

Leon County Government Organizational Overview

2009/10 Citizen Charter Review Committee



A Little History



- Summary of Origins
- Early Florida

"Believe me this country [Florida] has been greatly overrated. One acre of our fine Tennessee land is worth a thousand here." – Rachel Donelson Jackson (1825)
- Political Subdivision of the State
- Political Subdivision AND Local Government
- "Functional Transformation" of Counties

Florida Law



- Florida Constitution (Article VIII)
- Florida Statutes (Ch. 125)
- County Ordinances

Leon County Overview

The Community

- Population: 274,892
 - 177,852 (65%) live with City limits
 - 97,040 (35%) live in unincorporated Leon County
 - Grown 14.8% since 2000
 - Slowed to less than 1% since 2006
- 1 municipality
- Major Employment Industries
 - Government (35%)
 - Professional and Business Services (11.2%)
 - Retail Trade (10.6%)
- Employment Center of the Region
 - 50% of residents in neighboring counties work in Leon County



Leon County Overview

Government

- Commission-Administrator Form
- 7 Commissioners (5 District, 2 At-Large)
- Charter County since 2002
- Approximately 800 employees under the BOCC
- Approximately 1,700 employees total
- Overall Budget: \$274 million

CORE VALUES

Leadership, Quality, Customer Satisfaction,
Employee Satisfaction, Professionalism

Leon County Overview

Challenges for Today:

- Creating Sustainable Communities
- Obsolete Tax Structure
- Health Care Cost
- Aging infrastructure
- Aging Population
 - *"My parents didn't want to move to Florida, but they turned sixty and it's the law"* – Jerry Seinfeld
- "Demographics is Destiny"
- Declining revenues

Library Services

- 📍 Main (Downtown) Library & 5 branches libraries
- 📍 Over 1.2 million people visit the libraries each year
 - 📍 More than the population of Rhode Island and Zurich, Switzerland
- 📍 Last year 1.97 million library materials were borrowed
 - 📍 7.5 materials for every County resident
- 📍 Received John S. and James L. Knight Foundation Grant in the amount of \$83,000





Health & Human Services

- 📍 \$1.8 million for Primary Healthcare Services to Leon County residents
 - 📍 Provides care to over 10,000 uninsured Leon County citizens
 - 📍 \$4.5 million – value of prescriptions filled
 - 📍 \$5.11 returned in community benefits for every \$1 of County funds
- 📍 Foreclosure Prevention Program & Down Payment Assistance Program
 - 📍 \$1.5 million – State Grant
- 📍 Local Catastrophe Fund (“CAT Fund”) 



Public Works

- Maintains 659 miles of roadway
- Maintains 2,540 acres of green space
- Animal Control responds to over 8,500 request each year
- Solid Waste ships 189,000 tons of solid waste out of the Gum Road Transfer Station



Emergency Medical Services

- 30,719 response
- Leading advocate for the placement of AED throughout the community
 - Maintains the American Heart Association designation as the Heart Ready Community for Leon County
- Recipient of the EMS Magazine Gold Award for industry leadership and excellence
- American City & County Crown Communities



Sustainability

- In 2008, Adopted Climate Action Plan
- Reduce GHG 80% by 2050
- Sustainability Task Force
- 2010 Sustainable Communities Summit
- Sale of Carbon Credits for Landfill Gas
 - Generate more than \$50,000 annually for the 20 years



Economic Development



- **American Recovery & Reinvestment Act of 2009**
 - Stimulus Quick Response Team
 - Established Recovery Economic Zone
 - 10.2 million received to date
- **Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA)**
 - \$12 million contributed by the County thus far
- **Tallahassee-Leon County Economic Development Council**
- **Enterprise Zone**
- **Targeted Business Pilot Program**
- **Vision 2020**

How Is It All Funded?

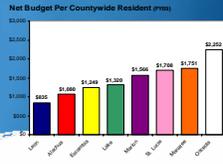
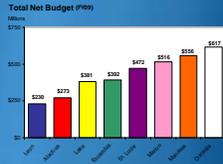
FY09/10 Budget = \$247 million

Governmental Funds

- There are 38 funds within Leon County's Budget
- General Fund
- Other Funds (Enterprise Funds/Dedicated Funding Sources)

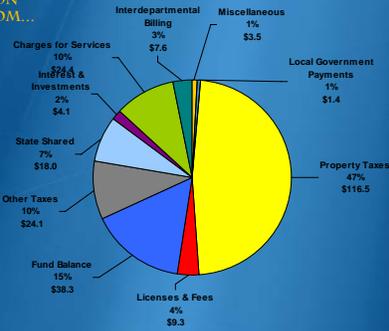
How We Compare

- FY10 Budget - \$247 million
 - Lowest in operating budget among like-sized counties
 - Lowest in dollars spent per county resident among like-sized counties
 - 5th lowest out of 67 counties in dollars spent per county resident



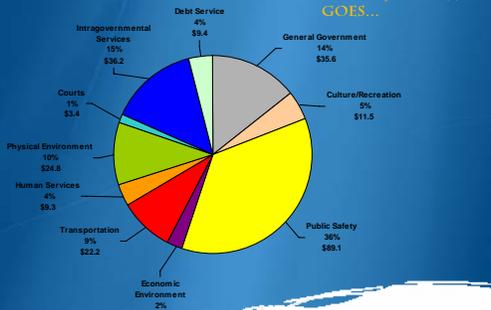
Revenue Summary

WHERE DOES \$247 MILLION COMES FROM...



Expense Summary

WHERE \$247 MILLION GOES...



Mandates

- State Mandates
- These items include:
 - Courts - \$3,403,474 (\$1,500,000 for DJJ Payment)
 - Medicaid - \$2,000,000
 - Baker/Marchman Act - \$628,000
- In addition to these, the County is mandated to pay for the *Constitutional Offices' budgets*

Your Role (Charter Review Commission)...

- **You** are part of that critical system of checks and balances
- **You** are representative of the public/private collaboration necessary to ensure desired outcomes for the community
- When **we** work together to enhance the quality of life for people....
- **We** demonstrate why *Leon County is the Capital County!*

Leon County Charter



- **Historical Background**
 - 1998 - 99 Charter Evaluation Begins
 - Jan. 2000-Established Citizen Charter Advisory Committee
 - Jan. 2002- Adopted the charter ordinance (incl. many of the of the Advisory Committee recommendations)
 - November 5, 2002- Charter Approved By Residents
- **Starter Charter**
 - Makes no significant changes to County structure
- **Major Provisions**
 - County Government Organization
 - Relationship with Constitutional Officers
 - Relationship with Municipalities
 - Amending the Charter

Leon County Charter



Legislative Branch (County Commission)

- Article II of Charter
- Legislative – Responsible for establishment and adoption of policy
- 7 Commissioners serve staggered terms
- 5 Districts Commissioners; 2 At-Large Commissioners
- Non-partisan elections
- Sets the salary of Commissioners

Leon County Charter



Executive Branch (Article II cont'd)

- Defines and Codifies the Roles:
 - County Administrator (administrative) – Serves at the pleasure of the County Commission
 - is hired by , and reports directly to, the Commission
 - Executes the policies established by the Commission and
 - Oversees the daily operations of the government
 - County employees work under the direction of the County Manager
 - County Attorney: The only other employee who serves at the pleasure of, and reports directly to, the elected Board

Leon County Charter

Relationship with Constitutional Officers

Article III Section 3.1 reads:

“The offices of the Sheriff, Property Appraiser, Tax Collector, Clerk of the Circuit Court and Supervisor of Elections shall remain as independently elected constitutional offices, and the status, powers, duties, and functions, of such offices, shall not be altered by this Home Rule Charter, or any revisions or hereto, except as provided in Sec. 5.2 below. The constitutional officers shall perform their executive and administrative functions as provided by law.”



Leon County Charter

Relationship with Constitutional Officers

- Elected and independent offices from the BOCC
- Nonpartisan election of Supervisor of Elections
- Annual budgets are approved as part of the County's overall budget adoption process, however FL Statutes provide varying levels of appeals rights for individual constitutional offices
 - Clerk – Article V funding required; finance funded thru interlocal
 - Property Appraiser – Dept. of Rev. approves; Board can appeal to Cabinet
 - Sheriff – Board approves budget; Can appeal to Cabinet
 - Supervisor of Elections – Board approves budget, no appeal process
 - Tax Collector – County pays fees for tax collection
- Prevents uniform budget process

Leon County Charter

Relationship with Cities

- Florida Constitution requires the charter to provide which ordinances prevail
- Article I Section 1.6 reads:
“Except as otherwise provided by law or this Charter, municipal ordinance shall prevail over County ordinances to the extent of any conflict within the boundaries of the municipality. To the extent that a county ordinance and a municipal ordinance shall cover the same subject without conflict, then the municipal ordinance and the county ordinance shall be effective, each being deemed supplemental to the other.”

Leon County Charter

Relationship with Cities

- Leon County Charter reflects general law for non-charter counties.
- 1/3 of charter counties provide preemption on environmental ordinances
- Policy Issues:
 - Countywide Standards (i.e. Stormwater)
- But...collaboration is vital
- Examples:
 - Planning Department
 - GIS
 - Renaissance Center
 - Fire and EMS
 - Public Safety Complex

Leon County Charter



Amending the Charter

- **Art. V, Section 5.2 - Home Rule Charter Amendments**
- **Citizen Initiative (Petition)**
 - 10% of total number of qualified Leon County electors and 10% of qualified electors in each County district from previous general election
- **Board of County Commissioners**
 - Requires an affirmative vote of majority plus one of the full Board
- **Citizens Charter Review Committee**
 - Appointed at least 12 months prior to general elections occurring every 8 years

Moving Forward...

- Determine whether the current charter reflects the preference of the community
- Determine whether the Charter best positions the County to address the challenges on the horizon

Questions/Discussion