



Dear Neighbor,

Happy New Year!

As we step into 2026, I am reflecting on the three years I've shared with you as your County Commissioner. If you've been reading these newsletters, you know that our progress isn't just about votes in a chamber — it's about the collective effort of an engaged community.

Together, we have taken real steps to improve our response to the biggest issues facing Leon County. Whether advocating for affordable housing or ensuring financial transparency, that work only happens when neighbors stay informed and involved.

Thank you for the honor of representing you. I look forward to another year of **putting people first** and making progress for everyone in our community.

Sincerely,

David

P.S. — Washington Square Progress: I'm happy to share that the work to fix the streets and sidewalks around the stalled Washington Square project is almost done. I've been pushing for this since April, and it's good to see these downtown streets finally becoming safe and open again. You can watch the WCTV news story [here](#).

World Athletics Cross County Championships Coming to Leon County

On January 10, 2026, the world's top cross-country athletes will gather right here in District 5 at Apalachee Regional Park for the 2026 World Athletics Cross Country Championships. 2026 marks the event's first return to the United States in more than 30 years and offers a rare opportunity to witness a global competition right here in Leon County.

We will welcome athletes and spectators from around the world for a celebration of endurance, community, and international spirit.

📄 [Tickets are now on sale!](#) Begin planning your trip today with [curated itineraries](#) to explore the best of Tallahassee before and after race day.

Learn more about the World Athletics Cross Country Championships Tallahassee 26 at [VisitTallahassee.com/WXC26](https://www.visittallahassee.com/WXC26).



WORLD ATHLETICS CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS *TALLAHASSEE 26*

Recent Votes at the County Commission

To keep the public informed on decisions we make at the County Commission, I am providing a summary of the key votes we took at our December meeting.



12/09/25 Votes

Approved the Leon County Housing Finance Authority to issue \$15 million in revenue bonds for renovations to the Leon Arms affordable rental housing development located on Holton Street. The renovations will preserve 100 project-based Section 8 rental units, which are dedicated to households at 50% or below AMI.

Pass

YES

Cummings, Caban,
Proctor, Minor,
O'Keefe, Maddox,
Welch

NO

Not Present:

Abstained:



12/09/25 Votes

Approved the realignment of County CHSP funding that will maximize resources by shifting family and children programs to the Children's Services Council. Directed staff to delay the minimum funding awards and funding caps until March 2026.

Pass

YES

Cummings,
Caban, Proctor,
Minor, Welch

NO

O'Keefe

Not Present:

Abstained:

Maddox



12/09/25 Votes

Directed staff to prepare ballot language for the Commission to consider and place a non-binding referendum about consolidation on the November 3, 2026 General Election ballot.

Pass

YES

Cummings,
Caban, Proctor,
Minor, Welch

NO

O'Keefe,
Maddox

Not Present:

Abstained:



12/09/25 Votes

Adopted the revisions to Land Use and Mobility Element of the Comprehensive Plan and removed 1,100 acres adjacent to Old St. Augustine Road being proposed to be added to the Urban Services Area.

Pass

YES

Cummings,
Proctor, Minor,
O'Keefe

NO

Caban,
Maddox, Welch

Not Present:

Abstained:

Shelter Pet of the Month - ☐ Chet ☐



[Meet Chet!](#)

I am a 4-year-old Treeing Walker Coonhound mix. I'm a 55-pound sweetheart with floppy ears and the cutest freckles. I was surrendered because my previous owner's small apartment wasn't a good fit for a hound like me, and I'm really looking forward to finding a home where I can stretch my legs.

I am an active boy who loves to explore and play, but I also have a gentle side and love to relax once the fun is over. I am very social and friendly with everyone I meet. If you have other dogs at home, I'd love to meet them first to make sure we're a good match.

I'm a loving guy, and I know I'll make a great addition to the right family!

By Appointment: Daily, 10:00 am – 6:00 pm

Walk-in Kennel Viewings: Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday, 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Phone: 850-891-2950

Shelter Address: 1125 Easterwood Drive

[Shelter Adoption Information](#)

Leon County Closures and Service Changes for New Years Holiday

Closed Thursday, January 1, through Friday, January 2 - Leon County offices, libraries, community centers, and animal control.

Remaining Open - Leon County Parks and Recreation Facilities (parks, greenways, campgrounds, and boat landings).

Residential Waste Collection - Delayed by one day for citizens whose regular pick-up is Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday of the holiday week.

Watch our Community Updates on Youtube

The screenshot shows the YouTube channel page for Commissioner David O'Keefe. At the top, the browser address bar shows 'youtube.com'. The channel name is 'Commissioner David O'Keefe' with the handle '@commishokeefe', 30 subscribers, and 158 videos. A bio states: 'Representing Leon County's District Five. | My videos are my own and do not reflect the views of the County Board. | mtr.bio/Okeefe and 4 more links'. A 'Subscribe' button is visible. The navigation tabs include Home, Videos, Shorts, Playlists, and Posts. The 'Shorts' section features five video thumbnails with titles and view counts: 'Leon County Weekly Update | Aug 30, 2025' (56 views), 'Weekly Update | Chamber Conference, ...' (122 views), 'Attended the grand opening of The Kearney Center!' (170 views), 'Upgrades coming to Pedrick Pond Park!' (247 views), and 'Field Trip - Affordable Housing' (150 views). The 'Videos' section features five video thumbnails with titles and view counts: 'Leon County Fire Service Fee Recap' (4 views, 2 weeks ago), 'Behind the Scenes at Tally Spay' (18 views, 7 months ago), 'Pedrick Pond Flooding Update' (35 views, 1 year ago), 'Greenway Vote Recap' (12 views, 1 year ago), and 'FEMA Money for Leon County from May Tornadoes' (12 views, 1 year ago).

Stay connected between newsletters by subscribing to our YouTube channel. Each week we share updates on County projects, local events, and issues that matter to the community.

[Subscribe on YouTube](#)

Upcoming Meetings & Events

[Citizen Charter Review Commission](#)

Jan. 8 at 11:30 a.m.

Jan. 22 at 11:30 a.m.

Leon County Commission

Jan. 26 at 9:00 a.m. - Annual Commission Retreat

Jan. 27 at 3:00 p.m. - Commission Meeting

Jan. 27 at 6:00 p.m. - Public Hearings





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