



LEON COUNTY ANNUAL REPORT 2020



PEOPLE FOCUSED. PERFORMANCE DRIVEN.

LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Vision

A community that is safe, healthy and vibrant.

Mission

To efficiently provide public services which serve and strengthen our community.



MESSAGE FROM THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

On September 15, 2020, I presented the 2020 Annual Report to the Board of County Commissioners. And now it is my great honor to present the report to the community on behalf of the hard-working men and women of your county government.

In 2020, we faced the most abrupt and serious threat to lives and livelihoods ever experienced. This has been a time which has challenged people and organizations everywhere, but not all in the same way.

For Leon County, the coronavirus required our most extensive emergency management response to protect our citizens, especially those most vulnerable—as well as an unprecedented, targeted, and highly coordinated effort to help our local businesses and community members rebound and recover.

This 2020 Annual Report reflects our organization-wide response to the pandemic, the uninterrupted provision of essential services, and the adaptation, innovation and unrelenting commitment of County employees over the past year. Despite the unprecedented challenges we faced, we were able to realize real progress in 2020, produce results, and deliver on our ambitious targets and bold goals for the organization and the community.

Through the vision and leadership provided by the Board of County Commissioners and the hard work of dedicated County employees, I am proud to report that in 2020, Leon County has proven to be a government that our citizens can believe in and others can benchmark against. I invite you to read the full report, watch the video, and to stay involved in all the County does alongside our citizens at LeonCountyFL.gov/AnnualReport. As always, I welcome any feedback you may have.



Vincent S. Long

A FEW HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

LIVING OUR CULTURE, SHAPING OUR COMMUNITY

As an organization, 2020 demanded that we perform at our best. In our most extensive emergency management activation ever, which began before the County's first COVID-19 case, our teams worked to increase countywide testing and contact tracing, distributed more than a million items of PPE to frontline workers and first responders, cared for the homeless, created hospital surge plans, provided hundreds of thousands of masks to families and businesses and shared creative and effective health messages that were seen millions of times, even on the national level.



Emergency Medical Services donning personal protective equipment

We also launched the Leon CARES program with over \$50 million in federal funds for those impacted most due to the virus, creating grant programs to keep our small businesses alive, to help our citizens in need stay in their homes and pay their utility bills, to provide more than three million meals to the food insecure and to assist human services agencies meet increased demands for their vital services. To date, Leon CARES has received more than 4,000 applications for assistance and has awarded \$3.4 million to nearly a thousand households, local businesses and agencies.



2020 ANNUAL REPORT VIDEO



This year's video engages citizens in the accomplishments of County government like never before. To view the video, please visit: www.LeonCountyFL.gov/Driven

While addressing urgent needs of the citizens we serve, we also stayed focused on enhancing our quality of life and protecting our environment as we continued removing hundreds of septic tanks in southern Leon County, and during the pandemic's stay-at-home orders, we completed a long-awaited project to alleviate chronic flooding on Meridian Road, and opened five new parks for all to enjoy. And while the coronavirus silenced many signature and community events, our continued commitment to being a vibrant place to live and visit was recognized for the second year in a row by Southern Living Magazine naming us one of the South's Best Communities.



Centerville Trace Stormwater Improvements

BUILDING ON OUR PROGRESS

Throughout the pandemic, Leon County continued to advance construction projects that will shape our community for generations, like the Centerville Trace dam rehabilitation seen above.

In all the ways that Leon County touches the lives of so many people we serve each day, whether it's helping 3,500 veterans claim more than \$23 million dollars in benefits they deserve, responding to nearly 45,000 calls for life-saving care or serving more than 1,200,000 patrons through our County's Library System, as we did in 2020, we strive to put each person first.



Created Equal: 60th Anniversary of TLH Lunch Counter Sit-ins

Throughout this crisis, and after, we at Leon County will remain committed to listening to the people we serve, addressing the challenges we face together and striving every day to set the standard in public service.

And we cannot do this alone. Thank you for your continued confidence in the work we do on behalf of and alongside our citizens every day to make our community even better.

Here's to 2021!

ENGAGING CITIZENS AS CO-CREATORS

And because building community is about building connections, we continued initiatives to bring our community together, even when we had to be apart, like the 2020 Census "Make It Count" campaign, the celebration of the 60th anniversary of the Tallahassee lunch counter sit-ins, and our award-winning library lecture series, which were conducted virtually.

SETTING THE STANDARD IN PUBLIC SERVICE

Our commitment to service is at the heart of everything we do in Leon County. It drives us to be the best in our fields.

In 2020, our dedicated Leon County employees continued to set the highest standards in public service by earning more than 79 awards from the National Association of Counties (NACo) over the past eight years. This year alone, Leon County received 11 NACo awards for national best practices for programs and initiatives like the #HurricaneStrong partnership, Apalachee Regional Park Master Plan and Landfill Conversion, and Advisory Committee on Quality Growth, to name just a few.

And despite enormous revenue losses associated with the pandemic, due to continued fiscal stewardship, in 2020, the County balanced a \$17 million shortfall with no increase in tax rates or fees, keeping our county among the most affordable places to live.

LEON CARES

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| Public Health (\$6.1 mil) | Individual Assistance (\$7.5 mil) | Small Businesses Assistance (\$7.5 million) |
| Local Human Services Assistance (\$2 mil) | Food Insecurity & Homelessness Support (\$4.4 mil) | Childcare Support (\$0.9 mil) |