



Dear Neighbor,

I hope you are enjoying the summer! Between the heat, the storms, and everything else July throws at us, I hope you're finding time to slow down a little — whether that's a trip with family, a weekend on the water, or just a quiet evening at home. We all work hard, and we all deserve some downtime to recharge with the people we love.

As always, I'll keep you posted on what's happening at the County Commission this month, but for now, I just wanted to take a moment to wish you and your family a relaxing rest of the summer.

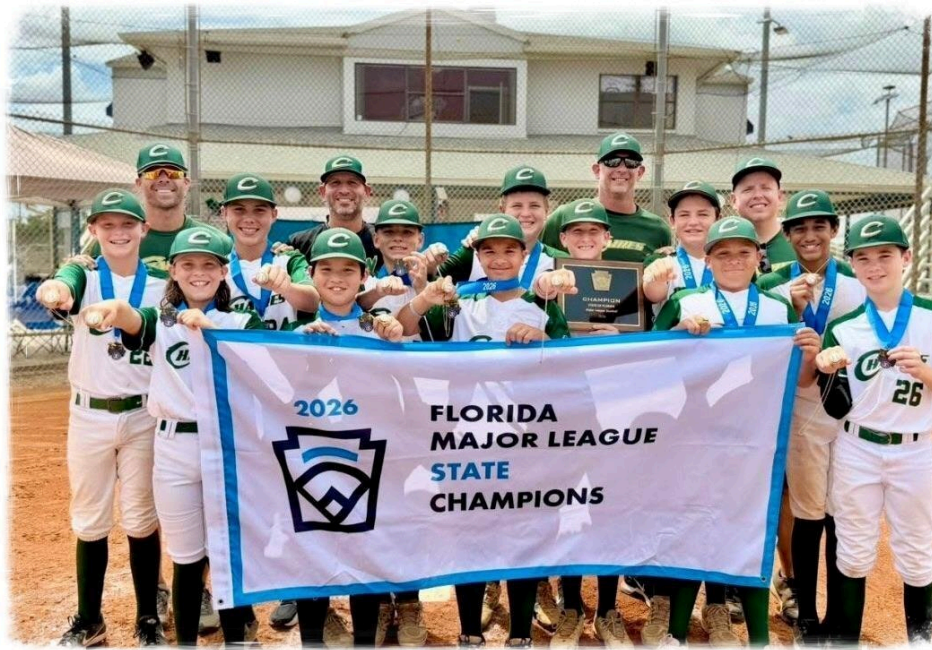
Sincerely,
David O'Keefe, CPA
Leon County Commissioner, District 5

Chaires Capitola Little League - State Champions!

Huge shout-out to the Chaires Capitola Little League for winning the 2026 Florida Major League State Championship! They now advance to the [Southeast Regional Tournament](#) to compete against teams from seven other states to see which one will represent the Southeast at the Little League World Series.

Chaires Capitola will play the Georgia team on Thursday, August 6 at 1:00 pm in Warner Robins. Follow the Little League Baseball Southeast Region Tournament [here](#) for scores and the ways you can watch the teams play.

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Leon County Extreme Heat Warning

Earlier this week, an extreme heat warning was issued where "feel-like" temps reached nearly 115 degrees. When Leon County issues a heat advisory all County libraries operate as cooling stations. As relief centers, they offer air conditioning, seating, water and restroom access, as well as the usual library activities and materials.

Stay up-to-date on alerts about heat warnings, weather alerts and all other important information at Leon County's [Emergency Information Portal](#).

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**An excessive heat advisory has
been issued in Leon County**

✓ Drink plenty of fluids ✓ Never leave children or pets in a vehicle
 ✓ Stay out of the sun ✓ Heat stroke is an emergency! Call 911
 ✓ Check on relatives and neighbors

**EXCESSIVE HEAT
WARNING**


David O'Keefe
 Leon County Commissioner, District 5
 @commissionerokeefe  @commishokeefe

Recent votes at the County Commission

To keep you informed on decisions we make at the County Commission, I am providing a summary of the key votes we took at our July 14th Commission meeting.

✓ County Commission Meeting - July 14 Key Votes

- **County Employee Pay Raises**
 Approve a 4% across-the-board pay increase for all Leon County employees in the FY 2027 Tentative Budget, instead of the standard 3% average merit increase.
Vote: Passed 4-3 (Commissioner Minor, O'Keefe, Welch voted NO)
- **Objections to Annexation in to the City of Parcels at Tram Rd. & CCSE**
 Object to the voluntary annexation of parcels owned by Mossy Head, LLC, located at Tram Road and Capital Circle SE, as to statutory compliance with the reasonable compactness requirements.
Vote: Passed 7-0
- **Objections to Annexation in to the City of 1,700+ acres along N. Meridian Rd.**
 Object to the voluntary annexation petition of parcels owned by Orchard Pond, LLC, along N. Meridian Road as to statutory compliance with the contiguity and reasonable compactness requirements.
Vote: Passed 7-0
- **18-month Moratorium on Data Centers**
 Approve an 18-month moratorium on data centers in Leon County and request an agenda item with additional research findings and recommendations for new regulations.
Vote: Passed 7-0
- **Fire Hydrants in Unincorporated Leon County**
 Approve agenda item with information on the number of homes and buildings outside of 1,000 feet of a fire hydrant and information on what options and opportunities exist to improve fire hydrant access, including grants and other resources.
Vote: Passed 5-0 (Commissioner Proctor & Welch absent)

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✓ County Commission Meeting - July 14 Key Votes

- Consider Hiring Outside Counsel to Determine Standing of Challenge to Senate Bill 1134**
 Did not approve retaining outside counsel to assess standing to challenge SB 1134 (Local Anti-DEI) and direct staff to seek legislative changes that would allow adding Emancipation Day, Pride Month, Women's History Month and Black History Month to the legislative agenda for 2027.
Vote: Passed 4-1 (Commissioner O'Keefe voted NO; Commissioner Proctor & Welch absent)
- Notice of Termination to COT for Fire Services for Failed Compliance**
 Issue a formal notice of termination to the City for fire services on Sept, 29, 2028, since it failed to materially comply with the terms and conditions of the Interlocal Agreement.
Vote: Passed 5-0 (Commissioner Proctor & Welch absent)
- Deny Funding for Flock Cameras & License Plate Readers**
 Accept all grant dollars for the Sheriff's Office, but denied all funding for Flock Cameras and license plate readers for Leon County and all surrounding counties that would have received the pass-through funds.
Vote: Passed 7-0
- Library Policies**
 Approved library policy changes and allow 16- and 17-year-olds to get library cards without parental financial backing, but require a parent to co-sign for items over a certain amount and pay for the item if it is not returned.
Vote: FAILED 3-3 (Commissioner Cummings, Maddox, O'Keefe voted NO; Commissioner Proctor & Welch absent)
- Library Policies**
 Approve library policy changes, but reject proposed changes denying 16- and 17-year-olds the ability to get library cards based on parents' financial account status.
Vote: Passed 7-0

2026 Election Information



Here is a summary of key election information for the 2026 elections here in Leon County. If you have any questions about your voter status, call the Leon County Supervisor of Elections Office at **850-606-8683**.

2026 Election Dates

Primary Election: August 18, 2026

General Election: November 3, 2026

Voter Registration Deadlines

Primary Election deadline: July 20, 2026

General Election deadline: October 5, 2026

Vote-by-Mail Information

Recent changes to Florida law now requires Vote-by-Mail requests to be renewed after each general election cycle rather than remaining active indefinitely. You can use this [link](#) to request or check the status of a Vote-by-Mail ballot.

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Deadlines to Request Vote-by-Mail Ballots

Primary Election deadline: August 6, 2026

General Election deadline: October 22, 2026

Early Voting

All registered voters in Leon County may vote early at designated sites throughout the county. Find the early voting sites [here](#).

Early Voting Periods

Primary: August 8–16, 2026

General: October 19–November 1, 2026

Pet of the Month - 🐶 Roz 🐶



Meet Roz!

I'm a spayed female, and I look like an Australian Cattle Dog and American Staffordshire Terrier - the shelter staff says I'm about 5 years old.

Being at the shelter makes me a little nervous, so I've found that if I hold on to a few chew toys, it really gives me comfort. I'm also great on car rides and I love pup cups. I enjoy the backyard, where I love to chase toys. I'm really hoping to find someone who can help me feel secure so I can finally settle into a new home.

Animal Shelter Location and Hours:

Address: [1125 Easterwood Drive](#)

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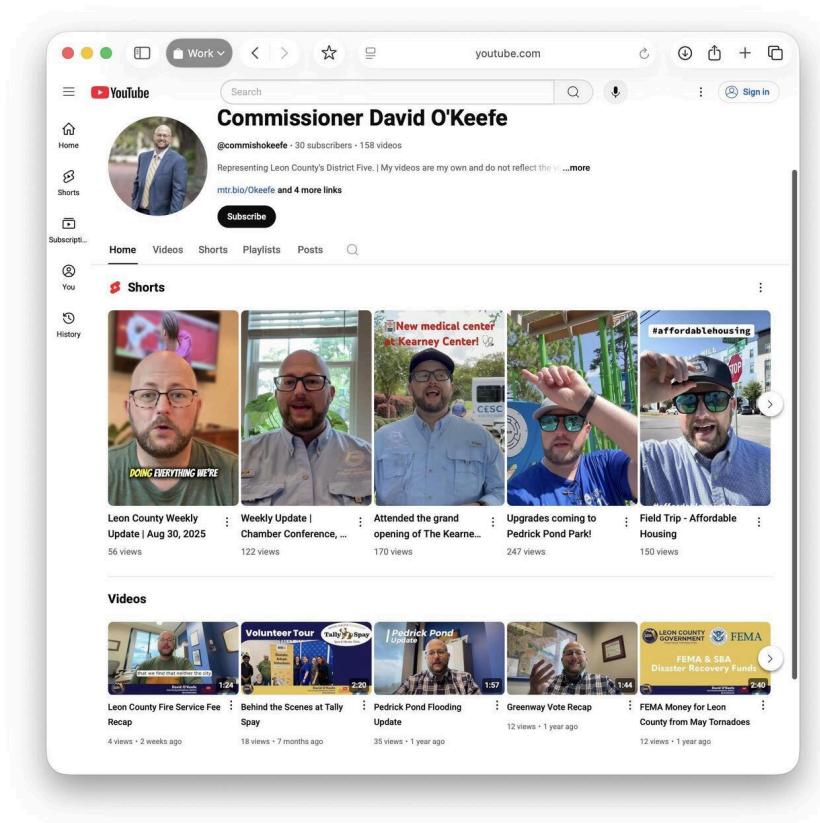
By Appointment: Daily from 10:00 am -6:00 pm

Walk-in Kennel Viewings: Tuesdays through Sundays from 1:00 - 5:00 pm

Phone: 850-891-2950

Animal Shelter Adoption Information

Watch our Community Updates on YouTube



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.

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Upcoming Meetings

[Leon County Commission](#)

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