

# **WORKSHOP**

## **Workshop on the 2015 State and Federal Legislative Priorities**

**Tuesday, October 28, 2014  
1:30 – 3:00 p.m.**

**Leon County Board of County Commissioners' Chambers  
Leon County Courthouse, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor**

**This document distributed October 21, 2014**

# **Leon County Board of County Commissioners**

## **Notes for Workshop**

# Leon County Board of County Commissioners

## Workshop Cover Sheet

October 28, 2014

**To:** Honorable Chairman and Members of the Board

**From:** Vincent S. Long, County Administrator 

**Title:** Workshop on the 2015 State and Federal Legislative Priorities

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<b>County Administrator Review and Approval:</b>	Vincent S. Long, County Administrator
<b>Department/ Division Review:</b>	Alan Rosenzweig, Deputy County Administrator Ken Morris, Director of Economic Development and Business Partnerships
<b>Lead Staff/ Project Team:</b>	Cristina Paredes, Intergovernmental Affairs and Special Projects Coordinator Shington Lamy, Assistant to the County Administrator Ryan Aamodt, Management Intern

### **Fiscal Impact:**

This item does not have a fiscal impact. However, it recommends projects for appropriation requests at the state and federal levels and the substantive efforts of the legislative program often seek to avoid cost shifts and unfunded mandates to the County.

### **Staff Recommendations:**

- Option #1: Approve the 2015 state and federal legislative priorities, as amended by the Board.
- Option #2: Designate a Commissioner to host the Community Legislative Dialogue meetings for the 2015 session.
- Option #3: Authorize the County Administrator to extend the Squire Patton Boggs' federal lobbying contract for one additional one-year period until December 31, 2016.
- Option #4: Authorize the County Administrator to extend the Capitol Alliance Group's state lobbying contract for one additional one-year period until September 30, 2016.

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## **Report and Discussion**

### **Background:**

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

In recent years, the Board directed staff to refine the County's substantive 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 broader substantive initiatives. Consistent with years past, staff is seeking Board assent to the state and federal substantive and appropriations issues presented herein to be included in the County's 2015 state and federal legislative priorities. Staff has identified four appropriation requests for the 2015 state and federal legislative cycles (Attachment #1). Additionally, staff has provided eight substantive priorities for the 2015 state legislative session (Attachment #2) and five federal substantive priorities for the first session of the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress (Attachment #3). The Board may wish to add and/or delete legislative priorities as deemed appropriate for the County's 2015 legislative program.

This workshop seeks Board consideration of the state and federal legislative priorities to guide the County's lobbying efforts for the 2015 state legislative session and the first session of the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress. Upon Board approval, staff and the contract lobbying teams will pursue all of the legislative issues approved by the Board, and in so doing, place appropriate priority on the issues given the opportunities that arise during the legislative process.

### **Analysis:**

Rather than ask the Board to rank projects in priority order, staff is seeking Board assent to the state and federal substantive and appropriations issues presented herein to be included in the County's 2015 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, and in so doing, place appropriate priority on the issues given the opportunities that arise during the legislative process. Notwithstanding this, staff will assign priority to any issue that the Board directs to receive a special level of attention in 2015. Staff would also welcome the addition or deletion of issues that the Board deems appropriate for the County's 2015 legislative efforts.

It is important to note that in addition to the specific Leon County issues identified herein by staff, much of the County's legislative efforts each session are focused on statewide issues in conjunction with FAC. FAC will finalize their 2015 federal and state legislative program during their legislative conference from November 19-21, 2014. The state issues identified by the FAC membership are often times the most critical issues facing the counties during the state legislative session.

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For the past four years, the County has hosted ‘Community Legislative Dialogue’ meetings before and throughout session to engage our community and regional partners in identifying shared legislative priorities and interests. These meetings are well attended with representatives from higher education, the Leon County Delegation, 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 as well as identify shared issues.

The Board also hosts annual the Leon County Legislative Delegation meeting prior to session in order to communicate its legislative priorities. A meeting date has not yet been set, however it is anticipated that this meeting will be held in January or early February. Staff will notify the Board of the date once it has been confirmed.

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 *Capital Update* memoranda during session.

## **PROPOSED LEON COUNTY 2015 STATE & FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE SESSION:**

### **Appropriation Requests**

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

The Board’s practice of retaining professional contractual lobbying services, at both the state and federal levels, has been based primarily on increasing the County’s chances of obtaining legislative appropriations. Staff works throughout the year to identify County projects for which to submit state and federal appropriations requests. The Legislature no longer uses Community Budget Issue Reports (CBIRs) as a means of allocating funds to communities; instead, a greater emphasis has been placed on grant programs through the executive branch and coordinating with state agencies to help fund infrastructure projects. However, it is important to note that the Legislature has issued funding applications for specific types of projects in the last two sessions, such as water quality projects. It is anticipated that water quality project funding applications will be available this session since one of Speaker Designee Steve Crisafulli’s top priorities is anticipated to be water quality issues.

If reelected, Governor Scott has announced he plans to advance the first phase of a two year plan to cut \$1 billion in taxes during the 2015 and 2016 sessions. This plan includes preventing property tax increases if the value of homes remains the same or decrease, proposing \$200 million in sales tax holidays, reducing the Communications Service Tax (CST), permanently eliminating the Florida’s manufacturing sales tax, the business income tax, and the tax on small business rent. An estimated budget surplus of \$336.2 million is projected, however it is anticipated most of this additional revenue will be negated by the Governor’s proposed tax-cutting plan and funding needs for programs such as Medicaid and public education.

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In previous years, the County has had tremendous success in obtaining grants 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. The County received a total of \$425,000 for two projects: "Septic to Sewer" in the Lake Munson Target Area and "Robison Road Flood Relief."

The 2015 appropriation requests identified herein include costly capital projects ranging from transportation projects and infrastructure improvements. In order to maximize the chances for state and federal funds, the County will seek to partner with the City on several projects important to the community including improvements to Capital Circle Southwest. Aside from long-standing appropriation requests such as Capital Circle Southwest, Woodville Highway, and the Woodville Sewer, these requests do not take in consideration the penny sales tax projects; however, it is anticipated that the request will in the future, if the voters approve the penny sales tax in November. In addition, staff will work with 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. Previously, funding for the De Soto Winter Encampment has been a recurring appropriation request; however, this project has been moved to the substantive issues due to the fact that the County is supporting the Florida Department of State Division of Historical Resources' funding request.

The following are the proposed Leon County 2015 State and Federal appropriation requests (for complete information on each, see Attachment #1):

Capital Circle Southwest \$119.1 million

Segment 1(Orange Avenue to Springhill Road) \$65.4 million

Segment 2 (Springhill Road to Crawfordville Road) \$53.7 million

Woodville Highway \$26.6 million

Right of Way Acquisition and Construction from Capital Circle to Paul Russell Road

Woodville Sewer \$3 million

Design of Woodville Sewer System

Innovation Park Grant \$500,000

Support the Leon County Development Authority in their efforts to secure federal grant funding for further development of Innovation Park

**Please Note: For complete information on each issue,  
please see Attachment #1**

**PROPOSED LEON COUNTY 2015 STATE LEGISLATIVE SESSION**  
**Policy Requests**

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

The 2015 legislative session will begin on March 3, 2015 and is scheduled to conclude on May 1, 2015. Like most legislation, much of the County's legislative efforts are incremental and focus on issues that are built upon throughout several sessions. However, each year staff evaluates the trends and issues affecting all County programs and services to identify potential policy or substantive legislative issues. Significant substantive issues that have been identified for County participation range from maintaining the County's home rule authority to the protection of state workforce. The state's current fiscal challenges and efforts to further reduce state government are likely to dominate the Legislature's time this year. It will be important for the lobbying team to monitor the budgetary and programmatic decisions made by the Legislature to determine their impact, if any, on local governments in the form of cost shifts or unfunded mandates.

Throughout this past 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 defeat a provision that would have preempted Leon County's ability to help the disabled community through the fueling assistance ordinances. Other successes during the 2014 session included lobbying to receive funding for two of Leon County's water quality projects and working diligently to promote the protection of the state workforce, which included protection of fair wages and opposition to Florida Retirement System reform.

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 (*Please note: FAIR members are representatives of local governments from across the state.*) Please find below a refined listing of the proposed Leon County 2015 state legislative policy requests. Each request provides a brief overview of the issue and indicates the specific recommended legislative action. In addition, Attachment #2 provides more detailed information.

**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 FY14/15 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 that was considered last session also included a new health insurance system with four different benefit levels from which state employees could choose from, however it was unsuccessful. It is expected that similar legislation affecting state employee health insurance will be pursued during the 2015 session.

During the last two sessions, one of House Speaker Weatherford's top priorities was pursuing legislation to reform Florida Retirement System (FRS). Due to the change in leadership this upcoming session, it is not anticipated that FRS reform legislation will be a top priority; however, staff will continue to closely monitor any movement related to the issue. FRS is the primary retirement plan for public servant employees, 80% of which are county government agencies, district school boards, community colleges, and universities.

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

### **Medicaid Expansion**

Issue: On March 23, 2010, the President of the United States signed the Affordable Care Act (Act) into law. One of the key provisions under the Act is the requirement of states to expand Medicaid to a minimum national eligibility threshold of 138 percent of the federal poverty level. This provision was not upheld by the United States Supreme Court, giving the decision to the states whether or not to expand Medicaid to their respective states. Under the Act, the federal government would fund Medicaid expansion at 100 percent for three years and after that time, states would gradually be required to pay a share of the costs of Medicaid expansion starting in the fourth year. In the last two sessions, the Florida Legislature has failed to approve Medicaid expansion. Estimates indicated that if the Legislature decided to expand Medicaid, Florida could receive as much as \$50 billion in federal funding to provide health coverage for approximately one million Florida residents.

On February 25, 2014, the Board approved a resolution that urges the Governor, the Senate President, and the House Speaker to support Medicaid expansion in order to improve the quality of life for disadvantaged Leon County residents (Attachment #4). In addition, on October 14, 2014, the Board affirmed its position to support the Medicaid expansion in Florida. Due to leadership, changes in the Florida Senate and Florida House of Representatives staff will send a copy of the approved resolution to the new leadership during the 2015 Legislative session.

Action: Support legislation to expand Medicaid in Florida.

### **Internet Sales Tax**

**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. On May 1, 2014, Amazon began collecting state and local sales taxes for all Florida purchase due to its newly established physical presence near Tampa. The Florida Retail Association estimates that Amazon will collect as much as \$80 million annually from Florida’s six percent sales tax.

Legislation regarding the implementation of an internet sales tax has been considered by both the State Legislature and Congress. In spring 2013, the United States Senate passed the Market Fairness Act with bipartisan support; however, challenges from the United States House have stalled efforts to pass internet sales tax legislation. There is resistance in the Legislature to any legislation that could be perceived as increasing taxes. Enforcing the collection of the sales tax on internet purchases is seen by the Governor and some members of the Legislature as a tax increase. Governor Scott and several legislators advocated for a “revenue neutral” approach to the collection of this tax.

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

### **Communication Service Tax**

**Issue:** The Communication Service Tax (CST) is a tax on the retail sales of communications services, which include voice, data, audio, video and any other information including cable (video) services. Internet access, as defined by the Internet Tax Freedom Act, email services, and prepaid calling arrangements (cards and cellphones) are not included and account for approximately 25 percent to 40 percent of all wireless phones. The proceeds from the tax are transferred to county and municipal governments, the Public Education Capital Outlay and Debt Service Trust Fund, and the state’s General Revenue Fund. Since CST revenue funds the Public Education Capital Outlay (PECO) program, the CST is also an issue for the County’s community partners like Leon County Schools, Florida State University, Florida A&M University, and Tallahassee Community College.

A county or municipality may choose to levy the CST by ordinance. Currently, Leon County levies a CST 6.02% within the unincorporated areas of the County. The City of Tallahassee’s rate is applied to those individuals who live within the city limits and is levied at 6.90%. Since October 2012, Leon County CST revenues have been trending upward about 2.5%.

In 2012, the Legislature created the CST Workgroup to propose solutions to the problems associated with the CST. The Workgroup recommended that the best approach in addressing CST issues would be a holistic replacement of the CST by repealing the tax and bringing all communications services under an increased sales and use tax. According to the Workgroup, this option would modernize the current tax structure, streamline the administrative system, remove competitive disadvantages without reducing local government revenues, and reduce the tax burden on the typical Florida taxpayer and small business.

The final tax cut package which passed last session included the expansion of the definition of “prepaid calling arrangement” beyond voice calls to include other prepaid communication services, such as text message and data usage. Arguably, this would allow prepaid calling arrangements to be exempt from CST; instead, they would be taxed at the general sales tax rate.

If re-elected, Governor Scott has included a reduction in CST as part of his tax cut proposal. A reduction in CST would reduce the amount of funds available to local governments and PECO. Staff anticipates CST reduction legislation will be included in the 2015 session.

Action: Support legislation that is revenue neutral; simplifies administration and collection of the current tax; enhances the stability and reliability as an important revenue source for local government and Public Education Capital Outlay for schools; and provides the opportunity for market-based growth.

### **Library Aid**

Issue: Florida’s State Aid to Libraries Grant Program, managed by the Florida Department of State’s Division of Library and Information Services, has been the cornerstone of public library support in Florida since 1963, and is recognized as a national model. Despite the increase in FY 2015, State Aid to public libraries has been reduced by 32% to \$27,409,823 for past eight years.

Florida library systems rely on State Aid grant funding to assist library users with economic development resources to small businesses and job seekers; access to the internet, government services, and a vast array of online services and products and; education and reading. Libraries are transitioning from traditional libraries to community hubs, which function as learning environments to better serve their communities. Libraries are extending all their services to the Web while at the same time allowing citizens to develop new businesses, to teach early reading skills, to provide safe environments for children and teens, to develop new skills to become a better fit for today’s workplace, and to find greater civic engagement.

Last year, the Leon County library system received \$178,220 in state aid. For FY 2015 Leon County is anticipated to receive \$228,483. The library system uses State Aid grant funding to assist with purchasing circulating library materials for County residents.

Action: Support state aid grant funding for public library programs.

### **Tallahassee – Leon County Enterprise Zone**

Issue: The Florida Enterprise Zone Program encourages economic revitalization and private investment employment through state tax incentives to businesses and residents located in the zone. In 2002, Leon County and the City of Tallahassee jointly applied to create an enterprise zone under the Florida Enterprise Zone Program. The Florida Enterprise Zone Act that enables the Tallahassee-Leon County Enterprise Zone (EZ) is due to sunset December 31, 2015 unless the Legislature renews the program.

State evaluations suggest that the Florida Enterprise Zone Program yields little return on state investment. However, the state narrowly defines return on investment as the increase in new state revenues per dollar of state program investment. Thus, state evaluations do not consider the local benefits stemming directly from the program, such as property valuation increases and the revitalization of a community. According to the Tallahassee-Leon County Enterprise Zone Development Agency (EZDA), the EZ has stimulated revitalization of the zone through an infusion of nearly \$5 million in state incentive, creating an estimated 540 jobs during the past decade. To support the EZDA in maintaining the day-to-day operations of the EZ, the Economic Development Council of Tallahassee/Leon County (EDC) serves as the Enterprise Zone Administrator and is responsible for coordination of the EZDA Board, as outlined in the EDC's contract with the County.

Action: Support the renewal of the Florida Enterprise Zone Program and encourage the broader state definition of return on investment to include property valuation increase and the revitalization of a community.

### **De Soto Winter Encampment**

Issue: With the development of the De Soto Winter Encampment site, Tallahassee can become a nationally promoted tourist destination for those wishing to commemorate the location of the first Christmas observance in the Americas. The Department of State Historical Resource Division has spent \$60,000 for site design and planning and has committed \$1.25 million to develop the site over the next five years. Staff anticipates that the Historical Resource Division will be requesting additional funding as part of the FY 2016 state budget.

On September 10, 2014, the City of Tallahassee voted to abandon a portion of Goodbody Lane Right-of-Way between Apalachee Parkway and Lafayette Street to effectuate a viable site plan for a restaurant site immediately west of Goodbody Lane. Part of this new site would include an extension of De Soto Park Drive across Lafayette Street to a full access at Apalachee Parkway. This new road will create additional opportunities for broader exposure to the site and that the City and County supports any State efforts to create greater access and exposure to the site. A public hearing for final approval for the abandonment of Goodbody Lane must occur prior to the site plan being approved. It is anticipated that the City will hold this hearing at the end of November.

If the Leon County sales tax extension is approved by voters in November, this proposed project would support the State of Florida in developing the De Soto Winter Encampment site into a tourist destination in the amount of \$500,000.

Action: Support State funding for the De Soto Winter Encampment a tourist-friendly facility to commemorate America's first Christmas.

#### **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 their 2015 legislative program during their legislative conference from November 19-21, 2014.

Action: Support the 2015 FAC legislative program unless specific issues conflict with Leon County's interests.

#### **Community Legislative Dialogue Meetings**

For the past four years, the County has hosted 'Community Legislative Dialogue' meetings before and throughout session to engage our community and regional partners in identifying shared legislative priorities and interests. Last year, the Board designated Commissioner Desloge to host these meetings given his role with FAC. A total of four roundtable discussions were held with our community partners and surrounding counties. The meetings were held during a fall committee week, before session, in the middle of session, and at the end of session. All four meetings were well attended and the participants agreed that it was helpful to hear the priorities of other community partners.

If the Board would like to continue hosting the 'Community Legislative Dialogue' meetings on an ongoing basis, 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 the Past President of FAC and NACo 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, the Board may wish to designate Commissioner Desloge to once again host these meetings for the 2015 session.

**FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE ISSUES:**

*(Please Note: For complete information on each, see 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. At the Board's request, the federal appropriation requests have been combined with the state appropriation requests (Page #3 of the Analysis Section).

Squire Patton Boggs, previously Patton Boggs, has worked closely with staff on select federal policy issues and priorities that have been identified by the Board. Squire Patton Boggs has been instrumental in the County's efforts to encourage sufficient appropriations for the construction of the Veterans National Cemetery in Leon County. 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 will begin in fall 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. Squire Patton Boggs has been critical partner in supporting the necessary appropriations for the Veterans National Cemetery in Leon County

The County has also sought assistance from Squire Patton Boggs to educate the Leon County Federal Delegation on the County's concerns regarding the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permit that was issued for the Grady County, Georgia Dam project and its impact on the water quality and quantity in North Florida. Subsequently, Congressman Southerland has become engaged in this issue and is actively working with the County to express concerns to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers regarding the Grady County Dam project. The Corps of Engineers has granted Leon County the substance of the relief being sought and did so in a fashion, which actually provides a greater volume of recharge water to Lake Iamonia than initially requested. The Grady Dam construction is due to be completed in December of 2014, however prior to any filling of the lake that the dam will create, Grady County will need to complete a lake filling plan to the Army Corps of Engineers. Squire Patton Boggs recommends Leon County review the completed lake filling plan to ensure the plan is in accordance with the protection that the Corp's permit condition requires for the Grady Dam.

Staff has prepared four federal policy requests and the removal of one policy request for the first session of the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress and to provide direction to the County's federal lobbying team:

**Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21)**

**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 set to expire on September 31, 2014. On July 31, 2014, Congress voted to temporarily extend MAP-21 and provide funding for the Highway Trust Fund (HTF) to ensure its solvency through May 2015. Local governments use this funding source to build and maintain 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.

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. Previous attempts by the United States Senate to reauthorize MAP-21 have been met with resistance by the United States House. However, Squire Patton Boggs expects the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress to take up the reauthorization of MAP-21. During this process they anticipate stakeholders to advocate for additional freight considerations, reinstatement of bike/pedestrian transportation enhancement, and more local control my Metropolitan Planning Organizations.

**Action:** Support the long-term reauthorization of MAP-21 at or above the current level of funding for surface transportation programs.

**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 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. On September 18, 2014, Congress passed a short-term funding extension, however the approved Continuing Resolution did not include funding for PILT. NACo hosted a "PILT Fly-In" at the nation's capital for county leaders from across the nation to urge their respective members of Congress to support full FY 2015 PILT funding. This year Leon County received \$203,372 from the federal government 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 2015 appropriations package and support a long-term strategy for a sustainable PILT program.

### **Waters of the United States**

**Issue:** On April 21, 2014, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the United States Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) jointly released a new proposed 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 would be subject to federal jurisdiction. The proposed rule would eliminate the distinction between traditional navigable waters (such as lakes, rivers, and streams) and conveyances such as ditches and drains, and would apply regardless of flow or hydrologic connections.

On September 23, 2014, the Board approved a resolution voicing concerns regarding the proposed 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 proposed EPA rule change will negatively impact the ability to protect those resources and could put undue burden on local governments through onerous permitting requirements.

**Action:** Oppose the Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineering proposed rule regarding the definition of "Waters of the U.S."

### **Internet Sales Tax**

**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. In spring 2013, the United States Senate passed the Market Fairness Act with bipartisan support; however, challenges from the United States House have stalled this bill. In an effort to compromise, the United States Senate has introduced a bill (S. 2609) which combines the Marketplace Fairness Act and a ten-year extension of the Internet Tax Freedom Act, which will expire November 1, 2014. If Congress declines to pass internet sales tax legislation, Florida could join the Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Agreement, an interstate compact of twenty-three states that encourages merchants in one member state to collect and submit another member state's sales taxes.

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

### **Federal Correctional Institution Property**

Issue: On June 14, 2011, the Board authorized Commissioner Desloge to reach out to the Federal Correctional Institution (FCI) for usage of open space adjacent to the FCI facility for Little League baseball fields. The open space is adjacent to Tom Brown Park. The initial response from the Federal Bureau of Prisons indicated that it did not have the authority to grant the County’s request. On September 20, 2011, Commissioner Desloge and staff met with FCI Warden Taylor to familiarize him with the County’s proposal. At that time, Warden Taylor agreed to support the County’s efforts to gain authorization for the use of the property.

On March 7, 2012, Congressman Southerland introduced legislation concerning land conveyance from the Bureau of Prisons to Leon County to be used for additional recreational space at Tom Brown Park. Congressman Crenshaw agreed to co-sponsor the bill. During that time, the House Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security received pushback with regard to the legislation from the U.S. Bureau of Prisons’ headquarters in Washington, D.C as the land has not been discharged as ‘surplus’ property. Previous legislative attempts to convey this land have been unsuccessful.

The County hosted Congressman Southerland on August 20, 2013 for an in-person look at the Tom Brown Park/FCI properties and to discuss the issue of potential County use of the FCI land. The County and the Congressman met with the new FCI warden, Vick Flournoy. Under the direction of the new warden, FCI objects to the County’s use of the undeveloped land that lies adjacent to the Tom Brown Park. Previously, staff spoke with the Bureau of Prisons regarding this space; their general counsel stated the space might be needed in the next 15 years for possible expansion of FCI for additional bed space.

Action: Squire Patton Boggs and County staff have continued to communicate with Department of Justice on this issue, however it is not anticipated that the Bureau of Prisons will convey the additional acreage based on their needs for future expansion. Therefore, staff recommends that the Board remove FCI property and the expansion of Tom Brown Park from its 2015 federal priorities.

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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.

It is important to note that the NACo Legislative Conference is scheduled for February 21-25, 2015 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 2<sup>nd</sup> vice president of NACo in July 2014. He will serve as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President for a year, before ascending to 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President and then 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 that they could be bid concurrently when they expire in 2015. The County is in the final contract year with the state and federal lobbying teams, with the Capital Alliance Group contract expiring on September 30, 2015 and Squire Patton Boggs contract expiring on December 31, 2015.

Typically, staff would present the Board the option to bid these contracts as part of the end-of-session report in June but that presents a problem in 2015. The 2014 Legislature approved a bill to move up the start of the 2016 legislative session from early March to January 12, 2016. Due to the January start date for the 2016 session, staff anticipates that committee weeks will begin in mid-September 2015, requiring earlier coordination between staff and the contract teams as well as the Board's adoption of the 2016 legislative priorities. In order to prepare for the earlier session, staff recommends that the Board set their 2016 priorities in July or August, prior to the start of committee weeks, and extend their contracts with both lobbying teams for one additional year prior to going out to bid.

Extending the state and federal contracts by one year will ensure the continuity of the legislative program as committee weeks begin in September 2015 and allow staff to issue an RFP for both services concurrently in 2016 per the Board's prior guidance. Alternatively, the Board may wish to bid these services for 2016. Should the Board approve the staff recommendation to extend both contracts by one additional year, an RFP for lobbying services would be released in the summer of 2016 following the end-of-session report.

Title: Workshop on the 2015 State and Federal Legislative Priorities

October 28, 2014

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**Options:**

1. Approve the 2015 state and federal legislative priorities, as amended by the Board.
2. Designate a Commissioner to host the Community Legislative Dialogue meetings for the 2015 Session.
3. Authorize the County Administrator to extend the Squire Patton Boggs' federal lobbying contract for one additional one-year period until December 31, 2016.
4. Authorize the County Administrator to extend the Capitol Alliance Group's state lobbying contract for one additional one-year period until September 30, 2016.
5. Authorize staff to issue request for proposals for federal and state lobbying services for the 2016 legislative session.
6. Board direction.

**Recommendation:**

Options #1, #2, #3, and #4.

**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
4. February 25, 2014 Resolution on the Support for Medicaid Expansion



# Leon County Board of County Commissioners

## 2015 LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Department/Division: Blueprint 2000

Contact Person: Wayne Tedder

Email: [Wayne.Tedder@talgov.com](mailto:Wayne.Tedder@talgov.com) Phone: 219-1060

Topic/Project Title: Capital Circle Southwest

### APPROPRIATION REQUEST (IF APPLICABLE)

**Federal**

**State**

#### Project Description:

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/US 319) a distance of approximately six 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 Regional Airport and at Springhill Road.

This six mile segment of Capital Circle Southwest has been divided into two 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 Capital Circle Southwest project has been a priority of the Board for the last six years. In addition, 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. If the Leon County sales tax extension is approved by voters in November, one of the proposed projects is the widening of Capital Circle Southwest and water quality and infrastructure enhancements for multiple transportation modes in the amount of \$70 million. The project stimulates economic development in the short term by providing jobs in construction and associated professional services, and in the long term by improving access to the Airport, Innovation Park, Tallahassee Museum, and undeveloped properties.

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 the already completed segments of Capital Circle.

**Purpose of Project and Outcome Expected:**

Reconstruction of this six mile segment of Capital Circle Southwest will service the traveling public with convenient access to Tallahassee Regional Airport and businesses and communities located in the southwest quadrant of Leon County. 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 bike enthusiasts. New housing developments and businesses could 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.

**Service Provided:**

The entire six mile segment of Capital Circle Southwest will be 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. 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.

**Population Served:**

The population served by the reconstruction of this 6 mile segment of Capital Circle Southwest includes the businesses and neighborhood that currently surround this segment of the roadway as well as those traveling to the Tallahassee Regional Airport, south to the beaches or circling the downtown area of Tallahassee via Capital Circle Southwest. The traveling public will be treated to a nicely landscaped 6-lane roadway corridor replacing the existing 2-lane road. 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:***Summary of Funding Request:*

Segment 1: North of Orange Avenue (SR 371) to south of Springhill Road (CR 2203)

Estimated Construction Cost: \$35.4M

Estimated Right-of-Way Cost: \$30.0M

TOTAL: \$65.4M

Segment 2: South of Springhill Road (CR 2203) to Crawfordville Road (SR 61/ US 319)

Estimated Construction Cost: \$22.7M

Estimated Right-of-Way Cost: \$31.0M

TOTAL: \$53.7M

*Federal Funding Requested (as applicable):*

Segment 1: North of Orange Avenue (SR 371) to south of Springhill Road (CR 2203) \$65.4 million

Segment 2: South of Springhill Road (CR 2203) to Crawfordville Road (SR 61/ US 319) \$53.7 million

*State Funding Requested (as applicable):*

Segment 1: North of Orange Avenue (SR 371) to south of Springhill Road (CR 2203) \$65.4 million  
Segment 2: South of Springhill Road (CR 2203) to Crawfordville Road (SR 61/ US 319) \$53.7 million

*Present or Pending Funding Sources (including county):*

\$4.8 million in design funding from the Florida Department of Transportation

\$8.7 million in right of way funding from the Florida Department of Transportation in FY 2016 and \$8.2 million in right of way funding in FY 2018 or beyond. This right of way funding is for Segment 1 only.

\$70 million in sales tax funds if the Leon County sales tax extension is approved by voters in November. This proposed project includes funding the widening of Capital Circle Southwest and water quality and infrastructure enhancements for multiple transportation modes.



# Leon County Board of County Commissioners

## 2015 LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Department/Division: Capital Regional Transportation Planning Agency (CRTPA)  
Contact Person: Harry Reed  
Email: [Harry.Reed@talgov.com](mailto:Harry.Reed@talgov.com) Phone: 891-6815  
Topic/Project Title: Woodville Highway

### APPROPRIATION REQUEST (IF APPLICABLE)

Federal

State

#### Project Description:

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

The Woodville Highway project has been a priority of the Board for the last six years. In addition, 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. If the Leon County sales tax extension is approved by voters in November, one of the proposed projects is the widening of Woodville Highway in the amount of \$29.7 million. This project also includes funding for the beautification of Crawfordville Highway, enhancements to pedestrian and bicycle access with sidewalks along Ross Road, thereby linking Woodville and Crawfordville Highways.

#### Purpose of Project and Outcome Expected:

Woodville Highway connects to major arterials systems including Capital Circle and Monroe Street and serves as a major evacuation route from the Coastal Highway (US 98).

This road is frequented by residents of Wakulla County that work in Leon County. It is anticipated that the volume of traffic will continue to increase as the Capital Circle Office Complex, which houses a number of state agencies, continues to expand.

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 funds, up to \$175,000, to match funds from FDOT to perform a Corridor Master Plan for a portion of Woodville Highway from Gaile Avenue to Commerce Boulevard. 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. Several reasons for the extension include adding sidewalks, designing pedestrian crossings, and addressing any potential for redevelopment of the Leon County Fairgrounds, all of which could have a significant impact on future traffic patterns.

CRTPA held a meeting in 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.

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.

**Service Provided:**

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

**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:**

Due to the time necessary for the corridor study, project design, and right-of-way acquisition, construction commencement will be determined at a future date by FDOT.

**Funding:**

*Federal Funding Requested (as applicable):* \$26.6 million  
\$23 million for construction  
\$3.6 million for right of way acquisition

*State Funding Requested (as applicable):*

*Present or Pending Funding Sources (including county):*

\$1.98 million in design funding from the Florida Department of Transportation

\$1.2 million in right of way funding from the Florida Department of Transportation (available in 2017)

\$29.7 million in sales tax funds if the Leon County sales tax extension is approved by voters in November. This project also includes funding for the beautification of Crawfordville Highway, enhancements to pedestrian and bicycle access with sidewalks along Ross Road, thereby linking Woodville and Crawfordville Highways.



# Leon County Board of County Commissioners

## 2015 LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Department/Division: Public Works/Engineering Services  
Contact Person: Ms. Katherine Burke  
Email: [burkek@leoncountyfl.gov](mailto:burkek@leoncountyfl.gov) Phone: 606-1518  
Topic/Project Title: Woodville Sewer Project

### APPROPRIATION REQUEST (IF APPLICABLE)

**Federal**

**State**

#### **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.

If the Leon County sales tax extension is approved by voters in November, the City and the County have dedicated \$85 million 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 County and City agreed to split the funding (\$42.5 million each) and these specific projects will be determined at a later date, if the voters approve the penny sales tax in November. It is important to note that the Woodville sewer project could meet the criteria to receive funding from this source.

#### **Purpose of Project and Outcome Expected:**

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. State rules do not require upgrades to treatment even in the event of septic tank failure. However, 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.

Initial project funds are targeted to design the transmission system from Woodville to the City of Tallahassee. Second round funding will design the priority collection system and household connections. Completion of project design will support state and federal grant applications for construction costs, potentially as match to sales tax funding if the referendum is approved in November.

**Service Provided:**

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

**Population Served:**

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

**Project Dates for Construction/Operation:**

During the County's FY 07/08 budget workshop, the Board discontinued the funding of non-mandatory capital projects. A number of sewer projects were approved for discontinuation including the Woodville project. At this time, however, the Basin Management Action Plan for the Upper Wakulla River requires reduction of nitrate loads from septic tanks in the Woodville area. Substantial delays can be avoided by proceeding with design of the sewer system while pursuing construction funding separately.

If the Leon County sales tax extension is approved by voters in November, the City and the County have dedicated \$85 million 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 County and City agreed to split the funding (\$42.5 million each) and these specific projects will be determined at a later date, if the voters approve the penny sales tax in November. It is important to note that the Woodville sewer project could meet the criteria to receive funding from this source.

**Funding:**

*Federal Funding Requested (as applicable):*

First year: \$1 million for transmission system design  
Second year: \$2 million for collection system design

*State Funding Requested (as applicable):*

First year: \$1 million for transmission system design  
Second year: \$2 million for collection system design

*Present or Pending Funding Sources (including county):*

\$85 million of the penny sales tax to address water quality and stormwater improvement projects throughout the community. The County and City agreed to split the funding (\$42.5 million each) and these specific projects will be determined at a later date, if the voters approve the penny sales tax in November. It is important to note that the Woodville sewer project could meet the criteria to receive funding from this source.



# Leon County Board of County Commissioners

## 2015 LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Department/Division: Leon County Research and Development Authority

Contact Person: Ron Miller

Email: [RMiller@inn-park.com](mailto:RMiller@inn-park.com)

Phone: 575-0343

Topic/Project Title: Innovation Park Grant Funding

### PROBLEM/NEED

Identify effect on county programs/services and the economic impact.

**Priority:**  Critical  Important  Anticipated

**Description:**

The Leon County Research and Development Authority is applying for Economic Development Administration (EDA) Regional Innovation Grant to further develop Innovation Park.

### RECOMMENDED CHANGE IN FLORIDA STATUTES (IF APPLICABLE)

**Current Statute of Reference:** N/A

**Suggested New Language:** N/A

### RECOMMENDED COUNTY POSITION

**Recommended Position:**

Support the Leon County Research and Development Authority in their efforts to secure federal grant funding for Innovation Park.

*[Continue on the next page]*

**APPROPRIATION REQUEST  
(IF APPLICABLE)**

**Federal**

**State**

**Project Description:**

Innovation Park of Tallahassee has been the hub of scientific research in North Florida for the last 25 years. Innovation Park is overseen by the Authority and partnerships with FSU, Florida A&M University, Tallahassee Community College and governmental and industrial sector representatives. Innovating park was established as a unique location to provide an encouraging business climate for the technology industry and government scientist to work cooperatively with prestigious research universities.

On September 8, 2014 the Economic Development Administration (EDA) announced the launch of the \$15 million 2014 Regional Innovation Program competition to spur innovation capacity-building activities in regions across the nation. The program has three separate funding opportunities, including the "Science and Research Park Development" grant. The purpose of this grant is to provide up to \$500,000 in funding for feasibility and planning for the construction of a new or expanding research or science park. The Leon County Research and Development Authority (Authority) is applying for this grant to expand and develop Innovation Park. The application deadline for this grant is November 3, 2014.

On September 23, 2014, the Board of County Commissioners directed County staff to support the Authority in their efforts to secure federal grant funding for Innovation Park.

**Purpose of Project and Outcome Expected:**

With the continued development and support of Innovation Park, Leon County and Tallahassee can continue to be the scientific research hub for North Florida.

**Service Provided/Benefit to the State:** *Briefly describe the service that this project will provide and all applicable benefits to the county, region, and state.*

The success of Innovation Park has significantly impacted the residents of North Florida, and the continued development of this park will encourage entrepreneurship and create technological jobs here in Leon County.

**Population Served:** *Estimate of the population that will benefit from this project's funding.*

The continued development of Innovation Park will directly benefit all resident in Leon County by attracting new technological businesses which directly benefit the local economy. Growing and continuing the collaboration between Innovation Park and the two research universities will benefit each entity and other community stakeholders. The development of Innovation Park will also continue to develop a stronger workforce.

**Project Dates for Construction/Operation:** *Please note if the projection could be shortened based on receipt of state or federal funding.*

FY 2015-2016 and beyond.

**Funding:**

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

State Funding Requested (as applicable): N/A

Present or Pending Funding Sources (including county): N/A



# Leon County Board of County Commissioners

## 2015 LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Department/Division: Intergovernmental Affairs /Special Projects  
Contact Person: Ken Morris/Cristina Paredes  
Email: [paredesc@leoncountyfl.gov](mailto:paredesc@leoncountyfl.gov) Phone: 606-5300  
Topic/Project Title: Protection of State Workforce

### PROBLEM/NEED

Identify effect on county programs/services and the economic impact.

**Priority:**       Critical       Important       Anticipated

#### Description:

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 FY14/15 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, however it was unsuccessful. It is expected that similar legislation affecting state employee health insurance will be pursued during the 2015 session.

During the last two sessions, one of House Speaker Weatherford's top priorities was pursuing legislation to reform Florida Retirement System (FRS). Due to the change in leadership this upcoming session, it is not anticipated that FRS reform legislation will be a top priority; however staff will continue to closely monitor any movement related to the issue. FRS is the primary retirement plan for public servant employees, 80% of which are county government agencies, district school boards, community colleges, and universities.

### RECOMMENDED CHANGE IN FLORIDA STATUTES (IF APPLICABLE)

**Current Statute of Reference:** N/A

**Suggested New Language:** N/A

### RECOMMENDED COUNTY POSITION

#### Recommended Position:

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



# Leon County Board of County Commissioners

## 2015 LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Department/Division: Intergovernmental Affairs/ Special Projects  
 Contact Person: Ken Morris/Cristina Paredes  
 Email: [paredesc@leoncountyfl.gov](mailto:paredesc@leoncountyfl.gov) Phone: 606-5300  
 Topic/Project Title: Medicaid Expansion

### PROBLEM/NEED

Identify effect on county programs/services and the economic impact.

**Priority:**             Critical       Important       Anticipated

#### Description:

On March 23, 2010 the President of the United States signed the Affordable Care Act (Act) into law. One of the key provisions under the Act is the requirement of states to expand Medicaid to a minimum national eligibility threshold of 138 percent of the federal poverty level. This provision was not upheld by the United States Supreme Court, giving the decision to the states whether or not to expand Medicaid to their respective states. Under the Act the federal government would fund Medicaid expansion at 100 percent for three years and after that time states would gradually be required to pay a share of the costs of Medicaid expansion starting in the fourth year. In the last two sessions, the Florida Legislature has failed to approve Medicaid expansion. Estimates indicated that if the Legislature decided to expand Medicaid, Florida could receive as much as \$50 billion in federal funding to provide health coverage for approximately one million Florida residents.

On February 25, 2014, the Board approved a resolution that urges the Governor, the Senate President, and the House Speaker to support Medicaid expansion in order to improve the quality of life for disadvantaged Leon County residents. In addition, on October 14, 2014, the Board affirmed its position to support the Medicaid expansion in Florida. Due to leadership changes in the Florida Senate and Florida House of Representatives staff will send a copy of the approved resolution to the new leadership during the 2015 Legislative session.

### RECOMMENDED CHANGE IN FLORIDA STATUTES (IF APPLICABLE)

**Current Statute of Reference:** N/A

**Suggested New Language:** N/A

### RECOMMENDED COUNTY POSITION

#### Recommended Position:

Support legislation to expand Medicaid in Florida.



# Leon County Board of County Commissioners

## 2015 LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Department/Division: Intergovernmental Affairs/ Special Projects  
 Contact Person: Ken Morris/Cristina Paredes  
 Email: [paredesc@leoncountyfl.gov](mailto:paredesc@leoncountyfl.gov) Phone: 606-5300  
 Topic/Project Title: Internet Sales Tax

### PROBLEM/NEED

Identify effect on county programs/services and the economic impact.

**Priority:**             Critical       Important       Anticipated

**Description:** State and Federal priority.

Legislation regarding the implementation of an internet sales tax has been considered in the State Legislature and is currently being considered in Congress. In spring 2013 the United States Senate passed the Market Fairness Act with bipartisan support, however challenges from the United States House have stalled this bill. In an effort to compromise, the United States Senate has introduced a bill (S. 2609) which combines the Marketplace Fairness Act and a ten-year extension of the Internet Tax Freedom Act, which will expire November 1, 2014. If Congress declines to pass internet sales tax legislation, Florida could join the Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Agreement, an interstate compact of twenty-three states that encourages merchants in one member state to collect and submit another member state's sales taxes.

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. On May 1, 2014, Amazon began collecting state and local sales taxes for all Florida purchase due to its newly established physical presence in the State. The Florida Retail Association estimates that Amazon will collect as much as \$80 million annually from Florida's six percent sales tax.

There is resistance in the Florida Legislature to any legislation that could be perceived as increasing taxes. Enforcing the collection of the sales tax on internet purchases is seen by the Governor and some members of the Legislature as a tax increase. Governor Scott and several legislators advocated for a "revenue neutral" approach to the collection of this tax.

### RECOMMENDED CHANGE IN FLORIDA STATUTES (IF APPLICABLE)

**Current Statute of Reference:** N/A

**Suggested New Language:** N/A

### RECOMMENDED COUNTY POSITION

**Recommended Position:**

Support legislation that promotes an equitable competitive environment between 'brick and mortar' businesses and remote businesses establishments operating in Florida.



# Leon County Board of County Commissioners

## 2015 LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Department/Division: Intergovernmental Affairs /Special Projects

Contact Person: Ken Morris/Cristina Paredes

Email: [paredesc@leoncountyfl.gov](mailto:paredesc@leoncountyfl.gov) Phone: 606-5300

Topic/Project Title: Communications Service Tax

### PROBLEM/NEED

Identify effect on county programs/services and the economic impact.

**Priority:**       Critical       Important       Anticipated

**Description:**

The Communication Service Tax (CST) is a tax on the retail sales of communications services, which include voice, data, audio, video and any other information including cable (video) services. Internet access, as defined by the Internet Tax Freedom Act, email services, and prepaid calling arrangements (cards and cellphones) are not included and account for approximately 25 percent to 40 percent of all wireless phones. The proceeds from the tax are transferred to county and municipal governments, the Public Education Capital Outlay and Debt Service Trust Fund, and the state’s General Revenue Fund. Since CST revenue funds the Public Education Capital Outlay program, the CST is also an issue for the County’s community partners like Leon County Schools, Florida State University, Florida A&M University, and Tallahassee Community College.

A county or municipality may choose to levy the CST by ordinance. Currently, Leon County levies a CST 6.02% within the unincorporated areas of the County. The City of Tallahassee’s rate is applied to those individuals who live within the city limits and is levied at 6.90%. Since October 2012, Leon County CST revenues have been trending upward about 2.5%.

In 2012, the Legislature created the CST Workgroup to propose solutions to the problems associated with the CST. The Workgroup recommended that the best approach in addressing CST issues would be a holistic replacement of the CST by repealing the tax and bringing all communications services under an increased sales and use tax. According to the Workgroup, this option would modernize the current tax structure, streamline the administrative system, remove competitive disadvantages without reducing local government revenues, and reduce the tax burden on the typical Florida taxpayer and small business.

The final tax cut package which passed last session included the expansion of the definition of “prepaid calling arrangement” beyond voice calls to include other prepaid communication services, such as text message and data usage. Arguably, this would allow prepaid calling arrangements to be exempt from CST; instead, they would be taxed at the general sales tax rate.

If re-elected, Governor Scott has included a reduction in CST as part of his tax cut proposal. A reduction in CST would reduce the amount of funds available to local governments and PECO. Staff anticipates CST reduction legislation will be included in the 2015 session.

**RECOMMENDED CHANGE IN FLORIDA STATUTES  
(IF APPLICABLE)**

**Current Statute of Reference:** N/A

**Suggested New Language:** N/A

**RECOMMENDED COUNTY POSITION**

**Recommended Position:**

Support legislation that is revenue neutral; simplifies administration and collection of the current tax; enhances the stability and reliability as an important revenue source for local government; and provides the opportunity for market-based growth.



# Leon County Board of County Commissioners

## 2015 LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Department/Division: Public Service/Libraries

Contact Person: Cay Hohmeister

Email: hohmeisterc@leoncountyfl.gov

Phone: 606-2616

Topic/Project Title: Leon County Library Grant Funding

### PROBLEM/NEED

Identify effect on county programs/services and the economic impact.

**Priority:**       Critical       Important       Anticipated

**Description:**

Florida's State Aid to Libraries Grant Program, managed by the Florida Department of State's Division of Library and Information Services, has been the cornerstone of public library support in Florida since 1963, and is recognized as a national model. Despite the increase in FY 2015, State Aid to public libraries has been reduced by 32% to \$27,409,823 for past eight years.

Florida library systems rely on State Aid grant funding to assist library users with economic development resources to small businesses and job seekers; access to the internet, government services, and a vast array of online services and products and; education and reading. Libraries are transitioning from traditional libraries to community hubs which function as learning environments to better serve their communities. Libraries are extending all their services to the Web while at the same time allowing citizens to develop new businesses, to teach early reading skills, to provide safe environments for children and teens, to develop new skills to become a better fit for today's workplace, and to find greater civic engagement.

Last year, the Leon County library system received \$178,220 in state aid. For FY 2015 Leon County is anticipated to receive \$228,483. The library system uses State Aid grant funding to assist with purchasing circulating library materials for County residents.

### RECOMMENDED CHANGE IN FLORIDA STATUTES (IF APPLICABLE)

**Current Statute of Reference:** N/A

**Suggested New Language:** N/A

### RECOMMENDED COUNTY POSITION

**Recommended Position:**

Support state aid grant funding for public library programs.



# Leon County Board of County Commissioners

## 2015 LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Department/Division: Economic Development & Business Partnerships  
 Contact Person: Ken Morris/Cristina Paredes  
 Email: [paredesc@leoncountyfl.gov](mailto:paredesc@leoncountyfl.gov) Phone: 606-5300  
 Topic/Project Title: Tallahassee – Leon County Enterprise Zone

### PROBLEM/NEED

Identify effect on county programs/services and the economic impact.

**Priority:**       Critical       Important       Anticipated

#### Description:

Enterprise zones are areas targeted for economic revitalization through the state's Florida Enterprise Program. Enterprise zones encourage economic revitalization through state tax incentives to businesses located in the zone, incentivizing private investment in the zone, and creating employment opportunities for the area's residents. Individual enterprise zones may also offer local incentive programs to further leverage state incentives for economic revitalization. The Florida Enterprise Zone Act that enables the Tallahassee-Leon County Enterprise Zone is due to sunset December 31, 2015 unless the Legislature renews the program.

In 2002, Leon County and the City of Tallahassee jointly applied to create an enterprise zone under the Florida Enterprise Zone Program. In the case of joint applications, the Florida Enterprise Zone Act directs counties to create a local administrative board, such as the Tallahassee-Leon County Enterprise Zone Development Agency Board of Commissioners (EZDA), before approving the creation of an enterprise zone. The EZDA for the Tallahassee-Leon County Enterprise Zone (EZ) was created by the County Commission on June 11, 2002, although it did not begin processing incentive applications until 2006. The original EZ area has been amended several times since its creation in 2002. The current EZ spans almost 20 square miles and, includes central, southern, and western portions of the community, and lies mostly within the incorporated areas of Leon County.

The EZDA oversees implementation of the EZ incentives and provides assistance to businesses and residents within the zone. To support the EZDA in maintaining the day-to-day operations of the EZ, the Economic Development Council of Tallahassee/Leon County (EDC) serves as the Enterprise Zone Administrator and is responsible for coordination of the EZDA Board, as outlined in the EDC's contract with the County. The EZDA meets quarterly and its structure and responsibilities are outlined in the Leon County Code of Laws Chapter 2, Art. III, Div. 4. The current EZDA Board consists of 11 Board appointees representing EZ stakeholders, including two County Commissioners designated by the Commission Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

The Florida Enterprise Zone Act was renewed by the Legislature in 2005 for an additional ten years (to sunset December 31, 2015). Since 2005, there has not been a significant effort at the state level to renew the program. State evaluations suggest that the Florida Enterprise Zone Program yields little return on state investment. However, the state narrowly defines return on investment as the increase in new state revenues per dollar of state program investment. Thus, state evaluations do not consider the local benefits stemming

directly from the program, such as property valuation increases and the revitalization of a community. According to DEO's FY13 annual report on enterprise zones, businesses in the Enterprise Zone received \$57,848 in state sales tax incentives. Additionally, EZ businesses received support from both federal and state agencies to supplement EZDA revitalization efforts in the form of \$56,438 in training grants. According to the EZDA, the EZ has stimulated an infusion of nearly \$5 million in state incentive awards to nearly 1,400 applications, creating an estimated 540 new jobs during the past decade.

EDC staff note that the EZ incentives are an important tool in their efforts to help businesses locate and expand in Leon County. Through the Enterprise Zone Administrator, the EZDA has been a leader in encouraging other enterprise zones and state economic development agencies to collaborate on efforts to renew the Florida Enterprise Zone Program. Through their role on the EZDA, both Commissioners Lindley and Maddox have advocated in support of the Florida Enterprise Zone Program's extension, including Commissioner Lindley's recent meeting with the Director of the Florida Enterprise Zone Program. At present, the Legislature's Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability is conducting a review in collaboration with DEO, Enterprise Florida, the Florida Chamber of Commerce, the Florida Economic Development Council, and enterprise zones across the state on how to improve the Florida Enterprise Zone Program for consideration by the Legislature in the 2015 session, as the program is set to sunset December 31, 2015.

**RECOMMENDED CHANGE IN FLORIDA STATUTES  
(IF APPLICABLE)**

**Current Statute of Reference:** N/A

**Suggested New Language:** N/A

**RECOMMENDED COUNTY POSITION**

**Recommended Position:**

Support the renewal of the Florida Enterprise zone Program and encourage the broader state definition of return on investment to include property valuation increase and the revitalization of a community.



# Leon County Board of County Commissioners

## 2015 LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Department/Division: Tourism Development  
 Contact Person: Lee Daniel  
 Email: [DanielLee@leoncountyfl.gov](mailto:DanielLee@leoncountyfl.gov) Phone: 606-2300  
 Topic/Project Title: De Soto Winter Encampment

### PROBLEM/NEED

Identify effect on county programs/services and the economic impact.

**Priority:**       Critical       Important       Anticipated

#### Description:

Archeologists have uncovered artifacts that they believe confirm an encampment site of Hernando de Soto in the large abandoned Apalachee tribe village of Anhaica, in what is now the City of Tallahassee, near Cascades Park. This village had more than 250 structures, which helped de Soto decide to spend the winter of 1539 there to rest his army, repair equipment, and wait for the arrival of supplies. Documents report that de Soto traveled with three priests and a full communion set to commemorate Catholic mass, and because of this, it is thought that the first Christmas in America was celebrated at the site. At this time, there is not much to see at the de Soto Winter Encampment site. With the development of the de Soto Winter Encampment site, Tallahassee can become a nationally promoted tourist destination for those wishing to commemorate the location of the first Christmas observance in the Americas. The Department of State Historical Resource Division has spent \$60,000 for site design and planning and has committed \$1.25 million to develop the site over the next five years. Staff anticipates that the Historical Resource Division will be requesting additional funding as part of the FY 2016 state budget.

On September 10, 2014, the City of Tallahassee voted to abandon a portion of Goodbody Lane Right-of-Way between Apalachee Parkway and Lafayette Street to effectuate a viable site plan for a restaurant site immediately west of Goodbody Lane. Part of this new site would include an extension of De Soto Park Drive across Lafayette Street to a full access at Apalachee Parkway. This new road will create additional opportunities for broader exposure to the site and that the City and County supports any State efforts to create greater access and exposure to the site. A public hearing for final approval for the abandonment of Goodbody Lane must occur prior to the site plan being approved. It is anticipated that the City will hold this hearing at the end of November.

If the Leon County sales tax extension is approved by voters in November, this proposed project would support the State of Florida in developing the De Soto Winter Encampment site into a tourist destination in the amount of \$500,000.

### RECOMMENDED CHANGE IN FLORIDA STATUTES (IF APPLICABLE)

**Current Statute of Reference:** N/A

**Suggested New Language:** N/A

### RECOMMENDED COUNTY POSITION

#### Recommended Position:

Support State funding for the de Soto Winter Encampment a tourist-friendly facility to commemorate America's first Christmas.



# Leon County Board of County Commissioners

## 2015 LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Department/Division: Intergovernmental Affairs /Special Projects  
Contact Person: Ken Morris/Cristina Paredes  
Email: [paredesc@leoncountyfl.gov](mailto:paredesc@leoncountyfl.gov) Phone: 606-5300  
Topic/Project Title: Florida Association of Counties

### PROBLEM/NEED

Identify effect on county programs/services and the economic impact.

**Priority:**             Critical             Important             Anticipated

**Description:**

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 new billing system changes passed in 2012), growth management, annexation, revenue-sharing, and water management issues. FAC will adopt their 2015 legislative program during their legislative conference from November 19-21, 2014.

### RECOMMENDED CHANGE IN FLORIDA STATUTES (IF APPLICABLE)

**Current Statute of Reference:** N/A

**Suggested New Language:** N/A

### RECOMMENDED COUNTY POSITION

**Recommended Position:**

Support the 2015 FAC legislative program unless specific issues conflict with Leon County's interests.



# Leon County Board of County Commissioners

## 2015 LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Department/Division: Intergovernmental Affairs/Special Projects  
Contact Person: Ken Morris/Cristina Paredes  
Email: [paredesc@leoncountyfl.gov](mailto:paredesc@leoncountyfl.gov) Phone: 606-5300  
Topic/Project Title: Reauthorization of Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (MAP-21)

### PROBLEM/NEED

Identify effect on county programs/services and the economic impact.

**Priority:**             Critical             Important             Anticipated

#### Description:

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 set to expire on September 31, 2014. On July 31, 2014 Congress voted to temporarily extend MAP-21 and provide funding for the Highway Trust Fund (HTF) to ensure its solvency through May 2015. 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.

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. There are legislative proposals by the Department of Transportation and the U.S. Senate Environment and Public Works Committee earlier this year to reauthorize MAP-21, however the U.S. House has not introduced a long term bill and is not expected to this year.

### RECOMMENDED CHANGE IN FLORIDA STATUTES (IF APPLICABLE)

**Current Statute of Reference:** N/A

**Suggested New Language:** N/A

### RECOMMENDED COUNTY POSITION

#### Recommended Position:

Support the long-term reauthorization of MAP-21 at or above the current level of funding for surface transportation programs.



# Leon County Board of County Commissioners

## 2015 LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Department/Division: Intergovernmental Affairs/Special Projects  
Contact Person: Ken Morris/Cristina Paredes  
Email: [paredesc@leoncountyfl.gov](mailto:paredesc@leoncountyfl.gov) Phone: 606-5300  
Topic/Project Title: Federal Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) Program

### PROBLEM/NEED

Identify effect on county programs/services and the economic impact.

**Priority:**       Critical       Important       Anticipated

**Description:**

Roughly 62% of counties in the United States have federal land within their boundaries. Although counties cannot collect property tax on federal land, 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. On September 18, 2014 Congress passed a short-term funding extension, however the approved Continuing Resolution did not include funding for PILT. NACo hosted a "PILT Fly-In" at the nation's capital for county leaders from across the nation to urge their respective members of Congress to support full FY 2015 PILT funding. This year Leon County received \$203,372 from the federal government due to the portion of Apalachicola National Forest in Leon County.

### RECOMMENDED CHANGE IN FLORIDA STATUTES (IF APPLICABLE)

**Current Statute of Reference:** N/A

**Suggested New Language:** N/A

### RECOMMENDED COUNTY POSITION

**Recommended Position:**

Support federal legislation that includes full mandatory funding for PILT in the FY 2015 appropriations package and support a long-term strategy for a sustainable PILT program.



# Leon County Board of County Commissioners

## 2015 LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Department/Division: Intergovernmental Affairs/Special Projects  
Contact Person: Ken Morris/Cristina Paredes  
Email: [paredesc@leoncountyfl.gov](mailto:paredesc@leoncountyfl.gov) Phone: 606-5300  
Topic/Project Title: Waters of the United States

### PROBLEM/NEED

Identify effect on county programs/services and the economic impact.

**Priority:**       Critical       Important       Anticipated

**Description:**

On April 21, 2014, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the United States Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) jointly released a new proposed 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 would be subject to federal jurisdiction. The proposed rule would eliminate the distinction between traditional navigable waters (such as lakes, rivers, and streams) and conveyances such as ditches and drains, and would apply regardless of flow or hydrologic connections.

On September 23, 2014, the Board approved a resolution voicing concerns regarding the proposed 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 proposed EPA rule change will negatively impact the ability to protect those resources and could put undue burden on local governments through onerous permitting requirements.

### RECOMMENDED CHANGE IN FLORIDA STATUTES (IF APPLICABLE)

**Current Statute of Reference:** N/A

**Suggested New Language:** N/A

### RECOMMENDED COUNTY POSITION

**Recommended Position:**

Oppose the Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineering proposed rule regarding the definition of "Waters of the U.S.".



# Leon County Board of County Commissioners

## 2015 LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Department/Division: Intergovernmental Affairs/ Special Projects  
 Contact Person: Ken Morris/Cristina Paredes  
 Email: [paredesc@leoncountyfl.gov](mailto:paredesc@leoncountyfl.gov) Phone: 606-5300  
 Topic/Project Title: Internet Sales Tax

### PROBLEM/NEED

Identify effect on county programs/services and the economic impact.

**Priority:**             Critical       Important       Anticipated

**Description:** State and Federal priority.

Legislation regarding the implementation of an internet sales tax has been considered in the State Legislature and is currently being considered in Congress. In spring 2013 the United States Senate passed the Market Fairness Act with bipartisan support, however challenges from the United States House have stalled this bill. In an effort to compromise, the United States Senate has introduced a bill (S. 2609) which combines the Marketplace Fairness Act and a ten-year extension of the Internet Tax Freedom Act, which will expire November 1, 2014. If Congress declines to pass internet sales tax legislation, Florida could join the Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Agreement, an interstate compact of twenty-three states that encourages merchants in one member state to collect and submit another member state’s sales taxes.

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. On May 1, 2014, Amazon began collecting state and local sales taxes for all Florida purchase due to its newly established physical presence in the State. The Florida Retail Association estimates that Amazon will collect as much as \$80 million annually from Florida’s six percent sales tax.

There is resistance in the Florida Legislature to any legislation that could be perceived as increasing taxes. Enforcing the collection of the sales tax on internet purchases is seen by the Governor and some members of the Legislature as a tax increase. Governor Scott and several legislators advocated for a “revenue neutral” approach to the collection of this tax.

### RECOMMENDED CHANGE IN FLORIDA STATUTES (IF APPLICABLE)

**Current Statute of Reference:** N/A

**Suggested New Language:** N/A

### RECOMMENDED COUNTY POSITION

**Recommended Position:**

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



# Leon County Board of County Commissioners

## 2015 LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Department/Division: Intergovernmental Affairs /Special Projects  
 Contact Person: Ken Morris/Cristina Paredes  
 Email: [paredesc@leoncountyfl.gov](mailto:paredesc@leoncountyfl.gov) Phone: 606-5300  
 Topic/Project Title: Use of Federal Correctional Institution Property

### PROBLEM/NEED

Identify effect on county programs/services and the economic impact.

**Priority:**             Critical             Important             Anticipated

**Description:**

On June 14, 2011, the Board authorized Commissioner Desloge to reach out to the Federal Correctional Institution (FCI) for usage of open space adjacent to the FCI facility for Little League baseball fields. The open space is adjacent to Tom Brown Park. The initial response from the Federal Bureau of Prisons indicated that it did not have the authority to grant the County’s request. On September 20, 2011, Commissioner Desloge and staff met with FCI Warden Taylor to familiarize him with the County’s proposal. At that time, Warden Taylor agreed to support the County’s efforts to gain authorization for the use of the property.

On March 7, 2012, Congressman Southerland introduced legislation concerning land conveyance from the Bureau of Prisons to Leon County to be used for additional recreational space at Tom Brown Park. Congressman Crenshaw agreed to co-sponsor the bill. During that time, the House Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security received pushback with regard to the legislation from the U.S. Bureau of Prisons’ headquarters in Washington, D.C as the land has not been discharged as ‘surplus’ property. Previous legislative attempts to convey this land have been unsuccessful.

The County hosted Congressman Southerland on August 20, 2013 for an in-person look at the Tom Brown Park/FCI properties and to discuss the issue of potential County use of the FCI land. The County and the Congressman met with the new FCI warden, Vick Flournoy. Under the direction of the new warden, FCI objects to the County’s use of the undeveloped land that lies adjacent to the Tom Brown Park. Previously, staff spoke with the Bureau of Prisons regarding this space; their general counsel stated the space might be needed in the next 15 years for possible expansion of FCI for additional bed space.

### RECOMMENDED CHANGE IN FLORIDA STATUTES (IF APPLICABLE)

**Current Statute of Reference:** N/A

**Suggested New Language:** N/A

### RECOMMENDED COUNTY POSITION

**Recommended Position:**

Squire Patton Boggs and County staff have continued to communicate with Department of Justice on this issue, however it is not anticipated that the Bureau of Prisons will convey the additional acreage based on their needs for future expansion. Therefore, staff recommends that the Board remove FCI property and the expansion of Tom Brown Park from its 2015 federal priorities.

**RESOLUTION NO. 14-02**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA, EXPRESSING SUPPORT AND URGING THE FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THE FLORIDA SENATE, AND GOVERNOR SCOTT, TO FULLY SUPPORT MEDICAID EXPANSION**

WHEREAS, the Leon County Board of County Commissioners is dedicated to protecting and improving the quality of healthcare for their citizens; and

WHEREAS, according to the most recent data from the American Community Survey of the United States Census Bureau, an estimated 3.8 million Floridians under the age of 65 have no health insurance; and

WHEREAS, more than 1.9 million adults in Florida have incomes at or below 138 percent of the federal poverty line; and

WHEREAS, the 111<sup>th</sup> United States Congress passed the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 ("Affordable Care Act"), and on March 23, 2010, the President of the United States signed the bill into law; and

WHEREAS, one of the key provisions of the Affordable Care Act required states to expand Medicaid to a minimum national eligibility threshold of 138 percent of the federal poverty level effective January 1, 2014, however this provision was not upheld by the United States Supreme Court, giving the decision to the States whether or not to expand Medicaid; and

WHEREAS, under the Affordable Care Act, the federal government would fund Medicaid expansion at 100 percent for three years; and

WHEREAS, the State would gradually be required to pay a share of the costs of Medicaid expansion starting in the fourth year, starting at five percent in calendar year 2017 with a peak state contribution of 10 percent in calendar year 2020; and

WHEREAS, the beneficiaries of Medicaid expansion will include many of the most disadvantaged Floridians and their families in our community and state who are living at or below the poverty line; and

WHEREAS, in the 2013 session, the Florida Legislature did not approve Medicaid expansion; and

WHEREAS, estimates indicate that if the Florida Legislature decides to expand Medicaid, Florida could receive as much as \$50 billion in federal funding to provide health coverage for approximately one million Florida residents over the next decade pursuant to the Affordable Care Act; and

WHEREAS, the failure to enact Medicaid expansion will be detrimental to the health of those Floridians who need it most; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid expenses are the responsibility of the federal and state governments, Leon County will oppose increasing the burden on the counties to expand this program in the future.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Leon County, Florida, that:

1. Leon County urges the Florida Senate, the Florida House of Representatives, and Governor Scott to expand Medicaid during the 2014 Legislative Session.
2. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

DONE AND ADOPTED by the Board of County Commissioners of Leon County, Florida, on this the 25th day of February 2014.

LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA



BY: \_\_\_\_\_

*Kristin Dozier*  
Kristin Dozier, Chairman  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

ATTEST:

BOB INZER, CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT AND COMPTROLLER  
LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA

BY: \_\_\_\_\_

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY  
LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA

BY: \_\_\_\_\_

*Herbert W. A. Thiele*  
Herbert W. A. Thiele, County Attorney