



LEON COUNTY COMMISSIONER

**Rick Minor**

DISTRICT 3 NEWSLETTER



## May/June 2025 News & Updates

### Upcoming Meetings

#### Board of County Commissioners Special Meeting

- Tuesday, May 27, 2025
- 3:00 pm
- County Courthouse, 5th Floor
- The agenda can be viewed [here](#).

#### Board of County Commissioners

- Tuesday, June 10, 2025
- 3:00 pm
- County Courthouse, 5th Floor
- The agenda can be viewed [here](#) on or about June 3rd.

#### CRTPA Meeting

- Monday, June 16, 2025
- 1:30 pm
- City Commission Chambers
- The agenda can be viewed [here](#) on or about June 9th.

#### Board of County Commissioners Budget Workshop

- Tuesday, June 17, 2025
- 9:00 am
- County Courthouse, 5th Floor
- The agenda can be viewed [here](#) on or about June 10.

#### Board of County Commissioners'

- Tuesday, July 8, 2025
- 3:00 pm Regular Mtg
- 6:00 pm Comp Plan Adoption Hearing
- County Courthouse, 5th Floor
- The agenda can be viewed [here](#) on or about July 1.

Click [HERE](#) for the complete Commission calendar.

Hello Rick,

School's out! Last Friday my two daughters wrapped up 5th grade and kindergarten and then they joined my wife and me for some community events over the holiday weekend. Jess brought Maddie, our 11-year-old, to [Elder Care Services](#) for a Meals on Wheels shift, while I took 6-year-old Charlotte to Memorial Day services at Greenwood and Oakland Cemeteries. As they get older it's becoming easier to help them get involved with the community.

While my girls attend summer camp over the next several weeks, my County Commission colleagues and I will be busy deliberating the FY26 budget and the [proposed changes to the Leon County - Tallahassee Comprehensive Plan](#). Please be sure to review the section below on the Comp Plan -- or visit [compplantc.com](#) -- and let me know if you have any questions or suggestions.

And of course, hurricane season starts June 1st, with NOAA predicting a 60% chance of above-normal activity. If you haven't yet done so, please visit [LeonReady.com](#) for valuable information on how you and your family can prepare.

I hope you'll find the rest of this newsletter helpful, too -- we have updates on the Leon Works Expo, a new County dog park, our continued efforts on passenger rail restoration, and much more.

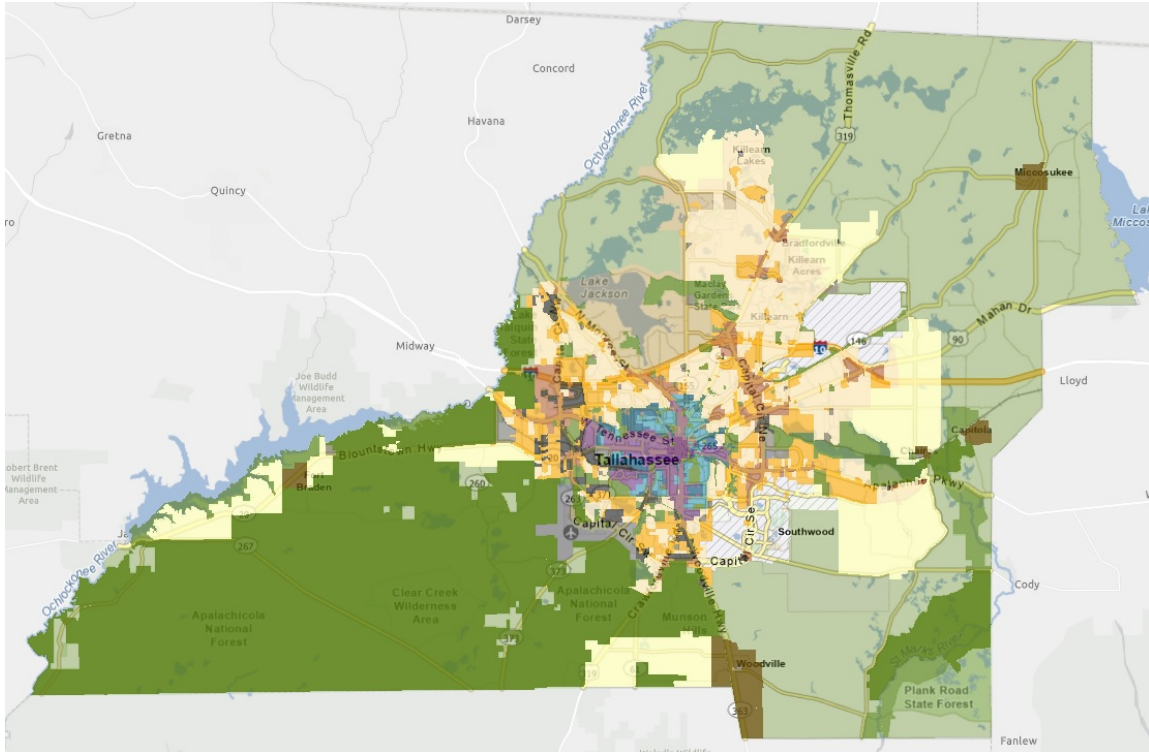
Thank you once again for the incredible honor of representing you at the Leon County Commission, and please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions, comments, or suggestions.

**Rick Minor**

Commissioner, Leon County District 3  
[MinorR@leoncountyfl.gov](mailto:MinorR@leoncountyfl.gov)

P.S. If you have friends and family who might be interested in receiving this newsletter each month, please ask them to sign up at [www.LeonCountyFL.gov/RickMinor](http://www.LeonCountyFL.gov/RickMinor). Thank you!

# IMPORTANT: Changes to the Leon County-Tallahassee Comprehensive Plan



## A Message from Rick about the new Comp Plan proposals:

The **Leon County-Tallahassee Comprehensive Plan ('Comp Plan')** is the long-range planning document that builds upon our community vision. The document's goals, objectives, and policies provide standards for the physical development, redevelopment, and future direction of growth within Tallahassee and Leon County.

Earlier this year, our Planning staff published new policy proposals for the Land Use and Mobility elements of the Comp Plan. Since these changes are intended to shape the growth of our community for the next 25 years, I've been heavily engaged with neighbors, business owners, and planning staff to review the details.

Information about the Comp Plan proposals can be found at a central website, [compplantlc.com](http://compplantlc.com). If you haven't already done so, please take some time to review the [proposed Comp Plan Goals, Objectives and Policies](#). In addition, take a close look at the [Future Land Use Map \(FLUM\)](#) -- you can enter your home address to see your property's current land use category as well as the proposed one. If you have questions about your property or your neighborhood, please [contact our Planning Department](#) or my office.

It's important to note that only the City Commission will vote on the FLUM properties that are within the city limits, as well as Comp Plan policies that are specific only to the City. Only the County Commission will vote on FLUM land in the unincorporated area, plus the Comp Plan policies that are specific only to the County. Both the City and the County will vote on policies that apply to both jurisdictions.

That being said, much of the discussion among neighborhood groups has focused on the suggested increase in maximum density of housing units per acre within the urban core. (For example, an increase from 6 units/acre to 12 units/acre for the Urban Residential Preservation land use category.) Responding to these concerns, our staff revised the policy so that neighborhoods would NOT experience this increase above 6 units/acre unless they choose to 'opt-in' and work with the City on a neighborhood plan. This is a major improvement, and some neighborhood groups have said they would like more detail on how this process would work.

There have been additional points of discussion, and I plan to send more detail in a future email message. Please stay tuned.

**Next Steps?** The City Commission will discuss the Comp Plan changes and whether to submit them for review by the State at their June 11th meeting. The County Commission has already transmitted its portion to the State, and a County adoption hearing is scheduled for July 8th.

I want to thank our Leon County-Tallahassee Planning staff for their hard work, particularly over the past several months, as well as the [Alliance of Tallahassee Neighborhoods \(ATN\)](#), [1000 Friends of Florida](#), the Council of Neighborhood Associations (CONA), individual neighborhoods, and many others for their continued involvement.

If you have questions or suggestions about the Comp Plan proposals, please don't hesitate to contact me. The adoption of these changes will determine our growth for the next 25 years, so it's important that we get it right.

All the best,



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## Thank You Leon County EMS



Last month Rick joined other members of the Leon County Commission, as well as members of our staff, to recognize the extraordinary dedication and swift action of our **Leon County EMS team** in response to the events at Florida State University on April 17.

During the celebration, Leon County EMS was presented with a banner signed by FSU students directly affected by this tragedy, a powerful symbol of the team's impact and the community's gratitude. Sixty-eight EMS members were engaged in the critical response on April 17, with the first ambulance arriving at the scene within one minute of receiving the 9-1-1 call. This rapid and coordinated response saved lives and exemplifies their exceptional preparedness and unwavering commitment to the safety and well-being of our community. We are so proud of Leon County EMS, and we stand with FSU — One Community. One Heart.

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## Update on Restoring Passenger Rail to Tallahassee



*To watch Rick's testimony, click the image above (begins at 9:10)*

During this legislative session, we've gotten further than ever before in the push to restore passenger rail to Tallahassee and North Florida. But there's still a lot of work to do.

Last year, Rick was able to make passenger rail restoration -- and joining the Southern Rail Commission (SRC) -- a legislative priority for the Florida Association of Counties. Working with other County Commissioners throughout the State, we sent the Governor, House Speaker and Senate President a letter signed by 73 local elected officials, urging them to join the SRC.

We also had House and Senate bills filed, and the House version was reported favorably out of a committee. Rick testified before that committee and you can watch his testimony by clicking the image above (Rick begins at 9:10).

We'll need to continue to work hard for next year's legislative session. Even in the best case scenario, restoring rail to North Florida will take years, but it's worth advocating for!

Our office is keeping an email list of individuals who would like to be get informed on the passenger rail restoration effort. If you'd like to be included on that distribution list, click the button below.

[Add Me to the Email List for Information on Passenger Rail](#)

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## Tallahassee Town Hall





On May 1, Rick joined other City and County Commissioners for the **2025 Tallahassee Town Hall**, hosted by The Village Square, WFSU, Leadership Tallahassee, Tallahassee Democrat, City of Tallahassee, and Leon County Government. It was a great event filled with robust discussion on the most pressing issues facing our community.

[Watch the Tallahassee Town Hall](#)

## Help Better Connect the Capital Region by Taking this Short Survey



The **Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency (CRTPA)**, of which Rick is a member, is committed to providing our communities with the transportation needed for daily travel. Every five years, the CRTPA takes a long-range view (think 2050!) to better understand how our neighborhoods, jobs, and travel patterns will change.


To get a full picture, we need your input! The CRPTA is calling on residents from Leon, Gadsden, Jefferson, and Wakulla counties to **weigh in on the transportation options that matter to you**. Help us better Connect the Capital Region by taking this short survey. The future of transportation is just around the bend.

[Take the Survey](#)


# Prepare Now for Hurricane Season 2025

Hurricane season 2025 begins on June 1st and the time to begin preparing is now. Whether you've evacuated or are sheltering in place, know what to expect from the hazards you may face. Remain vigilant, stay up-to-date with the latest forecasts and alerts, and continue to listen to local officials.


*Hurricane Preparedness*

weather.gov/hurricane 


## Stay Protected During Storms




Stay in your safe places from water & wind




Have a way to get weather alerts and forecast updates



Keep in mind that impacts can be felt far from the coast



Listen to local officials & avoid travel unless ordered to evacuate



[Learn More About Hurricane Preparedness](#)

## Rick Discusses Impact of Federal Cuts as Leon County Prepares for Hurricane Season



Rick recently joined WTXL reporter Brianna Smith to discuss federal cuts to the National Weather Service, NOAA's Hurricane Research Division and FEMA. These cuts are a grave concern, as they can undermine forecasting accuracy and complicate disaster recovery. Leon County has experienced 11 federally-declared disasters in just 9 years, so

we understand the importance of partnering with federal and state agencies for natural disasters.

[Watch the WTXL Story](#)

## Leon County Opens Apalachee Regional Park Dog Park



Recently, Rick and Jessica joined Commissioner David O'Keefe, his wife Brooke, Commissioner Carolyn Cummings, Leon County Administrator Vincent Long and our incredible staff for the **Apalachee Regional Park Dog Park** Grand Opening! Rick and Jessica brought their two mini-schnauzers. Two paws up!

[Learn More About the ARP Dog Park](#)

## Honor Flight 2025







For the 5th year, Rick participated in the **Honor Flight trip**. Joining 65 veterans, other guardians, and members of our EMS team, Rick helped celebrate America's veterans by sharing in a day of honor at our nation's memorials. The group of men and women consisted of Vietnam, Korea and World War II veterans who traveled from Tallahassee to the nation's capitol and back – all on the same day. It was certainly an experience none of them will ever forget!

[Learn More About Honor Flight Tallahassee](#)

## A County Update on The Greg Tish Show



Thanks to everyone who sent in ideas for Rick to discuss on last month's **County Update on the Greg Tish Show**. Rick joined Greg, Bill, Doug and Mattie to discuss the Comp Plan, Blueprint, an update on passenger rail, St. Patrick's Day, and so much more!

[Listen to Rick on the Greg Tish Show \(March 17th Episode\)](#)

## Leon County, KCCI Bring Art to Life with Colorful Crosswalks near Courthouse





Rick was pleased to join Leon County Government and the **Knight Creative Communities Institute (KCCI)**, to unveil three visually captivating crosswalks near the Judge Augustus D, Aikens, Jr. Leon County Courthouse. The crosswalks will enhance pedestrian safety while fostering a shared community appreciation for public art.

[Learn More About the Crosswalks to Courthouse Project](#)

## Leon Works Expo



Rick welcomed more than 1,000 high school students to this year's **Leon Works Expo**. Leon County Government and the Tallahassee-Leon County Office of Economic Opportunity connected students to local skilled workforce opportunities. Students from Leon, Wakulla, Gadsden, Jefferson, Calhoun, Madison, and Taylor counties explored high-demand career paths and engaged directly with nearly 80 employers in the areas of health, business and information technology, creative, trade and more.

[Learn About the Leon Works Expo](#)

## Leon County's Award-Winning *Created Equal* Program



Rick joined his colleagues on the Leon County Commission, as well as [The Village Square](#) for the tenth annual *Created Equal* program, "**Created Equal: The Rhythm and Resilience of Black Music**," This award-winning program explored the rich history of Black music, showing how it serves as a living chronicle of the Black experience. The evening also featured dynamic performances by [Tallahassee Nights Live](#), who took attendees on a musical journey throughout the program.

[Learn More About Created Equal](#)

## Learn to Save Lives at Press the Chess



### LEON COUNTY **PRESS THE CHEST**

**FREE CPR TRAINING FOR THE COMMUNITY**

**Saturday, May 31 • 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.**

Donald L. Tucker Civic Center, 505 West Pensacola Street

**To register, visit [LeonCountyFL.gov/PressTheChest](https://LeonCountyFL.gov/PressTheChest)**

THIS IS NOT A CERTIFICATION EVENT.

The annual **Press the Chest community CPR training** event is coming up on Saturday, May 31. Hosted by Leon County EMS, people of all ages are invited to learn the lifesaving skills of adult hands-only CPR, child CPR with breaths, adult and child choking relief, and



AED awareness. Each participant will receive an American Heart Association CPR Anytime Kit containing a CPR manikin, DVD, and educational materials. Participants can take these personal CPR kits home to train family and friends.

Register and Learn to Save Lives

## Groundbreaking of New Park



The City of Tallahassee, Leon County Government and Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency continue to grow the community's robust park network. Construction will soon begin on the **new neighborhood park** located near the **southwest corner of Orange Avenue and Meridian Street**. Last week, Rick joined with several other members of Blueprint, as well as nearby residents and students, for the groundbreaking of this new park.

Learn More About the New Park

## Congratulations to Chain of Parks and HERC



*Holocaust Education Resource Council*



*Chain of Parks*



At the April 8th Board of County Commissioners meeting, Rick presented proclamations recognizing two of Leon County's wonderful organizations:

- The **Holocaust Education Resource Council (HERC)** - in celebration of the group's 20th anniversary and proclaiming April 20 through April 27, 2025, as Holocaust Days of Remembrance.
- The **LeMoyne Chain of Parks Arts Festival** - in celebration of its 25th year as one of Tallahassee's signature annual events and the Big Bend's premier visual art festival.

Watch the Presentation of These Proclamations

## Congratulations to Gigi Rollini



Last month, Rick presented a proclamation on behalf of the Leon County Commission to local attorney **Gigi Rollini** to congratulate her on her election as the president of the [National Association of Women Lawyers](#) - the first from Tallahassee! Congratulations, Gigi and thank you for your many years of service to our community, our state, and our country.

## Photos from Recent Events



Springtime Tallahassee



Rick welcoming County Commissioners from the around the state for the Florida Association of Counties Legislative Day



Rick speaking to students at Springwood Elementary for their Career Day





*With Althemese Barnes, celebrating Emancipation Day at the Knott House Museum*



*On Memorial Day, Rick and his daughter Charlotte joined a group organized annually by Former Congressman Al Lawson, placing flags at veterans' graves at Greenwood Cemetery*

## An Update From a Former Summer Intern



Longtime readers of this newsletter may remember Will Merrix, who interned in our District 3 office during the summer of 2023. Rick recently met up with Will, who provided a fantastic update on all the wonderful things he has been up to:

*My name is Will, and I am a rising Junior at Florida State University. I am working towards a B.S. in Computer Science and a B.S. in Linguistics. At FSU, I am part of the Phi Beta Kappa Arts and Sciences Honors Society and co-editor-in-chief of the Political Review at*

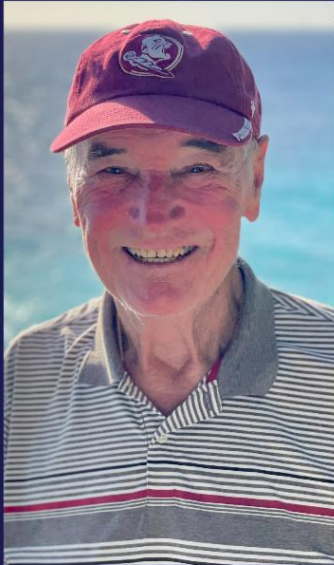


Florida State University. I was previously a Leon County Commission intern for Commissioner Rick Minor.

Over the next two summers, with the support of the FSU Center for the Advancement of Human Rights, I will conduct ethnographic and sociolinguistic fieldwork in Paris, France, and Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire as part of my undergraduate research thesis. My research will aim to describe how the political language usage of Ivorians presents notions of political rights and power, and how these notions correlate to differing cultural domains both in Côte d'Ivoire and in the West.

Some of the questions I ask are: How do different culturally cohesive groups express and discuss their political wishes, priorities, and plans? What are the lexicons used by these groups to discuss politics? How do members of different cultural domains use language to structure and organize their political rhetoric? In what ways do groups' political rhetoric mirror normative Western discussions of Human Rights?

This summer I will be in Paris studying French language and conducting research among members of the Ivorian diaspora in Paris. Then in the Summer of 2026, I will be in Abidjan conducting research amongst Ivorian citizens. These experiences will be eye-opening and I can't wait!



## *In Memoriam*

**J. Lee Vause**

**1938 - 2025**

For his honorable service on  
the Leon County Board  
of County Commissioners

*from 1972 - 1992*

It is with a heavy heart that we share the passing of former Commissioner J. Lee Vause, who died on Monday, May 12, 2025.

During a lifetime dedicated to community service, Vause served 20 years on the County Commission (1972-1992) and was elected Chair six times.

He championed generational projects such as the Judge Augustus D. Aikens, Jr. Leon County Courthouse, the detention facility, the Tallahassee-Leon County Civic Center, and so much more, investments that continue to serve residents and shape our community. Vause also advocated for protecting the natural environment, including Lake Jackson and other sensitive areas.

In 2001, the County dedicated the 26-acre J. Lee Vause Park, located in District 3, in honor of his service and commitment to the County.

[Learn More About Former County Commissioner Vause](#)



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