogen. Replacing the existing septic tanks with wastewater treatment at the City of Tallahassee Advanced Wastewater Treatment Facility reduces the nitrogen discharge from a household to 3 mg/L.

Funds are requested for the design of the collection and transmission system from Woodville to the City of Tallahassee and for the construction of the transmission system. Completion of project design will support state and federal grant applications for construction costs, potentially as a match to penny sales tax funds.

The Tallahassee-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. 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.

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Population Served:

Approximately 1,500 homes will be directly impacted in Leon County. In addition, this project contributes to the reduction of nitrogen flowing to Wakulla Springs, an important local and state resource for tourism. Over 200,000 tourists visit Wakulla Springs State Park each year.

Project Dates for Construction/Operation:

If allocated state and/or federal funding, design, engineering, and permitting of the collection and transmission system would occur in FY2016. Construction would be anticipated in FY2017, or upon completion of the permitting process.

FUNDING REQUESTS

Funding Requested:

Total Funding Requested: \$7.2 million

- Design: \$3 million
- Construction (Transmission Line): \$4.2 million

PRESENT OR PENDING FUNDING SOURCES (INCLUDING COUNTY)

Source:	Local Option Sales Tax	Amount:	Undetermined
Source:		Amount:	
Source:		Amount:	



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CONTACT INFORMATION

Department:	Public Works	Division:	Engineering Services
Contact Person:	Theresa Heiker	Title:	Stormwater Management Coord.
Email:	HeikerT@LeonCountyFL.gov	Phone:	850-606-1526

APPROPRIATION REQUEST

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State	
Project Title:	Harbinwood Estates Septic to Sewer	
Program Category:	<input type="checkbox"/> Criminal & Civil Justice	<input type="checkbox"/> Health & Human Services
	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture & Natural Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Tourism & Economic Development
	<input type="checkbox"/> General Government/Operations	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
Project Description:		
<p>This project is the design phase of a wastewater collection system in the Harbinwood Estates neighborhood, to be connected to the City of Tallahassee’s central sewer system. This request is for one-time costs that will include design, engineering, and permitting fees associated with this project. Harbinwood Estates is a “sewer target area,” as identified in the City of Tallahassee’s 2030 Master Sewer Plan and is also identified in the Water and Sewer Agreement between the City and County as a target sewer service area. Harbinwood Estates has been identified as a major contributor to high nutrient concentrations in Lake Jackson, a State Aquatic Preserve and an Outstanding Florida Water.</p>		
Purpose of the Project and Services/Benefits Provided:		
<p>The project will reduce nitrogen and fecal coliform discharges to nearby natural systems, including the Lake Jackson Aquatic Preserve. Converting wastewater treatment in the Harbinwood Estates subdivision to advanced wastewater treatment will reduce the total nitrogen load by 8,000 pounds per year, contributing significantly to the protection of this important ecological resource.</p>		
Population Served:		
<p>Approximately 400 parcels with existing septic tanks will benefit from centralized sewer service. In addition, this project contributes to the reduction of nitrogen flowing to Lake Jackson, a State Aquatic Preserve and an Outstanding Florida Water. In addition to its use for boating, swimming, and fishing by the residents of Leon County, Lake Jackson generates over \$15 million annually in tourism and associated economic activity (Lake Jackson Management Plan 1997 addendum, adjusted for inflation).</p>		
Project Dates for Construction/Operation:		
<p>If allocated state and/or federal funding, surveys and site acquisition would occur in FY2016. Design, engineering, and permitting would be anticipated in FY2017.</p>		

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FUNDING REQUESTS	
Funding Requested:	<p><u>Total Funding Requested: \$2.5 million</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 400-lot connection survey: \$200,000 • Collection system and force main design survey: \$200,000 • Pump station site acquisition: \$275,000 • Design and permit applications: \$1,825,000

PRESENT OR PENDING FUNDING SOURCES (INCLUDING COUNTY)			
Source:		Amount:	
Source:		Amount:	
Source:		Amount:	



Leon County Board of County Commissioners

2016 Legislative Priorities Information Form

CONTACT INFORMATION

Department:	Public Works	Division:	Engineering Services
Contact Person:	Theresa Heiker	Title:	Stormwater Management Coord.
Email:	HeikerT@LeonCountyFL.gov	Phone:	850-606-1526

APPROPRIATION REQUEST

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State	
Project Title:	Leon South Regional Water System	
Program Category:	<input type="checkbox"/> Criminal & Civil Justice	<input type="checkbox"/> Health & Human Services
	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture & Natural Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Tourism & Economic Development
	<input type="checkbox"/> General Government/Operations	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
Project Description:		
<p>This project involves constructing a well and storage tank or a larger elevated storage tank for the Leon South Regional Water System, as well as piping upgrades. The Leon South Regional System, managed by Talquin Electric Cooperative, serves approximately 382 residential parcels in southern Leon County. The area is located east of Crawfordville Highway between Glover Road and Oak Ridge Road. Based on the service area, the improvements will cost approximately \$1.5 million and require three years from funding to complete.</p>		
Purpose of the Project and Services/Benefits Provided:		
<p>This improvement will provide improved drinking water quality for the system as well as sufficient water flow and pressure to support fire rescue services.</p>		
Population Served:		
<p>Approximately 382 residential parcels will benefit from improved drinking water quality. These and several hundred additional parcels will benefit from enhanced fire protection, including commercial properties, churches, and state- and federally-owned land in the Leon Sinks Geological Area, Wakulla Springs State Forest, and the Apalachicola National Forest.</p>		
Project Dates for Construction/Operation:		
<p>If allocated state and/or federal funding, design, engineering, and permitting of the collection and transmission system would occur in FY2016 and FY2017. Construction would be anticipated in FY2018, or upon completion of the permitting process.</p>		

FUNDING REQUESTS	
Funding Requested:	<u>Total Funding Requested: \$1.5 million</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design, Permitting, Land Acquisition: \$400,000 • Construction: \$1.1 million

PRESENT OR PENDING FUNDING SOURCES (INCLUDING COUNTY)			
Source:		Amount:	
Source:		Amount:	
Source:		Amount:	



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CONTACT INFORMATION

Department:	Public Works	Division:	Engineering Services
Contact Person:	Theresa Heiker	Title:	Stormwater Management Coord.
Email:	HeikerT@LeonCountyFL.gov	Phone:	850-606-1526

APPROPRIATION REQUEST

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State	
Project Title:	Centerville Trace Septic to Sewer	
Program Category:	<input type="checkbox"/> Criminal & Civil Justice	<input type="checkbox"/> Health & Human Services
	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture & Natural Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Tourism & Economic Development
	<input type="checkbox"/> General Government/Operations	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
Project Description:		
<p>This project is the design phase of a wastewater collection system in the Centerville Trace neighborhood, to be connected to the City of Tallahassee’s central sewer system. This request is for one-time costs that will include design, engineering, and permitting fees associated with this project. Centerville Trace is a “sewer target area,” as identified in the City of Tallahassee’s 2030 Master Sewer Plan and is also identified in the Water and Sewer Agreement between the City and County as a target sewer service area.</p>		
Purpose of the Project and Services/Benefits Provided:		
<p>The project will reduce nitrogen and fecal coliform discharges to nearby natural systems, including the Wakulla Springshed, the Lake Lafayette Chain of Lakes, and the St. Marks River watershed. Converting wastewater treatment in the Centerville Trace subdivision to advanced wastewater treatment will reduce the total nitrogen load by 3,100 pounds per year.</p>		
Population Served:		
<p>Approximately 157 parcels with existing septic tanks will benefit from centralized sewer service. In addition, this project contributes to the reduction of nitrogen flowing to Wakulla Springs, an important local and state resource for tourism. Over 200,000 tourists visit Wakulla Springs State Park each year.</p>		
Project Dates for Construction/Operation:		
<p>If allocated state and/or federal funding, design, engineering, and permitting of the system would occur in FY2016 and FY2017.</p>		

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FUNDING REQUESTS

Funding Requested:	<p><u>Total Funding Requested: \$1 million</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pump station site acquisition: \$275,000 • Connection survey, system design, and permit applications: \$725,000
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PRESENT OR PENDING FUNDING SOURCES (INCLUDING COUNTY)

Source:		Amount:	
Source:		Amount:	
Source:		Amount:	



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CONTACT INFORMATION			
Department:	Public Works	Division:	Engineering Services
Contact Person:	Theresa Heiker	Title:	Stormwater Management Coord.
Email:	HeikerT@LeonCountyFL.gov	Phone:	850-606-1526

APPROPRIATION REQUEST			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State	
Project Title:	Fred George Wetland Restoration		
Program Category:	<input type="checkbox"/> Criminal & Civil Justice	<input type="checkbox"/> Health & Human Services	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture & Natural Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Tourism & Economic Development	
	<input type="checkbox"/> General Government/Operations	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	
Project Description:			
<p>This request is for one-time construction funds to re-grade the existing topography of the project site and to intercept debris at two major inflow points in Fred George Sink, a karst feature located within the Ochlockonee River watershed and the Wakulla Springs basin area. Leon County received a \$377,000 grant from the Florida Communities Trust in 2009 for acquisition of this site.</p>			
Purpose of the Project and Services/Benefits Provided:			
<p>By providing enhanced water quality treatment of runoff and debris interception prior to release into sinks, this project will restore wildlife habitat, rehydrate wetlands, and improve discharge into the Floridian aquifer and will directly benefit the Wakulla Springs springshed. The need for this project has been identified in the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's draft Upper Wakulla River and Wakulla Springs Basin Management Action Plan. Approximately 65 acres of the park wetland area will benefit from the grade restoration effort. This project is expected to remove 5 tons of floatable debris entering Fred George Sink each year.</p>			
Population Served:			
<p>The Fred George Greenway was acquired in 2009 through joint funding from Florida Communities Trust, Blueprint 2000, and County funding. Construction of a museum, nature center, baseball field, multi-purpose field, nature trails, and associated improvements is currently underway. This project will enhance the Fred George Basin Greenway for all County residents and visitors to the site.</p>			
Project Dates for Construction/Operation:			
<p>If allocated state and/or federal funding, engineering and permitting would occur in FY2016 and FY 2017. Construction would be anticipated in FY2018, or upon completion of the permitting process.</p>			

FUNDING REQUESTS	
Funding Requested:	<p><u>Total Funding Requested: \$1 million</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engineering and permitting: \$200,000 • Construction of debris interceptors: \$550,000 • Site grading and stabilization: \$175,000 • Wetland plantings: \$75,000

PRESENT OR PENDING FUNDING SOURCES (INCLUDING COUNTY)			
Source:	Leon County	Amount:	\$400,000 (matching passive park amenities)
Source:		Amount:	
Source:		Amount:	



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CONTACT INFORMATION			
Department:	Public Works	Division:	Engineering Services
Contact Person:	Theresa Heiker	Title:	Stormwater Management Coord.
Email:	HeikerT@LeonCountyFL.gov	Phone:	850-606-1526

APPROPRIATION REQUEST			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State	
Project Title:	Fords Arm Restoration		
Program Category:	<input type="checkbox"/> Criminal & Civil Justice	<input type="checkbox"/> Health & Human Services	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture & Natural Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Tourism & Economic Development	
	<input type="checkbox"/> General Government/Operations	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	
Project Description:			
<p>This project will provide for the retrofit of Lexington Tributary (also known as Timberlane Creek) to improve water quality of stormwater into Fords Arm of Lake Jackson, a State Aquatic Preserve and an Outstanding Florida Water. Currently, Fords Arm has one of the highest pollutant loads of phosphorus within Lake Jackson. This project was developed under the State of Florida's Surface Water Improvement and Management (SWIM) Program in order to protect Florida's highly threatened surface water bodies. This project includes a new stormwater pond, channel stabilization, and drainage improvements.</p>			
Purpose of the Project and Services/Benefits Provided:			
<p>The project will reduce phosphorous conveyed by stormwater flow to nearby natural systems, including the Lake Jackson Aquatic Preserve. The improvements associated with this project are estimated to remove 430 pounds of phosphorous per year from the tributary, contributing significantly to the protection of this important ecological resource.</p>			
Population Served:			
<p>Lake Jackson is one of Leon County's most precious natural resources, and is listed as an "Outstanding Florida Water" by the State of Florida. In addition to its use for boating, swimming, and fishing by the residents of Leon County, Lake Jackson generates over \$15 million annually in tourism and associated economic activity (Lake Jackson Management Plan 1997 addendum, adjusted for inflation).</p>			
Project Dates for Construction/Operation:			
<p>If allocated state and/or federal funding, engineering, permitting, and site acquisition would occur in FY2016 and FY 2017. Construction would be anticipated in FY2017 or FY2018, or upon completion of the permitting process.</p>			

FUNDING REQUESTS	
Funding Requested:	<p><u>Total Funding Requested: \$3.97 million</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engineering and permitting: \$650,000 • Construction of roadway upgrades: \$1,400,000 • Stormwater pond construction: \$1,200,000 • Stream and channel enhancements: \$720,000

PRESENT OR PENDING FUNDING SOURCES (INCLUDING COUNTY)			
Source:	Leon County	Amount:	\$3,500,000 (land acquisition)
Source:	Leon County	Amount:	\$730,000 (in-kind match for design services)
Source:		Amount:	



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CONTACT INFORMATION

Department:	Public Works	Division:	Engineering Services
Contact Person:	Kathy Burke	Title:	Director
Email:	BurkeK@LeonCountyFL.gov	Phone:	850-606-1518

APPROPRIATION REQUEST

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State	
Project Title:	Apalachee Regional Park	
Program Category:	<input type="checkbox"/> Criminal & Civil Justice	<input type="checkbox"/> Health & Human Services
	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture & Natural Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tourism & Economic Development
	<input type="checkbox"/> General Government/Operations	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

Project Description:

This request is for design and engineering funds for future park improvements at the Apalachee Regional Park. At the April 28, 2015 Budget Workshop, the Board directed staff to formally proceed with the permanent closure of the landfill and to prepare a master plan for enhancing the Apalachee Regional Park. Wood+Partners will perform initial data collection and site analysis to identify opportunities and constraints resulting in a preliminary conceptual master plan. The community will be actively engaged in creating a preliminary needs assessment. Public involvement is an essential element of the master planning process, with focus groups, crowd sourcing, and engagement of key stakeholders to develop facility programming. After thorough input has been collected, a conceptual master plan and related estimates of construction costs and timelines will be developed.

Purpose of the Project and Services/Benefits Provided:

Master planning and future construction of the park improvements contemplated in the master plan will enhance the Apalachee Regional Park and will assist the facility's evolution as a regional recreational amenity. The park currently features four full size multi-purpose fields, a radio-control airplane landing strip and facility, and a premiere cross country facility also used for hiking and biking in the off-season. Cross country running events at the Apalachee Regional Park attracted 5,000 competitors, 9,500 spectators, and nearly \$3.8 million in direct spending in Fall 2014 alone. Future improvements contemplated in the master plan will allow Apalachee Regional Park to generate additional event-based tourism by accommodating large scale events year-round.

Population Served:

This project will directly benefit all residents of Leon County by enhancing our community's recreational offerings and generating additional year-round tourism in the County.

Project Dates for Construction/Operation:

If allocated state and/or federal funding, design and engineering would occur in FY2016 and FY 2017 after the finalization of the Apalachee Regional Park Master Plan.

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FUNDING REQUESTS	
Funding Requested:	\$500,000

PRESENT OR PENDING FUNDING SOURCES (INCLUDING COUNTY)			
Source:		Amount:	
Source:		Amount:	
Source:		Amount:	



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2016 Legislative Priorities Information Form

CONTACT INFORMATION			
Department:	PLACE	Division:	Blueprint 2000
Contact Person:	Wayne Tedder	Title:	Director
Email:	Wayne.Tedder@talgov.com	Phone:	850-891-6400

APPROPRIATION REQUEST			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State	
Project Title:	Capital Circle Southwest		
Program Category:	<input type="checkbox"/> Criminal & Civil Justice	<input type="checkbox"/> Health & Human Services	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture & Natural Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tourism & Economic Development	
	<input type="checkbox"/> General Government/Operations	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	
Project Description:			
<p>The Capital Circle Southwest project has been a priority of the Board for the last several years. This project will provide for the construction of Capital Circle Southwest (SR 263) from north of Orange Avenue (SR 371) to Crawfordville Road (SR 61/US319), a distance of approximately 6.0 miles. The existing 2-lane rural road section of Capital Circle Southwest will be reconstructed to a 6-lane curb and gutter facility with an enclosed drainage system and new stormwater ponds. The 6 lane roadway will be flanked by paved bike lanes, a 10' wide multi-use meandering trail on one side and a 6' wide concrete sidewalk on the other side of the roadway. Extensive landscaping will be installed along the medians and within the right-of-way of the corridor. New overhead lighting will also be installed. Signalized intersections will be constructed at Orange Avenue, the main entrance of the Tallahassee International Airport and at Springhill Road. This 6 mile segment of Capital Circle Southwest has been divided into 2 segments with both segments currently being designed under the supervision of the Florida Department of Transportation, District Three. Segment 1 is from north of Orange Avenue to south of Springhill Road. Segment 2 is from south of Springhill Road to Crawfordville Road. The estimated cost for Segment 1 is \$65.4 million, which is broken down into \$30.0 million for right-of-way acquisition and \$35.4 million for construction. Segment 2 is estimated at \$53.7 million which is broken down into \$31.0 million for right-of-way acquisition and \$22.7 million for construction. The segment of Capital Circle Southwest from I-10 to the Tallahassee International Airport is designated as part of Florida's Strategic Intermodal System (SIS), which is vital for transporting both people and goods between major commercial facilities such as airports, rail terminals and seaports. Staff will continue to work with the Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency (CRPTA) and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to include funding in their five-year work plan for those penny sales tax projects that affect FDOT roadways.</p> <p>Additionally, a master stormwater planning effort for the corridor is underway. The objective of the planning effort is to design joint-use facilities that provide treatment capacity for new development at the Airport, meet the roadway improvement needs, and provide facilities that are consistent with the Blueprint 2000 holistic philosophy along with completed segments of Capital Circle.</p>			

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Purpose of the Project and Services/Benefits Provided:

Reconstruction of this 6 mile segment of Capital Circle Southwest will service the traveling public with convenient access to Tallahassee International Airport and businesses and communities located in the southwest quadrant of Leon County. The project stimulates economic development by providing jobs in construction and associated professional services and by improving access to the Airport, Innovation Park, Tallahassee Museum, and undeveloped properties. Efficient transportation between these major commercial facilities will benefit city, county and state agencies with potential for new businesses and developments along the corridor to service and handle/store goods.

The 6-lane facility will provide additional vehicular capacity on Capital Circle. Intersection improvements will be constructed at several existing cross roads for safety and ease of traffic movements. The multi-use trail and sidewalk will provide safe facilities for pedestrians and cyclists. New housing developments and businesses will be attracted to the area by the reconstruction of this segment of Capital Circle Southwest. The project terminates at Crawfordville Road which provides travelers a convenient roadway to the south and to the beaches of the Gulf of Mexico.

Population Served:

The population served by the reconstruction of this 6 mile segment of Capital Circle Southwest includes the businesses and neighborhoods that currently surround this segment of the roadway as well as those traveling to the Tallahassee International Airport, south to the beaches or circling the downtown area of Tallahassee via Capital Circle Southwest. The trail and sidewalk will attract active biking, walking and running enthusiasts while creating a pedestrian friendly environment.

Project Dates for Construction/Operation:

Both segments of Capital Circle Southwest (Segment 1 - north of Orange Avenue to south of Springhill Road and Segment 2 - south of Springhill Road to Crawfordville Road) are currently being designed under the direction of District Three at the FDOT. The design work should be complete by the end of calendar year 2015. Construction funding has not been identified.

FUNDING REQUESTS

Funding Requested:

Total Funding Requested: \$119.1 million

Segment 1 (Orange Avenue to Springhill Road):

- Right-of-Way Acquisition: \$30.0 million
- Construction: \$35.4 million

Segment 2 (Springhill Road to Crawfordville Road):

- Right-of-Way Acquisition: \$31.0 million
- Construction: \$22.7 million

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PRESENT OR PENDING FUNDING SOURCES (INCLUDING COUNTY)			
Source:	Florida Department of Transportation	Amount:	\$4.8 million (design)
Source:	Florida Department of Transportation	Amount:	<u>Segment 1:</u> \$8.7 million (ROW – FY2016) \$8.2 million (ROW – FY 2018 or beyond)
Source:	Local Option Sales Tax	Amount:	\$70 million



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CONTACT INFORMATION			
Department:	Capital Regional Transportation Planning Agency (CRTPA)	Division:	N/A
Contact Person:	Harry Reed	Title:	Executive Director
Email:	Harry.Reed@talgov.com	Phone:	850-891-6815

APPROPRIATION REQUEST			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State	
Project Title:	Woodville Highway		
Program Category:	<input type="checkbox"/> Criminal & Civil Justice	<input type="checkbox"/> Health & Human Services	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture & Natural Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tourism & Economic Development	
	<input type="checkbox"/> General Government/Operations	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	
Project Description:			
<p>The Woodville Highway project has been a priority of the Board for the last several years. This project includes the design and construction of Woodville Highway to widen the existing two-lane segment to four lanes from Paul Russell Road to Capital Circle. Woodville Highway is one of the infrastructure projects contemplated under the extension of the penny sales tax, to include highway beautification along Crawfordville Highway and enhancements to pedestrian and bicycle access with sidewalks along Ross Road, linking Woodville and Crawfordville Highways. Staff will continue to work with the Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency (CRTPA) and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to include funding in their five-year work plan for those penny sales tax projects that affect FDOT roadways.</p> <p>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 the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to perform a Project Development and Environment (PD&E) study for a portion of Woodville Highway from Gaile Avenue to Capital Circle. On March 11, 2008, the Board authorized the expenditure of 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. On April 12, 2011, the Board amended its Agreement with FDOT for a PD&E study of Woodville Highway, from Gaile Avenue to Capital Circle, to extend north to Paul Russell Road to include adding sidewalks, designing pedestrian crossings, and to address any potential for redevelopment of the Leon County Fairgrounds, all of which could have a significant impact on future traffic patterns.</p> <p>CRTPA held a meeting with property owners and residents to kick-off a corridor study that would be utilized to develop the Corridor Master Plan. The final Corridor Master Plan was completed in November 2011. The PD&E study has been completed. Currently, the design phase for the segment of Woodville Highway from Capital Circle Southwest to Gaile Avenue is underway and is anticipated to be complete in December 2015. In addition, the segment from Paul Russell Road to Gaile Avenue started design in September 2014 and is anticipated to be complete in June 2016.</p>			

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Purpose of the Project and Services/Benefits Provided:

Woodville Highway connects to major arterial roadways including Capital Circle and Monroe Street and serves as a major evacuation route from the Coastal Highway (US 98) as well as the central coastal panhandle. In addition, 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. 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.

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 development incentives. This project would contribute significantly to that goal.

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.

Project Dates for Construction/Operation:

Construction commencement will be determined at a future date by FDOT based on the time necessary for project design and right-of-way acquisition.

FUNDING REQUESTS

Funding Requested:

Total Funding Requested: \$26.6 million

- Right-of-Way Acquisition: \$3.6 million
- Construction: \$23 million

PRESENT OR PENDING FUNDING SOURCES (INCLUDING COUNTY)

Source:	Florida Department of Transportation	Amount:	\$1.98 million (design)
Source:	Florida Department of Transportation	Amount:	\$1.2 million (ROW – FY2017)
Source:	Local Option Sales Tax	Amount:	\$29.7 million



Leon County Board of County Commissioners

2016 Legislative Priorities Information Form

CONTACT INFORMATION

Department:	Public Safety	Division:	Emergency Medical Services
Contact Person:	Chad Abrams	Title:	Chief
Email:	AbramsC@LeonCountyFL.gov	Phone:	850-606-2100

APPROPRIATION REQUEST

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State	
Project Title:	Community Paramedic Program	
Program Category:	<input type="checkbox"/> Criminal & Civil Justice	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Health & Human Services
	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture & Natural Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Tourism & Economic Development
	<input type="checkbox"/> General Government/Operations	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

Project Description:

Leon County’s Community Paramedic Program is a collaborative approach to maximizing existing healthcare resources in the community. This program seeks to reach patients in their home and match them with the appropriate level of treatment for their medical condition. Currently, emergency departments are overcrowded with non-emergent patients who could receive care in their home; be referred to local medical clinics, physicians, or other resources; or in the future be provided treatment by a physician via telemedicine. The primary goal of the Community Paramedic Program is the greater utilization of existing local medical resources and the lightening of the load on emergency departments to reduce the use of costlier emergency department resources. Field evaluation by specially trained EMS staff using County vehicles is more convenient for the patient, cost effective, and provides an opportunity to educate the patient on the availability of local resources that can better deal with their ongoing medical issues. If patients have their medical needs met with appropriate medications, arranged visits with physicians, provided transportation, and other issues related to medical care, they will not call 911 to deal with non-emergent problems. This model has already been in use by Leon County EMS and all EMS providers across Florida and the nation, in part, by providing referral to different social service agencies and medical entities in the community. This program proposes to expand and enhance those integrated connections within the community with specific and targeted results.

The Florida Department of Health has awarded Leon County a matching grant in the amount of \$57,735 toward designing the Community Paramedic Program. This proposal seeks funding for the first stages of implementation, which will demonstrate the cost-saving potential of this program for community healthcare stakeholders including local hospitals, healthcare centers, third-party insurers, hospices, home health entities, and social service programs. The funding requested will support a start-up program staff of 6 to 8 Community Paramedics. In future years, as state and community funding support increases, the program is scalable to be able to meet the community’s need.

Purpose of the Project and Services/Benefits Provided:

This program is a new model of healthcare delivery that expands the role of paramedics that are currently experienced and in the field to include community-based evaluation and treatment of patients utilizing physicians via telemedicine. The program will utilize an EMS system that is already intimately familiar with the population of patients that are at risk and divert qualifying patients from the emergency room. If patients have their medical needs met with appropriate medications, arranged visits with physicians, provided transportation, and other issues related to medical care, it is anticipated that 911 calls for non-emergency healthcare issues will be significantly reduced.

Through this program, many patients would enjoy greater access to proper care at reduced cost to the public. With this improved access to care, patients could be assessed early on in a disease process when costs are reasonable and before the patient's condition has deteriorated to the point of needing hospital admission. This model will identify several categories of high-risk patients and will provide early access to appropriate and complete medical care, reducing hospital re-admission rates.

Population Served:

This program would target medically underserved, high-frequency re-admission patients – critical care discharge and surgical follow-up, EMS patients where an emergency room visit is not indicated, psychological emergencies, homeless, vulnerable adults and children, early disease intervention, medication assistance and monitoring, immunizations, community medicine coordination, system abusers, and disaster recovery and disaster community clinics.

Project Dates for Construction/Operation:

This program can commence in FY2016; size and scope of the program will depend on the amount of funding available. As indicated above, the program is scalable based on available resources; the requested funding will support a start-up program staff of 6 to 8 Community Paramedics.

FUNDING REQUESTS

Funding Requested:	<u>Total Funding Requested: \$925,000</u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training: \$42,000 • Personnel: \$450,000 • Contractual: \$251,000 • Equipment: \$182,000

PRESENT OR PENDING FUNDING SOURCES (INCLUDING COUNTY)

Source:	Funding Support from Local Healthcare Community	Amount:	Undetermined (future support anticipated after startup & demonstration)
Source:		Amount:	



Leon County Board of County Commissioners

2016 Legislative Priorities Information Form

CONTACT INFORMATION			
Department:	County Administration	Division:	Strategic Initiatives
Contact Person:	Shington Lamy	Title:	Assistant to the County Administrator
Email:	LamyS@LeonCountyFL.gov	Phone:	850-606-5329

POLICY REQUEST	
<input type="checkbox"/> Federal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State
Topic/Project Title:	Protection of the State Workforce

PROBLEM/NEED			
IDENTIFY EFFECT ON COUNTY PROGRAMS/SERVICES AND THE ECONOMIC OR FISCAL IMPACT			
Priority:	<input type="checkbox"/> Critical	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Important	<input type="checkbox"/> Anticipated
Description:	<p>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.</p> <p>The FY15/16 state budget did not increase state employee health insurance premiums, which remain at \$50 per month for individual coverage and \$180 per month for family coverage for most employees. However, there have been attempts in the past few sessions to cap the state’s total spending on employee health insurance and increase health insurance premiums of state employees. An unsuccessful bill was considered last session also included a new health insurance system with four different benefit levels from which state employees could choose from, and would have raised the employee contribution toward the state’s HMO plan, which covers more than 50% of all state employees. It is expected that similar legislation affecting state employee health insurance will be pursued during the 2016 session.</p> <p>During the past several sessions, the Legislature has sought to reform the Florida Retirement System (FRS). FRS is the primary retirement plan for public sector employees, 80% of which are county government agencies, district school boards, community colleges, and universities. In 2015, after an actuarial study released during the third week of the regular session, House Speaker Steve Crisafulli announced that the House would not pursue FRS reform in 2015. The study indicated that moving the state workforce away from the defined-benefit plan toward a defined-contribution plan would cost the state millions of dollars – a stark contrast to the significant savings projected by actuarial studies in 2013 and 2014. Accordingly, no bill was passed during regular or special session reforming the FRS. Staff will continue to closely monitor any movement related to the issue in 2016.</p>		

RECOMMENDED CHANGE IN LAW OR STATUTE (IF APPLICABLE)	
Current Statute of Reference:	N/A
Suggested New Language:	N/A
Recommended County Position:	Support the protection of the state workforce and oppose any reductions to state employee benefits.



Leon County Board of County Commissioners

2016 Legislative Priorities Information Form

CONTACT INFORMATION			
Department:	Economic Vitality	Division:	N/A
Contact Person:	Cristina Paredes	Title:	Director
Email:	ParedesC@LeonCountyFL.gov	Phone:	850-606-5333

POLICY REQUEST	
<input type="checkbox"/> Federal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State
Topic/Project Title:	State/Local Economic Development Partnerships

PROBLEM/NEED			
IDENTIFY EFFECT ON COUNTY PROGRAMS/SERVICES AND THE ECONOMIC OR FISCAL IMPACT			
Priority:	<input type="checkbox"/> Critical	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Important	<input type="checkbox"/> Anticipated
Description:	<p>State-local partnerships for economic development are important tools that empower local governments and provide resources that lead to the creation of quality jobs, vibrant communities, and global economic competitiveness. During the 2015 legislative session, the Florida Enterprise Zone Program – a key component of the state-local economic development toolkit – was allowed to expire at the end of 2015 when no legislation was passed extending its statutory authorization. State evaluations of the Florida Enterprise Zone Program suggested that Enterprise Zones generally yield little return on state investment. However, the state narrowly defined return on investment as the increase in new state revenues per dollar of state program investment, without consideration of the local benefits stemming directly from the program, such as property valuation increases and community revitalization.</p> <p>The Tallahassee-Leon County Enterprise Zone has stimulated an infusion of approximately \$5 million in state incentive awards to nearly 1,400 applications since its creation, creating an estimated 540 new jobs during the past decade. While the Florida Enterprise Zone Program will sunset on December 31, 2015, legislation passed during the 2015A special legislative session will preserve state enterprise zone incentives for existing businesses located within enterprise zones until December 31, 2018.</p> <p>With the expiration of the Florida Enterprise Zone Program, it is essential to forge new state-local economic development partnerships through the greater use of targeted strategic investments. These investments should be designed to induce sustainable economic activity addressing each community’s unique economic circumstances, resulting in a consistent positive return on investment for both state and local governments.</p>		

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RECOMMENDED CHANGE IN LAW OR STATUTE (IF APPLICABLE)	
Current Statute of Reference:	N/A
Suggested New Language:	N/A
Recommended County Position:	Support legislation and appropriation that enhances the efficiency and effectiveness of the state and local government partnership in economic development.



Leon County Board of County Commissioners

2016 Legislative Priorities Information Form

CONTACT INFORMATION			
Department:	County Administration	Division:	N/A
Contact Person:	Ken Morris	Title:	Assistant County Administrator
Email:	MorrisK@LeonCountyFL.gov	Phone:	850-606-5300

POLICY REQUEST	
<input type="checkbox"/> Federal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State
Topic/Project Title:	Modification of the Eligibility for Levying the Local Option High Impact Tourist Development Tax to Include Counties that are Home to Preeminent State Research Universities as Designated by the Florida Legislature

PROBLEM/NEED			
IDENTIFY EFFECT ON COUNTY PROGRAMS/SERVICES AND THE ECONOMIC OR FISCAL IMPACT			
Priority:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Critical	<input type="checkbox"/> Important	<input type="checkbox"/> Anticipated
Description:	<p>Section 125.0104, F.S., authorizes five separate tourist development taxes that county governments may levy. Depending on a county's eligibility to levy, the tax rate applied to transient rental transactions varies from a minimum of three percent to a maximum of six percent. Proceeds from these levies are generally utilized by local governments to build tourist-related facilities and to promote and market tourism. One of these levies, the "High Tourism Impact Tax," is a discretionary (local option) one percent tax on transient rental transactions available to counties in which tourism is a significant component of the local economy.</p> <p>This policy request recommends a statutory revision to allow counties that are home to the main campus of a Preeminent State Research University to levy the High Tourism Impact Tax in support of these universities in recognition of their economic benefit through tourism. Currently, Florida State University (Leon County) and the University of Florida (Alachua County) have achieved designation as Preeminent State Research Universities by reaching certain standards of academic and research excellence set forth in Section 1001.7065, F.S. Florida's Preeminent State Research Universities generate immense national and international tourism activity through hosting conferences, graduation ceremonies, short-term academic programs and symposia, and other functions. Preeminent State Research Universities receive state support for the enhancement of the university's research capabilities by recruiting faculty who are members of National Academies; showcasing university research products and facilities; enhancing national recognition of their programs in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics; and ranking among the top public universities in the nation. In turn, the growth in stature generates new tourism activity related to university activities.</p> <p>Florida State University recently completed the master planning of its Arena District and is currently engaged in a solicitation process with private developers for the \$400 million redevelopment of several downtown parcels in partnership with Leon County and the City of Tallahassee. The university's Arena District Master Plan calls for improvements to the Donald L. Tucker Civic Center along with the development of a convention center, a full-service hotel, the relocation of the College of Business, new entrepreneurial spaces, future in-fill academic buildings, and other elements in an effort to modernize its facilities and grow the campus footprint. A convention center in the Arena District would serve the many business, civic, advocacy, and academic organizations which are drawn to the state capitol and its two premier institutions of higher learning. In recent years, many academic, research, and business groups affiliated with Florida State University have been forced to</p>		

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	<p>host their convention business hundreds of miles away from the main campus due to the lack of adequate meeting space.</p> <p>The County and City Commissions have allocated up to \$20 million of local funds from a voter-approved sales tax referendum in support of the Arena District and convention center. Proceeds from a local option High Impact Tourist Development Tax could be used to fund the construction, maintenance, operations, etc. of the convention center envisioned in the Arena District Master Plan in order to support the community’s shared initiatives and long-term economic goals. The proposed statutory revision would enhance the Board’s investment of up to \$20 million in local funds by ensuring that a dedicated revenue source is in place to support the long-term viability of the convention center.</p>
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RECOMMENDED CHANGE IN LAW OR STATUTE (IF APPLICABLE)	
Current Statute of Reference:	Sec. 125.0104(3)(m)
Suggested New Language:	In Subsection 2: “A county is considered to be a high tourism impact county <u>if the main campus of a public university that is designated a Preeminent State Research University pursuant to s. 1001.7065(3) is located within that county, or, after the Department of Revenue has certified...</u> ”
Recommended County Position:	Support the revision of Sec. 125.0104, F.S. to modify the eligibility for levying the local option High Tourism Impact Tax to include counties that are home to Preeminent State Research Universities.



Leon County Board of County Commissioners

2016 Legislative Priorities Information Form

CONTACT INFORMATION			
Department:	County Administration	Division:	N/A
Contact Person:	Shington Lamy	Title:	Assistant to the County Administrator
Email:	LamyS@LeonCountyFL.gov	Phone:	850-606-5329

POLICY REQUEST	
<input type="checkbox"/> Federal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State
Topic/Project Title:	Springs Restoration

PROBLEM/NEED			
IDENTIFY EFFECT ON COUNTY PROGRAMS/SERVICES AND THE ECONOMIC OR FISCAL IMPACT			
Priority:	<input type="checkbox"/> Critical	<input type="checkbox"/> Important	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anticipated
Description:	<p>Last session, the House and Senate advanced separate legislation aimed at comprehensive water policy reform. Ultimately, neither chamber's bill passed, though both had advanced to the floor before the early end to the regular session. Last session's water policy legislation addressed water quality and quantity, springs and aquifer protection, septic tank remediation in springs protection areas, water use and conservation, and a variety of other measures. The legislature is expected to address comprehensive water policy reform again during the 2016 session.</p> <p>Leon County has demonstrated a longstanding commitment to environmental protection and preservation, and springs protection more specifically. The County has designated a Primary Springs Protection Zone by ordinance, which is consistent with similar provisions contained in its Comprehensive Plan. The Primary Springs Protection Zone is designed to minimize the adverse impacts of development on groundwater recharge and aquifer water quality. In addition, Leon County has advanced several infrastructure projects aimed at restoring water quality within the Wakulla Springs Basin. Legislation considered during the 2015 session included provisions requiring the adoption of a remediation plan in certain circumstances to reduce nutrient impacts from onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems. Local governments are required to comply with such remediation plans, which typically include infrastructure projects implemented at the local level. Last year's legislation did not specify the level of state funding support for projects included in remediation plans, leaving open the possibility that the state may require local governments to conduct remediation projects with little state funding support. This provision would impose significant unfunded mandates on local governments in order to comply with these plans at the risk of state-imposed limitations on future development. As indicated above, Leon County has historically taken proactive steps to address water quality and springs protection; however, the state's requirements should account for the financial impact of remediation projects on property owners and the community.</p>		

Leon County Board of County Commissioners

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RECOMMENDED CHANGE IN LAW OR STATUTE (IF APPLICABLE)	
Current Statute of Reference:	Chapter 373, F.S.
Suggested New Language:	N/A
Recommended County Position:	Support the prioritization of springs restoration funding, with a program designed to assist local governments with the cost of wastewater facility upgrades, septic tank connections, and septic tank abandonment.



Leon County Board of County Commissioners

2016 Legislative Priorities Information Form

CONTACT INFORMATION			
Department:	County Administration	Division:	N/A
Contact Person:	Shington Lamy	Title:	Assistant to the County Administrator
Email:	LamyS@LeonCountyFL.gov	Phone:	850-606-5329

POLICY REQUEST	
<input type="checkbox"/> Federal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State
Topic/Project Title:	Public Safety on College and University Campuses

PROBLEM/NEED			
IDENTIFY EFFECT ON COUNTY PROGRAMS/SERVICES AND THE ECONOMIC OR FISCAL IMPACT			
Priority:	<input type="checkbox"/> Critical	<input type="checkbox"/> Important	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anticipated
Description:	<p>Two bills were introduced during the 2015 regular legislative session which would have allowed persons with a concealed carry permit to carry concealed weapons or firearm into college or university facilities. Under current law, even if a person has a concealed carry license, it is illegal to carry a weapon onto a college or university campus.</p> <p>During the March 10, 2015 meeting, the Board unanimously approved a resolution supporting President Thrasher, President Mangum and President Murdaugh in their unified opposition to allowing concealed weapons on university and college campuses. While neither bill passed during the 2015 legislative session, bills have already been filed in both the House and Senate for 2016 legislative session on this issue.</p>		

RECOMMENDED CHANGE IN LAW OR STATUTE (IF APPLICABLE)	
Current Statute of Reference:	Section 790.06, F.S.
Suggested New Language:	N/A
Recommended County Position:	Support of the position of the presidents of Florida State University, Florida A&M University, and Tallahassee Community College, based on last year's position, opposing statutory changes to Section 790.06, F.S. that would allow the concealed carrying of weapons into college or university facilities.



Leon County Board of County Commissioners

2016 Legislative Priorities Information Form

CONTACT INFORMATION			
Department:	Public Safety	Division:	Emergency Medical Services
Contact Person:	Chad Abrams	Title:	Chief
Email:	AbramsC@LeonCountyFL.gov	Phone:	850-606-2100

POLICY REQUEST	
<input type="checkbox"/> Federal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State
Topic/Project Title:	Public Records Exemption for EMTs and Paramedics

PROBLEM/NEED			
IDENTIFY EFFECT ON COUNTY PROGRAMS/SERVICES AND THE ECONOMIC OR FISCAL IMPACT			
Priority:	<input type="checkbox"/> Critical	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Important	<input type="checkbox"/> Anticipated
Description:	<p>Under Chapter 119, Florida Statutes, the home addresses, phone numbers and photographs of firefighters are exempt from public records disclosure requirements, as well as the places of employment and schools of their spouses and children. This request seeks a similar statutory exemption for emergency medical technicians (EMTs) and paramedics, who respond to similar incidents as firefighters and are subjected to similar consequences of responding to those incidents, including being in danger of physical and emotional harm from disgruntled persons involved in incidents.</p>		

RECOMMENDED CHANGE IN LAW OR STATUTE (IF APPLICABLE)	
Current Statute of Reference:	Section 119.071(4)(d)2, F.S.
Suggested New Language:	<p>b. <u>The home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and photographs of firefighters certified in compliance with s. 633.408, and emergency medical technicians and paramedics certified in compliance with s. 401.27; the home addresses, telephone numbers, photographs, dates of birth, and places of employment of the spouses and children of such firefighters, emergency medical technicians and paramedics; and the names and locations of schools and day care facilities attended by the children of such firefighters, emergency medical technicians, and paramedics are exempt from s. 119.07(1).</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>o. <u>The home addresses, telephone numbers, and photographs of emergency medical technicians and paramedics as defined in s. 401.23; the home addresses, telephone numbers, photographs, and places of employment of the spouses and children of such emergency medical technicians and paramedics; and the names and locations of schools and day care facilities attended by the children of such emergency medical technicians and paramedics are exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution.</u></p>
Recommended County Position:	Support the recommended statutory change.



Leon County Board of County Commissioners

2016 Legislative Priorities Information Form

CONTACT INFORMATION			
Department:	County Administration	Division:	Strategic Initiatives
Contact Person:	Shington Lamy	Title:	Assistant to the County Administrator
Email:	LamyS@LeonCountyFL.gov	Phone:	850-606-5329

POLICY REQUEST	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> State
Topic/Project Title:	Long-Term Surface Transportation Reauthorization

PROBLEM/NEED			
IDENTIFY EFFECT ON COUNTY PROGRAMS/SERVICES AND THE ECONOMIC OR FISCAL IMPACT			
Priority:	<input type="checkbox"/> Critical	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Important	<input type="checkbox"/> Anticipated
Description:	<p>In 2012, President Obama signed Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) into law. This legislation provided funding over two years (FY 2013 – FY 2014) in the amount of \$105 billion for surface transportation programs in the United States. MAP-21 is the first ‘long-term’ highway authorization enacted since 2005 was originally set to expire on September 31, 2014. Congress passed several short-term extensions of the act and to provide funding for the Highway Trust Fund (HTF) to ensure its continued solvency. Local governments use this funding to aid with the building and maintaining transportation infrastructure. Counties own and maintain 45% of America's roads (including more than 200,000 bridges), involved in the operation of 27% of public transit systems, however the share of federal and state funding to local governments for highways decreased by 10% between 1998-2011, which is now set to expire on October 29, 2015.</p> <p>The U.S. Senate has passed a six-year transportation bill (the “DRIVE Act”); however, the bill only provides funding for three years through a combination of general revenue and trust funds. The House did not vote on the DRIVE Act or other surface transportation legislation prior to its summer recess, but is expected to address transportation reauthorization this fall. Another short-term extension of MAP-21 is expected in order to address transportation funding until a longer-term bill can be finalized.</p> <p>Transportation stakeholders and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce argue that raising the gas tax is the most effective way to address the HTF funding issue. This request recommends passage of a multi-year surface transportation bill that provides long-term funding certainty, increases funding for county road and bridge projects, and enhances the role of counties in statewide transportation planning.</p>		

RECOMMENDED CHANGE IN LAW OR STATUTE (IF APPLICABLE)	
Current Statute of Reference:	N/A
Suggested New Language:	N/A
Recommended County Position:	Support a long-term surface transportation bill that provides funding at or above the current level of funding for surface transportation programs.



Leon County Board of County Commissioners

2016 Legislative Priorities Information Form

CONTACT INFORMATION			
Department:	County Administration	Division:	Strategic Initiatives
Contact Person:	Shington Lamy	Title:	Assistant to the County Administrator
Email:	LamyS@LeonCountyFL.gov	Phone:	850-606-5329

POLICY REQUEST	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> State
Topic/Project Title:	Full Funding of the Federal Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) Program

PROBLEM/NEED			
IDENTIFY EFFECT ON COUNTY PROGRAMS/SERVICES AND THE ECONOMIC OR FISCAL IMPACT			
Priority:	<input type="checkbox"/> Critical	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Important	<input type="checkbox"/> Anticipated
Description:	<p>Roughly 62% of counties in the United States have federal land within their boundaries. Although counties cannot collect property tax on federal land, they are still required to provide essential services for that land. For nearly 40 years, the PILT program has provided funding to counties and municipalities to offset lost tax revenue from federal land within their respective boundaries. NACo hosted a "PILT Fly-In" at the nation's capital in 2014 for county leaders from across the nation to urge their respective members of Congress to support full PILT funding.</p> <p>This request recommends full funding of the PILT program in FY2016. For FY 2015, PILT was extended with \$70 million in appropriations provided by the FY 2015 National Defense Authorization Act and \$372 million in appropriations provided by the FY 2015 Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act (P.L. 113-235). Together the two bills provided full discretionary funding of \$442 million for PILT in FY 2015. This year Leon County received approximately \$191,000 from the federal government in PILT funding due to the portion of Apalachicola National Forest in Leon County.</p>		

RECOMMENDED CHANGE IN LAW OR STATUTE (IF APPLICABLE)	
Current Statute of Reference:	N/A
Suggested New Language:	N/A
Recommended County Position:	Support federal legislation that includes full mandatory funding for PILT in the FY 2016 appropriations package and support a long-term strategy for a sustainable PILT program.



Leon County Board of County Commissioners

2016 Legislative Priorities Information Form

CONTACT INFORMATION			
Department:	County Administration	Division:	Strategic Initiatives
Contact Person:	Shington Lamy	Title:	Assistant to the County Administrator
Email:	LamyS@LeonCountyFL.gov	Phone:	850-606-5329

POLICY REQUEST	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> State
Topic/Project Title:	Collection of Sales Tax on Remote Transactions

PROBLEM/NEED			
IDENTIFY EFFECT ON COUNTY PROGRAMS/SERVICES AND THE ECONOMIC OR FISCAL IMPACT			
Priority:	<input type="checkbox"/> Critical	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Important	<input type="checkbox"/> Anticipated
Description:	<p>Under current law, individuals who buy goods online are required to remit sales tax to the state individually; however, that provision is largely unheeded and not enforced. Economists estimate the state loses out on about \$400 million in revenue each year the tax goes uncollected. Purchases from these stores are not subject to sales tax due to the fact that they are not physically located in the state of Florida. The inability to collect an internet sales tax puts local 'brick-and-mortar' businesses in Florida at a disadvantage relative to out-of-state online retailers. Governor Rick Scott and several members of the Legislature view the implementation of internet sales tax legislation as a tax increase; therefore, efforts in the State Legislature have been unsuccessful.</p> <p>Legislation regarding the implementation of an internet sales tax has been considered by both the State Legislature and Congress. On July 15, 2015 a bipartisan group of senators introduced the Marketplace and Internet Tax Fairness Act (MITFA). The bill (S. 2609) would combine two key issues important to counties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Marketplace Fairness Act (MFA) as passed by the Senate in 2013, with a few minor technical corrections. MFA, which passed with the support of NACo, allows state and local governments to enforce existing sales taxes on remote sellers. • A ten-year extension of the Internet Tax Freedom Act (ITFA). ITFA prohibits counties from collecting a tax on Internet access (typically a subscription service) until November 1, 2014. While a 10-year extension is not ideal for counties, NACo favors a temporary extension of ITFA in lieu of permanent measures like the Permanent ITFA (H.R. 3086) that passed in the House on July 14, 2014. <p>MITFA has garnered bipartisan support, with 14 Senators (11 Democrats and three Republicans) joining as cosponsors less than a week after its introduction.</p>		

Leon County Board of County Commissioners

2016 Legislative Proposal

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RECOMMENDED CHANGE IN LAW OR STATUTE (IF APPLICABLE)	
Current Statute of Reference:	N/A
Suggested New Language:	N/A
Recommended County Position:	Support legislation that promotes an equitable and competitive environment between 'brick and mortar' businesses and remote businesses establishments operating in Florida.



Leon County Board of County Commissioners

2016 Legislative Priorities Information Form

CONTACT INFORMATION			
Department:	County Administration	Division:	Strategic Initiatives
Contact Person:	Shington Lamy	Title:	Assistant to the County Administrator
Email:	LamyS@LeonCountyFL.gov	Phone:	850-606-5329

POLICY REQUEST	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> State
Topic/Project Title:	Tax-Exempt Status of Municipal Bonds

PROBLEM/NEED			
IDENTIFY EFFECT ON COUNTY PROGRAMS/SERVICES AND THE ECONOMIC OR FISCAL IMPACT			
Priority:	<input type="checkbox"/> Critical	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Important	<input type="checkbox"/> Anticipated
Description:	<p>Tax-exempt municipal bonds have been a fundamental feature of the United States tax code since 1913. Municipal bonds remain the primary method used by states and local governments to finance public capital improvements and public infrastructure projects that are essential for creating jobs, sustaining economic growth and improving the quality of life for Americans in every corner of the country.</p> <p>Funds generated from infrastructure bond financing help to build hospitals, water and sewer facilities, public utilities, roads, and mass transit. In the past decade, nearly \$288 billion of financing went to general acute-care hospitals; nearly \$258 billion to water and sewer facilities; nearly \$178 billion to roads, highways, and streets; nearly \$147 billion to public power projects; and \$105.6 billion to mass transit.</p>		

RECOMMENDED CHANGE IN LAW OR STATUTE (IF APPLICABLE)	
Current Statute of Reference:	N/A
Suggested New Language:	N/A
Recommended County Position:	Support the preservation of the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds.



Leon County Board of County Commissioners

2016 Legislative Priorities Information Form

CONTACT INFORMATION			
Department:	County Administration	Division:	Strategic Initiatives
Contact Person:	Shington Lamy	Title:	Assistant to the County Administrator
Email:	LamyS@LeonCountyFL.gov	Phone:	850-606-5329

POLICY REQUEST	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> State
Topic/Project Title:	Support for Future Growth of the VA Tallahassee National Cemetery

PROBLEM/NEED			
IDENTIFY EFFECT ON COUNTY PROGRAMS/SERVICES AND THE ECONOMIC OR FISCAL IMPACT			
Priority:	<input type="checkbox"/> Critical	<input type="checkbox"/> Important	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anticipated
Description:	<p>In November 2012, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced that it purchased land for a new national cemetery in Leon County. The VA purchased a 250-acre parcel along U.S. Highway 27, which will serve the burial needs for more than 83,000 veterans in North Florida, Southwest Georgia, and Southeast Alabama. The President's Budget request for FY 2014 included \$40 million for the cemetery, and Congress passed the requested amount in the FY 2014 Omnibus Appropriations Act.</p> <p>Phase I of the Veterans National Cemetery began in late 2014. The initial phase of construction will provide 6,000 gravesites and accommodate both casket and cremains interment. Other features such as a front entrance on Apalachee Parkway, committal shelters, and a public information center with electronic gravesite locator and restrooms are also included in Phase I. It is anticipated Phase I will be completed in 2016. Future phases of construction are anticipated to be necessary within 10 years from the cemetery's opening. At build-out, the facility is planned to accommodate 133,000 gravesites.</p>		

RECOMMENDED CHANGE IN LAW OR STATUTE (IF APPLICABLE)	
Current Statute of Reference:	N/A
Suggested New Language:	N/A
Recommended County Position:	Support dedicated funding for the future growth of the VA Tallahassee National Cemetery.