



Dear Friends:

The number one issue I hear from our community is about the Tallahassee Leon County Comprehensive Plan. If this is a surprise, let me explain. Concerns about sprawling development, the lack of affordable housing, damage to our environment, neighborhood opposition to zoning changes and new developments. These are the main concerns I keep hearing about related to our Comp. Plan.

We plan so we can decide what kind of community we will live. It's time we amend our Comp. Plan to reflect the community we want to have in the future. This year we will be seeking community input on changes to our Comp. Plan. **Once these sessions are scheduled I plan to email the details out and post the information to social media.**

This will be the time to hear from the public about what kind of developments you want to see - or don't want to see. Once the rules in the Comp. Plan are finalized it's often too late to plan for what we want. Stay tuned to know when and how to provide your input!

If you want to discuss an issue, contact me by either calling my office at (850) 696-5375 or emailing me at daokeefe@leoncountyfl.gov. You can see all of our recent links at my.link.gather.com/leoc.

P.S. You're receiving this newsletter because you previously inquired about government services. Please click "Opt Out" at the bottom of this email if you do not want to receive future newsletters.

Sincerely,

David O'Keefe



Autism Acceptance Month

April is Autism Acceptance Month and every individual with autism experiences it differently. Leon County celebrates the achievements of neurodiverse people everywhere and champions the equal rights and dignity of all those loving on the autism spectrum.

Here in the United States, more than 5.4 million adults are autistic, and 1 in every 44 children has been diagnosed with autism. Yet the developmental disability is still misunderstood.

Throughout the month, check out the [agenda and resources](#) available through the Leon County Public Library to celebrate Autism Acceptance!



Tallahassee Town Hall 2023

This Wednesday at 7:15pm I will join some of my fellow County Commissioners at my first Village Square Town Hall. This annual event allows commissioners to have a constructive conversation about where we are, where we're going and what the challenges out there on the horizon might be.

In-person and Zoom tickets are still available [here](#). The program will also be live-streamed at www.leoncountyfl.gov or on [Facebook Live](#).

If you are unable to attend the event in person or online, you get also submit your questions before the event [here](#).

This annual program is a partnership between the [Village Square News Public Media Tallahassee Democrat](#), [Leon County Government](#), and the [City of Tallahassee](#).

Our new Social Media links

We've recently updated some of our social media links, so be sure you're following us on all the platforms. Click the social icons below to be sure you have the correct links. These are the only places to see our Weekly Update in 60 Seconds videos each Friday!



Representing you in the halls of the Florida Capitol

Last week I was also asked to provide remarks in front of the Senate Judiciary Committee on [Senate Bill 1388](#) - a bill that gets protections offered to tenants by local governments.

Like many communities, we are facing an affordable housing crisis and this bill strips away the ability of local elected officials to pass local solutions. I urged Senators to work with County and City leaders and not take away our tools by pre-empting us from the regulators. **It's time for our state leaders to work with us and not against us to fix this crisis.**

County Commission Meeting Recap

You can read the minutes and view the full video of our March Commission meeting [here](#).

Commissioners Office & Travel Budget: Staff was recommending a 60% increase for each Commissioner's office and travel budget which I felt was irresponsible and doesn't match what our priority should be - putting people first. **I voted against the increase**, but the majority of my commission colleagues voted in favor of the increase. I will always put the needs of our community first when spending your tax dollars. Watch the video of my remarks [here](#).

Rent Increase Notice Requirements Ordinance: At my urging, we directed our staff to provide an agenda item including a draft ordinance to increase the required notice that landlords give for rent increases over 5% to 30-days for month-to-month leases, and 60-days for quarterly leases. Watch the video of my remarks [here](#).

WastePro Contract: We approved a new contract for WastePro to provide waste collection services to 30,000 residents and 400 commercial businesses in the unincorporated areas of Leon County. Of the three (3) bids we received, **WastePro was the lowest bidder**.

Beginning on October 1st, residential and commercial rates will increase but residential rates will remain below the state average compared to similar sized counties. Leon County currently receives a 5% franchise fee from WastePro but under the new contract Leon County will collect a 3% franchise fee. This will allow us to **pass along \$150,000 annually back to our customers** to mitigate some of the increases.

Invite us to meet with you, your group, or a neighborhood

No matter the subject, please know that my office door is always open. Whether it's an issue about a road, trash collection, or an idea you may have, feel free to call and schedule a meeting or phone call.

[How to contact us.](#)
Office #: (850) 696-5375
Direct Email: daokeefe@leoncountyfl.gov
City's Email: atim@leoncountyfl.gov

55th Annual Springtime Tallahassee Parade

This past Saturday, Brooke and I rode the Leon County float in the Springtime Tallahassee Parade. A big shout-out to our Leon County Public Works team who built and drove the float. It was great seeing so many of you at the parade!



The **Leon Works Expo** is returning to the Civic Center on April 28th! Leon County Government and the Tallahassee Leon County **Office of Economic Vitality** will host employers, academic institutions, and hundreds of students to provide an opportunity for local high schoolers to explore career paths, hear local success stories, and discover a career that best suits them.

Learn more at LeonCountyFL.gov/LeonWorks.



Leon County, Florida, District 5, 100 S. Thomas Street, Tallahassee, FL 32301

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