

SPECIAL PROJECTS/INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS



ALIGNING BOARD PRIORITIES WITH OPTIMIZED RESOURCES

PEOPLE FOCUSED. PERFORMANCE DRIVEN.

Goal Statement

To serve as a bridge from strategic planning to action implementation by ensuring alignment of organizational activities, initiatives, and culture with the overarching strategic vision and plan set forth by the Board of County Commissioners.

Strategic Initiatives/Support Highlights

Governance

• Provide for County Commissioners in their leadership roles with the National Association of Counties and the Florida Association of Counties. Through these positions, County Commissioners lead national and statewide conversations about policy issues impacting county governments, as well as exchanging best practices with fellow county commissioners and staff.

• Leon County conducted approximately 30 LEADS Listening Sessions in 2016, involving more than 350 participants supporting the initiative's success. These sessions resulted in the identification of 124 proposed improvements to business operations, employee satisfaction and customer experience.

Economy

• County secured \$100,000 in funding from the Florida Legislature in support of the Leon Works initiative to promote awareness of skilled workforce needs.

Contact Us

(850) 606-5300
www.LeonCountyFL.gov/SpecialProjects

ADVOCATING FOR LEON COUNTY'S LEGISLATIVE INTERESTS

- Through Community Legislative Dialogue Meetings, Leon County continued to partner with stakeholders throughout the community to identify legislative items of shared significance. Leon County partnered with organizations such as the Florida Association of Counties, Leon County's state and federal legislative delegations, the City of Tallahassee, institutions of higher education, and others to identify these shared issues and to seek opportunities to leverage financial, technical, and human capital to draw attention to the community priorities at the federal, state and local levels.
- Staff prepared, guided and implemented the County's 2016 state and federal legislative priorities to leverage funding for local projects and preempt legislation that threatened local decision-making.
- During the 2016 regular and special legislative sessions, staff produced weekly briefings (the Capitol Update) to keep the Board of County Commissioners and senior staff apprised of legislative developments that would impact the community.
- Staff led a multi-departmental effort to win 14 National Association of Counties (NACo) Achievement Awards in 2016, including one "Best in Category" designation for Leon County's DesignWorks program. The 14 Achievement Awards spanned categories ranging from Parks and Recreation to Information Technology. NACo's awards recognize Leon County's efforts in providing cost effective, high quality service to citizens.

2016 LEON COUNTY LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

STATE POLICY PRIORITIES

Protection of the State Workforce
Support the protection of the State workforce and oppose reductions to state employee benefits.

- State government (over 19,000 jobs) is Leon County's 2nd largest employment sector
- Changes to FRS and group health insurance significantly impact our local economy

State-Local Economic Development Partnerships
Support legislation and appropriation that enhances the efficiency and effectiveness of the state and local government partnership in economic development.

- Florida Enterprise Zone Program sunset last year
- Seeking a new state/local partnership for targeted economic development strategies with positive ROI

High Tourism Impact Tax
Support the revision of Sec. 125.0104, F.S. to modify the eligibility for levying the local option High Tourism Impact Tax to include counties that are home to Preeminent State Research Universities.

- Leon County capped at 5% tourist development taxes
- Seeking authority for **local option** 6th cent - 10 other counties already eligible for 6+ cents
- Revenues would be used to support full service hotel and convention center - part of FSU Arena District Master Plan
- Game-changing opportunity for tourism & economic development

Springs Restoration
Support the prioritization of springs restoration funding with a program designed to assist local governments with the cost of wastewater facility upgrades, septic tank connections, and septic tank abandonment.

- Avoid unfunded mandates - such as requirements to implement septic tank remediation plans without adequate State funding support
- Restoration of major spring systems should be a state/local partnership

2016 LEON COUNTY LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

FEDERAL POLICY PRIORITIES

Full Funding of the Federal Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) Program
Support federal legislation that includes full mandatory funding for PILT in the FY 2017 appropriations package and support a long-term strategy for a sustainable PILT program.

- Long-standing federal program that provides funding to local governments to offset lost tax revenue from non-taxable federal land
- Large portion of Apalachicola National Forest in Leon County
- Legislation should include a long-term strategy to continue sustainably funding PILT into the future

Collection of Sales Tax on Remote Transactions
Support legislation that promotes an equitable and competitive environment between 'brick and mortar' businesses and remote businesses establishments operating in Florida.

- Florida currently unable to collect sales tax on transactions made over the internet
- Creates a competitive disadvantage for brick-and-mortar businesses

Tax-Exempt Status of Municipal Bonds
Support the preservation of the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds.

- Proposals at the federal level in recent years would change the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds
- Local governments issue bonds to finance major capital improvements and infrastructure projects
- Three quarters of the municipal bond market are held by private investors
- Changing the tax-exempt status would affect bondholders' earnings and would create higher debt service obligations for local governments

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