



## The Latest from Your District 5 Office

Dear Neighbor,

As this month comes to a close, I'm writing to share the many things that happened during this very busy May. I always aim to keep you informed about what you care about and to offer updates you might not already follow. This month, I issued more public statements, letters, and documents than in any month prior — you'll find each included in this email.

At Blueprint, I was able to draw on my experience as a CPA and an auditor to identify and raise concerns about an unfinished audit and undisclosed massive project cost increases. While I'd rather we not face these issues, I'm glad I can bring a unique skill set to this work.

I'm keeping it short because the updates speak for themselves. As always, if you have questions or want to know more about anything going on at the County, feel free to reach out.

Sincerely,  
David

## Fire Services Fee Vote

I voted **NO** on the fire services fee motion approved by the Board at our May 27 Special Meeting.

The Board voted 4-3 to send required notices and schedule a July 8 public hearing on a proposed fire services fee increase — **with conditions** attached.

The City requested \$44.9 million in new costs. The **Commission majority vote** excluded the ISO expense but approved most of the other added costs — **contingent** on the City agreeing to key conditions:

- ☐ No additional increases allowed for the remaining three years of the current five-year agreement (we are now in the second year of this five-year contract)
- ☐ Use of fire reserves this year to soften impact
- ☐ If the City does not agree, the County would move into formal conflict resolution.

We are required to send notices now because we know that **some fee increase is coming** — but the final amount is **not yet determined**. Sending notices starts the legal process in time for the new fiscal year. The **City will vote on the conditions at their June meeting**, and we will continue to fight to keep the increase **as low as possible** for residents.

Here is a summary of the request and what the Board approved:

- ☐ \$2.5 million — Debt refinancing
- ☐ \$8.5 million — ISO rating (excluded by Board vote)
- ☐ \$17 million — Construction of new Station 17
- ☐ \$10 million — Construction of new Station 15
- ☐ \$2.6 million — New station personnel & equipment
- ☐ \$4.3 million — Agreed fire pay increase

**Total request:** \$44.9 million

I voted **NO** because I believed we should have gone straight to **formal mediation/arbitration** to fight for the lowest possible increase for our citizens — and should have rejected all new costs except for the agreed firefighter pay increase. In my view, this approach would have given us stronger legal leverage and better protected residents.

*[As covered by WCTV](#), I was one of three commissioners who voted against passing excessive costs onto residents.*

## Solid Waste Fee Vote

The Board voted **unanimously** to keep the County’s solid waste fee flat at **\$40** for this year. I supported this decision because it provides needed cost relief for residents, especially given the potential fire fee increase.

The solid waste fee for unincorporated areas has been \$40 since 1994. The system currently requires a general revenue subsidy, projected at **\$3.8 million** for the coming year. Staff had recommended a phased increase to eventually cover the program’s costs, but the Board chose to hold the fee flat this year and continue subsidizing the program.

We also approved an updated **Transfer Station Tipping Fee Resolution**, which updates the rates charged to the City of Tallahassee and private haulers for waste processing.

Keeping the solid waste fee flat this year was the right choice to help residents during a time of rising costs in other areas.

*[As reported by WCTV](#), the Commission also addressed solid waste fees during this meeting.*

## Comprehensive Plan Transmittal Vote

I voted **YES** to transmit the updated Comprehensive Plan — but only after first helping to strengthen it through important amendments based on public feedback.

Before the vote, I supported amendments to:

Strengthen protections for neighborhoods and residential preservation areas

Preserve the Urban Service Area boundary and rural density standards

Add clear requirements for public engagement between transmittal and adoption

Improve the plan’s environmental policies

By supporting these amendments, I worked to address key community concerns and improve the draft plan before sending it for state and regional review. There will be **more opportunities for public input** before the final adoption vote later this year.

□ Learn more about the Comprehensive Plan update: <https://www.compplantlc.com/>

## ICE Raid: My Public Statement

Following last week’s ICE raid in Tallahassee, I issued a public statement opposing mass deportation raids that harm families, workers, and public trust in our community.

The people swept up in this raid are our neighbors, family members, and friends. Like everyone here, they deserve to be treated with dignity and respect. I remain deeply concerned about the risk of wrongful detention, the lack of legal pathways for many essential workers, and the lasting harm these raids cause to our community.

Raids like this do not reflect the values of our community. They create fear and harm not only for those detained, but for families, neighbors, and children who wake up unsure if their loved ones are safe.

□ [Read my full ICE statement here](#)

*This issue was also highlighted in a recent [WFSU report](#) on how local leaders are responding.*

## Blueprint Audit & Project Budgets

At the May 8 Blueprint meeting, I raised serious concerns about audit practices and project budget transparency.

As a CPA, I reviewed the draft audit (ACFR) and found that it was not substantially complete — and that a known \$1 million receivable was omitted from the financial statements. I issued a public letter calling for proper Board oversight and adherence to best practices in financial governance.

I also released public documentation showing that **Blueprint project costs have increased by more than \$225 million in just the past year** — and that overall Blueprint infrastructure costs have now risen by **58%** compared to initial estimates.

□ [Read my Blueprint Audit letter here](#)

□ View the Blueprint project cost tables here: [Table 1](#) | [Table 2](#)

**[WCTV also reported](#) on these concerns and the urgent need for greater transparency on rising Blueprint project costs.**

# Recent Votes at Blueprint and the County Commission

In our effort to keep you informed about the decisions we make on various issues, I am posting some of the key votes from our May 8th Blueprint Meeting and our May 13th & May 27th County Commission Meetinga.

BLUEPRINT  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGENCY

5/8/25

Votes

Approved the FY 2026 budget and five-year capital plan, including OEV's operating and capital budgets. Also approved a \$670,000 per year airline incentive program and a \$250,000 per year affordable housing gap funding program.

PASS

YES

Dailey, Matlow, Porter, Richardson, Williams-Cox, Cummings, Maddox, Minor, O'Keefe, Welch

NO

Caban, Proctor

Not Present:

Abstained:

BLUEPRINT  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGENCY

5/8/25

Votes

Approved the draft FY 2024 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency.

PASS

YES


Dailey, Richardson, Williams-Cox, Caban, Cummings, Maddox, Minor, Welch

NO

Matlow, Porter, O'Keefe, Proctor

Not Present:

Abstained:

LEON  
COUNTY  
FLORIDA

5/13/2025

Votes

Approved the contract award for the Amtrak Station Visitor Center Building Repair Project to H.A. Contracting Corp. for \$2,160,000.

PASS

YES

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

NO

Not Present:

Abstained:





## 5/13/2025 Votes

Adopted a Resolution to approve the Housing Finance Authority's proposed Plan of Financing to seek up to \$50 million in single family mortgage revenue bonds from the state to finance the development of affordable rental development projects in Leon County.

**PASS**

**YES**

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

**NO**

Not Present:

Abstained:



## 5/13/2025 Votes

Made appointments to the Apalachee Regional Planning Council and the Advisory Committee for Quality Growth.

**PASS**

**YES**

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

**NO**

Not Present:

Abstained:



## 5/13/2025 Votes

Adopted the resolution establishing a schedule of maximum fees for non-conceptual towing and storage services consistent with the proposed ordinance.

**PASS**

**YES**

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

**NO**

Not Present:

Abstained:



## 5/13/2025 Votes

The Commission voted to transmit the proposed Land Use and Mobility Elements with key amendments: promoting native trees and reducing forest fragmentation, adding a Midtown Sense of Place section, strengthening compatibility standards for higher-density development in Suburban Residential Preservation areas, holding a public meeting before adoption, and requesting the City consider a Midtown Sense of Place policy.

**PASS**

**YES**

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

**NO**

Caban

Not Present:

Abstained:



## 5/27/2025 Votes

Voted to send a 22% fire fee notice to County residents to preserve legal options. Approved all other City-requested cost increases except \$8.5 million for ISO improvements. Requested a freeze on future increases for the rest of the five-year agreement. Formal dispute will only proceed if the City rejects these terms.

**PASS**

**YES**

Cummings, Welch, Minor,  
O'Keefe

**NO**

Caban, O'Keefe, Proctor

Not Present:

Abstained:



## 5/27/2025 Votes

Rejected waste disposal rate increases for homeowners and businesses; Approved increased tipping fees for commercial and municipal haulers delivering waste to the county's Transfer Station.

**PASS**

**YES**

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

**NO**

Not Present:

Abstained:



I requested a Proclamation recognizing June as PRIDE Month to be presented at our June 10th Commission Meeting.

**PASS**

**YES**

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

**NO**

Not Present:

Abstained:

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## Shelter Pet of the Month - Addy



I am a **spayed female** and I look like an **American Bulldog**. The shelter staff think I am about **7 years old**.

I'm a **super friendly girl** and I love **sunbathing** and **rolling around in the yard**. I have excellent **bathing manners**, and everyone tells me I have the **best smile**. I may not be the youngest pup at the shelter, but I sure am the **sweetest**!

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

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



Shelter Adoption Information

## FL Capital Tea Interview

This month I participated in a **written Q&A interview** with **FL Capital Tea**, where I shared my views on public accountability, local government transparency, and the challenges and opportunities we face here in Leon County.

[Read the full interview here](#)

## WFSU Town Hall Video

This month I participated in a **WFSU community town hall** with fellow commissioners, answering resident questions on **gun violence, hurricane preparedness, and more.**

[Watch the full video here](#)

## May is National Military Appreciation Month



May is **National Military Appreciation Month** — a time to recognize and honor the service and sacrifice of members of the United States Armed Forces, past and present.

I was honored to attend the **Memorial Day ceremony at Oakland Cemetery** this month to remember and honor those who served and sacrificed for our nation.

Our community is home to many veterans, active duty service members, and military families. I remain committed to supporting those who serve — not only in moments of remembrance, but through year-round work on the issues that impact veterans and their families here in Leon County.

## June is Pride Month



The month of June marks the anniversary of the **Stonewall Uprising of 1969**, a turning point in the movement toward LGBTQ+ equality, justice, and visibility in the United States and around the world. Pride Month is an opportunity to recognize the history, resilience, and many contributions of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and other LGBTQ+ individuals to the cultural, economic, and civic life of Leon County and beyond.

Throughout the month — and all year long — I encourage you to explore [Leon County library resources](#) to learn more about LGBTQ+ history and the events that shaped this movement. You can also check out these upcoming community events:

#### [Tallahassee Pride Drag Bingo](#)

**Wednesday, June 4** at Amicus Brewing Ventures (7:00–9:00 pm)  
717 S. Gadsden Street

#### [Equality Florida's Allies for Equality Event](#)

**Tuesday, June 17** at Proof Brewing Co. (5:30–8:00 pm)  
1320 S. Monroe Street

[Tickets available here](#)

#### [CGB 3rd Annual Pride Art Market](#)

**Sunday, June 22** at Common Ground Books (3:00–8:00 pm)  
1102 S. Adams Street

#### [Pride Shabbat Service](#)

**Friday, June 27** at Temple Israel (7:00 pm)  
2215 Mahan Drive

Our diversity is one of our community's greatest strengths. I'm proud to support policies and events that celebrate and protect the rights of everyone who calls Leon County home.

## Hurricane Season Kicks-off on June 1st

As hurricane season approaches, it's essential to prepare for potential storms. Find all the information you'll need at [LeonReady.com](#).

#### ☐ Build Your Emergency Kit

- One gallon of water per person per day for at least 3 to 7 days
- Non-perishable foods and a manual can opener

- Battery-powered or hand-crank NOAA weather radio
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- First aid supplies and necessary medications
- Personal hygiene items and sanitation supplies
- Chargers for electronic devices
- Cash in small denominations
- Important documents in a waterproof container
- Pet supplies if applicable

### ☐ Secure Your Home

- Install hurricane shutters or board up windows
- Secure roof straps or clips to the home's structure
- Trim trees and clear gutters
- Reinforce garage doors
- Bring in outdoor furniture and decorations

### ☐ Plan Your Evacuation

Know your evacuation route. In Leon County, most areas are not in a hurricane evacuation zone, but parts of southern and southeastern Leon County are in Zone D for major hurricanes . Plan to evacuate early to avoid road closures and flooding.

### ☐ Prepare for Pets

If you must evacuate, bring your pets. Ensure they have secure carriers, leashes, and current identification. **Pack a pet survival kit with:**

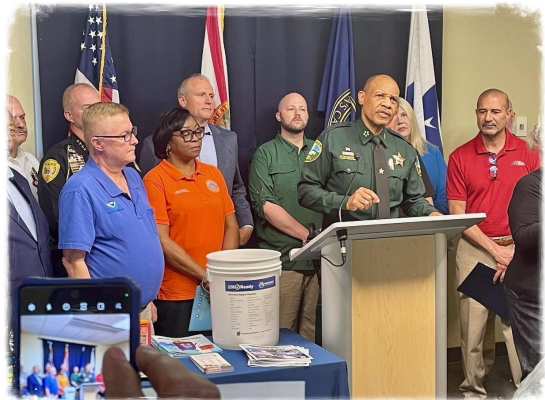
- At least a one-week supply of food and water
- Medications and medical records
- Comfort items like toys and bedding
- Waste disposal supplies

### ☐ Stay Informed

- Download the [Citizens Connect App](#) for real-time emergency alerts and updates
- Visit [LeonReady.com](http://LeonReady.com) for comprehensive preparedness resources
- Call 2-1-1 Big Bend (or 850-617-6333) for community services and information











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