



LEON COUNTY ANNUAL REPORT In-Brief

2018



LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA

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, 2018, I presented the 2018 Annual Report to the Board of County Commissioners. It is now my pleasure, as Leon County Administrator, to present this report to our community.

2018 was another year of great progress for Leon County Government 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 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 Leon County a special place 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 2018, 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 2018 Annual Report. I invite you to read the full report at LeonCountyFL.gov/AnnualReport and I always welcome your feedback.



Vincent S. Long

A FEW HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

ADVANCING OUR STRATEGY

In 2018 we continued to focus our efforts on being a premiere destination for adventure, culture, and sports tourism. We grew our tourism economy to another record year, from our national headlining acts at the Capital Cascades Amphitheater to the starting line at our cross country championship course at Apalachee Regional Park.

Because we committed to learn all we could from the back-to-back hurricanes, Leon County was recognized as a leader in disaster resilience in 2018 as the first ever #HurricaneStrong community in the nation. And as a learning organization, we enhanced community resilience efforts through preparedness events like Build your Bucket and with cutting edge technology, which will keep us in a constant state of improved readiness for the future.

SHAPING OUR COMMUNITY

And 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 began work to eliminate hundreds of septic tanks in southside Leon County. We also grew our beautiful parks countywide with the opening of St. Marks Headwaters Greenway and Northeast Trail, and improvements to a community treasure at Ft. Braden Park for families to enjoy.



Woodside Heights sewer line construction

ENGAGING CITIZENS AS CO-CREATORS

And because building community is about building connections, we engaged our residents on the Citizens Charter Review to shape our future, hosted our annual Created Equal event with a frank conversation on race and racial equality, served our veterans, and joined citizens to revitalize the Deer Tree Hills neighborhood with our 9/11 Day of Service.



2018 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

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 2018, our dedicated Leon County employees continued to set the highest standards in public service by earning more than 50 awards from the National Association of Counties (NACo) over the past six years, more than any other time in our history. This year alone, Leon County received 10 NACo awards for national best practices for programs and initiatives like the Leon County Citizens Connect Mobile App, the creation of the Office of Community Relations and Resilience, and the I-Squared Employee Awards Program, to just name a few.

These employee-led efforts have been key to keeping Leon County among the most efficient and affordable counties anywhere. We continued to retire debt, replenish reserves, decrease the use of fund balance for recurring operating expenses and increase budgeting for maintenance of essential infrastructure. In 2018, our internal teams continued to focus on innovation and efficiency, leading to \$4.3 million in cost savings or avoidance.

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 2018 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 6,500 veterans receive the benefits they deserve, responding to 43,000 calls for life-saving care, or serving nearly one million patrons at



Fort Braden Community Park

our County libraries, as we did in 2018, we strive to put each person first.

While Leon County 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 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 2019!