

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA

PUBLIC HEARING AGENDA

**Monday, August 17, 2026
6:00 p.m.**

Judge Augustus D. Aikens, Jr. Courthouse, County Commission Chambers, Fifth Floor
301 South Monroe Street Tallahassee, FL 32301



COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Christian Caban, Chairman
District 2

David T. O'Keefe, Vice Chairman
District 5

Carolyn D. Cummings
At-Large I

Nick Maddox
At-Large II

Rick Minor
District 3

Brian Welch
District 4

Bill Proctor
District 1

Vincent S. Long
County Administrator

Chasity H. O'Steen
County Attorney

The Leon County Commission typically holds regular meetings on the second Tuesday of each month and workshops are held on the fourth Tuesday of the month. Regularly scheduled meetings are held at 3:00 p.m. and workshops are held at 1:00 p.m. A tentative schedule of meetings and workshops is attached to this agenda as a "Public Notice." Commission meeting agendas and minutes are available on the County Home Page at: www.leoncountyfl.gov. The media and the public can access the meeting in real time on Comcast channel 16, the Leon County Florida channel on Roku, the County's [Facebook](#) page, [YouTube](#) channel, [Twitter](#) and [web site](#).

Please be advised that if a person decides to appeal any decision made by the Board of County Commissioners with respect to any matter considered at this meeting or hearing, such person will need a record of these proceedings, and for this purpose, such person may need to ensure that verbatim record of the proceeding is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. The County does not provide or prepare such record (Section 286.0105, Florida Statutes).

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 286.26, Florida Statutes, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact, on behalf of the Chairman, Mathieu Cavell at Judge Augustus D. Aikens, Jr. Courthouse, 301 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32301 or CMR@leoncountyfl.gov, by written request at least 48 hours prior to the proceeding. Telephone: (850) 606-5300, 1-800-955-8771 (TTY), 1-800-955-8770 (Voice), or 711 via Florida Relay Service. Accommodation Request Forms are available on the website www.leoncountyfl.gov/ADA.

Board of County Commissioners

Leon County, Florida

Agenda

Public Hearing

Monday, August 17, 2026, 6:00 p.m.

Judge Augustus D. Aikens, Jr. Leon County Courthouse, Commission Chambers, 5th Floor
301 S. Monroe Street Tallahassee, Florida 32301

The media and the public can access the meeting in real time on Comcast channel 16, the Leon County Florida channel on Roku, the County's [Facebook](#) page, [YouTube](#) channel, [Twitter](#) and County [web site](#).

Citizens wishing to provide input on any item(s) on the published agenda (or a non-agenda subject) for the meeting may share public comment by using one of the following options:

- In-person at the meeting; or
- Register to provide comments using communications media technology during the meeting through the registration form using the following link <https://www2.leoncountyfl.gov/coadmin/agenda/>.

Citizens wishing to provide virtual comment must register by 8 p.m. on the day before the meeting to provide County staff sufficient time to provide instructions to citizens for comment during the meeting. Anyone needing assistance with registration may contact County Administration at 850-606-5300.

Please note that Board of County Commissioners Policy 01-05, Article IX., Section E., titled "Addressing the Commission", and Article IX., Section F., entitled "Decorum", shall remain in full force and effect.

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Invocation by Reverend Al Williams, Associate Pastor, Bible Based Church

Pledge of Allegiance by Commissioner Cummings

SCHEDULED PUBLIC HEARING, 6:00 P.M.

1. First and Only Public Hearing to Consider an Ordinance to Place a Proposed "Historic Harm" Charter Amendment on the November 3, 2026 General Election Ballot to Establish a Community Impact Assessment Process as Recommended by the Leon County Citizen Charter Review Committee
(County Administrator / County Administration)

ADJOURN

The next regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners is scheduled for

Tuesday, September 15, 2026 at 3:00 p.m. – Regular Meeting

**All lobbyists appearing before the Board must pay a \$25 annual registration fee.
For registration forms and/or additional information, please contact the Board Secretary
or visit the County Clerk website at www.leoncountyfl.gov.**

PUBLIC NOTICE
Leon County Board of County Commissioners
2026 Meeting Schedule

Date	Day	Time	Meeting
January 26	Monday	9:00 a.m.	Board Retreat
January 27	Tuesday	3:00 p.m.	Regular Board Meeting
February 10	Tuesday	3:00 p.m.	Regular Board Meeting
March 10	Tuesday	3:00 p.m.	Regular Board Meeting
March 24	Tuesday	1:00 p.m.	Workshop (if necessary)
April 14	Tuesday	3:00 p.m.	Regular Board Meeting
April 28	Tuesday	1:00 p.m.	Budget Workshop
May 12	Tuesday	3:00 p.m.	Regular Board Meeting
June 9	Tuesday	3:00 p.m.	Regular Board Meeting
June 16	Tuesday	10:00 a.m.	Budget Workshop
July 14	Tuesday	10:00 a.m.	Budget Workshop
July 14	Tuesday	3:00 p.m.	Regular Board Meeting
August 17	Monday	6:00 p.m.	Public Hearing on Charter Amendments
September 15	Tuesday	3:00 p.m.	Regular Board Meeting
September 15	Tuesday	6:00 p.m.	First Public Hearing on Tentative Millage Rates and Budgets
September 22	Tuesday	3:00 p.m.	Legislative Priorities Workshop
September 22	Tuesday	6:00 p.m.	Second Public Hearing on Final Millage Rates and Final Budgets
October 13	Tuesday	3:00 p.m.	Regular Board Meeting
October 27	Tuesday	1:00 p.m.	Workshop (if necessary)
November 17	Tuesday	3:00 p.m.	Installation, Reorganization & Regular Board Meeting
December 8	Tuesday	3:00 p.m.	Regular Board Meeting

All Workshops, Meetings, and Public Hearings are subject to change.

Note: All regularly scheduled Board meetings are generally scheduled for the 2nd Tuesday of the month and workshops for the 4th Tuesday. If additional Board meetings are necessary, they would be scheduled on the 4th Tuesday of the month in addition to or in place of a workshop.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Leon County Board of County Commissioners
2026 Calendar

Month	Day	Time	Meeting Type
January 2026	Thursday 1	Office Closed	NEW YEAR'S DAY
	Friday 2	Office Closed	NEW YEAR'S DAY OBSERVED
	Monday 12	10:00 a.m.	Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency Board Retreat Tallahassee State College Capitol Center
	Monday 19	Offices Closed	MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY
	Wednesday 21		Florida Association of Counties Legislative Day FSU Turnbull Conference Center Tallahassee, Leon County, FL
	Monday 26	9:00 a.m.	Board Retreat FSU SGA Senate Chambers 75 N. Woodward Avenue, Room 3010
	Tuesday 27	3:00 p.m.	Regular Meeting Judge Augustus D. Aikens, Jr. Leon County Courthouse, 5 th Floor Commission Chambers
February 2026	Tuesday 10	3:00 p.m.	Regular Meeting Judge Augustus D. Aikens, Jr. Leon County Courthouse, 5 th Floor Commission Chambers
	Monday 16	Offices Closed	PRESIDENTS' DAY
	Tuesday 17	1:30 p.m.	Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency Board Meeting Tallahassee City Hall, Commission Chambers
	Saturday 21 – Tuesday 24		NACO Legislative Conference Washington, D.C.
March 2026	Tuesday 10	3:00 p.m.	Regular Meeting Judge Augustus D. Aikens, Jr. Leon County Courthouse, 5 th Floor Commission Chambers
	Thursday 12	3:00 p.m.	Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency Meeting City Commission Chambers
	Tuesday 23	1:30 p.m.	Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency Board Meeting Tallahassee City Hall, Commission Chambers
April 2026	Tuesday 14	3:00 p.m.	Regular Meeting Judge Augustus D. Aikens, Jr. Leon County Courthouse, 5 th Floor Commission Chambers
	Saturday 18		Honor Flight Tallahassee Washington D.C.
May 2026	Tuesday 12	3:00 p.m.	Regular Meeting Judge Augustus D. Aikens, Jr. Leon County Courthouse, 5 th Floor Commission Chambers
	Tuesday 19	1:30 p.m.	Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency Board Meeting Tallahassee City Hall, Commission Chambers
	Wednesday 20	Offices Closed	EMANCIPATION DAY observed
	Monday 25	Offices Closed	MEMORIAL DAY

Month	Day	Time	Meeting Type
June 2026	Tuesday 9	3:00 p.m.	Regular Meeting Judge Augustus D. Aikens, Jr. Leon County Courthouse, 5 th Floor Commission Chambers
	Thursday 11	1:00 p.m.	Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency Budget Workshop City Commission Chambers
		3:00 p.m.	Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency Meeting City Commission Chambers
	Tuesday 16	10:00 a.m.	Budget Workshop Judge Augustus D. Aikens, Jr. Leon County Courthouse, 5 th Floor Commission Chambers
	Tuesday 16	1:30 p.m.	Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency Board Meeting Tallahassee City Hall, Commission Chambers
	Tuesday 23 – Friday 26		FAC Annual Conference & Educational Exposition Orlando, Orange County, FL
July 2026	Thursday 2	Offices Closed	INDEPENDENCE DAY OBSERVED
	Friday 3	Offices Closed	INDEPENDENCE DAY OBSERVED
	Monday 6	Offices Closed	INDEPENDENCE DAY OBSERVED
	Tuesday 14	3:00 p.m.	Regular Meeting Judge Augustus D. Aikens, Jr. Leon County Courthouse, 5 th Floor Commission Chambers
	Friday 17 – Monday 20		NACo Annual Conference New Orleans, LA
	Saturday 18 – Wednesday 22		NAACP National Convention Chicago, IL
	Wednesday 29 – Saturday 1		National Urban League Annual Conference Nashville, TN
August 2026	Thursday 13 – Sunday 16		Chamber of Commerce Annual Conference Fernandina Beach, FL
	Monday 17	6:00 p.m.	Public Hearing on Charter Amendments Judge Augustus D. Aikens, Jr. Leon County Courthouse, 5 th Floor Commission Chambers
September 2026	Monday 7	Offices Closed	LABOR DAY
	Tuesday 15	3:00 p.m.	Regular Meeting Judge Augustus D. Aikens, Jr. Leon County Courthouse, 5 th Floor Commission Chambers
		6:00 p.m.*	First Public Hearing Regarding Tentative Millage Rates and Tentative Budgets for FY 25/26* Judge Augustus D. Aikens, Jr. Leon County Courthouse, 5 th Floor Commission Chambers
	Wednesday 16 – Friday 18		FAC Innovation & Policy Conference Duval County
	Wednesday 16 – Sunday 20		Congressional Black Caucus Annual Legislative Conference – Washington D.C.
	Tuesday 22	3:00 p.m.	Legislative Priorities Workshop Judge Augustus D. Aikens, Jr. Leon County Courthouse, 5 th Floor Commission Chambers
		6:00 p.m.*	Second Public Hearing on Final Millage Rates and Final Budgets Judge Augustus D. Aikens, Jr. Leon County Courthouse, 5 th Floor Commission Chambers

Month	Day	Time	Meeting Type
September 2026 (cont.)	Thursday 24	3:00 p.m.	Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency Meeting City Commission Chambers
		5:00 p.m.	Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency Budget Public Hearing City Commission Chambers
	Monday 28	1:30 p.m.	Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency Board Meeting Tallahassee City Hall, Commission Chambers
<i>*These public hearing dates may change because of the School Board's scheduling of its budget adoption public hearings</i>			
October 2026	Tuesday 13	3:00 p.m.	Regular Meeting Judge Augustus D. Aikens, Jr. Leon County Courthouse, 5 th Floor Commission Chambers
	<i>Saturday 17 – Wednesday 21</i>		<i>ICMA Annual Conference Long Beach, CA</i>
	Tuesday 20	1:30 p.m.	Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency Board Meeting Tallahassee City Hall, Commission Chambers
	Tuesday 27	1:00 pm	Board Workshop (if necessary) Judge Augustus D. Aikens, Jr. Leon County Courthouse, 5 th Floor Commission Chambers
November 2026	Tuesday 3	Offices Closed	ELECTION DAY
	Wednesday 11	Offices Closed	VETERAN'S DAY
	Thursday 12	3:00 pm	Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency Meeting City Commission Chambers
	Tuesday 17	3:00 p.m.	Installation, Reorganization and Regular Meeting Judge Augustus D. Aikens, Jr. Leon County Courthouse, 5 th Floor Commission Chambers
	Monday 23	1:30 p.m.	Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency Board Meeting Tallahassee City Hall, Commission Chambers
	Thursday 26	Offices Closed	THANKSGIVING DAY
	Friday 27	Offices Closed	DAY AFTER THANKSGIVING
December 2026	<i>Wednesday 2 – Friday 4</i>		<i>FAC Legislative Conference Ponte Vedra Beach, FL</i>
	Tuesday 8	3:00 p.m.	Regular Meeting Judge Augustus D. Aikens, Jr. Leon County Courthouse, 5 th Floor Commission Chambers
	Tuesday 15	1:30 p.m.	Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency Board Meeting Tallahassee City Hall, Commission Chambers
	Friday 25	Offices Closed	CHRISTMAS
January 2027	Friday 1	Offices Closed	NEW YEAR'S DAY
	Monday 18	Offices Closed	MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY

Meetings listed in italics are included in the Board's 2026 Travel Schedule.

The 2026 Calendar may be updated periodically based on Board direction.

Citizen Committees, Boards, and Authorities

Current and Upcoming Vacancies

CURRENT VACANCIES

Advisory Committee for Quality Growth

Board of County Commissioners (6 appointments)

Animal Classification Committee

Board of County Commissioners (1 appointment) – Licensed Veterinarian

Animal Shelter Advisory Board

City Commission (2 appointments)

Architectural Review Board

City Commission (2 appointments)

Big Bend Health Council

Board of County Commissioners (4 appointments)

Board of Adjustments & Appeals

City Commission (4 appointments)

Canopy Roads Citizens Committee

Board of County Commissioners (1 appointment)

City Commission (3 appointments)

CareerSource Capital Region Board

Board of County Commissioners (2 appointments)

Code Enforcement Board

County Commissioner – District IV: Brian Welch (1 appointment)

Community Development Block Grant Citizens Advisory Task Force

Board of County Commissioners (3 appointments)

Joint City/County Cycling Workgroup

Board of County Commissioners (1 appointment)

City Commission (4 appointments)

Leon County Educational Facilities Authority

Board of County Commissioners (1 appointment)

Leon County Research & Development Authority

Board of County Commissioners (3 appointments)

Public Safety Coordinating Council

Board of County Commissioners Chairman: Christian Caban (2 appointments)

Water Resources Committee

County Commissioner – At-Large I: Carolyn Cummings (1 appointment)

FUTURE VACANCIES

September 30, 2026

Animal Shelter Advisory Board

Board of County Commissioners (3 appointments)

Council on Culture and Arts Board

Board of County Commissioners (2 appointments)

September 30, 2026 (cont.)

Leon County Research & Development Authority

Board of County Commissioners (2 appointments)

Science Advisory Committee

County Commissioner – District III: Rick Minor (1 appointment)

County Commissioner – District IV: Brian Welch (1 appointment)

Tallahassee-Leon County Commission on the Status of Women & Girls

County Commissioner – District III: Rick Minor (1 appointment)

County Commissioner – District I: Bill Proctor (1 appointment)

County Commissioner – District V: David O’Keefe (1 appointment)

October 31, 2026

Tourist Development Council

Board of County Commissioners (2 appointments)

**Leon County
Board of County Commissioners**

Notes for Agenda Item #1

Leon County Board of County Commissioners

Agenda Item #1

August 17, 2026

To: Honorable Chairman and Members of the Board

From: Vincent S. Long, County Administrator

Title: First and Only Public Hearing to Consider an Ordinance to Place a Proposed “Historic Harm” Charter Amendment on the November 3, 2026 General Election Ballot to Establish a Community Impact Assessment Process as Recommended by the Leon County Citizen Charter Review Committee

Review and Approval:	Vincent S. Long, County Administrator
Department / Division Review:	Ken Morris, Assistant County Administrator Shington Lamy, Assistant County Administrator
Lead Staff / Project Team:	Nicki Hatch, Assistant to the County Administrator for Legislative and Strategic Initiatives Cameron Williams, Management Analyst

Statement of Issue:

This item requests the Board to conduct the first and only public hearing to consider an Ordinance for placement of a proposed amendment to the Leon County Charter addressing historic harm on the November 3, 2026 General Election ballot. As recommended by the Citizen Charter Review Committee (CCRC), the proposed Charter Amendment would require periodic assessments, public reporting, and the Board’s review of adverse community conditions in historically underserved areas and vulnerable populations resulting from County laws, policies, and practices.

Fiscal Impact:

This item has no immediate fiscal impact to the County. If approved by voters, the implementation of the proposed Historic Harm Charter Amendment may have a future fiscal impact based on the frequency and scale of the periodic assessments, as well as any potential remedial actions directed by the Board.

Staff Recommendation:

Option #4: Board Direction.

Title: First and Only Public Hearing to Consider an Ordinance to Place a Proposed “Historic Harm” Charter Amendment on the November 3, 2026 General Election Ballot to Establish a Community Impact Assessment Process as Recommended by the Leon County Citizen Charter Review Committee

August 17, 2026

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Report and Discussion

Background:

This item requests the Board to conduct the first and only public hearing to consider an Ordinance for placement of a proposed amendment to the Leon County Charter (Charter) addressing historic harm on the November 3, 2026 General Election ballot. As recommended by the CCRC, the proposed Historic Harm Charter Amendment would require periodic assessments, public reporting, and the Board’s review of adverse community conditions in historically underserved areas and vulnerable populations resulting from County laws, policies, and practices. As directed by the Board, the proposed historic community impact assessment process, as revised and advanced by the CCRC, would be based on geographic areas rather than race, gender, ethnicity, or any other protected class; would be consistent with state and federal laws; and would not jeopardize state and federal funding. Approval of the proposed amendment would be subject to voter approval in the November 3, 2026 General Election.

During the Charter Review Process, the CCRC requested an analysis of the County’s ongoing efforts to reduce poverty and inequity in the community. Agenda materials and presentations highlighted the County’s use of empirical data to guide service decisions, engagement with residents, and the significant County investment in neighborhoods that have historically experienced poverty. The materials presented to the CCRC also included an analysis of a committee member-proposal to amend the Charter by creating a new section that would require the County to establish programs and funding targeted to communities that have experienced historic racial discrimination. Following discussion at its January 22, 2026 meeting, the CCRC requested a draft “Historic Harm” Charter Amendment and corresponding ballot language requiring the County to assess and address persistent disparities resulting from historic public policy decisions including slavery and segregation. On February 19, 2026, the CCRC received the draft Charter Amendment and ballot language with a legal analysis of state and federal actions to restrict, prohibit, and penalize local government actions related to identified categories, including race. At that time, due to the ongoing state and federal efforts to prohibit diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) activities as well as the County’s ongoing efforts to address poverty and inequities in the community within the Board’s existing authority, the CCRC did not advance the draft Historic Harm Charter Amendment.

On March 20, 2026, the Board requested an agenda item on the previous iteration of the draft Historic Harm Charter Amendment which was considered, but ultimately not recommended, by the CCRC related to persistent disparities resulting from historic public policy decisions. It is important to note that on that same day, the Florida Legislature also approved SB 1134 which prohibits local governments from adopting and implementing DEI-related activities such as those proposed during the Charter review process. Additionally, on March 26, 2026, President Trump issued an executive order that requires all recipients of federal funding to agree that they will not engage in racially discriminatory DEI activities.

Title: First and Only Public Hearing to Consider an Ordinance to Place a Proposed “Historic Harm” Charter Amendment on the November 3, 2026 General Election Ballot to Establish a Community Impact Assessment Process as Recommended by the Leon County Citizen Charter Review Committee

August 17, 2026

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On April 10, 2026, the Board received a comprehensive analysis on the Historic Harm Charter Amendment as well as the recent state and federal actions that prohibit local governments from adopting and implementing DEI-related activities such as those proposed in the amendment previously considered by the CCRC. Recognizing these considerations, the Board requested a revised framework to address historic harmful public policy decisions that could be provided to the CCRC. At its May 12, 2026 meeting, the Board voted to reconvene the CCRC to consider advancing a Charter Amendment to address historic harmful public policy decisions based on geographical areas in the community rather than race, gender, ethnicity, or any other protected class to ensure compliance with state and federal laws, and in a manner that does not jeopardize state or federal funding.

On May 28, 2026, the CCRC conducted a special meeting and received an overview of the Board’s direction, the County’s existing efforts to address the needs of historically underserved areas and vulnerable populations, and options for the Committee to consider whether to advance a revised Historic Harm Charter Amendment(Attachment #2). At that time, the CCRC voted to advance a revised Historic Harm Charter Amendment addressing adverse community conditions related to historic public policies and governmental practices to the CCRC public hearing process. Consistent with the Board’s direction, the proposed Historic Harm Charter Amendment, as revised, would provide for periodic assessments, public reporting, and the Board’s review of adverse community conditions in historically underserved and vulnerable populations related to the County’s historic laws, policies, and practices in geographical areas of the County, rather than on the basis of race, gender, ethnicity, or another protected class.

The CCRC held three public hearings for consideration of the proposed Historic Harm Charter Amendment and ballot language on June 30, July 16, and July 30, 2026, and recommends the proposed Charter Amendment to be placed on the ballot. This item provides a draft Ordinance for the Board’s consideration to place the proposed Historic Harm Charter Amendment, as recommended by the CCRC, on the November 3, 2026 General Election ballot.

Analysis:

If the Board adopts an Ordinance to place the proposed Historic Harm Charter Amendment on the ballot, and if approved by a majority of electors voting in November, an article (Article VI) would be added to the Charter to establish a historic community impact assessment process. As revised and advanced by the CCRC, the proposed Historic Harm Charter Amendment would require Leon County to conduct a periodic assessment of adverse community conditions in historically underserved and vulnerable populations related to the County’s historic laws, policies, and practices, subject to appropriation and funding availability. The County would be required to publish the findings of such assessments in a publicly accessible format. The Board would also be required to review and consider the findings of each historic community impact assessment during a public meeting.

Title: First and Only Public Hearing to Consider an Ordinance to Place a Proposed “Historic Harm” Charter Amendment on the November 3, 2026 General Election Ballot to Establish a Community Impact Assessment Process as Recommended by the Leon County Citizen Charter Review Committee

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As directed by the Board, the proposed historic community impact assessment process, as revised and advanced by the CCRC, would be based on geographic areas rather than race, gender, ethnicity, or any other protected class; be consistent with state and federal laws; and not jeopardize state and federal funding. Accordingly, the proposed Historic Harm Charter Amendment does not mandate specific policy outcomes, funding allocations, or preferential treatment for any individual or group. The proposed Historic Harm Charter Amendment further provides that nothing in the article shall be construed to authorize any program, policy, or action inconsistent with applicable state or federal constitutional provisions or statutes, rules, or regulations or applicable court order. The proposed Historic Harm Charter Amendment would require the Board to adopt an Ordinance for implementation no later than April 1, 2027. The Ordinance would set forth additional detail – such as providing definitions for key terms (i.e., “historically underserved” and “vulnerable populations”) and neutral, geographically-based criteria for selecting areas for assessment – as necessary for implementation of the proposed Amendment if approved for inclusion in the Charter.

As part of the Board’s consideration, it is important to note that the proposed historic community impact assessment process, public reporting, and the Board’s review of assessment findings can be successfully implemented under the Board’s existing authority and without the need for an amendment to the County Charter. There are no county charters in Florida that include language regarding the provision of historic community impact assessments as county charters generally address large organizational issues focused on the authority, structure, and powers of county government. Furthermore, the County’s ongoing comprehensive efforts to address the needs of historically underserved areas and vulnerable populations are currently, and more appropriately, implemented through the Board’s strategic planning process, budgetary priorities, and policy making authority. Similarly, the proposed historic community impact assessment process could be implemented at any time at the Board’s discretion without the creation of policy and programmatic mandates in the Charter. Accordingly, this item provides an option for the Board to direct staff to bring back an Ordinance for implementation of the historic community impact assessment process under the Board’s existing authority as an alternative to advancing the proposed Charter Amendment.

Attachment #1 provides the draft Ordinance and proposed Charter Amendment with ballot language as recommended by the CCRC. Florida Statutes limits the ballot title to 15 words and the ballot language to 75 words. An affirmative vote of a simple majority of the Board will be needed to adopt the Ordinance and place the proposed Charter Amendment on the November 3, 2026 General Election ballot. It is important to note that the Board cannot make any changes to the proposed Charter Amendment recommended by the CCRC due to conflicting provisions and statutory citations in the County Charter which required this public hearing to be scheduled within 90 days of the general election. Any revisions to the proposed amendment would make it a Board-initiated Charter Amendment which is prohibited within 90 days of the general election. The Board has already approved the placement of a separate Charter Amendment on the 2026 General Election ballot to remove outdated statutory references and specify procedures to resolve these conflicts.

Title: First and Only Public Hearing to Consider an Ordinance to Place a Proposed “Historic Harm” Charter Amendment on the November 3, 2026 General Election Ballot to Establish a Community Impact Assessment Process as Recommended by the Leon County Citizen Charter Review Committee

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Proposed ballot language is set forth as follows:

Section 3. Ballot Question Form.

The question on the ballot shall be substantially in the following form:

**AFFIRMATION OF COUNTY’S COMMITMENT TO HISTORICALLY
UNDERSERVED AND VULNERABLE POPULATIONS**

Question

Shall the Home Rule Charter of Leon County, Florida, be amended to provide for a periodic Community Impact Assessment process, public reporting, and Board of County Commissioners’ review and consideration regarding adverse community conditions related to the County’s historic laws, policies, and practices?

Yes for Approval _____

No for Rejection _____

If approved by the Board, the proposed Historic Harm Charter Amendment would be placed on the November 3, 2026, General Election ballot for consideration by the Leon County electorate. If approved by a majority of electors voting on the referendum, the Charter Amendment would become effective January 1, 2027. The Charter Amendment would require the Board to adopt an Ordinance for implementation no later than April 1, 2027 to set forth additional detail – such as providing definitions for key terms (i.e., “historically underserved” and “vulnerable populations”) and neutral, geographically-based criteria for selecting areas for assessment.

This public hearing has been noticed and advertised online (Attachment #3). Additionally, a business impact estimate (BIE) was prepared and posted ten days prior to the public hearing, as required by Florida Statutes (Attachment #4). As reflected in the BIE, the proposed Ordinance is not anticipated to have a negative financial impact to businesses.

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Title: First and Only Public Hearing to Consider an Ordinance to Place a Proposed “Historic Harm” Charter Amendment on the November 3, 2026 General Election Ballot to Establish a Community Impact Assessment Process as Recommended by the Leon County Citizen Charter Review Committee

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Options:

1. Conduct the first and only public hearing and adopt the Ordinance for a proposed Historic Harm Charter Amendment (Attachment #1) recommended by the Leon County Citizen Charter Review Committee establishing a community impact assessment process, upon voter approval in the November 3, 2026 General Election.
2. Conduct the first and only public hearing and do not adopt the Ordinance for a proposed Historic Harm Charter Amendment establishing a community impact assessment process.
3. Direct staff to prepare a draft Ordinance for Board consideration to implement the proposed historic community impact assessment process under the Board’s existing authority in the Leon County Code of Laws.
4. Board direction.

Recommendation:

Option #4

Attachments:

1. Draft Ordinance and Proposed Charter Amendment to Provide for Historic Community Impact Assessments
2. May 28, 2026 Agenda Item on Revised Charter Amendment Proposal on Addressing Historic Harmful Public Policy Decisions
3. Notice of Public Hearing
4. Business Impact Estimate

LEON COUNTY ORDINANCE NO. 26-

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE HOME RULE CHARTER OF LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA; ADDING A NEW ARTICLE VI TO PROVIDE FOR COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENTS; PROVIDING FOR A BALLOT QUESTION TO BE POSED TO THE LEON COUNTY ELECTORATE AT THE GENERAL ELECTION ON NOVEMBER 3, 2026; PROVIDING FOR THE BALLOT QUESTION FORM; PROVIDING FOR FURTHER AUTHORIZATION; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE UPON APPROVAL BY A MAJORITY OF ELECTORS OF THE COUNTY VOTING ON THE REFERENDUM.

RECITALS

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners desires to enact an ordinance amending the Home Rule Charter of Leon County, Florida, by adding Article VI of the Home Rule Charter of Leon County, Florida, relating to Community Impact Assessments; and

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA, that:

Section 1. Amendment to Charter.

The Home Rule Charter of Leon County, Florida, is hereby amended by adding an article to be numbered Article VI to read as follows:

ARTICLE VI. COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Sec. 6.1. Purpose.

Sec. 6.2. Periodic Community Impact Assessment Process.

Sec. 6.3. Board of County Commissioners Review and Response.

Sec. 6.4. Implementation and Legal Compliance.

1 **Sec. 6.1. Purpose.**

- 2
- 3 (1) The purpose of this article is to provide for the periodic assessments, public reporting, and
4 the Leon County Board of County Commissioners' review of adverse community
5 conditions in historically underserved and vulnerable populations related to the County's
6 historic laws, policies, and practices. This article is intended to inform County decision-
7 making in a manner consistent with applicable state and federal laws.
- 8
- 9 (2) By April 1, 2027, the Board of County Commissioners shall adopt an ordinance for
10 implementation of this article, consistent with applicable state and federal laws.
- 11

12 **Sec. 6.2. Periodic Community Impact Assessment Process.**

- 13
- 14 (1) Leon County shall conduct a periodic community impact assessment of adverse
15 community conditions within geographic areas of the County related to historic County
16 laws, policies and practices, subject to appropriation and funding availability.
- 17
- 18 (2) The County shall publish the findings of such assessments in a publicly accessible format.
- 19

20 **Sec. 6.3. Board of County Commissioners Review and Response.**

- 21
- 22 (1) The Board of County Commissioners shall review and consider the findings of each
23 Community Impact Assessment during a public meeting.
- 24

25 **Sec. 6.4. Implementation and Legal Compliance.**

- 26
- 27 (1) This article establishes a periodic process for assessment, public reporting, and the Board
28 of County Commissioners' review and does not mandate specific policy outcomes, funding
29 allocations, or preferential treatment for any individual or group.
- 30
- 31 (2) Nothing in this article shall be construed to authorize any program, policy, or action
32 inconsistent with applicable state or federal constitutional provisions or statutes, rules, or
33 regulations or any applicable court order.
- 34

35 **Section 2. Ballot Question to be Presented to Electorate.**

36

37 The proposed amendment to the Home Rule Charter of Leon County, Florida, shall be presented
38 to the qualified Leon County electorate by placing the question of whether to adopt the same on the
39 ballot at the general election to be held on November 3, 2026.

40

41

1 **Section 3. Ballot Question Form.**

2
3 The question on the ballot shall be substantially in the following form:

4
5 **AFFIRMATION OF COUNTY'S COMMITMENT TO**
6 **HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED AND VULNERABLE**
7 **POPULATIONS**

8
9 Question

10
11 Shall the Home Rule Charter of Leon County, Florida, be amended to
12 provide for a periodic Community Impact Assessment process, public
13 reporting, and Board of County Commissioners' review and
14 consideration regarding adverse community conditions related to the
15 County's historic laws, policies, and practices?

16
17 Yes for Approval _____

18
19 No for Rejection _____

20
21 **Section 4. Further Authorization.**

22
23 The Board of County Commissioners of Leon County, Florida, is authorized to adopt all
24 ordinances and take all actions necessary in order for this Charter Amendment referendum to be
25 properly placed on the ballot for the general election of November 3, 2026. Said referendum shall be
26 conducted according to the requirements of law governing referendum elections in the State of Florida.

27
28 **Section 5. Severability.**

29
30 If any word, phrase, clause, section, or portion of this Ordinance is declared by any court of
31 competent jurisdiction to be void, unconstitutional, or otherwise unenforceable, then all remaining
32 provisions and portions of this Ordinance shall remain in full force and effect.

33
34 **Section 6. Effective Date.**

35
36 This Ordinance shall take effect upon being filed with the Florida Department of State, but shall
37 be of no further force or effect if the proposed Charter Amendment is not duly approved at the
38 November 3, 2026 General Election. The amendment to the Home Rule Charter of Leon County,
39 Florida, as proposed by this Ordinance, shall become effective January 1, 2027, if the Charter
40 Amendment is approved by a "yes" vote by a majority of those duly qualified electors voting on the
41 question posed at the November 3, 2026, referendum.

1
2 DONE, ADOPTED, AND PASSED by the Board of County Commissioners of Leon County,
3 Florida, this 17th day of August, 2026.
4

5 LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA
6
7

8 By: _____

9 Christian Caban, Chairman
10 Board of County Commissioners
11

12 ATTESTED BY:

13 Gwen Knight, Clerk of Court
14 & Comptroller, Leon County, Florida
15

16
17 By: _____
18
19

20 APPROVED AS TO FORM:

21 Chasity H. O'Steen, County Attorney
22 Leon County Attorney's Office
23

24
25 By: _____

Citizen Charter Review Committee

Agenda Item #1

May 28, 2026

To: 2025-2026 Leon County Citizen Charter Review Committee

From: Vincent S. Long, County Administrator



Title: Consideration of Advancing a Proposed Charter Amendment Addressing Historic Harmful Public Policy Decisions

Review and Approval:	Vincent S. Long, County Administrator
Department / Division Review:	Ken Morris, Assistant County Administrator Shington Lamy, Assistant County Administrator
Lead Staff / Project Team:	Nicki Hatch, Assistant to the County Administrator for Legislative and Strategic Initiatives Cameron Williams, Management Analyst

Summary:

As requested by the Board of County Commissioners at its May 12, 2026 meeting, this item seeks the Citizen Charter Review Committee's consideration of whether to advance a Charter Amendment addressing historic harmful public policy decisions based on geographical areas in the community rather than race, gender, ethnicity, or any other protected class, that is compliant with state and federal laws, and in a manner that does not jeopardize state or federal funding.

Staff Recommendation:

Committee direction.

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Report and Discussion

Background:

As requested by the Board of County Commissioners (Board) at its May 12, 2026 meeting, this item seeks the Citizen Charter Review Committee's (Committee) consideration of whether to advance a Charter Amendment addressing historic harmful public policy decisions based on geographical areas in the community rather than race, gender, ethnicity, or any other protected class; compliant with state and federal laws; and in a manner that does not jeopardize state or federal funding.

On January 22, 2026, the Committee received an analysis of the County's ongoing efforts to reduce poverty and inequity in the community. The item included an analysis of Dr. Bruce Strouble's proposal to amend the County Charter by creating a new section that would require the County to establish programs and funding targeted to communities that have experienced historic racial discrimination. As presented in that item, adopting a Charter Amendment to establish programs and funding based on historic racial disenfranchisement could create legal challenges and jeopardize federal and state funding due to recent and ongoing state and federal actions to prohibit diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) related activities. Despite these considerations, the Committee requested a proposed Charter Amendment and corresponding ballot language to be prepared for consideration requiring the County to assess and address persistent disparities resulting from historic public policy decisions.

On February 19, 2026, the Committee received the proposed Charter Amendment and ballot language. Due to recent and ongoing state and federal actions to prohibit diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) related activities as well as the County's ongoing efforts to address poverty and inequities in the community within the Board's existing authority, the Committee did not advance the proposed Charter Amendment. Throughout the process, the Committee expressed strong support for the County's ongoing efforts to address poverty and inequities in historically underserved areas and support vulnerable populations in the community.

Subsequently, at its March 20, 2026 meeting, the Board requested an item on the proposed Charter Amendment considered, but ultimately not recommended, by the Committee related to persistent disparities resulting from historic public policy decisions based on certain occurrences including slavery and segregation. It is important to note that on that same day, the Florida Legislature also approved SB 1134 which prohibits local governments from adopting and implementing DEI-related activities such as those proposed in the Charter Amendment considered by the Committee. Additionally, on March 26, 2026, President Trump issued another executive order, Executive Order (2026 EO), that requires all recipients of federal funding to agree that they will not engage in racially discriminatory DEI activities.

The requested item on the proposed Charter Amendment not recommended by the Committee was presented to the Board at its April 10, 2026 meeting. The item provided a comprehensive analysis on the proposed Charter Amendment as well as the recent state and federal actions that prohibit local governments from adopting and implementing DEI-related activities such as those proposed in the Charter Amendment. Recognizing these considerations, the Board requested a revised framework to address historic harmful public policy decisions that could be provided to the Citizen

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Charter Review Committee for further consideration as a Charter Amendment that examines the following:

- Public policy decisions enacted by the Board;
- Focuses on geographic areas and does not consider race, gender, ethnicity or any other protected class (i.e., sexual orientation, etc.);
- Complies with state and federal laws; and
- Does not jeopardize state and federal funding requirements.

At its May 12, 2026 meeting, the proposed framework was presented to the Board which included important context regarding the County's comprehensive and ongoing efforts in alignment with the criteria above by addressing the needs in geographic areas through investment and engagement in underserved areas and vulnerable populations. As detailed in that item, these existing efforts align with best practices, are consistent with state and federal laws, and do not jeopardize state and federal funding awarded to the County. Notwithstanding the County's existing ongoing efforts, as requested by the Board, the item presented an option for consideration to revise the Charter Preamble to affirm Leon County's commitment to addressing the needs of underserved areas and vulnerable populations in our community. At that time, the Board voted to reconvene the Committee for its consideration of whether a Charter Amendment should be advanced addressing historic harmful public policy decisions based on geographical areas in the community rather than race, gender, ethnicity, or any other protected class, that is compliant with state and federal laws, and in a manner that does not jeopardize state or federal funding.

Analysis:

Leon County comprehensively addresses the long-standing and evolving needs of historically underserved areas and vulnerable populations (i.e., homeless, low-income, etc.) through countless policies, innovative programs, ongoing partnerships, and active engagement – all of which are data-driven, strategically implemented, and consistent with best practices. With this approach and focus, the County regularly addresses the highest and most challenging needs that historically underserved areas and vulnerable populations often experience.

Based on empirical data such as U.S. Census and U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, the common challenges of historically underserved areas include economic inequities that are often highlighted by persistent and disproportionate high poverty and unemployment rates; the lack of public infrastructure that prevents access to basic and essential services; the degradation of natural and environmental resources that adversely affect health and welfare; and limited access to social services that are critical to enhancing quality of life.

As presented to the Board at its May 12, 2026 meeting, the following analysis details the numerous policies, programs, partnerships, and investments the County is actively implementing in historically underserved areas to:

- Reduce Economic Inequities;
- Expand Infrastructure for Access to Basic and Essential Services;
- Protect the Environment for Health, Safety, and Welfare; and
- Deliver Critical Social Services to Enhance Quality of Life.

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Consistent with the Board's direction, these efforts align with best practices that address historic harmful policy decisions, comply with state and federal laws, and do not jeopardize state and federal funding. Additionally, these efforts have been implemented within the Board's existing authority and without any change to the County Charter.

Reduce Economic Inequities

The County has actively spearheaded efforts to reduce economic inequities and private sector disinvestment in historically underserved areas. Aligned with best practices, the County utilizes empirical data developed by the U.S. Census and Florida Office of Economic & Demographic Research to identify neighborhoods and communities with persistent and disproportionate levels of high poverty and unemployment rates. Subsequently, programs, partnerships, initiatives, and investments are adopted and implemented in collaboration and coordination with residents and stakeholders to increase economic prosperity and private sector investment. Although not exhaustive, significant examples of the County efforts include:

- Establishment of the Downtown and Greater Frenchtown-Southside Community Redevelopment Areas (CRAs) in partnership with the City of Tallahassee (City) to increase economic growth in areas that for years experienced slum, blight, and private sector disinvestment. Through the CRAs, the County has invested more than \$56 million in property tax revenue that has improved public infrastructures (roads, sidewalks, stormwater, etc.); constructed new affordable housing including Goodbread Hills, Columbia Gardens, and Magnolia Oaks; and invested in local businesses to spur private sector investment in housing, retail, and restaurants.
- Adoption of the Southside Action Plan (SAP) within the Tallahassee-Leon County Comprehensive Plan to promote balanced and equitable growth in southern Leon County neighborhoods, including Bond, Providence, and South City. This has resulted in more than \$1.13 billion in public and private investment within the SAP boundaries including more than \$125 million in direct County funding.
- Development of Sense of Place Plans that intentionally engage residents to strengthen the unique identity of local neighborhoods and rural communities while enhancing public investment. Sense of Place plans developed by the County include:
 - *Miccosukee Community Sense of Place* – led to \$5.9 million in County and federal investment for the redevelopment of the Old Concord School into the new Miccosukee Community Center.
 - *Lake Jackson Town Center Huntington Sense of Place* – transformed a traditional shopping center into a cohesive public gathering spot that resulted in the expansion of the Lake Jackson Branch Library, a new community center, and enhanced retail space for greater private sector investment.
 - *Woodville Community Sense of Place* – adopted as a County Strategic Initiative by the Board, this plan focuses on activating and enhancing the rural town center through placemaking and infrastructure investment. It prioritizes the revitalization of Woodville and Robinson Road Parks alongside the development of a new trail hub on the St. Marks Trail, all supported by landscaping and gateway signage to

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strengthen community identity. These aesthetic improvements are paired with critical infrastructure projects, including streetscaping, expanded pedestrian and bicycle connectivity, roadway safety enhancements, and the ongoing septic-to-sewer conversion program. Ultimately, the plan drives economic vitality by promoting trail-oriented development and updating zoning to foster compatible, small-scale business opportunities.

- Adoption of land use and zoning tools under the Tallahassee-Leon County Comprehensive Plan — including the Land Use and Mobility Element adopted in December 2025 — to protect existing neighborhoods from incompatible development and guide growth in a manner that preserves neighborhood character. These tools include low-density residential zoning classifications that prevent the conversion of single-family neighborhoods to high-density multifamily or large-format retail, and the Neighborhood Boundary land use category developed in partnership with the Bond Neighborhood to allow small-scale mixed uses — such as corner stores, daycares, and small cafes — while prohibiting strip malls, apartments, and big box retail that would alter the neighborhood's scale and character.
- Administration of the Small Business Enterprise (SBE) program through the Office of Economic Vitality (OEV) to provide business support to qualifying small businesses based on size and revenue, ensuring local enterprises in underserved areas can compete for and benefit from public investment opportunities.
- Partnership with the Small Business Development Center at FAMU to provide technical assistance to new and existing small business owners at every phase of the business lifecycle, preparing them to take advantage of economic opportunities generated by new public and private development in their communities.
- Implementation of robust public engagement on all public projects — including stakeholder meetings, online and in-person surveys, and public open houses — to ensure residents in historically underserved areas are informed of and have meaningful input into investments being made in their communities. For private development proposals, public engagement includes direct mailed notifications, legal advertisements, on-site signage, citizen committee review, and public hearings, ensuring that residents have a voice in the development occurring in their neighborhoods.
- Availability of urban area opportunity incentives to attract jobs and private investment to the urban core, directly benefiting residents of historically underserved neighborhoods.

Expand Infrastructure for Access to Basic and Essential Services

The County has been steadfast in its commitment to infrastructure improvements in historically underserved areas that expand access to basic and essential services. These improvements include paved roads, sidewalks, and traffic lights that connect underserved neighborhoods to the broader community. Through a combination of data evaluation, extensive planning, active community engagement, and strategic investments, the County's efforts have included:

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- The establishment of the *Livable Infrastructure for Everyone (L.I.F.E.)* funding through the one-cent infrastructure surtax — a dedicated mechanism designed to direct resources toward communities that have long been overlooked. Through this initiative, Leon County has been able to translate policy commitments into tangible, on-the-ground improvements, including:
 - *Rural Road Safety Stabilization Program* – addressing road conditions in rural corridors to improve safety and accessibility for all residents.
 - *Rural Broadband* – expanding high-speed internet access to underserved rural communities, bridging the digital divide and connecting residents to economic and educational opportunities.
 - *Fire Hydrants* – extending fire suppression infrastructure into rural areas that previously lacked adequate protection, improving public safety for residents historically outside the reach of essential services.
 - *Intersection Street Lighting* – illuminating key intersections in underserved areas to enhance safety for drivers, pedestrians, and cyclists.
 - *School Bus Lighting* – improving visibility and safety at school bus stops, protecting children in rural communities who were previously without adequate lighting infrastructure.
- Dedication of \$319 million through the Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency (Blueprint) on infrastructure investments in high poverty neighborhoods that equates to approximately 62% of Blueprint funding including:
 - More than \$1.5 million for the development of the South City Transit Center and improvements in the South City neighborhood.
 - Approximately \$9 million in Blueprint funding for the Orange-Meridian Placemaking project for construction of a new park and investment in the South City Transit Center.
 - Planned construction of Segment 4 of the Capital Cascades Trail in the amount of \$20 million for stormwater improvements, multi-use trail, and community gathering spaces connecting the Bond, Callen, Liberty Park, Lee Manor, and Providence neighborhoods.
 - Construction of the Magnolia Drive Trail, including underground electric utilities adjacent to the South City neighborhood in the amount of \$23.6 million.
- Adoption of the Family Heir Policy to support intergenerational land use and help families in underserved areas retain and utilize property that might otherwise remain undevelopable under standard regulations.
- Investment in multimodal transportation infrastructure, including new sidewalks and trail connections to the St. Marks Trail, to expand access to affordable non-motorized transportation — including walking, bicycling, and micro-mobility — for residents in historically underserved areas, reducing transportation costs and improving connectivity to employment, services, and recreation.

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- Adoption of two Neighborhood First Plans — for the Greater Bond Neighborhood and the Providence Neighborhood — containing infrastructure investment components that expand mobility options, improve public spaces, and strengthen connectivity within and between neighborhoods in historically underserved areas of the incorporated community.

Protect the Environment for Health, Safety, and Welfare

For much of the twentieth century, a combination of public policies and private sector activities prioritized development and economic growth that adversely impacted the environment. This included the direct discharge of effluent and untreated wastewater into surface waters, development within designated flood hazard areas, and the systematic filling of floodplains and wetlands. According to the Environmental Law Institute, a research-based organization in Washington, D.C. that focuses on environmental policies, local governments address public policies and private activities that have adversely impacted the environment in their communities through integrated strategies of regular testing and observation, remedial projects, and community engagement. Through rigorous evaluation and monitoring of scientific data, the County has incorporated similar strategies with the adoption policies, plans, and programs aimed at reversing decades of environmental degradation while improving health, safety, and welfare in historically underserved areas. These efforts have resulted in the following:

- Adoption of the Leon County Environmental Management Act (EMA) to establish rigorous local standards for the protection of property and the natural environment that takes into consideration the unique ecology of natural resources within geographic areas. In underserved areas, the County's EMA standards is mitigating flooding, protecting waterbodies, and reducing pollution.
- Adoption of the Primary Spring Zone Protection to safeguard groundwater quality within neighborhoods in Southern Leon County where the Florida Aquifer is most vulnerable while to protecting the water quality and biological health of Wakulla Springs.
- Establishment of Woodville Septic to Sewer Program to convert septic tanks to central sewer system, eliminating decades of groundwater and surface water contamination. The program provides homeowners in the Woodville area up to \$12,000 in grant funding. Thus far, the County has invested \$63 million and expanded sewer services to 709 properties.
- Adoption of the Lake Munson Action Plan to restore Lake Munson to address the legacy of pollution and nutrient loading that degraded the lake over generations with algal blooms, fish kills, and invasive plant growth. The plan includes:
 - Advancement of the \$1.6 million Munson Slough Embankment Repair Project to stabilize eroded banks, reestablish native vegetation, and reduce sediment transport into Lake Munson;
 - An initial drawdown to facilitate sediment drying and nutrient reduction;
 - Periodic routine drawdowns to sustain long-term water quality improvements;
 - Post-Drawdown Water Quality Study from May 2024 through April 2026, including monthly water quality and flow data collection at four monitoring locations;
 - Enhanced water quality monitoring;

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- Aerial topographic surveys of the lake bottom; and
- Expanded invasive exotic vegetation and algal bloom management programs.
- Investment in the Lake Henrietta stormwater management facility project to address decades of polluted stormwater runoff that has contributed to the degradation of Lake Munson. This Lake Henrietta Project includes:
 - Construction of Lake Henrietta as a regional stormwater management facility to intercept polluted stormwater runoff upstream of Lake Munson, capturing sediment, floating debris, and nutrient-rich material before it can enter the lake.
 - Investment of over \$1 million in the Lake Henrietta facility, which has captured over 53,000 cubic yards of sediment and debris from flowing downstream into Lake Munson since construction in the early 2000s.
 - Receipt of a \$2 million U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grant for the Lake Henrietta Sediment Removal Project to remove the accumulated sediment the facility was designed to capture, restoring the facility's stormwater treatment capacity and reducing nutrient loading into Lake Munson, with design anticipated in Summer 2026 and construction to follow in 2027.
 - Development of the Anita Davis Preserve at Lake Henrietta, which serves the surrounding community as a public park featuring a walking trail and outdoor recreational amenities, providing dual environmental and quality-of-life benefits to residents in the area.

Deliver Critical Social Services to Enhance Quality of Life

In order to deliver critical social services, the County has adopted and implemented numerous programs consistent with best practices that are data driven, strategically implemented, and community-focused to improve the quality of life for the residents in historically underserved areas and vulnerable populations. The County's recent and ongoing efforts include:

- Hosted the 32304 Summit in March 2026 to highlight the efforts of the County and community partners to reduce poverty in 32304 neighborhoods including Frenchtown and Griffin Heights which has resulted in an 8% decrease in the 32304 poverty rate since 2019 (more than the 2% Countywide reduction during the same period).
- Establishment of the Community Human Services Partnership (CHSP) Promise Zone in partnership with the City which invests \$1.1 million each funding cycle to provide direct services such as food, legal aid, and healthcare to high poverty neighborhoods.
- Hosted nine (9) *Breaking Bread* Dinner series in the neighborhoods with the highest food insecurity rates to identify barriers to food access with more than 200 participants.
- Establishment of the Trusted People Neighborhood Engagement Committee (Trusted People Committee) comprised of leaders of the neighborhoods with high food insecurity rates that meet bi-monthly to work with the County and partners to engage and connect residents to available resources in the community.

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- Installation of temperature-controlled food lockers available 24/7 in Frenchtown, South City, and Providence neighborhoods that have distributed over 17,000 meals to more than 3,200 residents.
- Strengthened partnership this year (2026) with Farm Share to increase fresh produce distribution capacity in neighborhoods with the highest food insecurity rates which will serve over 1,000 households annually.
- Partnership with the City to implement the City's Neighborhood First Plans to improve the quality of life and spur economic growth in high poverty neighborhoods which has resulted in more than \$1.1 million in County funding for the construction of 16 homes in Bond, Griffin Heights, and Providence.
- Implementation of the Home Rehabilitation and Replacement Program to perform emergency home repairs, rehabilitate projects, and/or replace the homes of low-income families in rural and underserved regions of the County.
- Partnership with the City and Tallahassee Housing Authority to create and provide seed funding for the establishment of the South City Foundation to revitalize the neighborhood through engagement, economic development, healthcare, and affordable housing.
- Establishment of the Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Program in partnership with Tallahassee State College and Leon County Schools to create a career path at the Leon County Emergency Medical Services for students at Godby High School which is the primary high school for the 32304-zip code and neighborhoods with the highest poverty rate in the County.

In addition to neighborhood specific programs, initiatives, and investments, the County's communitywide efforts to deliver resources to the most vulnerable populations include:

- Investment of \$1.4 million annually to prevent and reduce homelessness in the community through dedicated funding to the five (5) emergency homeless shelters, street outreach initiatives, and Leon County Sheriff HOST deputies.
- Investment of more than \$1.75 million annually through the Healthcare Services Program (i.e., CareNet) to provide primary care, dental care, mental health services, assistance with prescription medications, and specialty care to low-income, uninsured residents.
- More than \$500,000 annually in County funding to support food pantries, mobile food distributions, senior nutrition services, and child meal programs.
- Distribution of over 4,000 summer meals through the Summer BreakSpot program at the Leon County Main Library and branch locations for kids during summer 2025.
- Expanded partnership with 2-1-1 Big Bend to invest more than \$100,000 annually in the 2-1-1 Lyft program that provides County residents free transportation to medical appointments, grocery stores, and employment interviews.
- Investment of \$5.8 million in direct funding and more than \$198 million in bonding for affordable housing rental projects that have or will build more than 1,200 units within the next 12 to 18 months for low-income households.

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- Investment of \$500,000 annually in affordable rental development for very-low and extremely-low income households.
- Secured \$100 million in bonds through the Housing Finance Authority of Leon County (HFA) for the development of future affordable rental housing projects for low-income renters.
- Adoption of the local option property tax exemption to incentivize market rate rental development projects to dedicate units for low-income households at affordable rates.
- Establishment of the Tallahassee-Leon County Community Land Trust (CLT) in partnership with the City and Tallahassee Lenders' Consortium to construct new homes for low-income households that will remain affordable in perpetuity. The County donates properties to the CLT to construct new homes (eight homes completed thus far).
- Partnership with Legal Services of North Florida to provide legal assistance to help low-income families clear title and resolve heirs' property issues.
- Partnership with FAMU Federal Credit Union to establish the SmartSteps Microloan Program to provide financial capital to historically marginalized entrepreneurs to build their businesses. The County allocated \$2.5 million, and to-date SmartSteps has distributed over \$1 million in microloans to 51 small local businesses.
- Partnership with the Capital City Chamber of Commerce (Capital City Chamber) to support the Bank On Tallahassee Initiative which improves access to banks and credit unions for low-income households and helps reduce barriers for households with previous credit issues.

As extensively detailed, the County is actively addressing historic harmful public policy decisions in geographic areas utilizing best practices to adopt policies, implement programs, strengthen partnerships, enhance community engagement, and make significant investment in historically underserved areas and vulnerable populations. The County's efforts are reducing economic inequities; providing public infrastructures essential to health, safety, and welfare; protecting the environment; and delivering critical social services to enhance the quality of life of historically underserved areas and vulnerable populations.

Consistent with the Board's direction, the County's approach addresses historic harmful public policy decisions in geographic areas, complies with state and federal laws and does not jeopardize any state and federal funding requirements. These targeted efforts align with best practices that address historic harmful policy decisions, comply with state and federal laws, and do not jeopardize state and federal funding. Furthermore, these efforts are strategically planned, annually funded by the Board, and carried out on a day-to-day basis by staff, community partners, and key stakeholders. Most importantly, the County's efforts have been successfully implemented within the Board's existing authority and without the need for an amendment to the County Charter.

Further Consideration by the Citizen Charter Review Committee

As previously reported to the Committee, there are no county charters in Florida that include language related to disparities from historic public policies. County charters generally address large organizational issues focused on the authority, structure, and power of county government.

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Operational detail or program-specific policy, such as the establishment of programs or targeted resource allocation, is more appropriately implemented through the Board's strategic planning process, budgetary priorities, or policy and ordinance adoption. In fact, the Board currently has the statutory authority and has been active in addressing the long-standing and evolving needs of historically underserved areas and vulnerable populations through policies, programs, and investments – all of which have been done without amending the County Charter.

In light of the Board's existing authority and ongoing actions, a Charter Amendment is not necessary and could be limiting. Specifically, creation of policy and programmatic mandates in the Charter would reduce the County's flexibility to respond to evolving community needs, funding opportunities, and legal requirements, and may not be consistent with the County's data-driven approach to addressing the most pressing issues and investing in time-sensitive needs in the community.

Potential Amendment to Revise the Preamble of the County Charter

Should the Committee wish to consider a proposed Charter Amendment, an option for consideration is to amend the Preamble of the County Charter to affirm County's commitment to addressing the needs of historically underserved areas and vulnerable populations in our community. As noted previously, this option was presented to the Board at its May 12th meeting, which the Board did not advance and instead voted to reconvene the Committee to consider whether a Charter Amendment on this issue should be advanced.

As previously reported to the Committee, the Preamble sets forth broad community values which emphasize the importance of home rule, local decision making, and the role of residents in shaping their local government. As an introduction to what the Charter seeks to achieve, the Preamble does not delineate specific structures, authorities, policies, or provision of services for County government. Rather, it is intentionally broad to allow the County to adapt and respond to emerging challenges as determined by the elected County Commission.

The Committee previously recommended to the Board a proposed amendment revising the Charter Preamble to reflect the esteemed humanity of all residents of Leon County. Similarly, the Committee may wish to consider revisions to the Preamble that would reflect the County's long and ongoing efforts to invest and engage in historically underserved areas and vulnerable populations.

As shown in Table #1, the proposed language (underlined) could be incorporated to affirm the County's commitment to addressing the needs of underserved areas and vulnerable populations in our community. The proposed amendment, as drafted below, would not conflict with existing state and federal law.

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Table #1. Proposed Amendment to the Charter Preamble
(Proposed language underlined)

PREAMBLE We, the citizens of Leon County, Florida, united in the belief that governmental decisions affecting local interests should be made locally, rather than by the State, and that County government should be reflective of the people of the County and should serve them in achieving a more responsive and efficient form of government and in order to empower the people of this County to make changes in their own government, do ordain and establish this Home Rule Charter for Leon County, Florida. <u>We further affirm Leon County's commitment to addressing the needs of historically underserved areas and vulnerable populations in our community.</u>
--

In addition, potential ballot language has been prepared for the proposed Charter Amendment as reflected in Table #2 below. The proposed ballot title and ballot language reflected in Table #2 would meet the statutorily required word count limit. The ballot title is limited to 15 words, and the ballot language is limited to 75 words.

Table #2. Proposed Ballot Title and Ballot Language

Proposed Ballot Title
Affirmation of County's Commitment to Historically Underserved Areas as proposed by Citizen Charter Review Committee
Proposed Ballot Language
Shall the Preamble of the Leon County Home Rule Charter be amended to affirm Leon County's commitment to addressing the needs of historically underserved geographic areas and vulnerable populations in our community, while preserving the Charter's existing framework for local self-governance, community values, and citizen empowerment?

The Committee also has the opportunity to propose its own charter amendment as an alternative or any additional direction specific to this issue. Should the Committee not wish to further consider or advance this issue, it may also table the issue at this time.

Next Steps

As directed by the Board, this item provides the Committee with information and analysis for consideration in evaluating whether to advance a Charter Amendment addressing historic harmful public policy decisions based on geographical areas in the community rather than race, gender, ethnicity, or any other protected class, that is compliant with state and federal laws, and in a manner that does not jeopardize state or federal funding.

A simple majority is needed to advance a Charter Amendment to the Committee's three required public hearings to take public input and formally consider the proposed Amendment. The public hearings have been tentatively scheduled to take place June 30, July 16, and July 30, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. The Committee may consider and approve further revisions to the proposed Amendment during any of its public hearings. Any proposed Charter Amendments, as recommended by the

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Committee during its public hearings, will be presented for final consideration by the Board at its public hearing on August 17, 2026.

Options:

1. Accept this report and take no further action.
2. Advance a proposed Charter Amendment addressing historic harmful public policy decisions for consideration at the Committee's first of three public hearings on June 30, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

Recommendation:

Committee direction.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE OF AMENDMENT ADDING ARTICLE VI TO THE HOME RULE CHARTER OF LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA

Notice is hereby given that the Board of County Commissioners of Leon County, Florida, will conduct a public hearing on Monday, August 17, 2026, at 6:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as such matter may be heard, in the County Commission Chambers, 5th Floor, Judge Augustus D. Aikens, Jr. Leon County Courthouse, 301 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida, to consider adoption of an ordinance entitled to wit:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE HOME RULE CHARTER OF LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA; ADDING A NEW ARTICLE VI TO PROVIDE FOR COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENTS; PROVIDING FOR A BALLOT QUESTION TO BE POSED TO THE LEON COUNTY ELECTORATE AT THE GENERAL ELECTION ON NOVEMBER 3, 2026; PROVIDING FOR THE BALLOT QUESTION FORM; PROVIDING FOR FURTHER AUTHORIZATION; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE UPON APPROVAL BY A MAJORITY OF ELECTORS OF THE COUNTY VOTING ON THE REFERENDUM.

Leon County will also broadcast the public hearing on Comcast channel 16, the Leon County Florida channel on Roku, and the County's Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/LeonCountyFL/>), YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/user/LeonCountyFL>), and web site (www.LeonCountyFL.gov).

All interested parties are invited to present their comments at the public hearing at the time and place set out above.

Interested parties may also provide virtual real-time public comments during the public hearing. After the Board of County Commissioner's agenda is posted online, interested parties wishing to provide virtual real-time public comments must complete and submit the registration form provided at <https://www2.leoncountyfl.gov/coadmin/agenda/> by 8:00 p.m. on Sunday, August 16, 2026. Following submittal of the registration form, further instructions for participating in the meeting will be provided. Persons needing assistance with registering or providing real-time comments may contact County Administration via telephone at (850) 606-5300. Please note that Board of County Commissioners Policy 01-05, Article IX., Section E., entitled "Addressing the Board," and Article IX., Section F., entitled "Decorum," shall remain in full force and effect.

Anyone wishing to appeal the action of the Board with regard to this matter will need a record of the proceedings and should ensure that a verbatim record is made. Such record should include the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based, pursuant to Section 286.0105, Florida Statutes.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 286.26, Florida Statutes, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact, on behalf of the Chairman, Mathieu Cavell, at Judge Augustus D. Aikens, Jr. Leon County Courthouse, 301 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32301 or CMR@leoncountyfl.gov, by written request at least 48 hours prior to the proceeding. Telephone: (850) 606-5300, 1-800-955-8771 (TTY), 1-800-955-8770 (Voice), or 711 via Florida Relay Service.

Copies of the Ordinance may be inspected as part of the agenda package on the County's website (<https://www2.leoncountyfl.gov/coadmin/agenda/>). To receive copies of the Ordinance by other means, such as email, mail, or facsimile transmittal, contact County Administration at (850) 606-5300.

Advertise: August 7, 2026



LEON COUNTY GOVERNMENT

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Business Impact Estimate

In accordance with Section 125.66(3)(a), Florida Statutes (F.S.), a Business Impact Estimate (BIE) is required to be: 1) prepared before enacting certain ordinances and 2) posted on Leon County's website no later than the date the notice of intent to consider the proposed ordinance is advertised (which, per Section 125.66(2)(a), F.S., is at least ten (10) days before the Public Hearing).

Proposed Ordinance's title in full:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE HOME RULE CHARTER OF LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA; ADDING A NEW ARTICLE VI TO PROVIDE FOR COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENTS; PROVIDING FOR A BALLOT QUESTION TO BE POSED TO THE LEON COUNTY ELECTORATE AT THE GENERAL ELECTION ON NOVEMBER 3, 2026; PROVIDING FOR THE BALLOT QUESTION FORM; PROVIDING FOR FURTHER AUTHORIZATION; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE UPON APPROVAL BY A MAJORITY OF ELECTORS OF THE COUNTY VOTING ON THE REFERENDUM.

Proposed Ordinance Public Hearing Date: **August 17, 2026**

Pursuant to Section 125.66(3)(c), F.S., the following types of ordinances are exempt from the BIE requirement. As such, if one or more boxes are checked below, Leon County, Florida, believes that a BIE is not required by state law for the proposed ordinance referenced above. Leon County, Florida, reserves the right to revise this BIE following an initial posting.

- ☐ The proposed ordinance is required for compliance with Federal or State law or regulation;
- ☐ The proposed ordinance relates to the issuance or refinancing of debt;
- ☐ The proposed ordinance relates to the adoption of budgets or budget amendments, including revenue sources necessary to fund the budget;
- ☐ The proposed ordinance is required to implement a contract or an agreement, including, but not limited to, any Federal, State, local, or private grant, or other financial assistance accepted by a county government;
- ☐ The proposed ordinance is an emergency ordinance;
- ☐ The proposed ordinance relates to procurement; or
- ☐ The proposed ordinance is enacted to implement the following:
 - a. Development orders and development permits, as those terms are defined in Section 163.3164, F.S., and development agreements, as authorized by the Florida Local Government Development Agreement Act under Sections 163.3220 – 163.3243, F.S.;

- b. Comprehensive plan amendments and land development regulation amendments initiated by an application by a private party other than the County;
- c. Sections 190.005 and 190.046, F.S., regarding community development districts;
- d. Section 553.73, F.S., relating to the Florida Building Code; or
- e. Section 633.202, F.S., relating to the *Florida Fire Prevention Code*.

In accordance with Florida law Leon County, Florida, hereby posts the following BIE information for this proposed Ordinance on its website for public viewing and consideration on this **7th day of August, 2026**:

1. Summary of the proposed ordinance (must include statement of the public purpose, such as serving the public health, safety, morals, and welfare):

The proposed Ordinance seeks Board consideration to place a proposed amendment to the Leon County Charter on the November 3, 2026 General Election ballot to establish a community impact assessments process. The proposed amendment would provide for periodic assessments, public reporting, and the Board's review of adverse community conditions in historically underserved areas and vulnerable populations related to the County's historic laws, policies, and practices.

2. Estimate of direct economic impact of the proposed ordinance on private, for-profit businesses in the county, including the following (if any):

The Ordinance does not impose any direct compliance costs on private, for-profit businesses in the County.

a.) Estimate of direct compliance costs that businesses may reasonably incur if the ordinance is enacted: **None.**

b.) Any new charge or fee imposed by the proposed ordinance for which businesses will be financially responsible: **None.**

c.) Estimate of Leon County's regulatory costs, including estimated revenues from any new charges or fees to cover such costs: **None.**

3. Good faith estimate of the number of businesses likely to be impacted by the proposed Ordinance: **None.**

4. Additional information Leon County deems necessary (if any): **None.**