

**Board of County Commissioners  
Leon County, Florida**

**Workshop  
on the  
2017 State and Federal  
Legislative Priorities**

**October 18, 2016  
1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

**Leon County Board of County Commissioners  
Leon County Courthouse, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor**

# **Leon County Board of County Commissioners**

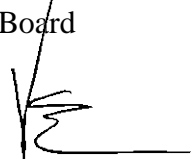
## **Notes for Workshop**

# Leon County Board of County Commissioners

## Workshop Cover Sheet

October 18, 2016

**To:** Honorable Chairman and Members of the Board

**From:** Vincent S. Long, County Administrator 

**Title:** Workshop on the 2017 State and Federal Legislative Priorities

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<b>County Administrator Review and Approval:</b>	Vincent S. Long, County Administrator
<b>Department/ Division Review:</b>	Alan Rosenzweig, Deputy County Administrator
<b>Lead Staff/ Project Team:</b>	Andy Johnson, Assistant to the County Administrator Jelani Marks, Management Analyst Nicki Paden, Management Intern

### **Fiscal Impact:**

This item does not have a fiscal impact. However, it recommends requests for state and federal appropriations as well as substantive policy positions that seek to avoid unfunded mandates and cost shifts to the County.

### **Staff Recommendations:**

- Option #1: Approve the 2017 State and Federal Legislative Priorities, as amended by the Board.
- Option #2: Designate Commissioner Maddox to host the Community Legislative Dialogue meetings for the 2017 state legislative session.

## **Report and Discussion**

### **Background:**

Each year, the Board conducts a workshop with the County's legislative staff and contract lobbyists to develop priorities for the upcoming state and federal legislative sessions. This workshop enables the County's legislative team to receive important guidance from the Board regarding priority legislative issues and directs the County's lobbying efforts for the upcoming year at both the state and federal level. In recent years, the Board has directed staff to refine the County's substantive policy priorities only to the most pressing issues and to support the Florida Association of Counties (FAC) and National Association of Counties (NACo) in achieving their respective legislative goals. Consistent with this direction, staff is seeking Board approval of the County's 2017 State and Federal Legislative Priorities, comprised of the state and federal policy and appropriations issues proposed herein.

### **Analysis:**

Staff recommends several policy and appropriations priorities, arranged as follows:

- 18 appropriations requests for the 2017 state and federal sessions (Attachment #1)
- Two additional recommendations to support community partners' legislative appropriations requests (also included in Attachment #1)
- Nine substantive policy priorities for the 2017 state legislative session (Attachment #2)
- Five federal substantive policy priorities for the first session of the 115<sup>th</sup> United States Congress (Attachment #3)

The Board may wish to add, remove, and/or amend legislative priorities as deemed appropriate for the County's 2017 State and Federal Legislative Priorities. Upon Board approval, staff and the contract lobbying teams will pursue all of the legislative issues approved by the Board, placing appropriate emphasis on individual priorities according to the opportunities that arise during the legislative process. Notwithstanding this, staff will assign priority to any issue that the Board designates to receive a special level of attention in the upcoming legislative cycle.

Importantly, in addition to the issues specific to Leon County identified herein by staff, much of the County's legislative advocacy each session is focused on issues of statewide importance in conjunction with FAC. FAC will finalize its 2017 federal and state legislative program during the 2016-17 Legislative Conference in Orange County, which will take place November 30 through December 2, 2016. The statewide issues identified by the FAC membership are often the most critical issues facing counties during the state legislative session.

It is important for the Board to be active participants in the legislative process by testifying on behalf of the County and by working with our local legislative delegation. Staff will continue to keep the Board involved in legislative issues through agenda items, resolutions, memoranda, and weekly updates during the state legislative session.

**PROPOSED APPROPRIATIONS REQUESTS**  
**2017 STATE & FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE SESSION:**  
*(Complete information on each request is included in Attachment #1)*

The Board's practice of retaining professional contract lobbying services at both the state and federal levels enhances the County's ability to advocate for legislative appropriations to support important County projects. The County's contract lobbying firms provide a daily presence by advocating the County's legislative priorities with the County's legislative delegations and other legislative leaders. As an update to the Board regarding the status of Leon County's state and federal lobbying contracts, at the May 24, 2016 meeting the Board authorized the County Administrator to renew the existing contract for state lobbying services with Capitol Alliance Group for a three-year period with two additional one-year options to extend. With respect to the County's federal lobbying contract, the Board directed staff to issue a request for proposals (RFP) for federal lobbying services for the 2017 legislative session. The RFP was released on September 29, 2016 for a 30-day period. Recommendation of a bid award will be brought back to the Board later this year.

Staff works throughout the year to identify projects most suitable for state and federal appropriations requests. In prior state legislative sessions, specific forms have been utilized by legislative committees to request local funding for projects. While it is not yet clear what process, if any, will be in place for requesting funding for local projects during the 2017 state legislative session, staff has prepared the information that will likely be required to support the proposed appropriations requests. In recent years, the Florida Legislature and Governor Rick Scott have placed a greater emphasis on grant programs through the executive branch and coordinating with state agencies to help fund infrastructure projects. Governor Scott's line-item vetoes totaled \$461 million in the FY 2016 state budget and \$256 million in the FY 2017 budget, specifically striking projects that bypassed state agency review or that would not benefit the state as a whole. Each of the appropriations requests proposed in this agenda item aligns with Leon County's Strategic Plan and is consistent with a statewide priority. Upon the Board's approval, staff and the County's lobbying team will begin discussing each project with state agencies and Leon County's legislative delegation members to advocate for state funding through the appropriate channels. In previous years, the County has had success in state funding for its parks and library programs through the legislative appropriations process. Several of the County's water quality appropriation requests have been included for funding in recent years, although two projects in the Legislature's 2015 approved budget were vetoed. During the 2016 legislative session, Leon County was successful in securing a legislative appropriation to support the 2016 Leon Works Expo and junior apprenticeship program.

The proposed appropriations requests for 2017 are categorized to align with the Florida Legislature's conference committee process for appropriations. The conference committee process is utilized to reconcile bills with significant differences, as a bill must be passed by both chambers in precisely the same words and figures in order to become an act of the Legislature. Since each chamber develops its own version of the state budget independently, the conference committee process is typically used to negotiate specific differences between the chambers' respective spending plans. Conference committees are comprised of separate committees from

the House and Senate. When negotiating differences in the state budget, conference committees are appointed by specific subject area – Criminal and Civil Justice; Education; Agriculture and Natural Resources; General Government; Health and Human Services; and Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development.

Following are the proposed Leon County 2017 state and federal appropriation requests (for complete information on each, see Attachment #1):

**Agriculture and Natural Resources Appropriations Requests:**

<b><u>Request:</u></b>	<b><u>Amount:</u></b>	<b><u>Project Phase:</u></b>
Woodville Sewer - Phase 1 & 2	\$7.2 million	Design & Construction
Lake Munson Area Septic to Sewer	\$5.5 million	Design & Construction
Fords Arm Restoration	\$3.97 million	Construction
Belair/Annawood Septic to Sewer	\$3.5 million	Design & Construction
Harbinwood Estates Septic to Sewer	\$2.5 million	Design
Leon South Regional Water System	\$1.5 million	Design & Construction
Centerville Trace Septic to Sewer	\$1 million	Design
Fred George Wetland Restoration	\$1 million	Construction

**Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development Appropriations Requests:**

<b><u>Request:</u></b>	<b><u>Amount:</u></b>	<b><u>Project Phase:</u></b>
Capital Circle Southwest - Segment 1 (Springhill Road to Crawfordville Road)	\$14.9 million	Right-of-Way Acquisition
Capital Circle Southwest - Segment 1 (Springhill Road to Crawfordville Road)	\$19.5 million	Construction
Capital Circle Southwest - Segment 2 (Orange Avenue to Springhill Road)	\$23.9 million	Right-of-Way Acquisition
Capital Circle Southwest - Segment 2 (Orange Avenue to Springhill Road)	\$10.4 million	Construction
Woodville Highway (Capital Circle to Paul Russell Road)	\$23 million	Construction
Veterans Memorial Drive (CR 59) Bridge Replacement	\$530,000	Design & Construction
Apalachee Regional Park Master Plan Implementation	\$500,000	Design & Engineering
Orchard Pond Greenway Trail, Phase II	\$300,000	Design & Construction
Leon Works Junior Apprenticeship Program	\$100,000	Program Funding
Pre-Disaster Hazard Mitigation*	TBD	Capital/Fixed Assets

\* The “Pre-Disaster Hazard Mitigation” project above seeks Board direction to pursue funding for projects that would improve the disaster resistance of critical facilities owned by Leon County, such as community centers, solid waste facilities, law enforcement and first response facilities, and others. Staff anticipates that the Hurricane Hermine After Action Report will include more specific findings and recommendations related to pre-disaster hazard mitigation, at which point staff can begin to identify specific projects and cost estimates. The City of Tallahassee is contemplating a similar legislative request; staff will work together with the City to jointly pursue funding for this initiative.

In addition to the proposed appropriations requests listed above, following are two anticipated requests by community partners for which staff recommends County support:

**Support The Apalachee Center's Funding Requests for Short-term Residential Treatment Beds and for the Establishment of a Central Receiving Facility**

**Issue:** As reported to the Board during the May 24, 2016 meeting, The Apalachee Center intends to seek state legislative funding during the 2017 Legislative Session to convert eight crisis stabilization beds to costlier short-term residential treatment beds. This proposed legislative priority reflects the Board's direction to include The Apalachee Center Inc.'s \$1.0 million funding request in the Board's 2017 Legislative Priorities. The Apalachee Center does not intend to seek County financial support for this initiative.

In addition, during the September 20, 2016 meeting, the Board elected to provide a letter in support of Apalachee Center for the establishment of a central receiving facility

**Action:** Support The Apalachee Center Inc.'s funding requests for eight short-term residential treatment beds and for the establishment of a Central Receiving Facility.

**Support Higher Education Partners' Funding Requests**

**Issue:** This proposed legislative priority seeks the Board's support for our higher education partners' funding requests during the 2017 Legislative Session. During the 2016 session, FAMU, FSU, and TCC each received legislative funding through the state's Public Education Capital Outlay (PECO) program. These projects include:

- \$12 million for the FSU Earth Ocean Atmospheric Sciences Building (Phase I)
- \$6.5 million for FAMU's Student Affairs Building
- \$1.5 million for the Black Student Union at FSU
- \$1 million for renovations to TCC's central utility plant

In addition, the legislature appropriated \$10 million in preeminence funding to FSU, for a total of \$35 million in annual recurring preeminence funding. In 2017, FSU is anticipated to request additional programmatic funding to enhance its student to faculty ratio, enhance class offerings, and increase the number and quality of its graduate students. Staff also anticipates each university to request PECO funding for capital projects.

**Action:** Support programmatic and capital funding requests by Florida State University, Florida A&M University, and Tallahassee Community College.

**PROPOSED POLICY REQUESTS**  
**2017 STATE LEGISLATIVE SESSION:**

*(Please note: complete information on each request is included in Attachment #2)*

The 2017 Regular Session of the Florida Legislature will be held from March 7 through May 5, 2017. Like most legislation, the County's policy requests are generally incremental in nature, focusing on issues that are built upon over the course of several legislative sessions. However, each year staff evaluates the trends and issues affecting all County programs and services to identify potential legislative policy issues. Significant substantive issues that have been identified for County participation range from maintaining the County's home rule authority to the protection of the state workforce. The state's current fiscal challenges and efforts to further reduce the size and scope of state government are likely to dominate the Legislature's time this year. It will be important for the County's lobbying team to monitor the budgetary and programmatic decisions made by the Legislature to determine their impact, if any, on local governments in the form of cost shifts or unfunded mandates. In addition to the substantive issues identified by the County, staff works closely with FAC to identify developing issues that affect counties during the legislative session. In many cases, the County joins FAC to advocate for or against initiatives that would substantially impact counties.

Following is a refined listing of the proposed Leon County 2017 state legislative policy requests. Each request provides a brief overview of the issue and indicates the specific recommended legislative action. More detailed information on each is included in Attachment #2.

**Protection of the State Workforce**

**Issue:** State workers comprise a substantial percentage of Leon County's population contributing to our community, economy and diversity. Protecting the jobs of these workers from privatization and advocating for fair wages has always been a top priority of the Board during the legislative cycle.

The FY16/17 state budget included a net reduction of 246.75 positions from the state workforce compared to the prior fiscal year. While the FY16/17 budget did not increase state employee health insurance premiums, which remain at \$50 per month for individual coverage and \$180 per month for family coverage for most employees, there have been attempts in the past several sessions to cap the state's total spending on employee health insurance and increase health insurance premiums of state employees. An unsuccessful bill considered last session also included a new health insurance system with four different benefit levels from which state employees could choose, but would have raised the employee contribution toward the state's HMO plan, which covers more than 50% of all state employees. Staff will monitor for any similar legislation affecting state employee health insurance introduced during the 2017 session. Also, during the past several sessions the Legislature has sought to reform the Florida Retirement System (FRS). FRS is the primary retirement plan for public sector employees, 80% of which are county government agencies, district school boards, community colleges, and



universities. Staff will continue to closely monitor any movement related to this issue in 2017.

Action: Support the protection of the state workforce and oppose any reductions to state employee benefits.

**Modification of the Eligibility for Levying the Local Option High Impact Tourist Development Tax to Include Counties that are Home to Preeminent State Research Universities as Designated by the Florida Legislature**

Issue: Section 125.0104, F.S., authorizes five separate tourist development taxes that county governments may levy. Depending on a county's eligibility to levy, the tax rate applied to transient rental transactions varies from a minimum of three percent to a maximum of six percent. Proceeds from these levies are generally utilized by local governments to build tourist-related facilities and to promote and market tourism. One of these levies, the "High Tourism Impact Tax," is a discretionary (local option) one percent tax on transient rental transactions available to counties in which tourism is a significant component of the local economy.

This policy request recommends a statutory revision to allow counties that are home to the main campus of a Preeminent State Research University to levy the High Tourism Impact Tax in support of these universities in recognition of their economic benefit through tourism. Currently, Florida State University (Leon County) and the University of Florida (Alachua County) have achieved designation as Preeminent State Research Universities by reaching certain standards of academic and research excellence set forth in Section 1001.7065, F.S. Florida's Preeminent State Research Universities generate immense national and international tourism activity through hosting conferences, graduation ceremonies, short-term academic programs and symposia, and other functions. Preeminent State Research Universities receive state support for the enhancement of the university's research capabilities by recruiting faculty who are members of National Academies; showcasing university research products and facilities; enhancing national recognition of their programs in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics; and ranking among the top public universities in the nation. In turn, the growth in stature generates new tourism activity related to university functions.

The immediate past President and current President of Florida State University addressed the Board during the 2013 and 2014 Annual Retreats to share the university's vision for the Arena District. At the 2013 Retreat, the Board directed the County Administrator to work with Florida State University on the master planning effort including a potential partnership to realize the convention center space desired by the County and to bring back issues related to the County's financial participation and programmatic role for future Board consideration after the passage of the sales tax. Since that time,

the Board also contemplated the possibility of supporting the convention center with tourism funds for its operational needs but has not made a formal commitment. On October 14, 2014, the Board provided further guidance to the County Administrator to contemplate the potential for utilization of ¼-cent of tourism revenue to support the operational costs associated with the convention center once it is completed, based upon a future determination by the Board. Soon after, the County and City Commissions allocated up to \$20 million from the voter-approved sales tax referendum in support of the Arena District and convention center. At the 2015 Annual Retreat, the Board adopted a Strategic Initiative reflecting this proposed legislative priority.

Florida State University recently completed the master planning of its Arena District and is currently engaged in a solicitation process with private developers for the \$400 million redevelopment of several downtown parcels in partnership with Leon County and the City of Tallahassee. The university's Arena District Master Plan calls for improvements to the Donald L. Tucker Civic Center along with the development of a convention center, a full-service hotel, the relocation of the College of Business, new entrepreneurial spaces, future in-fill academic buildings, and other elements in an effort to modernize its facilities and grow the campus footprint. The current solicitation process to negotiate with private developers which staff is participating in will better define the participation, programmatic, governance, and financial needs to make the arena district successful. Based on preliminary conversations with Florida State University, County staff is of the opinion that currently anticipated revenues will not satisfy the operational costs associated with the desired convention center and ancillary improvements.

A convention center in the Arena District would serve the many business, civic, advocacy, and academic organizations that are drawn to the state capitol and its two premier institutions of higher learning. In recent years, many academic, research, and business groups affiliated with Florida State University have been forced to host their convention business hundreds of miles away from the main campus due to the lack of adequate meeting space. Proceeds from a local option High Impact Tourist Development Tax could be used to fund the construction, maintenance, operations, etc. of the convention center envisioned in the Arena District Master Plan in order to support the community's shared initiatives and long-term economic goals. The proposed statutory revision would enhance the Board's investment of up to \$20 million in local funds by ensuring that a dedicated revenue source is in place to support the long-term viability of the convention center.

Action: 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.

### **Support Springs Restoration Funding**

**Issue:** Last session, the Legislature approved HB 989, which requires \$50 million to be set aside annually for springs restoration projects. Leon County has demonstrated a longstanding commitment to environmental protection and preservation, and springs protection more specifically. The County has designated a Primary Springs Protection Zone by ordinance, which is consistent with similar provisions contained in its Comprehensive Plan. The Primary Springs Protection Zone is designed to minimize the adverse impacts of development on groundwater recharge and aquifer water quality. In addition, Leon County has advanced several infrastructure projects aimed at restoring water quality within the Wakulla Springs Basin.

**Action:** 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.

### **State-Local Economic Development Partnerships**

**Issue:** State-local partnerships for economic development are important tools that empower local governments and provide resources that lead to the creation of quality jobs, vibrant communities, and global economic competitiveness.

During the 2015 legislative session, the Florida Enterprise Zone Program – a key component of the state-local economic development toolkit – was allowed to expire at the end of 2015 when no legislation was passed extending its statutory authorization. In 2016, with the expiration of the Florida Enterprise Zone Program, Leon County and FAC advocated for a new state-local economic development partnership through the greater use of targeted strategic investments. Two comprehensive economic development reform bills were considered during the 2016 session. However, both bills died amid a disagreement among the House, Senate, and Governor’s Office regarding funding for the “Florida Enterprise Fund,” a \$250 million economic development incentive fund that was one of the Governor’s top legislative priorities for the 2016 session. The approved FY 2016-17 budget did not include funding for the Florida Enterprise Fund.

Additionally, the FY 2016-17 state budget included funding for the state to conduct a study of aging government facilities, infrastructure, and expiring building leases in Leon County and to provide recommendations to the Legislature regarding how to manage these properties. This study is due to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by February 1, 2017. County staff met with the Florida Department of Management Services and Savills-Studley, the consultant firm hired by the state to conduct the study, in August 2016 to provide input and share information with the consultants. Staff from the City of Tallahassee and FSU also attended. At this time the state and its consultant are evaluating

long-term building and parking needs. Staff will continue to engage in this process and will provide an update to the Board once the consultant study is finalized.

**Action:** Support measures that empower local governments and provide resources to work with community partners towards the creation of quality jobs, more vibrant communities, and an enhanced level of national and global competitiveness. Additionally, continue to engage state partners and monitor for any legislative activity associated with the State of Florida real estate study and long-term facility needs.

### **Public Safety on College and University Campuses**

**Issue:** Under current law, even if a person has a concealed carry license, it is illegal to carry a weapon onto a college or university campus. During the March 10, 2015 meeting, the Board unanimously approved a resolution supporting President Thrasher, former President Mangum and President Murdaugh in their unified opposition to allowing concealed weapons on university and college campuses. The Board subsequently adopted this issue as one of its top legislative priorities for the 2016 legislative session. Legislation was introduced in 2015 and 2016 that would have allowed concealed carry licensees to carry firearms into college or university facilities. However, the chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee declined to hear this legislation in committee during the 2016 session.

**Action:** Oppose statutory changes to Section 790.06, F.S. that would allow the concealed carrying of weapons into college or university facilities.

### **EMS Balance Billing**

**Issue:** Bills have been introduced in recent legislative sessions that would have prohibited health care providers, including Leon County EMS, from collecting or attempting to collect any amount beyond the insurance provider's reimbursement. This practice, known as "balance billing," is utilized by health care providers to bill patients for fees or charges not reimbursed by the patient's insurance coverage. For emergency medical transport providers, balance billing is a critical cost recovery strategy; without the ability to collect these charges, EMS providers would have to rely on additional general revenue subsidies to fund operations instead of collecting charges from system users. Staff has estimated that this legislation would have a \$1.7 million recurring negative fiscal impact for Leon County.

**Action:** Oppose statutory changes to Chapter 627, F.S. that would prohibit EMS providers from collecting amounts beyond an insurance provider's reimbursement.

### **Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity (COPCNs)**

**Issue:** Two bills were considered during the 2016 legislative session related to the issuance of Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity (COPCNs). A COPCN is a written statement issued by the governing board of a county granting permission for an emergency medical service provider to operate within the county. These bills faced significant opposition from counties and the statewide EMS community and ultimately failed to pass. This legislation would have substantially lessened a Board of County Commissioners' authority to regulate the issuance of COPCNs by requiring all counties to adopt or amend an existing COPCN ordinance to provide a quasi-judicial process, or some other type of evidentiary process, for approval or denial of an application for a COPCN. In addition, such an ordinance would be required to allow any applicant maintaining fire rescue infrastructure and providing first response in the county to appeal the county's decision to the circuit court.

**Action:** Support maintaining a countywide regulatory system for EMS through the current Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (COPCN) process.

### **Support Funding for Public Libraries**

**Issue:** Florida's State Aid to Libraries Grant Program, managed by the Florida Department of State's Division of Library and Information Services, has been the cornerstone of public library support in Florida since 1963, and is recognized as a national model. Florida library systems rely on State Aid grant funding to assist library users with economic development resources to small businesses and job seekers; access to the internet, government services, and a vast array of online services and products and; education and reading. Libraries are transitioning from traditional libraries to community hubs, which function as learning environments to better serve their communities. Libraries are extending all their services to the Web while at the same time allowing citizens to develop new businesses, to teach early reading skills, to provide safe environments for children and teens, to develop new skills to become a better fit for today's workplace, and to find greater civic engagement.

Last year, the Leon County library system received \$184,255 in state aid. For FY 2017 Leon County is anticipated to receive \$182,831. The library system uses State Aid grant funding to assist with purchasing circulating library materials for County residents.

**Action:** Support legislation and appropriation that assists Leon County to provide access to high-quality library services for all residents across the County.

### **Florida Association of Counties (FAC) Issues**

**Issue:** FAC represents 67 counties before the Florida Legislature on issues that have broad statewide appeal, such as the opposition of unfunded mandates or cost shifts to counties (such as the \$90 million DJJ cost shift that was passed in

2005 and the \$146 million in Medicaid retrospective reconciliation and billing system changes passed in 2012), growth management, annexation, revenue-sharing, and water management issues. FAC will adopt its 2017 legislative program during the 2016-17 Legislative Conference from November 30 through December 2, 2016. Commissioner Maddox's position as Second Vice President of FAC places Leon County at an advantageous position.

Action: Support the 2017 FAC legislative program unless specific issues conflict with Leon County's interests.

### **Update on the 2017-18 Florida Constitution Revision Commission**

Once every twenty years, Article XI, Section 2 of the Florida Constitution provides for the creation of a 37-member Constitution Revision Commission (CRC) for the purpose of reviewing Florida's Constitution and proposing changes for voter consideration. Amendments proposed by the CRC will appear on the November 2018 General Election ballot. The Commission meets for approximately one year, traveling the State of Florida, identifying issues, performing research, and possibly recommending changes to the Constitution. The last comprehensive review of Florida's Constitution occurred in 1997-1998. The Governor of Florida appoints 15 members to the CRC, the House Speaker and Senate President each select nine members, three members are chosen by the Chief Justice of the Florida Supreme Court and the Florida Attorney General is an automatic member. The Governor selects one of the 37 members to serve as chairman. The CRC must be established within the 30 days prior to the convening of the 2017 Regular Legislative Session – in other words, February 5, 2017 is the earliest date that the CRC can be formally established. The CRC will begin its work in spring 2017.

The Florida Association of Counties (FAC) has established a CRC Steering Committee to research and draft CRC proposals and amendments and to actively engage with the CRC. The Steering Committee will recommend proposals to the CRC and will recommend FAC positions regarding other proposals before the CRC. Commissioner Desloge has been appointed to the CRC Steering Committee as a past president of FAC, and Commissioner Maddox is also a presidential appointee to the committee.

FAC's CRC Steering Committee met during the Policy Committee Conference in September 2016 and will meet again during the FAC Legislative Conference in Orange County from November 30 to December 2, 2016.

**PROPOSED POLICY REQUESTS**  
**115<sup>TH</sup> UNITED STATES CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION:**

*(Please note: complete information on each request is included in Attachment #3)*

Each year staff evaluates the trends and issues affecting all County programs and services to identify potential policy or substantive legislative issues at the federal level. Most substantive issues that the County has at the federal level are coordinated through the County's National Association of Counties (NACo) representation. Similar to previous years, the federal appropriation requests have been combined with the state appropriation requests.

Squire Patton Boggs, the County's federal contract lobbying firm, has worked closely with staff on select federal policy issues and priorities that have been identified by the Board. Staff coordinates regularly with the County's federal lobbying team by phone and e-mail to strategize on key federal budget issues and to identify new federal grant opportunities that could potentially fund County project requests. In addition, the federal lobbying team assists staff in preparing monthly updates to the Board on federal legislative activities.

Following is a refined listing of the proposed Leon County 2017 federal legislative policy requests for the first session of the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress. Each request provides a brief overview of the issue and indicates the specific recommended legislative action. More detailed information on each is included in Attachment #3.

**Waters of the U.S.**

Issue: For the past several years, the Board has prioritized a top federal legislative issues related to the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) and the United States Army Corps of Engineers' (Corps) joint administrative rule entitled, "Definition of Waters of the U.S. Under the Clean Water Act" (WOTUS). This rule amends the current definition to expand the range of waters (and their conveyances) that are subject to federal jurisdiction. The rule, which became final on August 28, 2015, eliminates the distinction between traditional navigable waters (such as lakes, rivers, and streams) and conveyances such as ditches and drains. The rule applies regardless of flow or hydrologic connections. On September 23, 2014, the Board approved a resolution voicing concerns regarding the rule and a copy of the resolution was sent to the EPA and the County's federal delegation. It is the County's position that the EPA rule change will negatively impact the County's ability to protect those resources and could put undue burden on local governments through onerous permitting requirements. While Congress has taken some steps to attempt a repeal of the rule, it is likely that the President would override any legislation affecting the rule.

On October 9, 2015, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit issued a nationwide stay against the enforcement of the WOTUS rule. That ruling followed an August 28 federal court ruling in North Dakota, which stayed the rule in 13 states. The October ruling provides nationwide uniformity while the

litigation proceeds. On Jan. 13, 2016 the U.S. House of Representatives easily passed a resolution of disapproval (Senate Joint Resolution 22) that would repeal the revised rule by a vote of 253–166. The same resolution was passed by the Senate in November by a vote of 53–44. President Obama vetoed the measure on January 19.

In June, both the House and Senate appropriations committees passed their versions of the FY17 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies appropriations bill, often referred to as the Interior bill. Both chambers' spending bills contained provisions to prohibit EPA from acting on its WOTUS rule. The provisions would prevent the EPA from moving forward to "implement, administer or enforce" the rule even if the federal court system were to lift its stay on the rule.

**Action:** Support legislation that clarifies that local streets, gutters, and other stormwater infrastructure are excluded from the definition of "Waters of the U.S.," while also requiring federal agencies to consult with state and local officials to identify which waters should be federally regulated and which should be left to the states.

### **Full Funding of the Federal Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) Program**

**Issue:** Roughly 62% of counties in the United States have federal land within their boundaries. Although counties cannot collect property tax on federal land, they are still required to provide essential services for that land. For the past 40 years, the PILT program has provided funding to counties and municipalities to offset lost tax revenue from federal land within their respective boundaries. This request recommends full funding of the PILT program in FY2017. Congress passed the FY 2016 Consolidated Appropriations Act (P.L. 114-113), which fully funded PILT at \$452 million. The Department of the Interior estimates \$480 million will be necessary to fully fund PILT in FY 2017. In FY 2016, Leon County received approximately \$206,000 from the federal government in PILT funding due to the portion of Apalachicola National Forest in Leon County.

**Action:** 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.

### **Collection of Sales Tax on Remote Transactions**

**Issue:** Under current law, individuals who buy goods online are required to remit sales tax to the state individually; however, that provision is largely unheeded and not enforced. Economists estimate the state loses out on about \$400 million in revenue each year the tax goes uncollected. Purchases from these stores are not subject to sales tax due to the fact that they are not physically located in the state of Florida. The inability to collect an internet sales tax puts



local ‘brick-and-mortar’ businesses in Florida at a disadvantage relative to out-of-state online retailers. Governor Rick Scott and several members of the Legislature view the implementation of internet sales tax legislation as a tax increase; therefore, efforts in the State Legislature have been unsuccessful.

In recent years, congressional legislation has been introduced (the Remote Transactions Parity Act in the House and the Marketplace Fairness Act in the Senate) that would allow states and localities to collect taxes on online sales but has not gained sufficient traction to pass both chambers. Importantly, this legislation would not create a new tax; it would simply allow states and local governments to enforce existing sales tax laws.

**Action:** Support legislation that promotes an equitable and competitive environment between ‘brick and mortar’ businesses and remote businesses establishments operating in Florida.

### **Tax-Exempt Status of Municipal Bonds**

**Issue:** Tax-exempt municipal bonds have been a fundamental feature of the United States tax code since 1913. Municipal bonds remain the primary method used by states and local governments to finance public capital improvements and public infrastructure projects that are essential for creating jobs, sustaining economic growth, and improving the quality of life for Americans in every corner of the country. Deficit reduction efforts in recent years resulted in cuts in aid to local governments from the states and reduced funding in federal programs that benefit counties. Although a comprehensive rewrite of the federal tax code seems unlikely in 2016, there is some momentum building for corporate tax reform. Even under this scenario, counties still face the risk of losing a low-cost, market-driven means of financing to support local needs because of the potential it would be used as a way to achieve corporate tax reform objectives.

Funds generated from infrastructure bond financing help to build hospitals, water and sewer facilities, public utilities, roads, and mass transit. In the past decade, nearly \$288 billion of financing went to general acute-care hospitals; nearly \$258 billion to water and sewer facilities; nearly \$178 billion to roads, highways, and streets; nearly \$147 billion to public power projects; and \$105.6 billion to mass transit.

**Action:** Oppose any legislation that would eliminate or limit the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds.

### **National Association of Counties (NACo) Issues**

**Issue:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) advocates with a collective voice on behalf of America’s 3,069 county governments. Its membership includes urban, suburban, and rural counties. NACo’s advocacy efforts are

guided by a policy platform and single-subject policy resolutions adopted at each annual conference by policy committees and the full membership.

Action: Support NACo's 2016-17 legislative efforts unless specific issues conflict with Leon County's interests.

Commissioner Desloge was elected NACo president on July 24, 2016, and serves on the Health Steering Committee, Financial Services Corporation Board of Directors and the Next Generation NACo Network. This provides Leon County a unique advantage in advocating the county's federal legislative priorities, as NACo is the only national organization that represents county governments in the United States. With Commissioner Desloge's presidency, Leon County will host the 2016 NACo Fall Board Meeting and the 2016 Rural Action Caucus (RAC) Symposium from December 7 through December 10, 2016. These events will bring together county elected officials from across the country to examine and highlight counties' role in providing critical services for their communities. Leon County staff has worked closely with NACo to plan the agenda for these meetings, which will include several events and activities showcasing recent Leon County projects, programs, and best practices.

The NACo 2016 Legislative Conference is scheduled for February 25 through March 1, 2017 in Washington, D.C. In the past, Commissioners and County staff have used the NACo Legislative Conference as an opportunity to meet with the Leon County Federal Legislative Delegation to advocate for the County's federal priorities.

### **Community Legislative Dialogue Meetings:**

For the past several years, the County has hosted Community Legislative Dialogue Meetings before and throughout the legislative session to engage our community and regional partners in identifying shared legislative priorities and interests. These meetings are generally well-attended by representatives from the Leon County Legislative Delegation, higher education institutions, the Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce, Big Bend Minority Chamber of Commerce, the City of Tallahassee, Leon County School Board, Constitutional Officers, Tallahassee Memorial Hospital, and several other community partners. These meetings provide an opportunity to learn about the priorities of our community partners and to identify shared issues. Last year, Commissioner Maddox co-hosted the Community Legislative Dialogue meetings with Commissioner Desloge. Should the Board wish to continue hosting the Community Legislative Dialogue Meetings for the 2017 legislative session, staff recommends that the Board appoint Commissioner Maddox to host these meetings for the 2017 session, which will begin in late January 2017.

Additionally, the Board also hosts Leon County's annual Legislative Delegation meeting prior to the legislative session in order to communicate the County's legislative priorities to our state House and Senate representatives. This year's Legislative Delegation Meeting will be scheduled soon after the General Election in November. Staff will provide an update to the Board once this meeting date has been set.

**Options:**

1. Approve the 2017 state and federal legislative priorities, as amended by the Board.
2. Designate Commissioner Maddox to host the Community Legislative Dialogue meetings for the 2017 state legislative session.
3. Board direction.

**Recommendation:**

Options #1 and #2.

**Attachments:**

1. 2017 State and Federal Legislative Appropriations Requests and Related Materials
2. 2017 State Legislative Session Policy Requests and Related Materials
3. 2017 Federal Policy Requests and Related Materials



# Leon County Board of County Commissioners

## 2017 Legislative Priorities Information Form

### CONTACT INFORMATION

<b>Department:</b>	Public Works	<b>Division:</b>	Engineering Services
<b>Contact Person:</b>	Theresa Heiker	<b>Title:</b>	Stormwater Management Coord.
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:HeikerT@LeonCountyFL.gov">HeikerT@LeonCountyFL.gov</a>	<b>Phone:</b>	850-606-1526

### APPROPRIATION REQUEST

<b>Project Title:</b>	Woodville Sewer	
<b>Program Category:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Criminal & Civil Justice	<input type="checkbox"/> Health & Human Services
	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture & Natural Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Tourism & Economic Development
	<input type="checkbox"/> General Government/Operations	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
<b>Strategic Plan Alignment:</b>	<p>(EN1) - Protect our water supply, conserve environmentally sensitive lands, safeguard the health of our natural ecosystems, and protect our water quality, including the Floridan Aquifer, from local and upstream pollution. (rev. 2013)</p> <p>(Q5) - Create senses of place in our rural areas through programs, planning and infrastructure, phasing in appropriate areas to encourage connectedness. (2012)</p> <p>Implement strategies which plan for environmentally sound growth in the Woodville Rural Community, including:</p> <p>(EN1, Q5) - Bring central sewer to Woodville consistent with the Water and Sewer Master Plan, including consideration for funding through Sales Tax Extension (2012)</p>	

#### Project Description:

This project is for the design of a sewer system to provide sewer services to approximately 1,500 homes or properties located within the Woodville area of Leon County. The City of Tallahassee 2030 Sewer Master Plan included the preliminary planning to connect Woodville to the City's Advanced Wastewater Treatment Facility. These homes are located upstream to Wakulla Springs and threaten one of the world's largest and deepest freshwater springs.

Septic systems in the Woodville area of Leon County have been identified as a major source of nitrate loading to the groundwater and Wakulla Springs. Wakulla Springs is a first magnitude spring and is the longest and deepest known submerged freshwater cave system in the world. Located just five miles south of the Leon County line, Wakulla Springs is an important part of the regional culture and recreational economy. The City and the County have dedicated \$85 million (\$42.5 million each) from the penny sales tax extension for projects that improve water quality across the County and the City, while preserving and improving sensitive land and bodies of water surrounding our community. The Woodville sewer project could meet the criteria to receive funding from this source.

#### Purpose of the Project and Services/Benefits Provided:

Nitrate reduction associated with septic tanks is a key component of the draft Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP) for the Upper Wakulla River. Existing septic tank discharge concentrations are reported to be between 40 to 60 mg/L nitrogen. Replacing the existing septic tanks with wastewater treatment at the City of Tallahassee Advanced Wastewater Treatment Facility reduces the nitrogen discharge from a household to 3 mg/L.

Funds are requested for the design of the collection and transmission system from Woodville to the City of Tallahassee and for the construction of the transmission system. Completion of project design will support state and federal grant applications for construction costs, potentially as a match to penny sales tax funds.

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The Tallahassee-Leon County Comprehensive Plan provides that all waste water is to be treated and disposed of in a manner that protects natural resources and public health. The State of Florida has acquired more than half of the 6,500 acre buffer zone around Wakulla Springs, acknowledging the importance of preserving this natural habitat.

#### Population Served:

Approximately 1,500 homes will be directly impacted in Leon County. In addition, this project contributes to the reduction of nitrogen flowing to Wakulla Springs, an important local and state resource for tourism. Over 200,000 tourists visit Wakulla Springs State Park each year.

#### Project Dates for Construction/Operation:

If allocated state and/or federal funding, design, engineering, and permitting of the collection and transmission system would occur in FY2017. Construction would be anticipated in FY2018, or upon completion of the permitting process.

### FUNDING REQUESTS

#### Funding Requested:

#### Total Funding Requested: \$7.2 million

- Design (Phase 1): \$3 million
- Construction (Phase 2, Transmission Line): \$4.2 million

### PRESENT OR PENDING FUNDING SOURCES (INCLUDING COUNTY)

Source:	Local Option Sales Tax	Amount:	\$1.5 million
Source:		Amount:	
Source:		Amount:	



# Leon County Board of County Commissioners

## 2017 Legislative Priorities Information Form

### CONTACT INFORMATION

<b>Department:</b>	Public Works	<b>Division:</b>	Engineering Services
<b>Contact Person:</b>	Theresa Heiker	<b>Title:</b>	Stormwater Management Coord.
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:HeikerT@LeonCountyFL.gov">HeikerT@LeonCountyFL.gov</a>	<b>Phone:</b>	850-606-1526

### APPROPRIATION REQUEST

<b>Project Title:</b>	Lake Munson Area Septic to Sewer		
<b>Program Category:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Criminal & Civil Justice	<input type="checkbox"/> Health & Human Services	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture & Natural Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Tourism & Economic Development	
	<input type="checkbox"/> General Government/Operations	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	
<b>Strategic Plan Alignment:</b>	<p>(EN1) - Protect our water supply, conserve environmentally sensitive lands, safeguard the health of our natural ecosystems, and protect our water quality, including the Floridan Aquifer, from local and upstream pollution. (rev. 2013)</p> <p>Continue to work with regional partners to develop strategies to further reduce nitrogen load to Wakulla Springs, including:</p> <p>(EN1) - Extend central sewer or other effective wastewater treatment solutions to the Primary Springs Protection Zone area within Leon County (2013)</p>		
<b>Project Description:</b> <p>This project is for design and construction of a wastewater collection system in the Lake Munson area, to be connected to the City of Tallahassee's central sewer system. This request is for one-time costs that will include design, engineering, permitting, and construction fees associated with this project. This area is a "sewer target area," as identified in the City of Tallahassee's 2030 Master Sewer Plan and is also identified in the Water and Sewer Agreement between the City and County as a target sewer service area.</p>			
<b>Purpose of the Project and Services/Benefits Provided:</b> <p>The project will reduce nitrogen and fecal coliform discharges to nearby natural systems, including the Wakulla Springshed, the Lake Lafayette Chain of Lakes, and the St. Marks River watershed. Converting wastewater treatment in this area to advanced wastewater treatment will reduce the total nitrogen load by 5,290 pounds per year.</p>			
<b>Population Served:</b> <p>Approximately 263 parcels with existing septic tanks will benefit from centralized sewer service. In addition, this project contributes to the reduction of nitrogen flowing to Wakulla Springs, an important local and state resource for tourism. Over 200,000 tourists visit Wakulla Springs State Park each year.</p>			
<b>Project Dates for Construction/Operation:</b> <p>If allocated state and/or federal funding, design, engineering, and permitting of the system would occur in FY2017 and FY2018.</p>			

**Leon County Board of County Commissioners**

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FUNDING REQUESTS	
<b>Funding Requested:</b>	\$5.5 million

PRESENT OR PENDING FUNDING SOURCES (INCLUDING COUNTY)			
Source:		Amount:	
Source:		Amount:	
Source:		Amount:	



# Leon County Board of County Commissioners

## 2017 Legislative Priorities Information Form

### CONTACT INFORMATION

<b>Department:</b>	Public Works	<b>Division:</b>	Engineering Services
<b>Contact Person:</b>	Theresa Heiker	<b>Title:</b>	Stormwater Management Coord.
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:HeikerT@LeonCountyFL.gov">HeikerT@LeonCountyFL.gov</a>	<b>Phone:</b>	850-606-1526

### APPROPRIATION REQUEST

<b>Project Title:</b>	Fords Arm Restoration		
<b>Program Category:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Criminal & Civil Justice	<input type="checkbox"/> Health & Human Services	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture & Natural Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Tourism & Economic Development	
	<input type="checkbox"/> General Government/Operations	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	
<b>Strategic Plan Alignment:</b>	(EN1) - Protect our water supply, conserve environmentally sensitive lands, safeguard the health of our natural ecosystems, and protect our water quality, including the Floridan Aquifer, from local and upstream pollution. (rev. 2013)		

#### Project Description:

This project will provide for the retrofit of Lexington Tributary (also known as Timberlane Creek) to improve water quality of stormwater into Fords Arm of Lake Jackson, a State Aquatic Preserve and an Outstanding Florida Water. Currently, Fords Arm has one of the highest pollutant loads of phosphorus within Lake Jackson. This project was developed under the State of Florida's Surface Water Improvement and Management (SWIM) Program in order to protect Florida's highly threatened surface water bodies. This project includes a new stormwater pond, channel stabilization, and drainage improvements.

#### Purpose of the Project and Services/Benefits Provided:

The project will reduce phosphorous conveyed by stormwater flow to nearby natural systems, including the Lake Jackson Aquatic Preserve. The improvements associated with this project are estimated to remove 430 pounds of phosphorous per year from the tributary, contributing significantly to the protection of this important ecological resource.

#### Population Served:

Lake Jackson is one of Leon County's most precious natural resources, and is listed as an "Outstanding Florida Water" by the State of Florida. In addition to its use for boating, swimming, and fishing by the residents of Leon County, Lake Jackson generates over \$15 million annually in tourism and associated economic activity (Lake Jackson Management Plan 1997 addendum, adjusted for inflation).

#### Project Dates for Construction/Operation:

If allocated state and/or federal funding, engineering, permitting, and site acquisition would occur in FY2017 and FY 2018. Construction would be anticipated in FY2018 or FY2019, or upon completion of the permitting process.



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FUNDING REQUESTS	
<b>Funding Requested:</b>	<p><u>Total Funding Requested: \$3.97 million</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engineering and permitting: \$650,000</li> <li>• Construction of roadway upgrades: \$1,400,000</li> <li>• Stormwater pond construction: \$1,200,000</li> <li>• Stream and channel enhancements: \$720,000</li> </ul>

PRESENT OR PENDING FUNDING SOURCES (INCLUDING COUNTY)			
Source:	Leon County	Amount:	\$3,500,000 (land acquisition)
Source:	Leon County	Amount:	\$730,000 (in-kind match for design services)
Source:		Amount:	



# Leon County Board of County Commissioners

## 2017 Legislative Priorities Information Form

### CONTACT INFORMATION

<b>Department:</b>	Public Works	<b>Division:</b>	Engineering Services
<b>Contact Person:</b>	Theresa Heiker	<b>Title:</b>	Stormwater Management Coord.
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:HeikerT@LeonCountyFL.gov">HeikerT@LeonCountyFL.gov</a>	<b>Phone:</b>	850-606-1526

### APPROPRIATION REQUEST

<b>Project Title:</b>	Belair/Annawood Septic to Sewer	
<b>Program Category:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Criminal & Civil Justice	<input type="checkbox"/> Health & Human Services
	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture & Natural Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Tourism & Economic Development
	<input type="checkbox"/> General Government/Operations	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
<b>Strategic Plan Alignment:</b>	<p>(EN1) - Protect our water supply, conserve environmentally sensitive lands, safeguard the health of our natural ecosystems, and protect our water quality, including the Floridan Aquifer, from local and upstream pollution. (rev. 2013)</p> <p>Continue to work with regional partners to develop strategies to further reduce nitrogen load to Wakulla Springs, including:</p> <p>(EN1) - Extend central sewer or other effective wastewater treatment solutions to the Primary Springs Protection Zone area within Leon County (2013)</p>	
<b>Project Description:</b> <p>This project is for design and construction of a wastewater collection system in the Belair/Annawood neighborhoods, to be connected to the City of Tallahassee's central sewer system. This request is for one-time costs that will include design, engineering, permitting, and construction fees associated with this project. The Belair/Annawood area is a "sewer target area," as identified in the City of Tallahassee's 2030 Master Sewer Plan and is also identified in the Water and Sewer Agreement between the City and County as a target sewer service area.</p>		
<b>Purpose of the Project and Services/Benefits Provided:</b> <p>The project will reduce nitrogen and fecal coliform discharges to nearby natural systems, including the Wakulla Springshed, the Lake Lafayette Chain of Lakes, and the St. Marks River watershed. Converting wastewater treatment in this area to advanced wastewater treatment will reduce the total nitrogen load by 2,275 pounds per year.</p>		
<b>Population Served:</b> <p>Approximately 113 parcels with existing septic tanks will benefit from centralized sewer service. In addition, this project contributes to the reduction of nitrogen flowing to Wakulla Springs, an important local and state resource for tourism. Over 200,000 tourists visit Wakulla Springs State Park each year.</p>		

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**Project Dates for Construction/Operation:**

If allocated state and/or federal funding, design, engineering, and permitting of the system would occur in FY2017 and FY2018.

FUNDING REQUESTS	
<b>Funding Requested:</b>	\$3.5 million

PRESENT OR PENDING FUNDING SOURCES (INCLUDING COUNTY)			
Source:		Amount:	
Source:		Amount:	
Source:		Amount:	



# Leon County Board of County Commissioners

## 2017 Legislative Priorities Information Form

### CONTACT INFORMATION

<b>Department:</b>	Public Works	<b>Division:</b>	Engineering Services
<b>Contact Person:</b>	Theresa Heiker	<b>Title:</b>	Stormwater Management Coord.
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:HeikerT@LeonCountyFL.gov">HeikerT@LeonCountyFL.gov</a>	<b>Phone:</b>	850-606-1526

### APPROPRIATION REQUEST

<b>Project Title:</b>	Harbinwood Estates Septic to Sewer	
<b>Program Category:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Criminal & Civil Justice	<input type="checkbox"/> Health & Human Services
	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture & Natural Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Tourism & Economic Development
	<input type="checkbox"/> General Government/Operations	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
<b>Strategic Plan Alignment:</b>	<p>(EN1) - Protect our water supply, conserve environmentally sensitive lands, safeguard the health of our natural ecosystems, and protect our water quality, including the Floridan Aquifer, from local and upstream pollution. (rev. 2013)</p> <p>Continue to work with regional partners to develop strategies to further reduce nitrogen load to Wakulla Springs, including:</p> <p>(EN1) - Extend central sewer or other effective wastewater treatment solutions to the Primary Springs Protection Zone area within Leon County (2013)</p>	
<b>Project Description:</b> <p>This project is the design phase of a wastewater collection system in the Harbinwood Estates neighborhood, to be connected to the City of Tallahassee's central sewer system. This request is for one-time costs that will include design, engineering, and permitting fees associated with this project. Harbinwood Estates is a "sewer target area," as identified in the City of Tallahassee's 2030 Master Sewer Plan and is also identified in the Water and Sewer Agreement between the City and County as a target sewer service area. Harbinwood Estates has been identified as a major contributor to high nutrient concentrations in Lake Jackson, a State Aquatic Preserve and an Outstanding Florida Water.</p>		
<b>Purpose of the Project and Services/Benefits Provided:</b> <p>The project will reduce nitrogen and fecal coliform discharges to nearby natural systems, including the Lake Jackson Aquatic Preserve. Converting wastewater treatment in the Harbinwood Estates subdivision to advanced wastewater treatment will reduce the total nitrogen load by 8,000 pounds per year, contributing significantly to the protection of this important ecological resource.</p>		
<b>Population Served:</b> <p>Approximately 400 parcels with existing septic tanks will benefit from centralized sewer service. In addition, this project contributes to the reduction of nitrogen flowing to Lake Jackson, a State Aquatic Preserve and an Outstanding Florida Water. In addition to its use for boating, swimming, and fishing by the residents of Leon County, Lake Jackson generates over \$15 million annually in tourism and associated economic activity (Lake Jackson Management Plan 1997 addendum, adjusted for inflation).</p>		

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### Project Dates for Construction/Operation:

If allocated state and/or federal funding, surveys and site acquisition would occur in FY2017. Design, engineering, and permitting would be anticipated in FY2018.

### FUNDING REQUESTS

#### Funding Requested:

#### Total Funding Requested: \$2.5 million

- 400-lot connection survey: \$200,000
- Collection system and force main design survey: \$200,000
- Pump station site acquisition: \$275,000
- Design and permit applications: \$1,825,000

### PRESENT OR PENDING FUNDING SOURCES (INCLUDING COUNTY)

Source:		Amount:	
Source:		Amount:	
Source:		Amount:	



# Leon County Board of County Commissioners

## 2017 Legislative Priorities Information Form

### CONTACT INFORMATION

<b>Department:</b>	Public Works	<b>Division:</b>	Engineering Services
<b>Contact Person:</b>	Theresa Heiker	<b>Title:</b>	Stormwater Management Coord.
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:HeikerT@LeonCountyFL.gov">HeikerT@LeonCountyFL.gov</a>	<b>Phone:</b>	850-606-1526

### APPROPRIATION REQUEST

<b>Project Title:</b>	Leon South Regional Water System	
<b>Program Category:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Criminal & Civil Justice	<input type="checkbox"/> Health & Human Services
	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture & Natural Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Tourism & Economic Development
	<input type="checkbox"/> General Government/Operations	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
<b>Strategic Plan Alignment:</b>	(EN1) - Protect our water supply, conserve environmentally sensitive lands, safeguard the health of our natural ecosystems, and protect our water quality, including the Floridan Aquifer, from local and upstream pollution. (rev. 2013) (Q2) - Provide essential public safety infrastructure and services which ensure the safety of the entire community. (2012)	

#### Project Description:

This project involves constructing a well and storage tank or a larger elevated storage tank for the Leon South Regional Water System, as well as piping upgrades. The Leon South Regional System, managed by Talquin Electric Cooperative, serves approximately 382 residential parcels in southern Leon County. The area is located east of Crawfordville Highway between Glover Road and Oak Ridge Road. Based on the service area, the improvements will cost approximately \$1.5 million and require three years from funding to completion.

#### Purpose of the Project and Services/Benefits Provided:

This improvement will provide improved drinking water quality for the system as well as sufficient water flow and pressure to support fire rescue services.

#### Population Served:

Approximately 382 residential parcels will benefit from improved drinking water quality. These and several hundred additional parcels will benefit from enhanced fire protection, including commercial properties, churches, and state- and federally-owned land in the Leon Sinks Geological Area, Wakulla Springs State Forest, and the Apalachicola National Forest.

#### Project Dates for Construction/Operation:

If allocated state and/or federal funding, design, engineering, and permitting of the collection and transmission system would occur in FY2017 and FY2018. Construction would be anticipated in FY2019, or upon completion of the permitting process.

**Leon County Board of County Commissioners**

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FUNDING REQUESTS	
<b>Funding Requested:</b>	<u>Total Funding Requested: \$1.5 million</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Design, Permitting, Land Acquisition: \$400,000</li><li>• Construction: \$1.1 million</li></ul>

PRESENT OR PENDING FUNDING SOURCES (INCLUDING COUNTY)			
Source:		Amount:	
Source:		Amount:	
Source:		Amount:	



# Leon County Board of County Commissioners

## 2017 Legislative Priorities Information Form

### CONTACT INFORMATION

<b>Department:</b>	Public Works	<b>Division:</b>	Engineering Services
<b>Contact Person:</b>	Theresa Heiker	<b>Title:</b>	Stormwater Management Coord.
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:HeikerT@LeonCountyFL.gov">HeikerT@LeonCountyFL.gov</a>	<b>Phone:</b>	850-606-1526

### APPROPRIATION REQUEST

<b>Project Title:</b>	Centerville Trace Septic to Sewer	
<b>Program Category:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Criminal & Civil Justice	<input type="checkbox"/> Health & Human Services
	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture & Natural Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Tourism & Economic Development
	<input type="checkbox"/> General Government/Operations	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
<b>Strategic Plan Alignment:</b>	<p>(EN1) - Protect our water supply, conserve environmentally sensitive lands, safeguard the health of our natural ecosystems, and protect our water quality, including the Floridan Aquifer, from local and upstream pollution. (rev. 2013)</p> <p>Continue to work with regional partners to develop strategies to further reduce nitrogen load to Wakulla Springs, including:</p> <p>(EN1) - Extend central sewer or other effective wastewater treatment solutions to the Primary Springs Protection Zone area within Leon County (2013)</p>	
<b>Project Description:</b> <p>This project is the design phase of a wastewater collection system in the Centerville Trace neighborhood, to be connected to the City of Tallahassee's central sewer system. This request is for one-time costs that will include design, engineering, and permitting fees associated with this project. Centerville Trace is a "sewer target area," as identified in the City of Tallahassee's 2030 Master Sewer Plan and is also identified in the Water and Sewer Agreement between the City and County as a target sewer service area.</p>		
<b>Purpose of the Project and Services/Benefits Provided:</b> <p>The project will reduce nitrogen and fecal coliform discharges to nearby natural systems, including the Wakulla Springshed, the Lake Lafayette Chain of Lakes, and the St. Marks River watershed. Converting wastewater treatment in the Centerville Trace subdivision to advanced wastewater treatment will reduce the total nitrogen load by 3,100 pounds per year.</p>		
<b>Population Served:</b> <p>Approximately 157 parcels with existing septic tanks will benefit from centralized sewer service. In addition, this project contributes to the reduction of nitrogen flowing to Wakulla Springs, an important local and state resource for tourism. Over 200,000 tourists visit Wakulla Springs State Park each year.</p>		



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**Project Dates for Construction/Operation:**

If allocated state and/or federal funding, design, engineering, and permitting of the system would occur in FY2017 and FY2018.

**FUNDING REQUESTS**

**Funding Requested:**

Total Funding Requested: \$1 million

- Pump station site acquisition: \$275,000
- Connection survey, system design, and permit applications: \$725,000

**PRESENT OR PENDING FUNDING SOURCES (INCLUDING COUNTY)**

Source:		Amount:	
Source:		Amount:	
Source:		Amount:	



# Leon County Board of County Commissioners

## 2017 Legislative Priorities Information Form

### CONTACT INFORMATION

<b>Department:</b>	Public Works	<b>Division:</b>	Engineering Services
<b>Contact Person:</b>	Theresa Heiker	<b>Title:</b>	Stormwater Management Coord.
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:HeikerT@LeonCountyFL.gov">HeikerT@LeonCountyFL.gov</a>	<b>Phone:</b>	850-606-1526

### APPROPRIATION REQUEST

<b>Project Title:</b>	Fred George Wetland Restoration		
<b>Program Category:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Criminal & Civil Justice	<input type="checkbox"/> Health & Human Services	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture & Natural Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Tourism & Economic Development	
	<input type="checkbox"/> General Government/Operations	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	
<b>Strategic Plan Alignment:</b>	(EN1) - Protect our water supply, conserve environmentally sensitive lands, safeguard the health of our natural ecosystems, and protect our water quality, including the Floridan Aquifer, from local and upstream pollution. (rev. 2013) (Q1) - Maintain and enhance our recreational offerings associated with parks and greenway system for our families, visitors and residents. (rev. 2013)		
<b>Project Description:</b> This request is for one-time construction funds to re-grade the existing topography of the project site and to intercept debris at two major inflow points in Fred George Sink, a karst feature located within the Ochlockonee River watershed and the Wakulla Springs basin area. Leon County received a \$377,000 grant from the Florida Communities Trust in 2009 for acquisition of this site.			
<b>Purpose of the Project and Services/Benefits Provided:</b> By providing enhanced water quality treatment of runoff and debris interception prior to release into sinks, this project will restore wildlife habitat, rehydrate wetlands, and improve discharge into the Floridan aquifer and will directly benefit the Wakulla Springs springshed. The need for this project has been identified in the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's draft Upper Wakulla River and Wakulla Springs Basin Management Action Plan. Approximately 65 acres of the park wetland area will benefit from the grade restoration effort. This project is expected to remove 5 tons of floatable debris entering Fred George Sink each year.			
<b>Population Served:</b> The Fred George Greenway was acquired in 2009 through joint funding from Florida Communities Trust, Blueprint 2000, and County funding. Construction of a museum, nature center, baseball field, multi-purpose field, nature trails, and associated improvements is currently underway. This project will enhance the Fred George Basin Greenway for all County residents and visitors to the site.			
<b>Project Dates for Construction/Operation:</b> If allocated state and/or federal funding, engineering and permitting would occur in FY2017 and FY 2018. Construction would be anticipated in FY2019, or upon completion of the permitting process.			

**Leon County Board of County Commissioners**

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FUNDING REQUESTS	
<b>Funding Requested:</b>	<u>Total Funding Requested: \$1 million</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engineering and permitting: \$200,000</li> <li>• Construction of debris interceptors: \$550,000</li> <li>• Site grading and stabilization: \$175,000</li> <li>• Wetland plantings: \$75,000</li> </ul>

PRESENT OR PENDING FUNDING SOURCES (INCLUDING COUNTY)			
Source:		Amount:	
Source:		Amount:	
Source:		Amount:	



# Leon County Board of County Commissioners

## 2017 Legislative Priorities Information Form

### CONTACT INFORMATION

<b>Department:</b>	PLACE	<b>Division:</b>	Blueprint 2000
<b>Contact Person:</b>	Ben Pingree	<b>Title:</b>	Director
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:Ben.Pingree@Blueprint2000.org">Ben.Pingree@Blueprint2000.org</a>	<b>Phone:</b>	850-219-1060

### APPROPRIATION REQUEST

<b>Project Title:</b>	Capital Circle Southwest	
<b>Program Category:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Criminal & Civil Justice	<input type="checkbox"/> Health & Human Services
	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture & Natural Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tourism & Economic Development
	<input type="checkbox"/> General Government/Operations	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
<b>Strategic Plan Alignment:</b>	(EC1) - Integrate infrastructure, transportation, redevelopment opportunities and community planning to create the sense of place which attracts talent. (2012) (G2) - Sustain a culture of performance, and deliver effective, efficient services that exceed expectations and demonstrate value. (2012) (G5) - Exercise responsible stewardship of County resources, sound financial management, and ensure that the provision of services and community enhancements are done in a fair and equitable manner. (2012)	

#### Project Description:

This project will provide for the construction of Capital Circle Southwest (SR 263) from north of Orange Avenue (SR 371) to Crawfordville Road (SR 61/US319), a distance of approximately six miles. This segment is the final piece of a 20-year, 17.5 mile roadway expansion project, for which approximately \$153 million in construction costs have already been spent. The overall project has been the result of a successful partnership between Leon County, the City of Tallahassee, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), and the Federal Highway Administration. This segment completes the larger project and improves critical transportation connections to the Tallahassee International Airport, Florida State University, Florida A&M University, and the Downtown Business District. This final segment is the number 1 priority for the Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency and is listed as the number 2 priority on the Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency Regional Mobility Plan. The PD&E Study for this segment was finalized in spring 2016.

The existing 2-lane, rural road section of Capital Circle Southwest will be reconstructed to a 6-lane urban curb and gutter facility with an enclosed drainage system and new stormwater ponds. The 6-lane roadway will be flanked by paved bike lanes, a 10 foot wide multi-use trail on one side and a six foot wide concrete sidewalk on the other side. Extensive landscaping will be installed along the medians and within the right-of-way of the corridor. New overhead lighting will also be installed. Signalized intersections will be constructed at Orange Avenue, the main entrance of the Tallahassee Regional Airport and at Springhill Road.

This six mile project has been divided into two segments with both segments currently being designed under the supervision of the Florida Department of Transportation, District Three. Segment 1 is from Springhill Road to Crawfordville Road. The estimated cost for Segment 1 is \$50.5 million which is broken down into \$31.0 million for right-of-way acquisition and \$19.5 million for construction. Segment 2 is from Orange Avenue to Springhill Road and includes the access to the Airport. Segment 2 is estimated to be \$84.5 million which is broken down into \$30.0 million for right-of-way acquisition and \$54.5 million for construction.

## Leon County Board of County Commissioners

### 2017 Legislative Proposal

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The portion of Capital Circle Southwest from I-10 to the Tallahassee International Airport is designated as part of Florida's Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) which is vital for transporting both people and goods between major commercial facilities such as airports, rail terminals and seaports. Segment 2 of the Capital Circle Southwest project is a part of this SIS facility. Recognizing this important factor, the FDOT has identified \$44.1 million for the construction of this segment. The FDOT has also identified funding in the amount of \$22.2 million for right of way acquisition for the entire project from Crawfordville Road to Orange Avenue. As a result, the total amount requested is for the balance of the project cost, a total of \$68.7 million (\$38.8 million for right of way and \$29.9 million for construction).

#### **Purpose of the Project and Services/Benefits Provided:**

Reconstruction of this 6 mile segment of Capital Circle Southwest will service the traveling public with convenient access to Tallahassee International Airport and businesses and communities located in the southwest quadrant of Leon County. This project also includes the first leg of the Airport Gateway, the southern entrance into Tallahassee from the Airport into the Universities and the Downtown Business District. The project stimulates economic development by providing jobs in construction and associated professional services and by improving access to the Airport, Innovation Park, Tallahassee Museum, and undeveloped properties. Efficient transportation between these major commercial facilities will benefit city, county and state agencies with potential for new businesses and developments along the corridor to service and handle/store goods.

The 6-lane facility will provide additional vehicular capacity, and the multi-use trail and sidewalk will provide safe facilities for pedestrians and bicyclists as well as complete an adopted greenway project in the Tallahassee-Leon County Greenways Master Plan and connect to the Capital City to the Sea Regional Trail, a trail included in the State of Florida's Priority Trail Network. The project terminates at Crawfordville Road, which provides a direct connection to the Gulf Coast communities and to the beaches. In summary, this project will meet many local and state goals by investing in safer and more sustainable infrastructure that will encourage economic growth and healthier lifestyles.

#### **Population Served:**

The population served by the reconstruction of this 6 mile segment of Capital Circle Southwest includes the businesses and neighborhoods that currently surround this segment of the roadway as well as those traveling to the Tallahassee International Airport, south to the beaches or circling the downtown area of Tallahassee via Capital Circle Southwest. The trail and sidewalk will attract active biking, walking and running enthusiasts while creating a pedestrian friendly environment.

#### **Project Dates for Construction/Operation:**

Both segments of Capital Circle Southwest (Segment 1 - north of Orange Avenue to south of Springhill Road and Segment 2 - south of Springhill Road to Crawfordville Road) are currently being designed under the direction of District Three at the FDOT. The design work should be complete by the end of calendar year 2016. FDOT has identified \$44.1 million in 2021 for the construction of this segment.

### FUNDING REQUESTS

#### **Funding Requested:**

Total Funding Requested: \$68.7 million

Segment 1 (Springhill Road to Crawfordville Road):

- Right-of-Way Acquisition: \$14.9 million
- Construction: \$19.5 million

Segment 2 (Orange Avenue to Springhill Road):

- Right-of-Way Acquisition: \$23.9 million
- Construction: \$10.4 million

**Leon County Board of County Commissioners**

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PRESENT OR PENDING FUNDING SOURCES (INCLUDING COUNTY)			
Source:	Florida Department of Transportation	Amount:	<u>Segment 1:</u> \$16.1 million (ROW – FY2018-2020)
Source:	Florida Department of Transportation	Amount:	<u>Segment 2:</u> \$6.1 million (ROW – FY2017) \$44.1 million (Construction)
Source:		Amount:	

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# Leon County Board of County Commissioners

## 2017 Legislative Priorities Information Form

### CONTACT INFORMATION

<b>Department:</b>	PLACE	<b>Division:</b>	N/A
<b>Contact Person:</b>	Ben Pingree	<b>Title:</b>	Director
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:Ben.Pingree@Blueprint2000.org">Ben.Pingree@Blueprint2000.org</a>	<b>Phone:</b>	850-219-1060

### APPROPRIATION REQUEST

<b>Project Title:</b>	Woodville Highway	
<b>Program Category:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Criminal & Civil Justice	<input type="checkbox"/> Health & Human Services
	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture & Natural Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tourism & Economic Development
	<input type="checkbox"/> General Government/Operations	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
<b>Strategic Plan Alignment:</b>	(EC1) - Integrate infrastructure, transportation, redevelopment opportunities and community planning to create the sense of place which attracts talent. (2012) (G2) - Sustain a culture of performance, and deliver effective, efficient services that exceed expectations and demonstrate value. (2012) (G5) - Exercise responsible stewardship of County resources, sound financial management, and ensure that the provision of services and community enhancements are done in a fair and equitable manner. (2012)	

#### Project Description:

The Woodville Highway project has been a priority of the Board for the past several years. This funding request includes the construction of Woodville Highway to widen the existing two-lane segment to four lanes from Paul Russell Road to Capital Circle and significantly improve the bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure along the roadway. Staff has successfully worked with the Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency (CRPTA) to list this project as the number one priority of the Regional Mobility Plan and worked with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to include funding in its five-year work plan for the right-of-way acquisition of this project.

In partnership with the CRTPA and FDOT, the Board approved funding for a Woodville Highway Corridor Master Plan and a Project Development and Environment (PD&E) study for this portion of the road. The Corridor Master Plan was completed in November 2011 and the PD&E Study was completed July 2013. FDOT has led and funded the design of the project and have reached the 90% complete milestone. Funding for right-of-way acquisition is programmed in the FDOT five-year work plan and will begin in FY 2018.

The Southside Gateway Enrichment Project is one of the Blueprint infrastructure projects included in the 2020-2040 extension of the penny sales tax. The Blueprint project includes the widening of Woodville Highway from Capital Circle to Tram Road and also includes highway beautification along Crawfordville Highway and enhancements to pedestrian and bicycle access with sidewalks along Ross and Shelfer Roads, linking Woodville and Crawfordville Highways. Blueprint staff has worked with FDOT to incorporate the gateway elements into the design of Woodville Highway in order achieve the intent of the Blueprint project to the greatest extent possible. Blueprint has committed \$1.05 million in construction funding to enhance the roadway and trail. However, because the Blueprint project is broader in scope than the Woodville Highway widening project there are remaining elements left to construct after the completion of the roadway expansion. These remaining elements include the gateway enhancements, sidewalk connections on Ross and Shelfer Roads, landscaping and stormwater pond improvements on Crawfordville Highway. Achieving additional funding from an outside source, such as a legislative appropriation, will enable the full realization



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of this project. Local sales tax revenues can be used to complete the previously listed remaining elements.

There are 28 infrastructure projects which Blueprint has been charged with completing over the 20 year period of the 2020 penny sales tax and \$514 million in projected revenues. At the time of voter approval of the 2020 penny sales tax, the total cost of these projects exceeded the projected revenues from the twenty-year sales tax levy. Available funding will dictate the implementation schedules of these projects; however, the completion of all projects remains contingent on Blueprint's ability to leverage funding and create project partnerships to secure outside dollars. Securing state funding for the Woodville Highway widening project will greatly assist Blueprint in completing the list of sales tax projects. Leveraging this outside funding source will also help to expedite the Woodville Highway project and more quickly provide benefits including increased safety and improved quality of life to the community.

**Purpose of the Project and Services/Benefits Provided:**

Woodville Highway connects to major arterial roadways including Capital Circle and Monroe Street and serves as a major evacuation route from the Coastal Highway (US 98) as well as the central coastal panhandle. In addition, this road is frequented by residents of Wakulla County that work in Leon County. It is anticipated that the volume of traffic will continue to increase as the Capital Circle Office Complex, which houses a number of state agencies, continues to expand. At the completion of this project, it is anticipated that there will be significant improvement in commuter access through southern Leon County and northern Wakulla County, improved freight movement from the coast, and improved hurricane evacuation options.

Leon County and the City of Tallahassee, through their joint "Southern Strategy" are attempting to spur economic growth in the southern area of the city/county with a combination of roadway improvements, sector planning efforts, growth management, and economic development incentives. This project would contribute significantly to that goal.

**Population Served:**

All regional coastal residents of neighboring counties will benefit from this project. This road serves as one of two links to the coast via Wakulla County.

**Project Dates for Construction/Operation:**

Construction commencement will be determined at a future date by FDOT based on the time necessary for the completion of project design and right-of-way acquisition.

**FUNDING REQUESTS****Funding Requested:**

\$23.1 million (construction phase)

**PRESENT OR PENDING FUNDING SOURCES (INCLUDING COUNTY)**

Source:	Florida Department of Transportation	Amount:	\$1.98 million (design)
Source:	Florida Department of Transportation	Amount:	\$10 million (ROW – FY2018-FY2021)
Source:	Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency	Amount:	\$1.05 million (construction)



# Leon County Board of County Commissioners

## 2017 Legislative Priorities Information Form

### CONTACT INFORMATION

<b>Department:</b>	Public Works	<b>Division:</b>	N/A
<b>Contact Person:</b>	Tony Park	<b>Title:</b>	Director
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:ParkT@LeonCountyFL.gov">ParkT@LeonCountyFL.gov</a>	<b>Phone:</b>	850-606-1537

### APPROPRIATION REQUEST

<b>Project Title:</b>	Veterans Memorial Drive (CR 59) Bridge Replacement	
<b>Program Category:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Criminal & Civil Justice	<input type="checkbox"/> Health & Human Services
	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture & Natural Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Tourism & Economic Development
	<input type="checkbox"/> General Government/Operations	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
<b>Strategic Plan Alignment:</b>	(Q2) - Provide essential public safety infrastructure and services which ensure the safety of the entire community. (2012) (G2) - Sustain a culture of performance, and deliver effective, efficient services that exceed expectations and demonstrate value. (2012)	

#### Project Description:

This project seeks legislative funding for the replacement of a bridge on Veterans Memorial Drive (CR 59), a double 14-foot wide by 8-foot tall pipe-arch bridge that has reached the point that it may be suited for replacement. Although this bridge is located along a federal aid roadway, it has historically ranked low on FDOT's ranking list for bridge replacement funding. Under this request, staff will seek other state and federal funding, including pursuing a direct legislative appropriation, to support this project.

#### Purpose of the Project and Services/Benefits Provided:

This project will ensure that Veterans Memorial Drive (CR 59) can continue to be used for interstate commerce and hurricane evacuation. Loss of the route would hinder movement out of storm surge areas in Jefferson County as well as Leon County. Average daily traffic currently using the roadway segment has been measured at 1,823 vehicles, and use of the roadway as a hurricane evacuation route can be expected to double the traffic volume. Failure of the roadway would result in an 18-mile detour.

#### Population Served:

This project will benefit all residents of and visitors to Leon County, as well as residents of other nearby areas in the event of a disaster that requires emergency evacuation.

#### Project Dates for Construction/Operation:

If funded, construction could begin within 8 months of grant award and completed within 3 months.

### FUNDING REQUESTS

<b>Funding Requested:</b>	\$530,000
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PRESENT OR PENDING FUNDING SOURCES (INCLUDING COUNTY)			
Source:	Leon County	Amount:	\$500,000 (future Stormwater Structure Preventive Maintenance funding)
Source:		Amount:	
Source:		Amount:	



# Leon County Board of County Commissioners

## 2017 Legislative Priorities Information Form

### CONTACT INFORMATION

<b>Department:</b>	Public Works	<b>Division:</b>	N/A
<b>Contact Person:</b>	Robert Mills	<b>Title:</b>	Assistant Director
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:MillsRo@LeonCountyFL.gov">MillsRo@LeonCountyFL.gov</a>	<b>Phone:</b>	850-606-1810

### APPROPRIATION REQUEST

<b>Project Title:</b>	Apalachee Regional Park Master Plan Implementation	
<b>Program Category:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Criminal & Civil Justice	<input type="checkbox"/> Health & Human Services
	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture & Natural Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tourism & Economic Development
	<input type="checkbox"/> General Government/Operations	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
<b>Strategic Plan Alignment:</b>	<p>(Q1) - Maintain and enhance our recreational offerings associated with parks and greenway system for our families, visitors and residents. (rev. 2013)</p> <p>(EC1) - Integrate infrastructure, transportation, redevelopment opportunities and community planning to create the sense of place which attracts talent. (2012)</p> <p>(EC4) - Grow our tourism economy, its economic impact and the jobs it supports, including: being a regional hub for sports and cultural activities. (2012)</p> <p>Expand recreational amenities, including:</p> <p>(Q1, EC1, EC4) - Develop Apalachee Facility master plan to accommodate year-round events (rev. 2013)</p>	
<b>Project Description:</b> <p>This request is for design and engineering funds for future park improvements at the Apalachee Regional Park. At the April 28, 2015 Budget Workshop, the Board directed staff to formally proceed with the permanent closure of the landfill and to prepare a master plan for enhancing the Apalachee Regional Park. Wood+Partners will perform initial data collection and site analysis to identify opportunities and constraints resulting in a preliminary conceptual master plan. The community will be actively engaged in creating a preliminary needs assessment. Public involvement is an essential element of the master planning process, with focus groups, crowd sourcing, and engagement of key stakeholders to develop facility programming. After thorough input has been collected, a conceptual master plan and related estimates of construction costs and timelines will be developed.</p>		
<b>Purpose of the Project and Services/Benefits Provided:</b> <p>Master planning and future construction of the park improvements contemplated in the master plan will enhance the Apalachee Regional Park and will assist the facility's evolution as a regional recreational amenity. The park currently features four full size multi-purpose fields, a radio-control airplane landing strip and facility, and a premier cross country facility also used for hiking and biking in the off-season. In FY 2016, cross country running events at the Apalachee Regional Park attracted 9,500 visitors, generating 4,500 room nights and \$3.7 million in direct spending. Future improvements contemplated in the master plan will allow Apalachee Regional Park to generate additional event-based tourism by accommodating large scale events year-round.</p>		

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**Population Served:**

This project will directly benefit all residents of Leon County by enhancing our community's recreational offerings and generating additional year-round tourism in the County.

**Project Dates for Construction/Operation:**

If allocated state and/or federal funding, design and engineering would occur in FY2017 and FY 2018 after the finalization of the Apalachee Regional Park Master Plan.

**FUNDING REQUESTS**

**Funding Requested:**

\$500,000

**PRESENT OR PENDING FUNDING SOURCES (INCLUDING COUNTY)**

Source:	Leon County	Amount:	\$250,000
Source:		Amount:	
Source:		Amount:	



# Leon County Board of County Commissioners

## 2017 Legislative Priorities Information Form

### CONTACT INFORMATION

<b>Department:</b>	Public Works	<b>Division:</b>	N/A
<b>Contact Person:</b>	Tony Park	<b>Title:</b>	Director
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:ParkT@LeonCountyFL.gov">ParkT@LeonCountyFL.gov</a>	<b>Phone:</b>	850-606-1537

### APPROPRIATION REQUEST

<b>Project Title:</b>	Orchard Pond Greenway Trail, Phase II	
<b>Program Category:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Criminal & Civil Justice	<input type="checkbox"/> Health & Human Services
	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture & Natural Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Tourism & Economic Development
	<input type="checkbox"/> General Government/Operations	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
<b>Strategic Plan Alignment:</b>	(EC1) - Integrate infrastructure, transportation, redevelopment opportunities and community planning to create the sense of place which attracts talent. (2012) (EN4) - Reduce our carbon footprint, realize energy efficiencies, and be a catalyst for renewable energy, including: solar. (2012) (Q1) - Maintain and enhance our recreational offerings associated with parks and greenway system for our families, visitors and residents. (rev. 2013) (G2) - Sustain a culture of performance, and deliver effective, efficient services that exceed expectations and demonstrate value. (2012)	
<b>Project Description:</b> <p>This proposed legislative priority seeks legislative funding to support the design and construction of the Orchard Pond Greenway Trail, Phase II. This trail segment will be a twelve foot paved multi-use trail parallel to the Orchard Pond Parkway from the eastern parking area to Meridian Road, adding approximately 1.4 miles to the overall trail. The actual alignment of the trail segment has not yet been established and will require survey, design, permitting and construction.</p> <p>Prior to the conveyance of the property to Leon County, the previous property owner requested funding during the past two legislative sessions (2015 and 2016) to help fund the construction of the trail. However, in both instances the funding was included in the approved budgets, but was ultimately vetoed by the Governor. In light of the County now being the property owner for the proposed trail enhancements, staff recommends an appropriation request be made during the upcoming legislative session for Phase II of the project.</p>		
<b>Purpose of the Project and Services/Benefits Provided:</b> <p>This project will create recreational trails to be utilized as horse, pedestrian and bike trails adjoining the recently completed Orchard Pond Parkway. Phase II is the eastern segment of the trailhead and will connect to the Phase I segment, or the western part of the trail.</p>		

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**Population Served:**

This project will benefit all residents of and visitors to Leon County. The trail will be open for use to the general public.

**Project Dates for Construction/Operation:**

If funded, design, engineering, permitting, and construction of the trail segment would occur in FY2017 and FY2018.

FUNDING REQUESTS	
<b>Funding Requested:</b>	\$300,000

PRESENT OR PENDING FUNDING SOURCES (INCLUDING COUNTY)			
Source:	Leon County	Amount:	TBD (in-kind)
Source:		Amount:	
Source:		Amount:	



# Leon County Board of County Commissioners

## 2017 Legislative Priorities Information Form

### CONTACT INFORMATION

<b>Department:</b>	PLACE	<b>Division:</b>	Office of Economic Vitality
<b>Contact Person:</b>	Cristina Paredes	<b>Title:</b>	Deputy Director
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:CParedes@OEVforBusiness.org">CParedes@OEVforBusiness.org</a>	<b>Phone:</b>	850-300-7555

### APPROPRIATION REQUEST

<b>Project Title:</b>	Leon Works Junior Apprenticeship Program	
<b>Program Category:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Criminal & Civil Justice	<input type="checkbox"/> Health & Human Services
	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture & Natural Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tourism & Economic Development
	<input type="checkbox"/> General Government/Operations	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
<b>Strategic Plan Alignment:</b>	<p>(EC2) - Support business expansion and job creation, including: the implementation of the Leon County 2012 Job Creation Action Plan, to include evaluating the small business credit program. (2012)</p> <p>(EC6) - Ensure the provision of the most basic services to our citizens most in need so that we have a “ready workforce.” (2012)</p> <p>(EC2, EC6) - Create a proposed structure for an apprenticeship-like program for the Board’s consideration during the budget process in support of local existing academic programs in skilled career fields such as fleet management, building maintenance/ construction, computer technology, graphic design, public safety, and other fields that require more than a high school diploma but less than a four-year degree. (2016)</p>	

#### Project Description:

Working closely with the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO), Leon County identified that the Leon-Gadsden-Wakulla County area will have over 27,000 skilled job openings in a variety of industries in the next six years. Many of these positions will go unfilled simply because the region lacks workers with the needed skills and qualifications. The Leon Works Junior Apprenticeship Program is part of a comprehensive initiative designed to both raise awareness about careers in the skilled workforce and to provide emerging students with entry-level skills training and work experience prior to entering the private workforce. Through this program, Leon County provides internship opportunities matching many of the academic programs currently offered by local colleges, which will allow students the ability to gain entry-level skills training on the job prior to entering the private workforce.

#### Purpose of the Project and Services/Benefits Provided:

This appropriation request is to support the Leon Works Junior Apprenticeship Program, an expansion of Leon County’s internship offerings in skilled career fields. Beyond simply raising awareness about careers in the skilled workforce, it is imperative that opportunities exist in the community for early-career workers to gain hands-on experience in the workplace. For the past several years Leon County has partnered with Tallahassee Community College and North Florida Community College to establish internships in the County’s EMS division for EMS Technology students. Many additional opportunities exist for the County to offer internships in support of local colleges’ existing academic programs in skilled career fields such as building construction, computer technology, graphic design, public safety, and other fields that require more than a high school diploma but less than a four-year degree. This request seeks a partnership with the State of Florida to provide these opportunities for entry-level skills training for students prior to entering the workforce.



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The State of Florida currently provides grant funding through CareerSource Florida for entry-level employee skills training; however, only private businesses are eligible to receive these funds. Leon County can provide essentially the same benefit with similar funding support – the County can help students develop entry-level skills on the job prior to graduating from a local college or technical center.

### Population Served:

This program will target local high school students and students currently enrolled in local colleges and technical centers.

### Project Dates for Construction/Operation:

October 1, 2017 through September 30, 2018.

### FUNDING REQUESTS

#### Funding Requested:

\$70,000

### PRESENT OR PENDING FUNDING SOURCES (INCLUDING COUNTY)

Source:	Leon County	Amount:	TBD (in-kind operational support)
Source:		Amount:	
Source:		Amount:	



# Leon County Board of County Commissioners

## 2017 Legislative Priorities Information Form

### CONTACT INFORMATION

<b>Department:</b>	County Administration	<b>Division:</b>	Strategic Initiatives
<b>Contact Person:</b>	Andy Johnson	<b>Title:</b>	Assistant to the County Administrator
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:JohnsonAn@LeonCountyFL.gov">JohnsonAn@LeonCountyFL.gov</a>	<b>Phone:</b>	850-606-5383

### APPROPRIATION REQUEST

<b>Project Title:</b>	Pre-Disaster Hazard Mitigation	
<b>Program Category:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Criminal & Civil Justice	<input type="checkbox"/> Health & Human Services
	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture & Natural Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Tourism & Economic Development
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General Government/Operations	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
<b>Strategic Plan Alignment:</b>	<p>(Q2) - Provide essential public safety infrastructure and services which ensure the safety of the entire community. (2012)</p> <p>(G2) - Sustain a culture of performance, and deliver effective, efficient services that exceed expectations and demonstrate value. (2012)</p> <p>(G5) - Exercise responsible stewardship of County resources, sound financial management, and ensure that the provision of services and community enhancements are done in a fair and equitable manner. (2012)</p>	
<b>Project Description:</b> <p>This project requests funding support to improve the disaster resistance of critical facilities. The Tallahassee-Leon County Local Mitigation Strategy identifies a variety of critical facilities including emergency shelters, solid waste facilities, law enforcement and first response facilities, and others. Improvements contemplated under this project may include the installation of backup electrical generators and structural hardening.</p> <p>Leon County is currently in the process of compiling an After Action Report for Hurricane Hermine. Staff anticipates that this report will include findings and recommendations related to pre-disaster hazard mitigation. This proposed legislative priority seeks Board approval to seek state and federal funding for such mitigation projects with a specific project scope and requested funding amount to be determined later. If successful in seeking legislative funding, any associated grant agreements and cost-sharing requirements would be brought back to the Board for approval.</p>		
<b>Purpose of the Project and Services/Benefits Provided:</b> <p>This project seeks to strengthen the disaster resistance of critical facilities in Leon County, ensuring that these facilities are able to continue operations in the event of severe winds, flooding, and/or loss of main electrical power. Critical facilities provide essential services in the event of an emergency and also play a vital role during the aftermath of a destructive storm.</p>		
<b>Population Served:</b> <p>This project will benefit all residents of Leon County, as well as potential evacuees to Leon County from other areas affected by a disaster.</p>		
<b>Project Dates for Construction/Operation:</b> <p>If awarded funding, construction and/or installation of improvements would occur in FY2017 and FY 2018.</p>		

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FUNDING REQUESTS	
<b>Funding Requested:</b>	TBD

PRESENT OR PENDING FUNDING SOURCES (INCLUDING COUNTY)			
Source:		Amount:	
Source:		Amount:	
Source:		Amount:	



# Leon County Board of County Commissioners

## 2017 Legislative Priorities Information Form

### CONTACT INFORMATION

<b>Department:</b>	County Administration	<b>Division:</b>	N/A
<b>Contact Person:</b>	Wanda Hunter	<b>Title:</b>	Assistant County Administrator
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:HunterW@LeonCountyFL.gov">HunterW@LeonCountyFL.gov</a>	<b>Phone:</b>	850-606-5380

### APPROPRIATION REQUEST

<b>Project Title:</b>	Support The Apalachee Center Inc.'s Funding Request for Eight Short-term Residential Treatment Beds	
<b>Program Category:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Criminal & Civil Justice	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Health & Human Services
	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture & Natural Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Tourism & Economic Development
	<input type="checkbox"/> General Government/Operations	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
<b>Strategic Plan Alignment:</b>	<p>(Q3) - Maintain and further develop programs and partnerships necessary to support and promote a healthier community, including: access to health care and community-based human services. (rev. 2013)</p> <p>(G2) - Sustain a culture of performance, and deliver effective, efficient services that exceed expectations and demonstrate value. (2012)</p>	

#### Project Description:

As reported to the Board during the May 24, 2016 meeting, The Apalachee Center intends to seek state legislative funding during the 2017 Legislative Session to convert eight crisis stabilization beds to costlier short-term residential treatment beds. This proposed legislative priority reflects the Board's direction to include The Apalachee Center Inc.'s \$1.0 million funding request in the Board's 2017 Legislative Priorities. The Apalachee Center does not intend to seek County financial support for this initiative.

#### Purpose of the Project and Services/Benefits Provided:

Since 2008, Apalachee Center has received state funding to maintain a four-bed Short term Residential Treatment (SRT) program. This program is a 24-hour locked program that maintains the staffing and care standards of a Baker Act receiving unit, but is able to maintain clients for up to six months while locating appropriate placement and stabilizing psychiatric symptoms. For the past five years, the 4-bed SRT at Apalachee Center has maintained an average length of stay of 47.56 days, has admitted an average of 31.6 clients annually (total of 158), and has maintained an average occupancy rate of 96.8%. These 158 clients would otherwise have been sent to Florida State Hospital, or awaited such discharge within the Crisis Stabilization Unit, thereby taking needed beds off-line for more acute clients.

The recent addition of crisis stabilization beds by other providers in the local market combined with the clear need for additional short-term residential treatment beds as identified in the Big Bend Community Based Care Needs Assessment presents an opportunity for the 2017 legislative session. This increase will allow Apalachee to treat, on average, an additional 60 clients annually for a longer period of time and with more ability to stabilize and identify discharge options. Since Apalachee currently transfers approximately 30 clients annually to Florida State Hospital (33 in FY 14/15), the addition of eight short-term residential treatment beds to the market should allow for considerably more treatment within the community for residents of this region and close a significant gap in the local behavioral health system.

## Leon County Board of County Commissioners

2017 Legislative Proposal

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### Population Served:

This project will benefit residents of Leon County and the surrounding region by providing additional local capacity for short-term residential treatment.

### Project Dates for Construction/Operation:

N/A.

### FUNDING REQUESTS

#### Funding Requested:

\$1 million

### PRESENT OR PENDING FUNDING SOURCES (INCLUDING COUNTY)

Source:		Amount:	
Source:		Amount:	
Source:		Amount:	



# Leon County Board of County Commissioners

## 2017 Legislative Priorities Information Form

### CONTACT INFORMATION

<b>Department:</b>	PLACE	<b>Division:</b>	Office of Economic Vitality
<b>Contact Person:</b>	Cristina Paredes	<b>Title:</b>	Deputy Director
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:CParedes@OEVforBusiness.org">CParedes@OEVforBusiness.org</a>	<b>Phone:</b>	850-300-7555

### APPROPRIATION REQUEST

<b>Project Title:</b>	Support Higher Education Partners' Funding Requests	
<b>Program Category:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Criminal & Civil Justice	<input type="checkbox"/> Health & Human Services
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture & Natural Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tourism & Economic Development
	<input type="checkbox"/> General Government/Operations	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
<b>Strategic Plan Alignment:</b>	<p>(EC1) - Integrate infrastructure, transportation, redevelopment opportunities and community planning to create the sense of place which attracts talent. (2012)</p> <p>(EC3) - Strengthen our partnerships with our institutions of higher learning to encourage entrepreneurship and increase technology transfer and commercialization opportunities, including: the Leon County Research and Development Authority at Innovation Park. (2012) (rev. 2015)</p> <p>(EC4) - Grow our tourism economy, its economic impact and the jobs it supports, including: being a regional hub for sports and cultural activities. (2012)</p> <p>(G2) - Sustain a culture of performance, and deliver effective, efficient services that exceed expectations and demonstrate value. (2012)</p>	
<b>Project Description:</b> <p>This proposed legislative priority seeks the Board's support for our higher education partners' funding requests during the 2017 Legislative Session. During the 2016 session, FAMU, FSU, and TCC each received legislative funding through the state's Public Education Capital Outlay (PECO) program. These projects include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$12 million for the FSU Earth Ocean Atmospheric Sciences Building (Phase I)</li> <li>• \$6.5 million for FAMU's Student Affairs Building</li> <li>• \$1.5 million for the Black Student Union at FSU</li> <li>• \$1 million for renovations to TCC's central utility plant</li> </ul> <p>In addition, the legislature appropriated \$10 million in preeminence funding to FSU, for a total of \$35 million in annual recurring preeminence funding. In 2017, FSU is anticipated to request additional programmatic funding to enhance its student to faculty ratio, enhance class offerings, and increase the number and quality of its graduate students. Staff also anticipates each university to request PECO funding for capital projects.</p>		
<b>Purpose of the Project and Services/Benefits Provided:</b> <p>Nearly 6,000 graduates emerge annually from the Capital City's institutes of higher education and infuse the local economy with fresh ideas and untapped potential. Support for these community partners' funding requests will enhance our community's ability to continue providing the best learning opportunities for students to grow and succeed.</p>		

## Leon County Board of County Commissioners

2017 Legislative Proposal

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### Population Served:

This project will primarily benefit students of the higher education institutions in our community, but will also benefit local businesses due to the infusion of non-local funding into our community.

### Project Dates for Construction/Operation:

N/A.

### FUNDING REQUESTS

#### Funding Requested:

Based on higher education partners' requests

### PRESENT OR PENDING FUNDING SOURCES (INCLUDING COUNTY)

Source:		Amount:	
Source:		Amount:	
Source:		Amount:	



# Leon County Board of County Commissioners

## 2017 Legislative Priorities Information Form

### CONTACT INFORMATION

<b>Department:</b>	County Administration	<b>Division:</b>	Strategic Initiatives
<b>Contact Person:</b>	Andy Johnson	<b>Title:</b>	Assistant to the County Administrator
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:JohnsonAn@LeonCountyFL.gov">JohnsonAn@LeonCountyFL.gov</a>	<b>Phone:</b>	850-606-5383

### POLICY REQUEST

<input type="checkbox"/> Federal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State
<b>Topic/Project Title:</b>	Protection of the State Workforce
<b>Strategic Plan Alignment:</b>	(EC7) - Promote the local economy by protecting jobs and identifying local purchasing, contracting and hiring opportunities. (2013)

### PROBLEM/NEED

#### IDENTIFY EFFECT ON COUNTY PROGRAMS/SERVICES AND THE ECONOMIC OR FISCAL IMPACT

<b>Description:</b>	<p>State workers comprise a substantial percentage of Leon County's population contributing to our community, economy and diversity. Protecting the jobs of these workers from privatization and advocating for fair wages has always been a top priority of the Board during the legislative cycle.</p> <p>The FY16/17 state budget did not increase state employee health insurance premiums, which remain at \$50 per month for individual coverage and \$180 per month for family coverage for most employees. However, there have been attempts in the past few sessions to cap the state's total spending on employee health insurance and increase health insurance premiums of state employees. An unsuccessful bill was considered last session also included a new health insurance system with four different benefit levels from which state employees could choose from, and would have raised the employee contribution toward the state's HMO plan, which covers more than 50% of all state employees. Staff will monitor for similar legislation affecting state employee health insurance during the 2017 session.</p> <p>During the past several sessions, the Legislature has sought to reform the Florida Retirement System (FRS). FRS is the primary retirement plan for public sector employees, 80% of which are county government agencies, district school boards, community colleges, and universities. In several recent years bills have been introduced to reform the FRS by shifting the state workforce away from the defined-benefit plan toward a defined-contribution plan. Staff will continue to closely monitor any movement related to the issue in 2016.</p>
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### RECOMMENDED CHANGE IN LAW OR STATUTE (IF APPLICABLE)

<b>Current Statute of Reference:</b>	N/A
<b>Suggested New Language:</b>	N/A
<b>Recommended County Position:</b>	Support the protection of the state workforce and oppose any reductions to state employee benefits.



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# Leon County Board of County Commissioners

## 2017 Legislative Priorities Information Form

### CONTACT INFORMATION

<b>Department:</b>	County Administration	<b>Division:</b>	N/A
<b>Contact Person:</b>	Ken Morris	<b>Title:</b>	Assistant County Administrator
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:MorrisK@LeonCountyFL.gov">MorrisK@LeonCountyFL.gov</a>	<b>Phone:</b>	850-606-5300

### POLICY REQUEST

<input type="checkbox"/> Federal		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State	
Topic/Project Title:	Modification of the Eligibility for Levying the Local Option High Impact Tourist Development Tax to Include Counties that are Home to Preeminent State Research Universities as Designated by the Florida Legislature		
Strategic Plan Alignment:	(EC3) - Strengthen our partnerships with our institutions of higher learning to encourage entrepreneurship and increase technology transfer and commercialization opportunities, including: the Leon County Research and Development Authority at Innovation Park. (2012) (rev. 2015) (EC4) - Grow our tourism economy, its economic impact and the jobs it supports, including: being a regional hub for sports and cultural activities. (2012) (EC7) - Promote the local economy by protecting jobs and identifying local purchasing, contracting and hiring opportunities. (2013) (EC3, EC4, EC7) – 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 in order to levy a sixth cent to support the convention center and arena district. (2016)		

### PROBLEM/NEED

#### IDENTIFY EFFECT ON COUNTY PROGRAMS/SERVICES AND THE ECONOMIC OR FISCAL IMPACT

<b>Description:</b>	<p>Section 125.0104, F.S., authorizes five separate tourist development taxes that county governments may levy. Depending on a county's eligibility to levy, the tax rate applied to transient rental transactions varies from a minimum of three percent to a maximum of six percent. Proceeds from these levies are generally utilized by local governments to build tourist-related facilities and to promote and market tourism. One of these levies, the "High Tourism Impact Tax," is a discretionary (local option) one percent tax on transient rental transactions available to counties in which tourism is a significant component of the local economy.</p> <p>This policy request recommends a statutory revision to allow counties that are home to the main campus of a Preeminent State Research University to levy the High Tourism Impact Tax in support of these universities in recognition of their economic benefit through tourism. Currently, Florida State University (Leon County) and the University of Florida (Alachua County) have achieved designation as Preeminent State Research Universities by reaching certain standards of academic and research excellence set forth in Section 1001.7065, F.S. Florida's Preeminent State Research Universities generate immense national and international tourism activity through hosting conferences, graduation ceremonies, short-term academic programs and symposia, and other functions. Preeminent State Research Universities receive state support for the enhancement of the university's research capabilities by recruiting faculty who are members of National Academies; showcasing university research products and facilities; enhancing national recognition of their programs in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics; and ranking among the top public universities in the</p>
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# Leon County Board of County Commissioners

2017 Legislative Proposal

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	<p>nation. In turn, the growth in stature generates new tourism activity related to university activities.</p> <p>Florida State University recently completed the master planning of its Arena District and is currently engaged in a solicitation process with private developers for the \$400 million redevelopment of several downtown parcels in partnership with Leon County and the City of Tallahassee. The university's Arena District Master Plan calls for improvements to the Donald L. Tucker Civic Center along with the development of a convention center, a full-service hotel, the relocation of the College of Business, new entrepreneurial spaces, future in-fill academic buildings, and other elements in an effort to modernize its facilities and grow the campus footprint. A convention center in the Arena District would serve the many business, civic, advocacy, and academic organizations which are drawn to the state capitol and its two premier institutions of higher learning. In recent years, many academic, research, and business groups affiliated with Florida State University have been forced to host their convention business hundreds of miles away from the main campus due to the lack of adequate meeting space.</p> <p>The County and City Commissions have allocated up to \$20 million of local funds from a voter-approved sales tax referendum in support of the Arena District and convention center. Proceeds from a local option High Impact Tourist Development Tax could be used to fund the construction, maintenance, operations, etc. of the convention center envisioned in the Arena District Master Plan in order to support the community's shared initiatives and long-term economic goals. The proposed statutory revision would enhance the Board's investment of up to \$20 million in local funds by ensuring that a dedicated revenue source is in place to support the long-term viability of the convention center.</p>
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RECOMMENDED CHANGE IN LAW OR STATUTE (IF APPLICABLE)	
<b>Current Statute of Reference:</b>	Sec. 125.0104(3)(m)
<b>Suggested New Language:</b>	In Subsection 2: "A county is considered to be a high tourism impact county <u>if the main campus of a public university that is designated a Preeminent State Research University pursuant to s. 1001.7065(3) is located within that county, or,</u> after the Department of Revenue has certified..."
<b>Recommended County Position:</b>	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 Board of County Commissioners

## 2017 Legislative Priorities Information Form

CONTACT INFORMATION			
<b>Department:</b>	County Administration	<b>Division:</b>	Strategic Initiatives
<b>Contact Person:</b>	Andy Johnson	<b>Title:</b>	Assistant to the County Administrator
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:JohnsonAn@LeonCountyFL.gov">JohnsonAn@LeonCountyFL.gov</a>	<b>Phone:</b>	850-606-5383

POLICY REQUEST	
<input type="checkbox"/> Federal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State
<b>Topic/Project Title:</b>	Support State Funding for Springs Restoration
<b>Strategic Plan Alignment:</b>	(EN1) - Protect our water supply, conserve environmentally sensitive lands, safeguard the health of our natural ecosystems, and protect our water quality, including the Floridan Aquifer, from local and upstream pollution. (rev. 2013)

PROBLEM/NEED	
IDENTIFY EFFECT ON COUNTY PROGRAMS/SERVICES AND THE ECONOMIC OR FISCAL IMPACT	
<b>Description:</b>	Last session, the Legislature approved HB 989, which requires \$50 million to be set aside annually for springs restoration projects. Leon County has demonstrated a longstanding commitment to environmental protection and preservation, and springs protection more specifically. The County has designated a Primary Springs Protection Zone by ordinance, which is consistent with similar provisions contained in its Comprehensive Plan. The Primary Springs Protection Zone is designed to minimize the adverse impacts of development on groundwater recharge and aquifer water quality. In addition, Leon County has advanced several infrastructure projects aimed at restoring water quality within the Wakulla Springs Basin.

RECOMMENDED CHANGE IN LAW OR STATUTE (IF APPLICABLE)	
<b>Current Statute of Reference:</b>	N/A
<b>Suggested New Language:</b>	N/A
<b>Recommended County Position:</b>	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.

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# Leon County Board of County Commissioners

## 2017 Legislative Priorities Information Form

### CONTACT INFORMATION

<b>Department:</b>	County Administration	<b>Division:</b>	Strategic Initiatives
<b>Contact Person:</b>	Andy Johnson	<b>Title:</b>	Assistant to the County Administrator
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:JohnsonAn@LeonCountyFL.gov">JohnsonAn@LeonCountyFL.gov</a>	<b>Phone:</b>	850-606-5383

### POLICY REQUEST

<input type="checkbox"/> Federal		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State	
<b>Topic/Project Title:</b>	State-Local Economic Development Partnerships		
<b>Strategic Plan Alignment:</b>	<p>(EC2) - Support business expansion and job creation, including: the implementation of the Leon County 2012 Job Creation Action Plan, to include evaluating the small business credit program. (2012)</p> <p>(EC4) - Grow our tourism economy, its economic impact and the jobs it supports, including: being a regional hub for sports and cultural activities. (2012)</p> <p>(EC5) - Focus resources to assist local veterans, especially those returning from tours of duty, in employment and job training opportunities through the efforts of County government and local partners. (2012)</p> <p>(EC6) - Ensure the provision of the most basic services to our citizens most in need so that we have a "ready workforce." (2012)</p> <p>(EC7) - Promote the local economy by protecting jobs and identifying local purchasing, contracting and hiring opportunities. (2013)</p>		

### PROBLEM/NEED

#### IDENTIFY EFFECT ON COUNTY PROGRAMS/SERVICES AND THE ECONOMIC OR FISCAL IMPACT

<b>Description:</b>	<p>State-local partnerships for economic development are important tools that empower local governments and provide resources that lead to the creation of quality jobs, vibrant communities, and global economic competitiveness.</p> <p>During the 2015 legislative session, the Florida Enterprise Zone Program – a key component of the state-local economic development toolkit – was allowed to expire at the end of 2015 when no legislation was passed extending its statutory authorization. In 2016, with the expiration of the Florida Enterprise Zone Program, Leon County and FAC advocated for a new state-local economic development partnership through the greater use of targeted strategic investments. Two comprehensive economic development reform bills were considered during the 2016 session. However, both bills died amid a disagreement among the House, Senate, and Governor's Office regarding funding for the "Florida Enterprise Fund," a \$250 million economic development incentive fund that was one of the Governor's top legislative priorities for the 2016 session. The approved FY 2016-17 budget did not include funding for the Florida Enterprise Fund.</p>
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**Leon County Board of County Commissioners**

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<b>RECOMMENDED CHANGE IN LAW OR STATUTE (IF APPLICABLE)</b>	
<b>Current Statute of Reference:</b>	N/A
<b>Suggested New Language:</b>	N/A
<b>Recommended County Position:</b>	Support measures that empower local governments and provide resources to work with community partners towards the creation of quality jobs, more vibrant communities, and an enhanced level of national and global competitiveness.



# Leon County Board of County Commissioners

## 2017 Legislative Priorities Information Form

CONTACT INFORMATION			
<b>Department:</b>	County Administration	<b>Division:</b>	Strategic Initiatives
<b>Contact Person:</b>	Andy Johnson	<b>Title:</b>	Assistant to the County Administrator
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:JohnsonAn@LeonCountyFL.gov">JohnsonAn@LeonCountyFL.gov</a>	<b>Phone:</b>	850-606-5383

POLICY REQUEST	
<input type="checkbox"/> Federal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State
<b>Topic/Project Title:</b>	Public Safety on College and University Campuses
<b>Strategic Plan Alignment:</b>	(Q2) - Provide essential public safety infrastructure and services which ensure the safety of the entire community. (2012)

PROBLEM/NEED	
IDENTIFY EFFECT ON COUNTY PROGRAMS/SERVICES AND THE ECONOMIC OR FISCAL IMPACT	
<b>Description:</b>	Under current law, even if a person has a concealed carry license, it is illegal to carry a weapon onto a college or university campus. During the March 10, 2015 meeting, the Board unanimously approved a resolution supporting President Thrasher, President Mangum and President Murdaugh in their unified opposition to allowing concealed weapons on university and college campuses. The Board subsequently adopted this issue as one of its top legislative priorities for the 2016 legislative session. Legislation was introduced in 2015 and 2016 that would have allowed concealed carry licensees to carry firearms into college or university facilities. However, the chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee declined to hear this legislation in committee during the 2016 session, effectively killing the legislation.

RECOMMENDED CHANGE IN LAW OR STATUTE (IF APPLICABLE)	
<b>Current Statute of Reference:</b>	790.06, F.S.
<b>Suggested New Language:</b>	N/A – maintain as-is
<b>Recommended County Position:</b>	Oppose statutory changes to Section 790.06, F.S. that would allow the concealed carrying of weapons into college or university facilities.



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# Leon County Board of County Commissioners

## 2017 Legislative Priorities Information Form

CONTACT INFORMATION			
<b>Department:</b>	Public Safety	<b>Division:</b>	EMS
<b>Contact Person:</b>	Mac Kemp	<b>Title:</b>	Deputy Chief of Clinical Affairs
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:KempM@LeonCountyFL.gov">KempM@LeonCountyFL.gov</a>	<b>Phone:</b>	850-606-2100

POLICY REQUEST	
<input type="checkbox"/> Federal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State
<b>Topic/Project Title:</b>	EMS Balance Billing
<b>Strategic Plan Alignment:</b>	(Q2) - Provide essential public safety infrastructure and services which ensure the safety of the entire community. (2012)

PROBLEM/NEED	
IDENTIFY EFFECT ON COUNTY PROGRAMS/SERVICES AND THE ECONOMIC OR FISCAL IMPACT	
<b>Description:</b>	Bills have been introduced in recent legislative sessions that would have prohibited health care providers, including Leon County EMS, from collecting or attempting to collect any amount beyond the insurance provider's reimbursement. This practice, known as "balance billing," is utilized by health care providers to bill patients for fees or charges not reimbursed by the patient's insurance coverage. For emergency medical transport providers, balance billing is a critical cost recovery strategy; without the ability to collect these charges, EMS providers would have to rely on additional general revenue subsidies to fund operations instead of collecting charges from system users. Staff has estimated that this legislation would have a \$1.7 million recurring negative fiscal impact for Leon County.

RECOMMENDED CHANGE IN LAW OR STATUTE (IF APPLICABLE)	
<b>Current Statute of Reference:</b>	Chapter 627, F.S.
<b>Suggested New Language:</b>	N/A – maintain as-is
<b>Recommended County Position:</b>	Oppose legislation that limits the ability of county EMS providers to be reimbursed for out-of-network transports.

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# Leon County Board of County Commissioners

## 2017 Legislative Priorities Information Form

CONTACT INFORMATION			
<b>Department:</b>	Public Safety	<b>Division:</b>	EMS
<b>Contact Person:</b>	Mac Kemp	<b>Title:</b>	Deputy Chief of Clinical Affairs
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:KempM@LeonCountyFL.gov">KempM@LeonCountyFL.gov</a>	<b>Phone:</b>	850-606-2100

POLICY REQUEST	
<input type="checkbox"/> Federal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State
<b>Topic/Project Title:</b>	Maintain the current Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (COPCN) process
<b>Strategic Plan Alignment:</b>	(Q2) - Provide essential public safety infrastructure and services which ensure the safety of the entire community. (2012)

PROBLEM/NEED	
IDENTIFY EFFECT ON COUNTY PROGRAMS/SERVICES AND THE ECONOMIC OR FISCAL IMPACT	
<b>Description:</b>	Two bills were considered during the 2016 legislative session related to the issuance of Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity (COPCNs). A COPCN is a written statement issued by the governing board of a county granting permission for an emergency medical service provider to operate within the county. These bills faced significant opposition from counties and the statewide EMS community and ultimately failed to pass. This legislation would have substantially lessened a Board of County Commissioners' authority to regulate the issuance of COPCNs by requiring all counties to adopt or amend an existing COPCN ordinance to provide a quasi-judicial process, or some other type of evidentiary process, for approval or denial of an application for a COPCN. In addition, such an ordinance would be required to allow any applicant maintaining fire rescue infrastructure and providing first response in the county to appeal the county's decision to the circuit court.

RECOMMENDED CHANGE IN LAW OR STATUTE (IF APPLICABLE)	
<b>Current Statute of Reference:</b>	401.25, F.S.
<b>Suggested New Language:</b>	N/A – maintain as-is
<b>Recommended County Position:</b>	Support maintaining a countywide regulatory system for EMS through the current Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (COPCN) process.

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# Leon County Board of County Commissioners

## 2017 Legislative Priorities Information Form

### CONTACT INFORMATION

<b>Department:</b>	Library Services	<b>Division:</b>	N/A
<b>Contact Person:</b>	Cay Hohmeister	<b>Title:</b>	Director
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:HohmeisterC@LeonCountyFL.gov">HohmeisterC@LeonCountyFL.gov</a>	<b>Phone:</b>	850-606-2616

### POLICY REQUEST

POLICY REQUEST	
<input type="checkbox"/> Federal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State
Topic/Project Title:	Support Funding for Public Libraries
Strategic Plan Alignment:	(Q8) - Maintain and enhance our educational and recreational offerings associated with our library system, inspiring a love of reading and lives of learning. (2013) (Q1, Q9, EC1, EC6) - Maintain a high quality of offerings through the library system, including public access to books, media, digital resources, computers, Internet, reference resources, targeted programming, mobile library, and literacy training (2012)

### PROBLEM/NEED

#### IDENTIFY EFFECT ON COUNTY PROGRAMS/SERVICES AND THE ECONOMIC OR FISCAL IMPACT

<b>Description:</b>	<p>Florida's State Aid to Libraries Grant Program, managed by the Florida Department of State's Division of Library and Information Services, has been the cornerstone of public library support in Florida since 1963, and is recognized as a national model. Florida library systems rely on State Aid grant funding to assist library users with economic development resources to small businesses and job seekers; access to the internet, government services, and a vast array of online services and products and; education and reading. Libraries are transitioning from traditional libraries to community hubs, which function as learning environments to better serve their communities. Libraries are extending all their services to the Web while at the same time allowing citizens to develop new businesses, to teach early reading skills, to provide safe environments for children and teens, to develop new skills to become a better fit for today's workplace, and to find greater civic engagement.</p> <p>Last year, the Leon County library system received \$184,255 in state aid. For FY 2017 Leon County is anticipated to receive \$182,831. The library system uses State Aid grant funding to assist with purchasing circulating library materials for County residents.</p>
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### RECOMMENDED CHANGE IN LAW OR STATUTE (IF APPLICABLE)

<b>Current Statute of Reference:</b>	N/A
<b>Suggested New Language:</b>	N/A
<b>Recommended County Position:</b>	Support legislation and appropriation that assists Leon County to provide access to high-quality library services for all residents across the County.



# Leon County Board of County Commissioners

## 2017 Legislative Priorities Information Form

### CONTACT INFORMATION

<b>Department:</b>	County Administration	<b>Division:</b>	Strategic Initiatives
<b>Contact Person:</b>	Andy Johnson	<b>Title:</b>	Assistant to the County Administrator
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:JohnsonAn@LeonCountyFL.gov">JohnsonAn@LeonCountyFL.gov</a>	<b>Phone:</b>	850-606-5383

### POLICY REQUEST

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal		<input type="checkbox"/> State	
<b>Topic/Project Title:</b>	Waters of the United States		
<b>Strategic Plan Alignment:</b>	(EN1) - Protect our water supply, conserve environmentally sensitive lands, safeguard the health of our natural ecosystems, and protect our water quality, including the Floridan Aquifer, from local and upstream pollution. (rev. 2013) (EN3)- Educate citizens and partner with community organizations to promote sustainable practices. (2012)		

### PROBLEM/NEED

#### IDENTIFY EFFECT ON COUNTY PROGRAMS/SERVICES AND THE ECONOMIC OR FISCAL IMPACT

<b>Description:</b>	<p>For the past several years, the Board has prioritized a top federal legislative issues related to the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) and the United States Army Corps of Engineers' (Corps) joint administrative rule entitled, "Definition of Waters of the U.S. Under the Clean Water Act" (WOTUS). This rule amends the current definition to expand the range of waters (and their conveyances) that are subject to federal jurisdiction. The rule, which became final on August 28, 2015, eliminates the distinction between traditional navigable waters (such as lakes, rivers, and streams) and conveyances such as ditches and drains. The rule applies regardless of flow or hydrologic connections. On September 23, 2014, the Board approved a resolution voicing concerns regarding the rule and a copy of the resolution was sent to the EPA and the County's federal delegation. It is the County's position that the EPA rule change will negatively impact the County's ability to protect those resources and could put undue burden on local governments through onerous permitting requirements. While Congress has taken some steps to attempt a repeal of the rule, it is likely that the President would override any legislation affecting the rule.</p> <p>On October 9, 2015, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit issued a nationwide stay against the enforcement of the WOTUS rule. That ruling followed an August 28 federal court ruling in North Dakota, which stayed the rule in 13 states. The October ruling provides nationwide uniformity while the litigation proceeds. On Jan. 13, 2016 the U.S. House of Representatives easily passed a resolution of disapproval (Senate Joint Resolution 22) that would repeal the revised rule by a vote of 253-166. The same resolution was passed by the Senate in November by a vote of 53-44. President Obama vetoed the measure on January 19.</p> <p>In June, both the House and Senate appropriations committees passed their versions of the FY17 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies appropriations bill, often referred to as the Interior bill. Both chambers' spending bills contained provisions to prohibit EPA from acting on its WOTUS rule. The provisions would prevent the EPA from moving forward to "implement, administer or enforce" the rule even if the federal court system were to lift its stay on the rule.</p>
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**Leon County Board of County Commissioners**

2017 Legislative Proposal

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<b>RECOMMENDED CHANGE IN LAW OR STATUTE (IF APPLICABLE)</b>	
<b>Current Statute of Reference:</b>	N/A
<b>Suggested New Language:</b>	N/A
<b>Recommended County Position:</b>	Support legislation that clarifies that local streets, gutters, and other stormwater infrastructure are excluded from the definition of “Waters of the U.S.,” while also requiring federal agencies to consult with state and local officials to identify which waters should be federally regulated and which should be left to the states.





# Leon County Board of County Commissioners

## 2017 Legislative Priorities Information Form

CONTACT INFORMATION			
<b>Department:</b>	County Administration	<b>Division:</b>	Strategic Initiatives
<b>Contact Person:</b>	Andy Johnson	<b>Title:</b>	Assistant to the County Administrator
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:JohnsonAn@LeonCountyFL.gov">JohnsonAn@LeonCountyFL.gov</a>	<b>Phone:</b>	850-606-5383

POLICY REQUEST	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> State
<b>Topic/Project Title:</b>	Full Funding of the Federal Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) Program
<b>Strategic Plan Alignment:</b>	<p>(Q2) - Provide essential public safety infrastructure and services which ensure the safety of the entire community. (2012)</p> <p>(G5) - Exercise responsible stewardship of County resources, sound financial management, and ensure that the provision of services and community enhancements are done in a fair and equitable manner. (2012)</p>

PROBLEM/NEED	
IDENTIFY EFFECT ON COUNTY PROGRAMS/SERVICES AND THE ECONOMIC OR FISCAL IMPACT	
<b>Description:</b>	<p>Roughly 62% of counties in the United States have federal land within their boundaries. Although counties cannot collect property tax on federal land, they are still required to provide essential services for that land. For the past 40 years, the PILT program has provided funding to counties and municipalities to offset lost tax revenue from federal land within their respective boundaries. This request recommends full funding of the PILT program in FY2017. Congress passed the FY 2016 Consolidated Appropriations Act (P.L. 114-113), which fully funded PILT at \$452 million. The Department of the Interior estimates \$480 million will be necessary to fully fund PILT in FY 2017. In FY 2016, Leon County received approximately \$206,000 from the federal government in PILT funding due to the portion of Apalachicola National Forest in Leon County.</p>

RECOMMENDED CHANGE IN LAW OR STATUTE (If Applicable)	
<b>Current Statute of Reference:</b>	N/A
<b>Suggested New Language:</b>	N/A
<b>Recommended County Position:</b>	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.

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# Leon County Board of County Commissioners

## 2017 Legislative Priorities Information Form

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### POLICY REQUEST

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> State
<b>Topic/Project Title:</b>	Collection of Sales Tax on Remote Transactions
<b>Strategic Plan Alignment:</b>	(G5) - Exercise responsible stewardship of County resources, sound financial management, and ensure that the provision of services and community enhancements are done in a fair and equitable manner. (2012)

### PROBLEM/NEED

#### IDENTIFY EFFECT ON COUNTY PROGRAMS/SERVICES AND THE ECONOMIC OR FISCAL IMPACT

<b>Description:</b>	<p>Under current law, individuals who buy goods online are required to remit sales tax to the state individually; however, that provision is largely unheeded and not enforced. Economists estimate the state loses out on about \$400 million in revenue each year the tax goes uncollected. Purchases from these stores are not subject to sales tax due to the fact that they are not physically located in the state of Florida. The inability to collect an internet sales tax puts local 'brick-and-mortar' businesses in Florida at a disadvantage relative to out-of-state online retailers. Governor Rick Scott and several members of the Legislature view the implementation of internet sales tax legislation as a tax increase; therefore, efforts in the State Legislature have been unsuccessful.</p> <p>In recent years, congressional legislation has been introduced (the Remote Transactions Parity Act in the House and the Marketplace Fairness Act in the Senate) that would allow states and localities to collect taxes on online sales but has not gained sufficient traction to pass both chambers. Importantly, this legislation would not create a new tax; it would simply allow states and local governments to enforce existing sales tax laws.</p>
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### RECOMMENDED CHANGE IN LAW OR STATUTE (IF APPLICABLE)

<b>Current Statute of Reference:</b>	N/A
<b>Suggested New Language:</b>	N/A
<b>Recommended County Position:</b>	Support legislation that promotes an equitable and competitive environment between 'brick and mortar' businesses and remote businesses establishments operating in Florida.

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# Leon County Board of County Commissioners

## 2017 Legislative Priorities Information Form

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POLICY REQUEST	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> State
<b>Topic/Project Title:</b>	Tax-Exempt Status of Municipal Bonds
<b>Strategic Plan Alignment:</b>	<p>(G2) - Sustain a culture of performance, and deliver effective, efficient services that exceed expectations and demonstrate value. (2012)</p> <p>(G5) - Exercise responsible stewardship of County resources, sound financial management, and ensure that the provision of services and community enhancements are done in a fair and equitable manner. (2012)</p>

PROBLEM/NEED	
IDENTIFY EFFECT ON COUNTY PROGRAMS/SERVICES AND THE ECONOMIC OR FISCAL IMPACT	
<b>Description:</b>	<p>Tax-exempt municipal bonds have been a fundamental feature of the United States tax code since 1913. Municipal bonds remain the primary method used by states and local governments to finance public capital improvements and public infrastructure projects that are essential for creating jobs, sustaining economic growth, and improving the quality of life for Americans in every corner of the country. Deficit reduction efforts in recent years resulted in cuts in aid to local governments from the states and reduced funding in federal programs that benefit counties. Although a comprehensive rewrite of the federal tax code seems unlikely in 2016, there is some momentum building for corporate tax reform. Even under this scenario, counties still face the risk of losing a low-cost, market-driven means of financing to support local needs because of the potential it would be used as a way to achieve corporate tax reform objectives.</p> <p>Funds generated from infrastructure bond financing help to build hospitals, water and sewer facilities, public utilities, roads, and mass transit. In the past decade, nearly \$288 billion of financing went to general acute-care hospitals; nearly \$258 billion to water and sewer facilities; nearly \$178 billion to roads, highways, and streets; nearly \$147 billion to public power projects; and \$105.6 billion to mass transit.</p>

RECOMMENDED CHANGE IN LAW OR STATUTE (IF APPLICABLE)	
<b>Current Statute of Reference:</b>	N/A
<b>Suggested New Language:</b>	N/A
<b>Recommended County Position:</b>	Oppose any legislation that would eliminate or limit the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds.