



# A REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY: 2013 LEON COUNTY ANNUAL REPORT IN BRIEF

PEOPLE FOCUSED. PERFORMANCE DRIVEN.

## BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



## MESSAGE FROM THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

On October 8, 2013, I presented the 2013 Annual Report to the Board of County Commissioners. It is now my pleasure, as Leon County Administrator, to present this report to the residents of our community.

Fiscal Year 2013 continued as a period of challenge and change – for Leon County government and for those we serve. While most Florida counties began preparing their Fiscal Year 2013/2014 budgets with increasing property values, Leon County's property values continued to decline. This made it difficult for the Board of County Commissioners to, once again, balance the budget and maintain quality services. The recently passed Leon County Fiscal Year 2013/2014 budget of \$222,416,464 is \$674,040 less than the prior year's budget. The County has reduced its budget six years in a row, cumulatively saving \$62.3 million (22%) since Fiscal Year 2007/2008. Leon County continues to rank among the most efficiently-operated counties. Among like-sized Florida counties, Leon County once again has the lowest net budget per resident, and the lowest number of employees per capita.



Vincent S. Long

The Annual Report reflects County employees living our "People Focused, Performance Driven" culture through our core practices, and our continued focus on aligning the optimized resources of Leon County government with the Board's top priorities: to grow and diversify our local economy; to be a responsible steward of our natural resources and protect our environment; to enhance Leon County's quality of life, so it is a place where people are healthy, safe and connected to their community; and to continuously improve how we govern.

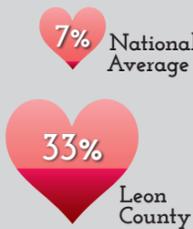
The Annual Report highlights measures Leon County has taken to engage citizens as co-creators of their community; game changing infrastructure projects that came to life, sparking revitalization and private-sector investment; and strategic initiatives that are enhancing our quality of life and growing our tourism economy.

Through the vision and leadership provided by the Board of County Commissioners, and hard work of dedicated employees, I am proud to report that in 2013, Leon County has proven to be a government that our citizens can believe in and others can benchmark against. What follows are excerpts from the Annual Report. I invite you to read the full report at [www.LeonCountyFL.gov/AnnualReport](http://www.LeonCountyFL.gov/AnnualReport) and I always welcome your feedback.

## PRESERVING LIFE, IMPROVING HEALTH, PROMOTING SAFETY

Leon County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) completed 23,858 patient transports in 2013; a 44% increase since 2004, which was its first year of operation after Tallahassee Memorial Healthcare discontinued its ambulance service. EMS' Heart Ready initiative has improved cardiac arrest survival rates to 33.6% upon arrival at the emergency room, which is 400 times better than the 7% national average. EMS hosted Press the Chest, Train to Save a Life and CPR Sunday, training more than 2,000 residents in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and in the use of automated external defibrillators (AEDs).

### Cardiac Survival Rate



## INSPIRING A LOVE OF READING AND A LIFE OF LEARNING

The LeRoy Collins Leon County Public Library System welcomed more than 1 million visitors in 2013, a number greater than the population of Rhode Island. Leon County residents checked out more than 1.8 million books and other media, and downloaded 54,500 eBooks and audio materials from its collection. The library's resources grew with the opening of Leon County's newest community center next door to the Lake Jackson Branch Library that opened in August 2012. You may learn more about Leon County's libraries and download eBooks and audio books at [www.LeonCountyFL.gov/Library](http://www.LeonCountyFL.gov/Library).



## SHAPING OUR COMMUNITY AND SPURRING PRIVATE INVESTMENT THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS AND PUBLIC INVESTMENTS

Leon County celebrated the opening of the Public Safety Complex, which was constructed through a partnership forged by the County, City and Sheriff, and now houses the Tallahassee/Leon County Consolidated Dispatch Agency, Leon County EMS, Leon County Emergency Management, Tallahassee Fire Department Administration, and the City's Transportation Management Center. The joint dispatch operation system dispatches to local, first responder agencies: Leon County EMS and the Sheriff, and City Police and Fire. Dispatchers, now working side by side, provide public safety responses more efficiently and effectively than ever. Strong partnerships and public investments were also evident with projects like Mahan Drive, Cascades Park, and Gaines Street revitalization, which sparked private investment in the urban core. Such projects inspire confidence that Leon County government effectively engages citizens and efficiently executes projects. With this backdrop, citizens on the Sales Tax Committee, convened in 2012, are imagining and evaluating the possibilities for the future of our community, and will present their recommendations to the Board early next year.



## INVESTING IN THE COMMUNITY AND CREATING JOBS (FY13 & FY14)

Over the past few years, the Board has focused resources on maintaining jobs, investing in the community, and making local infrastructure improvements. These steps include committing \$90.5 million towards the following capital projects.

PROJECT CATEGORIES	PROJECT COSTS	JOBS CREATED
Culture & Recreation	\$8,921,219	82
General Government	\$13,364,562	123
Health & Safety	\$15,935,118	147
Physical Environment	\$21,650,448	199
Transportation	\$30,642,790	282
<b>Total FY13 &amp; FY14 Projected Spending</b>	<b>\$90,514,137</b>	<b>833</b>

Based on analysis performed by the Economic Development Council, for every \$1 million spent, 9.2 jobs are created; therefore, 833 jobs were created from these capital project investments.

Additionally, since their inception, Leon County has invested more than \$16.9 million in the Frenchtown/Southside Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) and the Downtown CRA. These CRAs, formed to revitalize downtown and areas to the north and south of downtown, partially funded major construction projects such as College Town, The Deck, The District and The Catalyst.



## PROMOTING TRANSPARENCY, ACCESSIBILITY, AND ENGAGEMENT

Leon County engaged citizens as never before. We launched the Citizen Engagement Series, which gained national attention this year when it was awarded the National Association of Counties' 2013 Achievement Award. Leon County's website, with features such as the blue Citizens Connect button, brought customer service to a new level and is receiving national recognition. Leon County received the Sunshine Review's 2012 & 2013 Sunny Awards for website transparency and open government, and Public Technology Institute's 2012-2014 Citizen-Engaged Communities Award for effectively using technology to provide fast, friendly and responsive service.



## VALUING VETERANS

Leon County has a long tradition of supporting its veteran community, and was honored to be a partner on the inaugural Honor Flight Tallahassee for WWII Veterans; to host Operation Thank You: Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans; and to partner in Homeless Veterans Stand Down. Leon County's Veterans Services Division assisted more than 18,000 veterans, and facilitated claim actions that resulted in Leon County veterans receiving more than \$10.1 million in new awards. More than 50 unemployed veterans received money for retraining through the Veterans Retraining Assistance Program since it was established May 15, 2012.



### Total Clients Served

