



# Leon County

## Board of County Commissioners

301 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32301  
(850) 606-5302 [www.leoncountyfl.gov](http://www.leoncountyfl.gov)

### NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 16, 2015

CONTACT: **Jon D. Brown**, Director  
Community and Media Relations  
(850) 606-5300

## Leon County Recognized as Model Local Government with Eleven National Awards

Recently, Leon County Government received eleven national awards recognizing outstanding county programs and services. In addition, one of these awards was designated “Best in Category” as the most outstanding program nationwide in its award category. The National Association of Counties (NACo) presented Achievement Awards to Leon County in categories ranging from Civic Education to Information Technology. NACo’s awards recognize how Leon County provides the most cost-effective, high-quality service to citizens.

“We are so proud to see our Leon County local services and programs recognized as national benchmarks for effectiveness and innovation,” said Leon County Commission Chairman Mary Ann Lindley.

This year, the following Leon County Government programs and services received awards:

- **9/11 Day of Service and Remembrance**, winning best of category in Volunteer,
- **Club of Honest Citizens** in the category of Civic Education and Public Information,
- **Community Legislative Dialogue** in the category of Civic Education and Public Information,
- **Domi Station, Leon County’s Startup Business Incubator** in the category of Community and Economic Development,
- **Leon LEADS: ‘People Focused. Performance Driven.’** in the category of County Administration and Management,
- **Penny Sales Tax Public Education Effort** in the category of County Administration and Management,
- **Leon County Sustainable Communities Summit** in the category of County Resilience: Infrastructure, Energy & Sustainability,

(More)

- **Leon County Veterans Resource Center** in the category of Employment and Training for County Residents,
- **Procurement Connect** in the category of Financial Management,
- **Trailhassee.com** in the category of Information Technology, and
- **Leon County Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Policy** in the category of Personnel Management, Employee Training and Employee Benefits.

"These national awards reflect the effort and commitment of talented and dedicated County employees who actively engage our citizens on the most important challenges and opportunities facing our community," said Leon County Administrator Vincent S. Long.

One award that stood out recognized Leon County's 9/11 Day of Service and Remembrance, which received highest honors as Best in Category. Through this annual program, Leon County encourages citizens to remember and honor the sacrifices of 9/11 by volunteering locally and giving back to the community. Since the 10th anniversary of 9/11, the program has consisted of a remembrance ceremony and day of service. Over the past four years, 976 volunteers have contributed over 4,400 hours of volunteer service to veterans, low-income seniors, disabled individuals and families of active-duty military personnel in the Leon County community through service projects ranging from creating "garden buckets" for growing vegetables at home to housing rehabilitation for disabled veterans.

Many of the NACo awards highlight programs, services and initiatives that have been in place for years. Such awards recognize how Leon County Government listens to citizens' needs, anticipates challenges and engages citizens to collaboratively shape the community for future generations. One such example was the multi-year penny sales tax education effort that involved hundreds of hours of citizen input to determine infrastructure projects that County residents not only need, but want. Moreover, Leon County was nationally recognized for programs such as the Sustainable Communities Summit, Community Legislative Dialogue and the Veterans Resource Center, all of which are programs or initiatives that engage many different County departments and divisions to succeed.

These national awards recognize not only effective services, but highlight the successes of Leon County Government during the slow economic recovery. Since the Great Recession, the County has managed to reduce its budget while at the same time exceeding expectations with key infrastructure projects and citizen engagement. Leon County remains committed to strengthening what works, abandoning what does not, receiving citizen feedback, leveraging partnerships and listening to changing needs.

Founded in 1970, the annual NACo Achievement Award Program is an award series that recognizes innovative county government programs that increase services to county residents. Leon County will be recognized at NACo's 80th Annual Conference in July in Charlotte, North Carolina.

For more information, contact Shington Lamy, Assistant to the County Administrator, at (850) 606-5300 / [LamyS@LeonCountyFL.gov](mailto:LamyS@LeonCountyFL.gov) or Jon D. Brown, Director of Leon County Community and Media Relations, at (850) 606-5300 / [cmr@LeonCountyFL.gov](mailto:cmr@LeonCountyFL.gov) .

###