



Dear Neighbor,

We are into the hot Florida summer now, and as I write this, Leon County is under a Heat Advisory until 6 pm on June 30th. We will see these more frequently, so check the Leon County Emergency Information portal regularly for more info and ways to stay safe in the heat.

<https://leoncountyfl.gov/ei>.

Next week, many of us will enjoy fireworks to celebrate our Independence on July 4th. Did you know fireworks are only legal on July 4th from 12:00 am through 11:59 pm? This also applies to New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. Fireworks are illegal at all other times throughout the year.

For many veterans, fireworks can be trauma reminders. Please check out [this article](#) from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs for ways to be good neighbors to our veterans who may suffer from PTSD.

I hope you and yours stay cool and enjoy your summer!

Sincerely,

David O'Keefe

Leon County Commissioner, District 5

July 4th Weekend Events

[Celebration with the Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra](#) - July 3rd from 4 p.m. at Kleman Plaza and Challenger Learning Center IMAX.

[Celebrate America](#) - July 4th from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. at Tom Brown Park. Tallahassee's signature Fourth of July party is back at Tom Brown Park with the Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra as the headliner, multiple bands, kids'

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Bend.

[Southwood 4th of July](#) - July 4th from 6 p.m. until after the fireworks at dark in the Southwood Neighborhood, Grove Park Drive (Central Park Lake).

Leon County Holiday Closures and Service Changes for July 4th and the 250th Anniversary of the United States



Leon County Holiday Closures and Service Changes for July 4th & the 250th Anniversary of the United States

Closed Thursday, July 2 - July 6

- Leon County Offices
- Leon County Community Centers
- Leon County Animal Control
- Leon County Libraries

Closed Saturday, July 4

- Leon County Solid Waste Facility, Household Hazardous Waste Center, and Rural Waste Centers

Remaining Open for the Holidays

- Leon County Parks and Recreation facilities (parks, greenways, campgrounds, and boat landings)

For WastePro Customers: Residential waste collection routes will be delayed one day for citizens whose normal pick-up days are during the holiday.



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 June 9th Commission meeting, the June 11th Blueprint meeting, and our June 16th Budget Workshop.

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County Commission Meeting - June 9 Key Votes

- **Old St. Augustine Rd. Sidewalk Construction**
Approve an agreement for the construction of a new sidewalk along Old St. Augustine Road, from Blair Stone Rd. to Winchester Ln. to Paul Russell Rd., in District Five.
Vote: Passed 7-0
- **County Charter Amendment - Esteemed Humanity of all Citizens**
Conduct a public hearing and, upon voter approval in the 2026 General Election, adopt an Ordinance revising the Charter Preamble to reflect the esteemed humanity of all Leon County residents.
Vote: Passed 7-0
- **County Charter Amendment - Countywide Street Naming**
Conduct a public hearing and, upon voter approval in the 2026 General Election, adopt an Ordinance providing for uniform countywide street naming, which shall prevail in the event of a conflict with a city ordinance.
Vote: Passed 6-1 (Commissioner O'Keefe voted NO)
- **Repeal of Minority and Women Business Enterprise Program to Comply with Senate Bill 1134**
Conduct a public hearing and repeal the Purchasing and MWBE Ordinance; Incorporate the requirements for potential contract or grant recipients to certify that County funds will not be used for DEI; Amend existing County agreements anticipated for renewal on January 1, 2027, to ensure compliance with SB 1134.
Vote: Passed 4-3 (Commissioner Maddox, O'Keefe Proctor voted NO)
- **Discretionary Sales Tax for Schools**
Adopt the Resolution directing the placement of the question to levy a one-mill ad-valorem operating millage for Leon County Schools on the 2026 General Election ballot.
Vote: Passed 7-0
- **Moratorium on AI Data Centers**
Direct staff to bring back an agenda item that includes information on a 1-year moratorium on AI Data Centers in Leon County.
Vote: Passed 7-0

✔ Blueprint Board Highlights - June 11 Key Votes

- **FY 2027 Budget for Blueprint and OEV**

Approve the Infrastructure and OEV FY 2027 Operating Budgets and FY 2027-2031 Capital Improvement Program.

Vote: Passed 9-3 (Commissioner Caban, O'Keefe, Proctor voted NO)

- **Eminent Domain - Airport Gateway**

Approve eminent domain for properties needed for the Airport Gateway Project.

Vote: Passed 12-0

- **Eminent Domain - Bannerman Road**

Approve eminent domain for properties needed for Bannerman Rd. improvements in the Northeast Connector Corridor (Bannerman Road) Project.

Vote: Passed 11-1 (Commissioner Matlow voted NO)

- **Targeted Business Program - Project Prestige**

Approve \$2.6 million from the Targeted Business Program for Project Prestige, with an expected 100 new full-time jobs added over 2 years.

Vote: Passed 12-0

- **Small Business Enterprise Policy**

Direct staff to bring back a revised Small Business Enterprise Policy that complies with Senate Bill 1134.

Vote: Passed 10-2 (Commissioner O'Keefe and Proctor voted NO)

- **Neighborhood Medical Center Pharmacy**

Approve \$375,000 in funding for a non-competitive project for the Neighborhood Medical Center Pharmacy.

Vote: Passed 12-0

- **Business Impact Fund**

Request an agenda item on a policy to provide impact funding for local businesses negatively impacted by Blueprint projects.

Vote: Passed 12-0

- **MWSBE Business Impact**

Request an analysis for a potential fund for businesses adversely affected through the loss of the MWSBE program.

Vote: Passed 11-1 (Mayor Dailey voted NO)

✔ Blueprint Board Highlights - June 11 Key Votes (continued)

- **EDA Grant Partnership**

Direct OEV to evaluate and look for \$500k in match funding from a partner for an EDA grant partnership application related to funding for jobs lost to AI.

Vote: Passed 7-2 (Commissioner O'Keefe, Williams-Cox voted NO; Commissioner Caban ABSTAINED; Mayor Dailey, Commissioner Proctor ABSENT)

- **Tharpe Street**

Direct staff to bring back an agenda item on the Tharpe Street project prioritization.

Vote: Passed 10-0 (Mayor Dailey, Commissioner Proctor ABSENT)

- **AI Data Centers**

Direct staff to bring back a policy stating that OEV funds cannot be used for AI Data Centers.

Vote: Passed 8-2 (Commissioner Richardson, Williams-Cox voted NO; Mayor Dailey, Commissioner Proctor ABSENT)

- **Leon Entrepreneurship and Adversity Program**

Direct staff to bring back an analysis of the Leon Entrepreneurship and Adversity Program to be funded through OEV and a Capital Access Program.

Vote: Passed 10-0 (Mayor Dailey, Commissioner Proctor ABSENT)

- **Technology Impacts on Labor Force**

Direct staff to bring back research on how technology will affect the local labor force over the next five years.

Vote: Passed 10-0 (Mayor Dailey, Commissioner Proctor ABSENT)

- **New Hope Cemetery**

Direct staff to bring back a report to the IA Board on the New Hope Cemetery.

Vote: Passed 10-0 (Mayor Dailey, Commissioner Proctor ABSENT)

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✓ County Commission Budget Workshop - June 16 Key Votes

- **Fee Rate Studies**

Approve funding for fee rate studies for stormwater and growth management department fees, advance funding of capital projects in FY 2026, and the District Medical Examiner Fees Schedule.

Vote: Passed 7-0

- **Council on Culture and Arts (COCA)**

Approve the "Service & Advisory" model for COCA while maintaining current leadership and arts expertise, including an annual agenda item setting levels of funding for arts and culture.

Vote: Passed 6-1 (Commissioner Proctor voted NO)

- **Maximum Millage & EMS Rates**

Establish the maximum countywide millage rate of 8.3144 for FY 2027 and the maximum Emergency Medical Services rate at 0.75 mills.

Vote: Passed 6-1 (Commissioner Caban voted NO)

- **Proposed Employee Raises**

Direct staff to prepare an agenda item for 4% across-the-board raises for County employees, instead of an average 3% merit raise.

Vote: Passed 4-3 (Commissioner O'Keefe, Minor, Welch voted NO)

Medallion Road Neighborhood Meeting



Last week we hosted a community meeting with residents from the Medallion Road neighborhood and our Public Works team to discuss how they currently maintain their private roads. The county does have programs that help neighborhoods with maintenance, and our teams did a great job laying out the options.

If you're interested in learning about the county's programs for private road maintenance, visit this [county page](#) or reach out to our office, and we will be happy to provide that information.

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.

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.

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 - 🐕 Tammie 🐕

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[Meet Tammie!](#)

I'm a spayed female, and I look like an English Pointer and American Pit Bull Terrier - the shelter staff says I'm 1 year and 7 months old.

I've practically grown up here at the shelter, and if you ask the volunteers, they'll tell you I'm probably their favorite. I am a total cuddle bug and love to roll over for belly rubs. After a few happy zoomies, I love to play with my toys and even splash around in the baby pool. I'm up for just about anything, as long as I get to do it by your side.

Animal Shelter Location and Hours:

Address: [1125 Easterwood Drive](#)

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

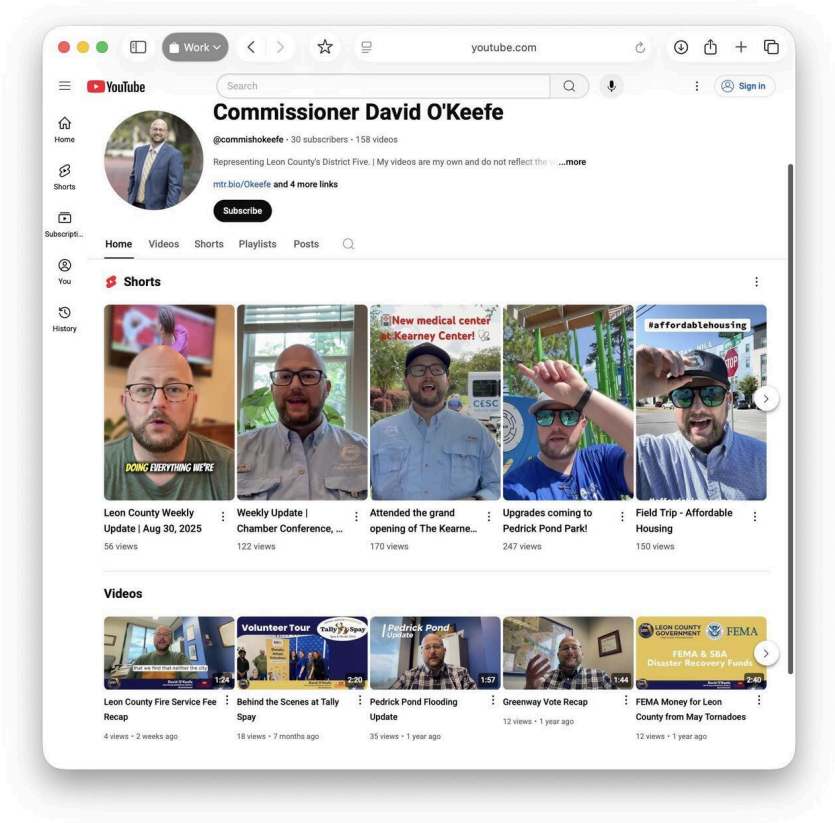
Walk-in Kennel Viewings: Tuesdays through Sundays from 1:00 - 5:00 pm

Phone: 850-891-2950

Animal Shelter Adoption Information

Watch our Community Updates on YouTube

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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](#)

July 14 at 3:00 p.m. - Commission Meeting & Public Hearings



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