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

# Workshop on the 2019 State & Federal Legislative Priorities

Tuesday October 23, 2018 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

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

**Notes for Workshop** 

# Workshop

October 23, 2018

To: Honorable Chairman and Members of the Board

From: Vincent S. Long, County Administrator

**Title:** Workshop on the 2019 State and Federal Legislative Priorities

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

#### **Statement of Issue:**

This workshop item seeks the Board's approval of recommended state and federal legislative priorities for the 2019 Florida Legislative Session and the first session of the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress.

# **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 2019 State and Federal Legislative Priorities, as amended by the

Board.

October 23, 2018

Page 2

### **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 2019 State and Federal Legislative Priorities, comprised of the state and federal policy and appropriations issues proposed herein.

### **Analysis:**

The 2019 Florida Legislative Session will be held from March 5 through May 3, 2019, with interim committee weeks beginning in December. The first session of the 116<sup>th</sup> U.S. Congress will convene on January 3, 2019. Staff recommends several policy and appropriations priorities for the 2019 state and federal legislative sessions, arranged as follows:

- 10 legislative appropriation requests;
- 15 County projects for potential state and/or federal grant funding;
- 5 state-level legislative policy priorities, including support of the FAC 2019 Legislative Priorities, for the 2019 Florida Legislative Session; and
- 4 federal legislative policy priorities, including support of the NACo 2019 Legislative Priorities, for the first session of the 116<sup>th</sup> United States Congress.

Similar to previous years, the policy and appropriations priorities recommended in this workshop item are organized to target the County's most pressing issues and best align with the anticipated priorities of the 2019 state and federal legislative sessions. Following the catastrophic damage caused by Hurricane Michael, and in the wake of Hurricanes Hermine, Matthew, Harvey, Irma, and Maria in the last two years, staff expects that the Florida Legislature and Congress will again devote considerable attention this year to hurricane readiness and disaster recovery issues. During the 2018 Florida Legislative Session, the Florida House of Representatives appointed a Select Committee on Hurricane Response and Preparedness to gather information, solicit ideas for improvement, make recommendations to the executive branch, and suggest legislative options to address hurricane preparedness and response. The committee approved its final report on January 16, 2018, which included 78 recommendations to be forwarded to the standing substantive and fiscal committees of the House for their consideration and further development. Many of the report's findings were unaddressed or died by the end of session, including a study on preparing the electrical grid for future storms, establishment of a statewide special needs registry and registration program, requiring changes to state and local comprehensive emergency plans, requiring sign-language interpreters in emergency broadcasts, and using railroads to help evacuate residents and transport extra fuel to areas with shortages. However, the Legislature's tax cut package, HB 7087, included a property-tax break for homeowners displaced by Hurricane Irma and a break for nursing homes that purchase electric generators, and the Legislature passed

October 23, 2018

Page 3

a bill that ratified administrative rules requiring nursing homes and assisted living facilities to have an operational emergency power source and 72 hours of fuel.

Additionally, the Legislature's Office of Economic and Demographic Research is again projecting a slim budget surplus heading into the 2019 session, and the Legislature may seek once again to shift costs to local governments in the form of unfunded mandates and/or further cut state spending to balance the state budget. Similar to recent years, the Legislature is not expected to allocate considerable funding for direct legislative appropriations in support of local projects, instead promoting the availability of existing grant programs through the executive branch. Accordingly, the list of projects that staff is recommending the County pursue for direct legislative funding reflect those that best align with the anticipated priorities of the Legislature during the 2019 session.

In addition to the list of projects for legislative funding, this workshop item also recommends Board direction to pursue grant funding for specific County projects that best align with existing executive branch grant programs. The County has been successful in recent years securing over \$125 million in funding over the next several years through several of these programs. To best align the County's top priority projects with their most likely sources of state and federal funding, this item recommends that the Board direct staff to continue the County's successful strategy of seeking grant funding for these projects through regional, state, or federal agency grant programs as applicable.

The Board may wish to add, remove, and/or amend legislative priorities as deemed appropriate for the County's 2019 State and Federal Legislative Priorities. Upon Board approval, staff and the County's contract lobbying teams will pursue all of the priority issues approved by the Board. 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 2019 legislative program during the 2018-19 Legislative Conference in Hillsborough County, which will take place November 28 through November 30, 2018. The statewide issues identified by the FAC membership will assist staff in identifying 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. As always, staff will keep the Board involved in legislative issues through agenda items, resolutions, memoranda, and weekly updates during the state legislative session.

October 23, 2018

Page 4

# PROPOSED APPROPRIATIONS REQUESTS 2019 STATE & FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

(Complete information on each request is included in Attachment #1)

Throughout the year, staff works to identify projects most suitable for state and federal appropriation requests to support important County projects. The Board's practice of retaining professional contract lobbying services at both the state and federal levels enhances the County's advocacy efforts for these requests. The County's contract lobbying firms provide a daily presence by advocating for the County's state and federal requests with the County's legislative delegations and other legislative leaders.

In past state legislative sessions, legislative committees have utilized specific forms to request funding for local projects. While it is not yet clear what processes will be in place for requesting funding for local projects during the 2019 state legislative session, staff has prepared the information that will likely be required to support the County's proposed appropriations requests.

The following list reflects a concise, targeted set of County projects that best align with the anticipated priorities of the Legislature during the 2019 session (for complete information on each, see Attachment #1):

Request:	Amount:	Project Phase:
Backup Generator - Secondary Special Needs Shelter	\$300,000	Capital/Fixed Assets
Backup Generators – Branch Libraries and Community Centers	\$1 million	Capital/Fixed Assets
Leon Works Expo and Junior Apprenticeship	\$100,000	Program Funding
Orchard Pond Greenway Trail, Phase II	\$300,000	Design/Permitting
Lake Henrietta Renovation	\$1.5 million	Design/Construction
Fords Arm/Lexington Tributary Restoration	\$4 million	Construction
Centerville Trace Septic-to-Sewer Project	\$1 million	Design
Harbinwood Estates Septic-to-Sewer Project	\$2.5 million	Design/Permit/Land Acquisition
Fred George Wetland Restoration	\$1 million	Construction
Offender Reentry Programs	\$300,000	Program Funding

In recent years, community partner agencies have sought and received funding for projects that have aligned with the Board's adopted legislative priorities. For instance, in the 2018 Florida Legislative Session, FSU Schools received funding to improve facilities at Florida High School to enhance special needs sheltering operations. Also, the Bethel Ready4Work program has received legislative funding in recent years to support its offender re-entry services. Accordingly, in addition to the proposed Leon County appropriations requests listed above, staff recommends that the County support community partners' funding requests as follows:

- Support community partners' funding requests for projects that would enhance Leon County's disaster resiliency, such as backup generators and structural hardening of critical facilities.
- Support community partners' funding requests for offender re-entry programs serving the Leon County community, such as the DISC Village Leveraging

October 23, 2018

Page 5

Interventions for Transformation (LIFT) Program and the Bethel Ready4Work program.

# ADDITIONAL HIGH-PRIORITY COUNTY PROJECTS RECOMMENDED FOR POTENTIAL GRANT FUNDING:

In recent years, the Florida Legislature and Governor Rick Scott have placed a greater emphasis on grant programs through the executive branch and coordination with state agencies to help fund infrastructure projects. Governor Scott's line-item vetoes totaled over \$1.7 billion over the past four years, specifically striking projects that bypassed state agency review or that would not benefit the state as a whole. This year, staff anticipates the Legislature and Governor to maintain this emphasis on funding through grant programs and state agencies. Accordingly, staff is seeking Board direction to continue pursuing grant funding for the County projects listed below.

As indicated earlier in this item, Leon County has been successful in recent years securing over \$125 million in upcoming funding through the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Five-Year Work Program, the Springs Restoration Matching Grant Program administered by the Northwest Florida Water Management District (NWFWMD) and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP). Notably, the County recently entered into two Springs Restoration Grant agreements with FDEP totaling \$4.5 million for the Northeast Lake Munson and Belair/Annawood Sewer System Projects. Included in this agreement is the Tentative Leon County Water Quality and Springs Protection Infrastructure Improvement Plan, which is a firstof-its-kind agreement between the state and a county resulting from Leon County's strong commitment to reducing nitrogen levels in the primary springs protection zone. Improvement Plan, included in the project list below, reflects FDEP's willingness to provide approximately \$20.2 million through FY 2024 for septic system improvement projects in Leon County including the Woodville Sewer Project and the Woodside Heights, Northeast Lake Munson, and Belair/Annawood septic-to-sewer projects, as well as the Advanced Septic Systems Pilot Project which will provide funding for alternative wastewater treatment technologies where it is not cost-effective or technically feasible to provide central sewer service.

This targeted approach best aligns major County projects with the most likely sources of state funding. Accordingly, following is a list of proposed projects recommended for potential grant funding. Each listed project is consistent with the County's FY 2017-2021 Strategic Plan, FY 2019 Budget, Capital Improvement Program, and/or other plans or policy documents, as applicable:

October 23, 2018

Page 6

Request:	Amount:	Project Phase:
Woodville Sewer System Project Construction 1A, FY 19-20	\$3,750,000	Construction
Septic System Upgrades, FY 19-20	\$500,000	Design/Construction
Leon South Regional Water System	\$750,000	Design/Construction
Capital Cascades Trail Segment 3D RSF	\$5.1 million	Design
Capital Circle Southwest	\$10 million	Construction
Woodville Highway (Capital Circle to Paul Russell Road)	\$29.7 million	Construction
Northeast Gateway (Welaunee Blvd./Shamrock St.)	\$4.3 million	Design
Orange Avenue Widening & Beautification	\$3.3 million	Design
Veterans Memorial Drive (CR 59) Bridge Replacement	\$530,000	Design/Construction
Lake Lafayette St. Marks Regional Linear Park	\$750,000	Land Acquisition
Chaires Community Park Baseball Field	\$400,000	Construction
St. Marks Headwaters Greenway Trails	\$800,000	Construction
J.R. Alford Greenway Trails	\$200,000	Construction
Williams Landing Improvements	\$450,000	Design & Construction
Offender Reentry Programs	\$300,000	Program Funding

# PROPOSED POLICY REQUESTS 2019 STATE LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

Like most legislation, Leon County's policy requests are generally incremental in nature, focusing on issues specific to Leon County that are built upon over the course of several legislative sessions. Additionally, staff annually evaluates the trends and issues affecting all County programs and services to identify potential legislative policy priorities. Statewide significant substantive issues range from maintaining the County's home rule authority to the state's current fiscal challenges and efforts to further reduce the size and scope of state government. Once again, the state's current fiscal challenges are likely to dominate the Legislature's time this year. Additionally, as indicated earlier in this item, the Legislature is also expected to devote considerable attention to hurricane readiness and disaster recovery issues.

Some of Leon County's policy priorities have traditionally been perennial, such as advocating for protection of the state workforce in Leon County and opposing efforts by the Legislature to erode or pre-empt counties' home rule authority. This year, however, staff is recommending the Board adopt a policy priority in support of a major project with significant economic benefit to the community, which is the construction of a full-service convention center and hotel in Florida State University's arena district. While a convention center would establish Florida's capital city as a destination for state and regional conferences, almost all convention centers operate at a deficit and require financial support to ensure long-term fiscal viability. Accordingly, and as described below, this year's proposed legislative priorities include seeking eligibility to levy a

October 23, 2018

Page 7

local option High Tourism Impact Tax that several other counties are currently eligible to levy. This would provide a dedicated funding source to support a cost-sharing arrangement for convention center operations.

Leon County's lobbying team will 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 2019 state legislative policy requests. Each request provides a brief overview of the issue and indicates the specific recommended legislative action.

### **Protection of the State Workforce**

Issue:

Recognizing that the state employees who live in Leon County are vital to our community, economy, and diversity, protecting the jobs of these workers from privatization and advocating for fair wages has continuously been a top priority of the Board during the legislative cycle. In addition, following major cuts to state positions in recent years, this is an issue also strongly supported by members of Leon County's legislative delegation.

During the 2017 Legislative Session and for the first time in eight years, funding for an across the board pay raise for over 97,000 state employees was included in the FY 2017-18 state budget. State employee pay raises were effective October 1, 2017; however, the general pay increase was linked to reforms to the state's health insurance and the Florida Retirement System (FRS). During the 2018 session, no further reductions to state employee benefits were considered and the FY 2018-19 state budget included targeted salary increases for certain state employees. Staff will continue to monitor for any legislation affecting state employee pay and benefits, and will advocate on behalf of policies that benefit state employees during the 2019 session.

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

Issue:

A top priority for the Board during the past three legislative sessions has been to seek the revision of Sec. 125.0104, F.S. to modify the eligibility for levying the local option High Tourism Impact Tax. In Leon County, proceeds from a local option High Impact Tourist Development Tax could be used to support operating costs of a convention center contemplated as part of FSU's Arena District Master Plan to modernize its facilities and grow the campus footprint. The County and City Commissions have allocated up to \$20 million of local funds from a voterapproved sales tax referendum in support of the \$400 million project in effort to support the community's shared initiatives and long-term economic goals.

October 23, 2018

Page 8

On September 20, 2018 the Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency (IA) Board of Directors authorized OEV staff to commence the bond financing process for the issuance of up to \$20 million toward the convention center as early as October 2020 (FY 2021), subject to the IA Board's final approval of the scope, size, and operations plan for the hotel and convention center. In addition, the IA Board directed OEV staff to continue to participate with FSU in the market and feasibility analysis for the hotel and convention center, to be brought back to the IA Board upon completion with staff recommendations.

During FAC's 2018-19 Innovation and Policy Development Conference and Legislative Conference, the Finance, Tax, and Administration Committee unanimously passed a Policy Proposal to support the expansion of eligibility of counties to levy the Local Option High Impact Tourist Development Tax. The proposal seeks statutory revisions to authorize all 67 counties, by an extraordinary commission vote, to levy the local option tax. Final consideration of the issue as a legislative policy for the upcoming session will take place during FAC's Legislative Conference in November. Staff will continue to work with FAC and fellow counties to align advocacy efforts in support of modification of the eligibility for levying the local option High Tourism Impact Tax.

Action:

Support the revision of Sec. 125.0104, F.S. to modify the eligibility of counties to levy the Local Option High Impact Tourist Development Tax.

#### **Amtrak Passenger Rail Restoration**

Issue:

In August 2005, Amtrak's Sunset Limited, passenger rail service for the Gulf Coast Region between New Orleans and Jacksonville through Leon County, was suspended due to the impacts of Hurricane Katrina. Shortly after, Leon County began to engage our local legislative delegation, CSX, FDOT, and others to advocate for the restoration of passenger rail service – which remains suspended today because of the cost and challenges associated with restoring service to this route. Several efforts have been made by Congress to restore rail service between New Orleans, Louisiana and Sanford, Florida (more detail provided in Amtrak federal policy priority). The Passenger Rail Reform and Investment Act of 2015 established a Gulf Coast Working Group to evaluate the restoration of intercity passenger rail service in the Gulf Coast region to provide opportunities to expand local tourism and business markets and access to healthcare and educational opportunities.

In July 2017, the working group provided its final report to Congress which included recommendations on possible track improvements, capacity cost assessment, and operational readiness. The report identified securing the necessary funds for both capital improvements and sustained financial support to cover projected operating losses as a key challenge to implementing the restored passenger rail service and provided several federal and state grant funding sources available projects. The Gulf Coast Working Group has indicated the importance

October 23, 2018

Page 9

of the Florida Legislature's support of these efforts to restore passenger rail service.

Action:

Support the Gulf Coast Working Group's efforts to restore passenger rail service in the Gulf Coast region.

## **Canopy Roads Protection**

Issue:

Canopy Roads are recognized as a signature of the Leon County –Tallahassee community embraced by residents and cherished by visitors. As a treasured asset of the community, the County and City have a long history in preserving the canopy roads system. The County and City Commissions established a Canopy Roads Citizen Committee in 1991 to assist in protecting, maintaining, and enhancing local canopy roads and, the Leon County Code of Laws provides standards for tree preservation and re-planting throughout the community, with higher standards within a designated Canopy Road Tree Protection Zone.

In recent years, the County's longstanding canopy road protections have been threatened by attempts to further erode the home rule authority of local governments. During the 2018 Legislative Session, proposed local preemption legislation sought to restrict local government's ability to preserve canopy roads and preempt all regulation of tree removal, trimming, and harvesting to the state. During the 2019 session, staff will continue to closely monitor similar legislation and engage the Canopy Roads Committee through calls-to-action and by providing opportunities to advocate for the continued protection of our canopy roads.

Action:

Oppose legislation that further restricts local government's ability to regulate and preserve canopy road systems.

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

Issue:

FAC's mission is to help Florida's counties serve and represent Floridians by preserving county home rule through advocacy, education, and collaboration. Representing all 67 counties before the Florida Legislature, FAC addresses issues that have broad statewide appeal such as the opposition of unfunded mandates or cost shifts to counties, growth management, annexation, revenue-sharing, and water management issues.

Annually, FAC hosts the Policy Development Conference and Legislative Conference to develop and finalize FAC's legislative policies for the upcoming legislative session. The Policy Development Conference, which took place September 26 through September 27, 2018, highlighted several policy issues facing counties across the state which were debated and discussed to determine the most critical issues facing counties during the upcoming session. These include:

 Protection of counties' home rule authority, such as implementation of local business guidelines, selection and duties of county officers, and regulation of tree trimming, removal, and harvest;

October 23, 2018

Page 10

- Avoiding unfunded mandates such as the shifting oversight developments of regional impacts to counties, reductions in County Health Department Trust Funds, and cost shifts of state Medicaid costs to counties;
- Support of state-local partnerships in community and economic development through state-local partnerships and incentive programs, workforce development programs, and the Florida Job Growth Grant Fund;
- Preserving and enhancing revenue flexibility such as local governments' millage authority and greater flexibility of allowable uses of local discretionary taxes such as Tourist Development Taxes;
- Maintaining growth management and environmental protection by preserving counties' authority to create local zoning regulations and protecting spring restoration funding;
- Developing and maintaining dedicated funding of the Florida Forever Grant Program and the Florida Communities Trust to support trail development, enhance recreational opportunities, and overcome growth challenges.
- Opposing restrictions to finance and taxation authority of local governments such as the additional homestead exemption, restrictions on local-option taxes, and caps on millage rates based upon excess fund balances;
- Support funding for human services including housing programs for homeless and special needs individuals, expansion of adult civil citation programs, and funding for mental health and substance abuse services; and
- Support of public safety and security initiatives such as gun safety measures, maintaining the current Certificates of Convenience and Necessity (COPCNs) requirement and preserving counties' ability to fully collect fees for EMS service.

FAC will finalize its 2019 federal and state legislative program during the 2018-19 Legislative Conference, which will take place November 28-30 in Hillsborough County.

### Proposed Florida Constitution Amendments on the November 2018 Election Ballot

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. Prior to the start of the 2017 Legislative session, a 37-member commission was appointed to identify issues, perform research, and recommend changes to the Florida Constitution. By April 16, 2018, the CRC finished its work after approving eight proposed constitutional amendments to be placed on the November 6 general election ballot. Following five other measures already on the ballot, including three ballot initiatives referred by the Legislature and two approved in petition drives, the CRC's proposals brought the total to 13 statewide initiatives to be subject to approval of 60% of voters:

• Amendment #1 Increased Homestead Property Tax Exemption: Proposal referred by the Legislature to raise the portion of a home's value that can be exempted from non-school property taxes;

October 23, 2018

Page 11

• Amendment #2 Limitations of Property Tax Assessment: Proposal referred by the Legislature to permanently retain an existing 10% cap on non-homestead property assessment increases set to expire in 2019;

- Amendment #3 Voter Control of Gambling in Florida: Citizen petition initiative to grant voters the exclusive right to decide to authorize expansions of casino gambling in Florida;
- Amendment #4 Voting Restoration Amendment: Citizen petition initiative to restore voting rights of former felons upon completion of their sentence;
- Amendment #5 Super-majority Vote Required to Impose, Authorize, or Raise State Taxes or Fees: Proposal referred by the Legislature to require a two-thirds super-majority vote in the Legislature to impose, approve or raise state taxes and fees;
- Amendment #6 Rights of Crime Victims; Judges: CRC proposal to create a bill of rights for crime victims, increase the mandatory retirement age for judges of 70 to 75, and bar judges from deferring to administrative agencies' interpretations of rules and statutes when ruling in cases involving those laws;
- Amendment #7 First Responder and Military Member Survivor Benefits; Public Colleges and Universities: CRC proposal to provide tuition for the survivors of first responders and military members killed on duty, require two-thirds super-majority vote of university trustees to raise college fees, and establish the state college system in the Constitution;
- Amendment #8 School Board Term Limits and Duties; Public Schools: CRC proposal to create 8-year school board term limits, expand civics education in public schools, and enable charter schools to bypass local school boards by expanding the authority of the state;
- Amendment #9 Prohibits Offshore Oil and Gas Drilling; Prohibits Vaping in Enclosed Indoor Workplaces: CRC proposal to tether a ban on oil and gas drilling in state-owned waters and add vaping to the ban on smoking indoors;
- Amendment #10 State and Local Government Structure and Operation: CRC proposal to create a counter-terrorism office, constitutionally require state veterans affairs department, require five county-level offices to be elected, and require start of state legislative session in January;
- Amendment #11 Property Rights; Removal of Obsolete Provision; Criminal Statutes: CRC proposal to remove provisions in the Constitution that prohibit "aliens ineligible for citizenship" from owning property, approves a high-speed rail system, and prohibits retroactive criminal law changes;
- Amendment #12 Lobbying and Abuse of Office by Public Officers: CRC proposal to bar public officials from lobbying, both during their terms and for six years following, and restrict current public officers from using their office for personal gain;
- Amendment #13 Ends Dog Racing: CRC proposal to end commercial dog racing involving wagering by 2020.

More recently, however, more than half of the proposed amendments have been challenged and are actively making their way through the state court system. Circuit court judges have ordered several of the amendments to be removed from the ballot due to misleading summaries and title; however, the Florida Supreme Court will make the final determination. To date, the Supreme Court has ruled on four of the challenged amendments, removing Amendment #8 from the ballot and maintaining Amendments #6, #10, and #13. Final determination is still pending for

October 23, 2018

Page 12

challenges on Amendments #7, #9, and #11 related to "bundling", or proposing multiple unrelated measures in a single amendment, to restrict voters from voting on specific issues.

Among the proposed amendments and of particular note to county government is the additional \$25,000 property tax exemption on homestead properties valued between \$100,000 and \$125,000 (Amendment #1). As a key issue that emerged during the 2017 Legislative Session, the additional exemption was referred to the ballot by the Legislature. If approved, the exemption would become effective January 1, 2019 and is estimated to have a fiscal impact of approximately \$7.2 million to Leon County. To ensure the County's long-term fiscal viability, the Board approved the FY 2020 Fiscal Plan in preparation of the anticipated revenue losses associated with the potential passage of the additional exemption.

Other measures of interest include a permanent retention of an existing 10% cap on non-homestead property assessment increases set to expire in 2019 (Amendment #2) and two proposals advanced by the CRC seeking to eliminate the constitutional right of local citizens to govern their sheriff, tax collector, property appraiser, supervisor of elections (Amendment #10) and impose a six-year lobbying ban on public officials (Amendment #12). Additionally, Amendment #4, a petition-driven initiative, proposes the restoration of voting rights for persons with felony convictions, excluding convictions of murder or felony sexual offenses, upon completion of all terms of their sentences. During the June 19, 2018 meeting, the Board adopted Resolution in support of Amendment #4 and the restoration of the voting rights of felons upon completion of their sentences.

# PROPOSED POLICY REQUESTS 116<sup>TH</sup> UNITED STATES CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION:

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.

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.

Just prior to the start of the new federal fiscal year, Congress approved an appropriation package containing the two largest spending bills, Defense and Labor, Health, and Human Services, and a Continuing Resolution to keep the federal government funded until December 7 as negotiations continue on the remaining appropriation bills. Delayed by controversial policy riders and border wall funding, the outcome of the final appropriation bills are anticipated to be resolved during lame duck session as the House adjourns until after the November midterm elections. As the two chambers seek to reach final agreements on spending levels by December, staff will continue to

October 23, 2018

Page 13

coordinate with the County's federal lobbying team to monitor for any potential impacts to the County's federal legislative interests.

Following are the proposed Leon County 2019 federal legislative policy requests for the first session of the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress. Each request provides a brief overview of the issue and indicates the specific recommended legislative action.

### Relocation of U.S. Department of Agriculture Offices

Issue

On August 14, 2018, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) issued a notice of request for potential sites to relocate the headquarters of its National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) and the Economic Research Service (ERS). The notice requested Expression of Interests from state and local governments, industry, academia, and other interested organizations for potential locations to accommodate the construction and/or lease and operation of the NIFA and ERS headquarters facilities. The USDA indicated their interest in exploring options to relocate the headquarters of NIFA and ERS, both currently located in the General Services Administration leased space, either jointly or in separate locations.

As the current lease for the NIFA is set to expire by the end of 2019 and the ability for the ERS to vacate its existing lease, the USDA identified an opportunity for the agencies to be closer to its customers and facilitate economic development in Rural America. The NIFA, established by the 2008 Farm Bill to consolidate all federally funded agriculture, requires approximately 90,000 square feet to house 360 employees. The ERS, a principal agency of the Federal Statistical System that oversees economic research on food, agriculture, rural development, and the environment, requires approximately 70,000 square feet to house 260 employees.

The USDA outlined criteria for selection of the new location(s) based on transportation logistics, workforce capacity, community and quality of life, and capital and operating costs. The specific criteria set forth aligns with the offerings of Leon County in several ways including our community's proximity to an airport, recreational opportunities, and close proximity to a critical mass of intellectual capacity and potential employees. Thus, staff coordinated with the County's federal lobbyist to submit an Expression of Interest of the Leon County-Tallahassee community as the potential relocation site of the NIFA and ERS headquarters. Following initial review of the County's proposal, the USDA will request further information if selected for further consideration. In the meantime, staff is continuing to coordinate with the County's contract lobbying teams and other community partners to gather support at the federal and state level.

Action:

Support efforts to coordinate and gain support of the County's proposal for consideration as the potential relocation site of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Offices.

October 23, 2018

Page 14

### **Foreign Trade Zone Application**

Issue:

In 1934, the United States created the Foreign Trade Zone (FTZ) Program to improve the competitiveness of U.S. companies versus foreign based companies. The FTZ is a designated area within a country where imported goods can be stored or processed without being subject to import duty, helps level the playing field, and improves U.S. competitiveness by reducing operation costs. An FTZ helps to encourage value-added activities at U.S. facilities in competition with foreign alternatives by allowing delayed or reduced duty payments on foreign merchandise, as well as other savings. The advantages of having an FTZ can be the difference a company needs to have access to global markets and keep or locate manufacturing or distribution operations in the region. The benefits associated with businesses in the FTZs will vary depending upon the type of operation involved and authority granted by the Foreign-Trade Zones Board and Customs, but generally may include duty exemptions/deferrals, reduction or inverted tariffs, merchandise processing fee reductions, and others.

In 2014, the Tallahassee City Commission authorized staff to pursue the creation of a FTZ at the Tallahassee International Airport. The City is currently in coordination with the Federal Government to complete prerequisite steps to finalize its formal application to establish a FTZ. Submission and final approval of the application is estimated to take up to three years. As this coordination continues, the City is currently developing the scope of the new International Passenger Processing Facility and anticipates to start design by end of the year.

Action:

Support the City of Tallahassee's application for a Foreign Trade Zone at the Tallahassee International Airport.

#### **Amtrak Passenger Rail Restoration**

Issue:

As described in the previous section of this workshop item, Congress approved the Passenger Rail Reform and Investment Act of 2015, establishing the Gulf Coast Rail Service Working Group (GCRSWG) to evaluate the restoration of intercity passenger rail service in the Gulf Coast region between New Orleans and Orlando. In 2016, Amtrak visited each of the suspended service station areas along the Gulf Coast route to examine the existing conditions of the station areas and worked with the Southern Rail Commission to identify new ideas for intercity passenger rail. Following the tours, the GCRSWG worked to develop a report to determine possible track improvements, capacity cost assessments, and operational readiness. The report incorporates cost estimates for suspended stations, opportunities to enhance platform safety conditions, and other "state of good repair" items identified by Amtrak as well as findings from a capacity assessment related to restoring passenger service conducted by CSX.

In July 2017, the GCRSWP's final report was presented to Congress. The report identified securing the necessary funds for both capital improvements and sustained financial support to cover projected operating losses as a key challenge to implementing the restored passenger rail service. The final report identifies short-term and long-term phase projects and federal funding opportunities to

October 23, 2018

Page 15

support restoration efforts including the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) Program and the Restoration and Enhancement Grants (REG) Program. Staff will continue to work with the GCRSWP, Amtrak, and the SRC to support the final recommendations of the report and funding for restoration efforts.

Action:

Support the Gulf Coast Rail Service Working Group's Final Report and federal funding through programs such as CRISI and REG to restore passenger rail service in the Gulf Coast region

# 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. Each year, most of the County's substantive federal priorities align with NACo's policy platform. For the first session of the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress, Leon County has several substantive federal priorities which NACo will be advocating for or against on behalf of all counties across the nation including:

### • Waters of the U.S.

For the past several years, the Board has prioritized a top federal legislative issue 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. While Congress has attempted to repeal or revise the rule, President Obama vetoed these efforts.

On February 28, 2017 President Trump released the executive order, "Restoring the Rule of Law, Federalism, and Economic Growth by Reviewing the 'Waters of the U.S.' Rule." Following the executive order, the EPA and Corps signed a notice initiating the first step of a two-step process to review and rewrite the rule. In January 2018, the agencies finalized a rule to extend the implementation of the revised rule and the withdrawal of the 2015 rule until 2020. Shortly after, two lawsuits were filed challenging the agencies' authority to modify the implementation date of a final rule. On August 16, 2018, the U.S. District Court of South Carolina ruled the agencies to be in violation of the Administrative Procedure Act by failing to seek meaningful public comment on an already finalized rule – effectively ruling the 2015 WOTUS rule in effect in 26

October 23, 2018

Page 16

states. In response, several federal district courts issued injunctions preventing or blocking the 2015 WOTUS rule from going into effect in 28 states including Florida; however, the rule stands in effect in the remaining states.

The broader interpretation of the WOTUS in the 2015 rule could potentially impact local-owned and maintained streets, gutters, and other stormwater infrastructure. Staff recommends the Board's support of NACo's advocacy efforts for the withdrawal of the 2015 WOTUS rule until further analysis and in-depth consultation with state and local officials can be completed.

# • Health Care Reform

Counties play an integral role in the nation's health care system by investing over \$80 billion annually in funding and providing health services. Historically, most states require counties to provide health care for low-income, uninsured, or underinsured residents; however, the care is often not reimbursed. As a result, counties depend on Medicaid to reduce the amount of uncompensated care that must be provided by county health systems. In 2010, the passage of the Affordable Care Act granted states the ability to expand Medicaid to also include low-income adults without children. Since that time, there have been several attempts by the President and Congress to restructure the health care system to withdraw the states' option to expand Medicaid and reallocate funding into per-capita allotments or block grants; however, these efforts to date have been unsuccessful.

Staff will continue to monitor legislative and budgetary developments related to health care and changes that may adversely impact counties. In addition, staff recommends the Board's support of NACo's efforts to work with the Trump Administration and Congress to ensure that any future changes to the nation's health care system do not simply shift federal and state costs to counties.

#### • Promote County Infrastructure Priorities

Counties play a central role in the nation's transportation system – owning 46% of all public roads and maintaining a substantial portion of the nation's bridge inventory, public transit agencies, and airports that connect residents, communities, and businesses. In February 2018, President Trump introduced his infrastructure plan, which totaled \$1.5 trillion in new spending and financing for infrastructure projects across the country. Since the introduction of the infrastructure plan, the administration has continued to advocate for infrastructure policy designed to create, improve, renovate and repair our nation's aging infrastructure. Any new infrastructure package, if realized, could impact counties' ability to prioritize and advocate for specific projects. Thus, NACo advocates for counties to be recognized as major owners of infrastructure in any future federal infrastructure package. Staff recommends the Board's support of NACo's efforts to ensure county

October 23, 2018

Page 17

transportation and infrastructure priorities are included in any new infrastructure bill presented by Congress.

• Long-Term Federal Funding Support of Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT)
Program and Secure Rural Schools (SRS) Program

Roughly 62% of counties in the United States have federal land within their boundaries. Although counties are required to provide essential services for federal land, they are unable to collect property tax on 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. Additionally, rural counties and schools have historically relied on a share of receipts from timber harvests on federal land. More recently, the SRS program was established to provide assistance to these localities that have been affected by a decline in revenue from timber harvests to supplement local funding for education services and roads. For FY 2018, Congress funded PILT at \$552 million and SRS at \$256 million. Each year, Leon County receives funding from the federal government through these programs due to the portion of Apalachicola National Forest in Leon County. NACo supports federal legislation that includes full mandatory funding for PILT and reauthorization of SRS in the FY 2019 appropriations package and supports a long-term sustainable strategies for both programs.

Collection of Sales Tax on Remote Transactions

In 1992, a U.S. Supreme Court ruling restricted state and local governments from collecting sales tax from remote online vendors that did have a physical presence in a state, and instead required consumers who bought goods online to remit applicable sales taxes individually. Since then, state and local governments have relied on consumers voluntarily remitting sales taxes as this provision has been largely unheeded and not enforced. An estimated \$400 million in potential revenue is lost each year the tax goes uncollected; however, congressional legislation that would allow state and localities to collect taxes on online sales has failed to gain traction pass both chambers in recent years. Although the inability to collect an internet sales tax puts local businesses in Florida at a disadvantage to out-of-state online retailers, legislation to implement internet sales tax has also been unsuccessful in the State Legislature. Congressional legislation that would allow state and localities to collect taxes on online sales has also failed to gain traction pass both chambers.

On June 2018, in the absence of federal legislative action, the Supreme Court overturned the precedent ruling authorizing state and local governments to collect sales tax from remote vendors. The ruling enables states to decide whether to enforce remote sales tax collection and to pass legislation requiring remote sellers to collect these taxes, even if a vendor has no physical presence in the state. In light of this change, staff recommends the Board's support of NACo's continued coordination with

October 23, 2018

Page 18

Congress to ensure codifying legislation grants counties the authority to enforce the collection of local sales taxes from remote sellers.

## **Community Legislative Dialogue Meetings:**

For the past eight years, the County has hosted Community Legislative Dialogue (CLD) Meetings to engage and coordinate with community partners and local organizations in identifying shared interests to monitor throughout each legislative session. Representatives from several community organizations participate in these meetings, including 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 others. During staff's presentation of the 2018 Florida Legislative Session Final Report at the May 22, 2018 meeting, the Board directed staff to schedule the Community Legislative Dialogue Meeting for the 2019 legislative session to be held on Friday, March 29, 2019 at 9:00 a.m.

#### **Options:**

- 1. Approve the 2019 state and federal legislative priorities, as amended by the Board.
- 2. Do not approve the 2019 state and federal legislative priorities.
- 3. Board direction.

## **Recommendation:**

Option #1

#### Attachment:

1. 2019 State and Federal Legislative Appropriations Requests



# 2019 Legislative Priorities Information Form

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

APPROPRIATION REQUEST			
Project Title:	Backup Generator – Secondary Special Needs Shelter		
	Criminal & Civil Justice	Health & Human Services	
D C-topourus	Education	Transportation	
Program Category:	Agriculture & Natural Resources	☐ Tourism & Economic Development	
	☐ General Government/Operations	Other:	
Strategic Plan Alignment:	(Q3) - Provide essential public safety infrastructure and services.  (G2) - Sustain a culture of performance, and deliver effective, efficient services that exceed expectations and demonstrate value.		
<b>Project Description:</b>			
This project requests funding to install a backup generator at the Florida Department of Health facility located at 872 West Orange Avenue in Tallahassee. With a backup generator, this facility would be able to serve as a secondary shelter location for citizens with special medical needs following a disaster. At this time the primary special needs shelter in Leon County is located at Florida High School. This project would also allow the primary special needs shelter to demobilize more quickly after a disaster and reopen for school-related functions by providing an alternate location to accommodate special needs shelterees.			
Purpose of the Project and	Services/Benefits Provided:		
This project seeks to enhance Leon County's ability to shelter citizens with special medical needs following a disaster. This project will provide an additional facility that can be utilized as a special needs shelter in the event of severe winds, flooding, and/or loss of main electrical power.			
Population Served:			
This project will benefit all residents of Leon County, as well as potential evacuees to Leon County from other areas affected by a disaster.			
Project Dates for Construction/Operation:			
If awarded funding, construction and/or installation of improvements would occur in FY2019 and FY 2020.			

# **Leon County Board of County Commissioners** 2019 Legislative Proposal *Page 2*

Funding Requests		
Funding Requested:	\$300,000	

Present or Pending Funding Sources (including county)		
Source:	Amount:	
Source:	Amount:	
Source:	Amount:	



# 2019 Legislative Priorities Information Form

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

APPROPRIATION REQUEST			
Project Title:	Backup Generators – Branch Libraries and Community Centers		
	Criminal & Civil Justice	Health & Human Services	
Program Catagony	☐ Education	Transportation	
Program Category:	Agriculture & Natural Resources	☐ Tourism & Economic Development	
	☐ General Government/Operations	Other:	
Strategic Plan Alignment:	<ul><li>(Q3) - Provide essential public safety infrastructure and services.</li><li>(G2) - Sustain a culture of performance, and deliver effective, efficient services that exceed expectations and demonstrate value.</li></ul>		
<b>Project Description:</b>			
	support to install backup generators at eight Le that they are can be utilized to support disaste		
Purpose of the Project and	Services/Benefits Provided:		
This project seeks to ensure that these facilities are operable and/or can be utilized in the event of severe winds, flooding, and/or loss of main electrical power. This project will ensure that these facilities, which are located all areas of the community including urbanized areas as well as outlying rural areas, can be used as comfort stations, points of distribution for water and supplies, logistical staging areas, or for other uses as described in the County's Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan.			
Population Served:			
This project will benefit all residents of Leon County, as well as potential evacuees to Leon County from other areas affected by a disaster.			
Project Dates for Construction/Operation:			
If awarded funding, construction and/or installation of improvements would occur in FY2019 and FY 2020.			

# **Leon County Board of County Commissioners** 2019 Legislative Proposal *Page 2*

Funding Requests			
Funding Requested: \$1 million			

Present or Pending Funding Sources (including county)		
Source:	Amount:	
Source:	Amount:	
Source:	Amount:	



# 2019 Legislative Priorities Information Form

CONTACT INFORMATION			
Department:	County Administration	Division:	Strategic Initatives
Contact Person:	Andy Johnson	Title:	Assistant to the County Administrator
Email:	JohnsonAn@LeonCountyFL.gov	Phone:	850-606-5383

APPROPRIATION REQUEST			
Project Title:	Leon Works Expo and Junior Apprenticeship		
Program Category:	Criminal & Civil Justice	Health & Human Services	
	☐ Education	Transportation	
	Agriculture & Natural Resources	☐ Tourism & Economic Development	
	General Government/Operations	Other:	
	(EC2) - Support programs, policies and initiatives to attract, create, and promote expansion of business, entrepreneurship, and job creation.		
Strategic Plan Alignment:	(2016-4A) Based upon the projected unmet local market for middle skill jobs, continue to host Leon Works Exposition in collaboration with community and regional partners and launch Leon County's Junior Apprenticeship Program.		

#### **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 Expo and Junior Apprenticeship Program are 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 seeks to raise awareness about skilled careers and 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 Expo and 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.

2019 Legislative Proposal *Page 2* 

### **Population Served:**

The Junior Apprenticeship program targets local high school students and students currently enrolled in local colleges and technical centers. In addition, through the Leon Works Expo, the program also seeks to raise awareness about skilled careers among high school students and other area residents who may be unemployed, underemployed, or who may be seeking a career change.

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

October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2020.

Funding Requests		
Funding Requested:	\$100,000	

Present or Pending Funding Sources (including county)			
Source:	Leon County	Amount:	TBD (in-kind operational support)
Source:		Amount:	
Source:		Amount:	



# 2019 Legislative Priorities Information Form

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

APPROPRIATION REQUEST				
Project Title:	Orchard Pond Greenway Trail, Phase II			
	Criminal & Civil Justice	Health & Human Services		
Durante Catalogue	Education	□ Transportation		
Program Category:	Agriculture & Natural Resources	☐ Tourism & Economic Development		
	General Government/Operations	Other:		
	(EC1) - Do well-designed public infrastructure which supports business, attracts private investment and has long term economic benefits.			
Strategic Plan Alignment:	(EN4) - Reduce our carbon footprint.			
Strategic Fian Anginnent:	(Q1) - Maintain and enhance our parks and recreational offerings and green spaces.			
	(Q6) - Promote livability, health and sense of community by enhancing mobility, encouraging human scale development, and creating public spaces for people.			
Project Description:				
This proposed legislative priority seeks legislative funding to support the design, engineering, and permitting of the Orchard Pond Greenway Trail, Phase II. This trail segment will be a twelve foot paved multi-use trail parallel to the				

This proposed legislative priority seeks legislative funding to support the design, engineering, and permitting 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, engineering, and permitting.

Prior to the conveyance of the property to Leon County, the previous property owner requested funding during the 2015 and 2016 legislative sessions to help fund the construction of the trail, and the County requested funding during the 2017 and 2018 sessions. The Legislature previously included funding for this project in its approved budget in 2015, 2016, and 2017, but the project was vetoed by the Governor each year. Staff recommends an appropriation request be made again during the upcoming legislative session for Phase II of the project.

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

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.

#### **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, and permitting of the trail segment would occur in FY2019 and FY2020.

# **Leon County Board of County Commissioners** 2019 Legislative Proposal *Page 2*

Funding Requests		
Funding Requested:	\$300,000	

Present or Pending Funding Sources (including county)			
Source:	Leon County	Amount:	TBD (in-kind)
Source:		Amount:	
Source:		Amount:	



# 2019 Legislative Priorities Information Form

CONTACT INFORMATION				
Department:	Engineering Services			
Contact Person:	Theresa Heiker	Title:	Stormwater Management Coord.	
Email:	HeikerT@LeonCountyFL.gov	Phone:	850-606-1526	

APPROPRIATION REQUEST			
Project Title:	Lake Henrietta Renovation		
	Criminal & Civil Justice	Health & Human Services	
Program Category:	Education	Transportation	
	Agriculture & Natural Resources	☐ Tourism & Economic Development	
	General Government/Operations	Other:	
	(EN1) - Protect the quality and supply of our water.		
Strategic Plan Alignment:	(EN2) - Conserve and protect environmentally sensitive lands and our natural		
	ecosystems.  (Q1) - Maintain and enhance our parks and recreational offerings and green spaces.		

#### **Project Description:**

This project involves the major restoration of the 17 year old Lake Henrietta stormwater facility on Springhill Road. The stormwater facility was constructed with its northern five acres excavated as a sump to capture and concentrate the sediment from the west, central and east drainage ditches and treats runoff before it enters Lake Munson downstream.

An original projection of 8,000 cubic yards of sediment removal was expected at this juncture in the ponds service life. However, during the initial design phase, the actual amount found is approximately 53,000 cubic yards. The amount of sediment captured in this sump far exceeds the estimates, which is believed to be largely due to the delay of planned implementation of restoration projects in the contributing area. Due to the much larger than expected sediment quantity, hydraulic dredging is the best long-term solution. This requires property acquisition for storage and processing of dredge material.

In addition to this project, the Board recently funded sediment sampling at Lake Munson, conducted by the Florida Geologic Survey, to look for potential contamination and to determine potential disposal of contaminated material or recommend alternatives in lake restoration activities. This will be used to develop remediation plans and associated future projects for Lake Munson.

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

The project is divided into five phases. Property acquisition and design and permitting of an adjacent spoil handling site have been funded. This projects requests funds to support hydraulic dredging and the design and installation of a trash rack at Lake Henrietta. The removal of sediment and litter from the lake will improve water quality flowing to Lake Munson and ultimately to Wakulla Springs.

2019 Legislative Proposal *Page 2* 

# **Population Served:**

This project will benefit all residents of and visitors to Leon County.

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

If funded, design, engineering, permitting, and construction of the trail segment would occur in FY2019 and FY2020.

FUNDING REQUESTS		
Funding Requested: \$1,500,000		

	Present or Pending Funding Sources (including county)			
Source:	Leon County	Amount:	TBD (Sales Tax Extension)	
Source:		Amount:		
Source:		Amount:		



# 2019 Legislative Priorities Information Form

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

APPROPRIATION REQUEST			
Project Title:	Fords Arm Restoration		
	Criminal & Civil Justice	Health & Human Services	
<b>D</b> C 4	☐ Education	Transportation	
Program Category:	Agriculture & Natural Resources	☐ Tourism & Economic Development	
	General Government/Operations	Other:	
Strategic Plan Alignment:	(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 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 phosphorus loads into Timberlane Creek by a combination of channel stabilization, construction of a stormwater sump and drainage enhancements under Timberlane Road and Meridian Road.			
Population Served:			
All residents of Leon County will benefit from this project. 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, design, permitting, easement acquisition and construction could be complete within three years of project funding.

# **Leon County Board of County Commissioners** 2019 Legislative Proposal *Page 2*

Funding Requests		
Funding Requested:	\$4,000,000	

Present or Pending Funding Sources (including county)			
Source:	Leon County	Amount:	\$2,000,000 (local match - land acquisition)
Source:	Leon County	Amount:	\$870,000 (in-kind match for design and permitting)
Source:		Amount:	



# 2019 Legislative Priorities Information Form

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

APPROPRIATION REQUEST			
Project Title:	Centerville Trace Septic to Sewer		
	Criminal & Civil Justice	Health & Human Services	
Duaguam Cataganya	Education	Transportation	
Program Category:	Agriculture & Natural Resources	☐ Tourism & Economic Development	
	General Government/Operations	Other:	
	(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.		
Strategic Plan Alignment:	Continue to work with regional partners to develop strategies to further reduce nitrogen load to Wakulla Springs, including:		
(EN1) - Extend central sewer or other effective wastewate Primary Springs Protection Zone area within Leon County			
Project Description:			

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.

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

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.

#### **Population Served:**

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.

2019 Legislative Proposal *Page 2* 

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

If allocated state and/or federal funding, design, engineering, and permitting of the system would occur in FY2019 and FY2020.

Funding Requests		
Funding Requested:	<ul> <li>Total Funding Requested: \$1 million</li> <li>Pump station site acquisition: \$275,000</li> <li>Connection survey, system design, and permit applications: \$725,000</li> </ul>	

	Present or Pending Funding Sources (including county)		
Source:	Amount:		
Source:	Amount:		
Source:	Amount:		



# 2019 Legislative Priorities Information Form

CONTACT INFORMATION				
Department:	Public Works	Division:	Engineering Services	
Contact Person:	Theresa Heiker	Title:	Stormwater Management Coord.	
Email:	HeikerT@LeonCountyFL.gov	Phone:	850-606-1526	

APPROPRIATION REQUEST			
Project Title:	Harbinwood Estates Septic to Sewer		
	Criminal & Civil Justice	Health & Human Services	
Duagnam Catagony	Education	Transportation	
Program Category:	Agriculture & Natural Resources	☐ Tourism & Economic Development	
	General Government/Operations	Other:	
	(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)		
Strategic Plan Alignment:	Continue to work with regional partners to develop strategies to further reduce nitrogen load to Wakulla Springs, including:		
	(EN1) - Extend central sewer or other effective wastewater treatment solutions to the Primary Springs Protection Zone area within Leon County (2013)		

#### **Project Description:**

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 contributor to high nutrient concentrations in Lake Jackson, a State Aquatic Preserve and an Outstanding Florida Water.

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

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.

#### **Population Served:**

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).

2019 Legislative Proposal *Page 2* 

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

If allocated state and/or federal funding, surveys and site acquisition would occur in FY2019. Design, engineering, and permitting would be anticipated in FY2020.

Funding Requests			
Funding Requested:	<ul> <li>Total Funding Requested: \$2.5 million</li> <li>400-lot connection survey: \$200,000</li> <li>Collection system and force main design survey: \$200,000</li> <li>Pump station site acquisition: \$275,000</li> <li>Design and permit applications: \$1,825,000</li> </ul>		

Present or Pending Funding Sources (including county)			
Source:		Amount:	
Source:		Amount:	
Source:		Amount:	



# 2019 Legislative Priorities Information Form

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

APPROPRIATION REQUEST		
Project Title:	Fred George Wetland Restoration	
Program Category:	Criminal & Civil Justice	Health & Human Services
	☐ Education	Transportation
	Agriculture & Natural Resources	☐ Tourism & Economic Development
	General Government/Operations	Other:
Strategic Plan Alignment:	(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)	

#### **Project Description:**

This request is for one-time construction funds to re-grade the existing topography of the Fred George Wetland and intercept debris at a major inflow point to 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.

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

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 Floridian 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.

#### **Population Served:**

All residents of Leon County will benefit from enhanced recreational opportunities and the improved discharge to the Floridan Aquifer. The Fred George Greenway was acquired in 2009 through joint funding from Florida Communities Trust, Blueprint 2000, and County funding.

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

If allocated state and/or federal funding, design, permitting, and construction could be complete within two years of project funding.

# **Leon County Board of County Commissioners** 2019 Legislative Proposal *Page 2*

Funding Requests	
Funding Requested:	\$1,000,000

Present or Pending Funding Sources (including county)		
Source:	Amount:	
Source:	Amount:	
Source:	Amount:	



# 2019 Legislative Priorities Information Form

CONTACT INFORMATION			
Department:	Intervention/Detention Alternatives	Division:	N/A
Contact Person:	Teresa Broxton	Title:	Director
Email:	BroxtonT@LeonCountyFL.gov	Phone:	850-606-5712

	APPROPRIATION REQUEST	
Project Title:	Offender Re-entry Programs	
Program Category:	Criminal & Civil Justice	Health & Human Services
	☐ Education	Transportation
	Agriculture & Natural Resources	☐ Tourism & Economic Development
	General Government/Operations	Other:
Strategic Plan Alignment:	<ul><li>(Q3) Provide essential public safety infrastructure and services.</li><li>(Q4) Support and promote access to basic health and welfare services to our community members most in need.</li></ul>	
<b>Project Description:</b>		
This project seeks funding to	support offender re-entry services in Leon Co	unty.
Purpose of the Project and	Services/Benefits Provided:	
This project seeks funding to enhance local re-entry programs serving the Leon County community. Offender reentry programs have been nationally recognized as a best practice in breaking the cycle of reoffending and reincarceration and have far reaching implications for enhanced public safety. Specialized programs and services targeting this population are essential to successful reintegration into a free society. Depending on the level of support available from family or friends, offenders transitioning from custody back into the community may have a variety of needs, from immediate basic survival essentials, such as food, clothing and shelter, to intermediate and long-term support such as transportation, personal records (i.e. birth certificate, and other forms of identification, driver's license, social security card, etc.) life and work skills or vocational training, job-placement assistance, behavioral health and/or substance abuse counseling.		
Population Served:		
This project would directly so	erve Leon County citizens returning to the com	nmunity after incarceration.
Project Dates for Construction/Operation:		
Requested funding would sup	oport re-entry programs during FY 2019-2020.	

# **Leon County Board of County Commissioners** 2019 Legislative Proposal *Page 2*

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

Present or Pending Funding Sources (including county)		
Source:	Amount:	
Source:	Amount:	
Source:	Amount:	