



MESSAGE FROM THE LEON COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

PEOPLE FOCUSED. PERFORMANCE DRIVEN.



Vincent S. Long

County Administrator
(850) 606-5300
LongV@LeonCountyFL.gov

Vince Long has worked for Leon County since 1995 and was appointed County Administrator by the Board of County Commissioners in 2011. As the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the county government, he provides fiscal, strategic and operational leadership to the organization, as well as sound analysis and professional implementation of the Board's policies. He holds a Master of Public Administration (MPA) from the Askew School of Public Administration and Policy at Florida State University and is a graduate of the Harvard University, JFK School of Government Institute for Senior Executives in State and Local Government. He is also a Credentialed Manager by the International City/County Managers Association (ICMA) and currently serves as immediate past President of the Florida Association of County Managers. A graduate of Leadership Tallahassee and Leadership Florida, Vince is a leader in many community and professional organizations. He also serves as a member of the Advisory Council and regular lecturer at the Askew School, as well as frequent speaker and trainer with the Florida Association of Counties' County Commissioner Certification Program.

2017 YEAR IN REVIEW: ADVANCING OUR STRATEGY

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

Five years ago, we put in place a strategic plan to optimize resources and align our efforts to achieve big results for our community even in a slowly recovering economy. That strategy has guided our efforts at every level of the organization. And in 2017, we delivered an Impact and Progress Report on the last five year strategic plan and launched the new five year 2017-2021 plan – advancing our four strategic priorities and including the addition of new five-year targets and bold “stretch” goals for each priority.

LIVING OUR CULTURE

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 become distracted from our mission, we at Leon County continued to provide redefining, reaffirming moments to our citizens through service and stewardship to this special community we all share. That's our culture. It remains people focused and performance driven, whatever the challenge. It provides the foundation for Leon County's continuous efforts in setting the standard in public service and guides us in finding new ways to engage our citizens in writing a different story as we continue to shape our community together.

SHAPING OUR COMMUNITY

And our community continued to take shape in 2017, with the completion of major infrastructure projects, the launch of bold quality of life initiatives, and as we continued to enhance efficiencies, create innovations, and improve service delivery to our citizens. At Leon County, we kind of like providing a stark contrast to what some have may come to expect of government.

This year, while the state was marred in 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 in Leon County 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 are being held in Florida in the event's 79 year history.

We also continued our focus on bridging the skilled workforce gap in through our very successful Leon Works program. To build on our momentum, this year we added a Junior Apprenticeship program to grow our next generation of careerists to fill the high skill, high wage jobs of the future.

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

MAKING LASTING CONNECTIONS

With so much rhetoric in the public realm these days which seeks to blame, isolate, and divide, we at Leon County continued our strategic focus on being a place where people are safe, healthy and connected to their community.



Leon Works Expo

In the aftermath of Hurricane Hermine, this past year our lessons learned and emergency management improvements put in place were put to work as the center of Hurricane Irma passed through Leon County on September 11, 2017. In our first test since the Emergency Management function was realigned within the County organizational structure earlier in the year, Leon County coordinated our community response to Irma - connecting our people to the vital resources they needed before, during and after the storm and leveraging significant additional resources, strengthened partnerships and new innovations to help our community respond, recover and emerge even more resilient.

Because the work of building community is all about building connections, we expanded our recreational amenities in 2017 and connect our people with our great outdoors - like with opening the new Jackson View Landing. And our commitment to connect our citizens to their community and to each other grew even stronger in 2017 through programs like Operation Thank You, The Club of Honest Citizens, the 911 Day of Service and the introduction this year of our new library lecture series.

SETTING THE STANDARD IN PUBLIC SERVICE

While others talked about government waste or inefficiency in an effort to defend or affirm their old beliefs, 2017 was a year of achievement for Leon County Government as an organization anchored in efficiency and innovation. We took advantage of favorable market conditions this year and continued to retire debt, replenish reserves, decrease the use of fund balance for recurring operating expenses and increase budgeting for maintenance of essential infrastructure. This year alone our internal cross departmental and team innovation efforts resulted in \$1.14 million in cost savings or avoidance. Consistent with our long tradition of a fiscally conservative approach to budgeting, we added only 1 net new general revenue supported position this year in the County Budget. Yet we continued to set the standard in public service as we were recognized by the National Association of Counties in 2017 with 13 National Best Practice Awards for the following programs and initiatives:



- Build Your Bucket
- Special Event Online Grant Application
- Capital Cascades Stage and Concert Series
- Strategic Plan Targets & Bold Goals
- Consolidation of 911 Dispatch
- The Kearney Center
- Human Trafficking Awareness Training
- The Longest Table
- Leon Works Expo
- Workplace Sustainability Workshop Series
- Library Telescope Lending Program
- Your Checkbook
- Mobile-Friendly Emergency Information Portal

The men and women of Leon County Government have a lot to be proud of in 2017 as they continued to drive performance and deliver results to our citizens. However, as a learning organization we also know we do not have all the answers and are always listening to our citizens. To demonstrate this



Emergency Operations Center during Hurricane Irma

commitment, this year we challenged ourselves to implement 500 new citizen ideas for improvements and opportunities for co-creation in the next five years.

BUILDING ON OUR MOMENTUM

In all the ways that Leon County touches the lives of so many people we serve each day, whether it's helping 7,000 veterans receive the benefits they deserve, responding to 40,000 calls for life-saving care, or serving one million patrons at our county libraries, as we did in 2017, we strive to put each person first.

Yes, Leon County will continue to face the same distractions and challenges of communities and governments everywhere else, but 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.

Thank you for your continued confidence of the work we do alongside and on behalf of our citizens every day to make our community even better.

Here's to 2018!

