



Dear Neighbor,

Election season is already underway, and many of us are seeing more ads, mailers, and emails about this year's races. At the same time, Florida has made several changes to voter requirements, voter roll maintenance, and vote-by-mail rules. That means your voter registration status or mail-ballot request may not be what you expect.

This year, I expect a very long ballot with many state-wide races, local races, and ballot referendums. Your vote matters on all of these issues. I encourage you to prepare ahead of time by checking your voter status and researching candidates and issues at trusted, nonpartisan sources.

To make this easy, use these links.

1. Check your voter status and details at

<https://www.leonvotes.gov/Registration/Check-Your-Info>,

2. Review your voting options, dates, and locations at

<https://www.leonvotes.gov/Voting/Dates-Deadlines>, and

3. Research at <https://www.lwvtallahassee.org/>, or

<https://www.vote411.org/>.

Use your voice to decide how your government works for you.

Sincerely,

David O'Keefe

Leon County Commissioner, District 5

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Sustainable Communities Summit



Get to know the fabric of our community through sustainable resources, storytelling, and live demonstrations.

Join Leon County Government's 2026 Sustainable Communities Summit and explore the theme Sustainable Threads: Weaving Paths to Sustainable Living. Listen to inspiring storytelling from local sustainability success stories, discover community resources and programs during engaging sessions, and join live demos to hone your skills in mending, gardening, and more! **This is a FREE event.**

Help strengthen our community fabric by exploring sustainable topics, collecting cloth patches, and collaborating to create a community quilt!

When: Saturday, May 30, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (*light breakfast and lunch will be provided for all attendees*).

Where: Eastside Branch Library and Pedrick Pond Park, 1583 Pedrick Road

[Register for the 2026 Sustainable Communities Summit here!](#)

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 May 12 meeting.

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● ● ● ✓ County Commission - May 12 Key Votes 11:06 at 12:52 PM — Shared

✓ County Commission - May 12 Key Votes

- **Minority/Women Business Enterprise Participation Program**

Schedule a public hearing for June 9, 2026, to consider repealing the Purchasing and Minority/Women Business Enterprise Participation Program Policy from the Laws of Leon County.

Vote: Passed 5-2 (Commissioner Maddox and O'Keefe voted NO)

- **COCA Workshop**

Schedule a workshop for June 16, 2026, to discuss the COCA issue.

Vote: Passed 5-1 (Commissioner O'Keefe voted NO - Commissioner Welch absent)

- **Leon County Schools Surtax on 2026 ballot**

Adopt a resolution to add a question to the 2026 General Election ballot asking voters whether to approve a 0.5% Leon County Schools Capital Outlay Surtax.

Vote: Passed 6-0 (Unanimous - Commissioner Welch absent)

- **Charter Consideration - Historical Harms from Past Policies**

Direct the CCRC to consider a charter amendment that addresses past harmful public policy decisions made based on geographic areas within the community, rather than on race, gender, ethnicity, or any other protected class. The amendment must comply with state and federal laws and must not jeopardize state or federal funding.

Vote: Passed 4-2 (Commissioner Caban and Cummings voted NO - Commissioner Welch absent)

● ● ● ✓ County Commission - May 12 Key Votes and Cummings voted NO - Commissioner Welch absent)

- **Solid Waste Assessment**

Direct staff to prepare an updated Rate Resolution proposing an increase in the Solid Waste non-ad valorem assessment from \$40 per year to \$134 per year. This updated resolution will be considered at the Public Hearing on July 14, 2026.

Vote: Failed 2-4 (Commissioner Caban, Maddox, Minor, and O'Keefe voted NO - Commissioner Welch absent)

- **Solid Waste Assessment**

Direct staff to prepare an updated Rate Resolution proposing a phased increase in the Solid Waste non-ad valorem assessment: from \$40 per year to \$80 per year in 2027 and 2028, to \$120 per year in 2029 and 2030, and finally to \$134 per year in 2031. This updated resolution will be considered at the Public Hearing on July 14, 2026.

Vote: Passed 4-2 (Commissioner Caban and O'Keefe voted NO - Commissioner Welch absent)

- **70th Anniversary of Tallahassee Bus Boycott**

Request a Proclamation commemorating the 70th Anniversary of the Tallahassee Bus Boycott.

Vote: Passed 6-0 (Unanimous - Commissioner Welch absent)

- **Pride Month**

Request a Proclamation honoring June 2026 as Pride Month.

Vote: Passed 5-1 (Commissioner Caban voted NO - Commissioner Welch absent)

- **Research the Constitutionality of SB 1134/Anti-DEI Bill**

Request an agenda item to direct the County Attorney to retain outside counsel to research and determine whether the County has standing and a good faith basis to challenge the constitutionality of SB 1134 affecting Leon County.

Vote: Passed 5-1 (Commissioner Caban voted NO - Commissioner Welch absent)

SafeSense: Online Safety & Digital Skills



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Have you ever received a suspicious text or email and wondered if it's a scam? Leon County's [SafeSense](#) helps residents recognize scams, protect their personal information, and navigate the internet safely and confidently. While designed for older adults, the program is open to anyone who wants to feel more secure online.

Ten Ways to Stay Safe

Routine actions, such as opening an email attachment, clicking a link in a text message, or completing an online purchase, can expose you to cybercriminals seeking to steal your information or damage your systems. Protecting against online threats depends on staying informed, cautious, and alert. According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), here are ways you can stay safe from scams:

- 1) Keep systems and software up to date and use a strong, reputable antivirus program.
- 2) Create a strong, unique passphrase for each account. Using the same passphrase across accounts increases your risk if one of them is compromised.
- 3) Only open attachments you are expecting and have verified with the sender.
- 4) Use caution on public Wi-Fi and avoid sensitive transactions, including purchases.
- 5) Check email addresses and website URLs carefully. Scammers often use slight variations to appear legitimate.
- 6) Don't click links in unsolicited messages that ask you to update or verify your account information. Instead, go directly to the company's official website or call a verified number.
- 7) Be cautious of messages that create a sense of urgency.
- 8) Use a credit card for online purchases when possible for added protection.
- 9) Do not send money to people you meet online or allow unfamiliar individuals to access your bank account.

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10) Carefully review all requests for payments or transfers.

Report a Scam

If you believe you have been targeted by a scam, act quickly and report it using the following resources:

Call the Leon County Sheriff's Office Financial Crimes Unit at 850-606-3300

Call Florida's Office of the Attorney General at 866-9-NO-SCAM (866-966-7226)

Report scams using the Federal Trade Commission's website at [ReportFraud.FTC.gov](https://www.ftc.gov)

Call the National Elder Fraud Hotline at 833-FRAUD-11 (833-372-8311)

Keep Learning at the Library

Watch the SafeSense workshop available on the [Leon County Public Library's YouTube channel](#) to learn more practical tips for protecting your personal information, recognizing common scams, and staying safe online.

View the free online resources for all ages available in the [Digital Library](#).

Check out books and other materials through the [library catalog](#) using your library card.

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

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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

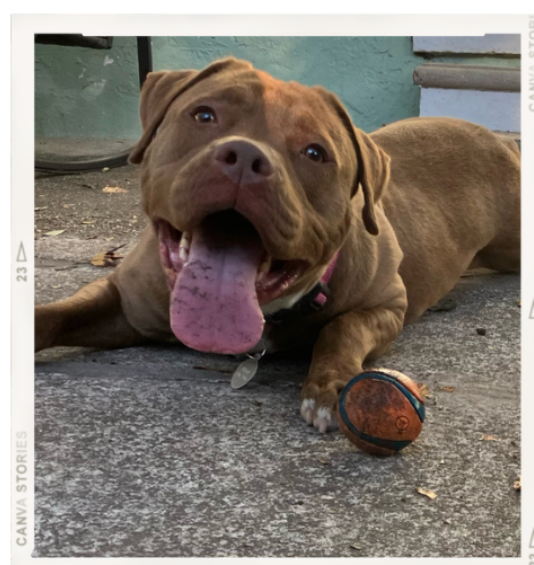
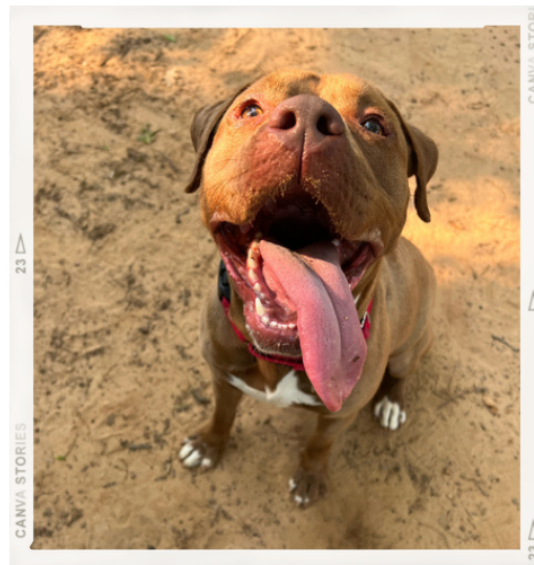
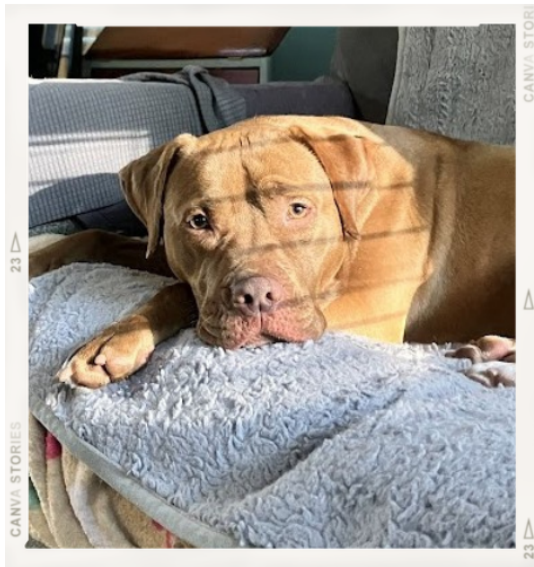
All registered voters in Leon County may vote early at designated sites throughout the county. Find the early voting sites [here](#).

Early Voting Periods

Primary: August 8–15, 2026

General: October 24–31, 2026

Pet of the Month - 🐶 Geraldine 🐶



[Meet Geraldine!](#)

I'm a 3-year-old spayed female, and I look like an American Staffordshire Terrier mix.

I came to the shelter as a stray, so my past is a bit of a mystery, but my affectionate nature comes out as soon as I get to know you. I love being outside and going on walks, and I'm curious about new people and places. I'm crate-trained and mostly potty-trained, and I'll be able to adjust to your schedule! Whether I'm sniffing around the neighborhood, relaxing in the back seat, or curled up beside you, I will surely make a wonderful companion.

[Animal Shelter Location and Hours:](#)

[Address: 4405 E. ... ID: ...](#)

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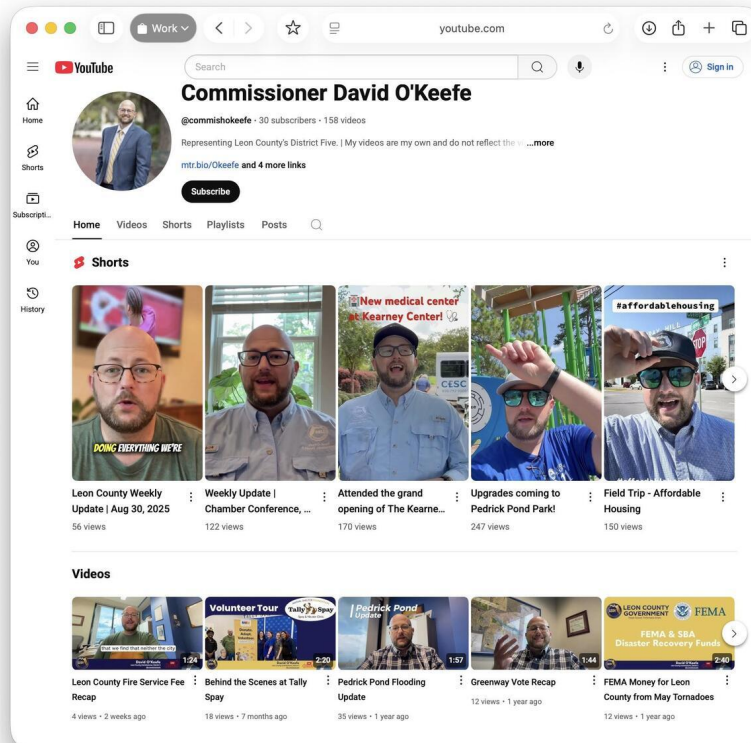
By Appointment: Daily from 10:00 am -6:00 pmm

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.

[👉 Subscribe on YouTube](#)

Upcoming Meetings

[Leon County Commission](#)

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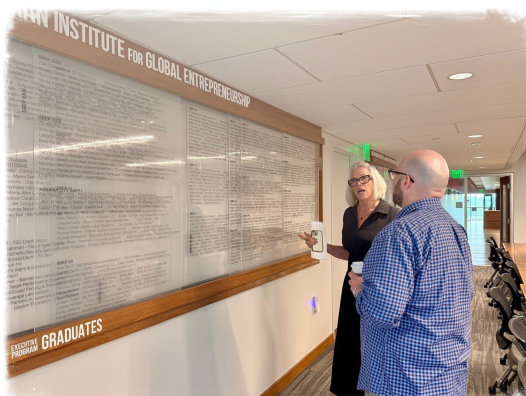
June 11 at 1:00 p.m. - Blueprint Budget Workshop

June 11 at 3:00 p.m. - Blueprint Board Meeting

June 16 at 9:00 a.m. - Budget Workshop, COCA Workshop



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(850) 606-5375 | okeefed@leoncountyfl.gov

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