



# Leon County

## Board of County Commissioners

301 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida  
(850) 606-5300 [www.leoncountyfl.gov](http://www.leoncountyfl.gov)

### MY VIEW

#### **2017 Leon County in Review**

*Vincent S. Long, Leon County Administrator*

2017 has been a year of great progress for Leon County Government. Through our focus on the execution of our strategy, on the excellence of our people and on the everyday issues of the citizens we serve, this year we grew in our operational effectiveness and expanded our impact on the community.

While this was a year of great focus for our organization, it was hard to ignore that it was also a time when the word “government” became synonymous with polarization and partisanship. Rather than be distracted, we at Leon County continued to provide redefining, reaffirming moments to our citizens through service and stewardship to this special community we all share.

Each year I present an annual report to the Board of County Commissioners that takes a look back at the progress of the past year. It highlights Leon County’s continuous efforts in setting the standard in public service and finding new ways to engage our citizens, and in writing a different story as we continue to shape our community together.

This year, while the state was marred by debate about economic development, job creation and tourism incentives, we at Leon County continued to take a long view in our efforts to create a vibrant local economy and premiere destination for entertainment, culture, and sports tourism. And that focus is paying off.

For example, because of the big economic benefits to our community, the County recently set a goal to host 80 sports championships over the next five years. And this past year, we won the bid to host the 2021 NCAA National Cross Country Championships at Apalachee Regional Park – the first time these championships will be held in Florida in the event’s 79 year history.

We continued to bridge the skilled workforce gap with Leon Works, an expo that has connected more than 1,000 high school students and other job seekers to high demand careers that require more education than a diploma and less than a four-year degree. And we also started our Junior Apprenticeship program to fill the next generation of high skill, high wage jobs.

And because our economic and environmental goals go hand in hand, we launched our PACE program, which will give homeowners the ability to finance clean energy improvements, save money, and create local jobs.

In the year since Hurricane Hermine, our lessons learned were tested by Hurricane Irma. In our first disaster since Emergency Management was realigned with the County

organizational structure, we connected our people to vital resources before, during and after the storm. And we leveraged partnerships and technology in an effort to become even more resilient as a community.

We also expanded recreational opportunities, like with the opening of Jackson View Landing. And we continued to engage citizens through programs like Operation Thank You, The Club of Honest Citizens, our 9/11 Day of Service and our new Library Lecture Series.

Leon County also received more than a dozen national awards for innovation and efficiency in government, all while challenging ourselves to implement 500 new citizen ideas over the next five years. And we saved more than a million dollars through our cross departmental “solution storming” sessions.

The Board also held the line in keeping the County’s property tax rate unchanged while adding only one general revenue supported full-time position organization wide.

While we will continue to face the same distractions and challenges of communities and governments everywhere else, as we look back at the progress of the last year, we see a County that has proven to be a government that listens to the citizens we serve, solves our problems, and ensures that our community continues to be a place like nowhere else.

Please find the complete report at [www.LeonCountyFL.gov/AnnualReport](http://www.LeonCountyFL.gov/AnnualReport) .

#### **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

Vince Long became County Administrator on July 1, 2011, and has worked for Leon County since 1995. He can be reached at (850) 606-5300 or [LongV@LeonCountyFL.gov](mailto:LongV@LeonCountyFL.gov).

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