



# LEON COUNTY ANNUAL REPORT 2019



## BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

**Vision**  
A community that is safe, healthy and vibrant.

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

## MESSAGE FROM THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

On September 24, 2019, I presented the 2019 Annual Report to the Board of County Commissioners. It is now my pleasure, as Leon County Administrator, to present this report to our community.



Vincent S. Long

2019 was another year of great progress for Leon County toward realizing an ambitious vision for our community and setting the standard for performance, fiscal stewardship and best practices for local governments everywhere.

This annual report takes a look back at the progress of the past year and how Leon County continued to advance our strategic priorities in Economy, Environment, Quality of Life and Governance and measure tangible results for our community with our five-year targets and bold "stretch" goals.

The report also highlights Leon County's commitment to investing in infrastructure, creating places for people and businesses to thrive and building a culture of innovation and co-creation, all of which makes our County one of the best places to live, work and play.

Through the vision and leadership provided by the Board of County Commissioners and the hard work of dedicated County employees, I am proud to report that in 2019, 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 2019 Annual Report. I invite you to read the full report and watch the video at [LeonCountyFL.gov/AnnualReport](http://LeonCountyFL.gov/AnnualReport) and welcome any feedback you may have.

## A FEW HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

### LIVING OUR CULTURE

In 2019 we continued to focus our efforts on being a premiere destination for adventure, culture and sports tourism. We grew our tourism economy for another record year, from our national headlining acts and sold out crowds at the Capital Cascades Amphitheater to earning a coveted top spot as one of the South's Best cities by Southern Living Magazine.



Our dedicated employees take special pride in setting the standard each day by providing essential services like Emergency Medical Services, Public Works, Parks and Recreation, Libraries and so many others that serve and shape our community. It's that connection to the people we serve that drives us to respond to the day-to-day needs of our community.

But we also take a long view in our continuous efforts to create a vibrant, resilient and healthy community for generations of residents and visitors alike.

The past year also brought a different kind of visitor: Hurricane Michael, which ravaged our western neighbors and tested us like no other storm. As the nation's first Hurricane Strong community, Leon County Government led our community's largest and most effective disaster response ever. We also continued growing our year-round preparedness events and keeping citizens informed with cutting-edge technology, all so that we can be even more resilient for the future.

With that same dedication to ensuring our community's brightest future, Leon County stayed focused on our bold goals to enhance our quality of life and protect our environment as we continued removing septic tanks in southern Leon County, eliminated fees at all our rural waste sites and continued protecting the health of our precious water bodies Countywide.



Woodside Heights Septic to Sewer project

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### 2019 ANNUAL REPORT VIDEO



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

### ENGAGING CITIZENS AS CO-CREATORS

And because building community is about building connections, we engaged citizens on our community's growth, hosted our annual Created Equal event with a powerful symphony performance followed by a frank conversation on race and racial equality, served our veterans and revitalized Lakewood Estates with our 9/11 Day of Service.



Created Equal: Ode To Understanding

### SETTING THE STANDARD IN PUBLIC SERVICE

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

In 2019, our dedicated Leon County employees continued to set the highest standards in public service by earning more than 68 awards from the National Association of Counties (NACo) over the past seven years. This year alone, Leon County received 12 NACo awards for national best practices for programs and initiatives like the Emergency Shelter Operations Plan, Water Quality and Springs Protection Infrastructure Improvement Plan and the Litter Reduction and Beautification Initiative, to name just a few.

These employee-led efforts have been key to keeping Leon County among the most efficient and affordable counties anywhere. And to that end in 2019, the County began a multi-year budgeting plan which ensures the County's long-term fiscal viability and avoids \$4.6 million dollars in planned tax and fee increases.

From our commitment to fiscal stewardship to our nationally recognized programs, the men and women of Leon County

Government have a lot to be proud of in 2019 as they continued to drive performance and deliver results to our citizens.

### BUILDING ON OUR MOMENTUM

In all the ways that Leon County touches the lives of so many people we serve each day, whether it's helping our veterans claim more than \$23 million dollars in benefits they deserve, responding to nearly 45,000 calls for life-saving care or serving more than 1,500,000 patrons through our County's Library System, as we did in 2019, we strive to put each person first.

While we will continue to face the same challenges of communities and governments everywhere else, as we look back at the progress of the last year, we see a County that has proven to be a government that listens to the citizens we serve, solves our problems and ensures that our community continues to be a place like nowhere else.

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

Here's to 2020!