



November 1, 2002

Fellow Citizens:

The Leon County Board of County Commissioners is proud to present the Citizen's Guide to the Budget and Directory of County Services for the Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2002 and ending September 30, 2003. This document has been designed to better communicate the basic budget information for the adopted FY 2002/2003 annual operating budget and five year capital improvement plan, and to provide a convenient directory of the essential County services that we offer our citizens.

The Board of County Commissioners has adopted a FY 2002/2003 operating budget and capital improvement plan that provides funding to continue high levels of services to the citizens of Leon County while providing a reduction in the millage rate from 8.57 to 8.56. This is the 11th consecutive year the countywide rate has either been reduced or remained constant. Within the following pages of this document we have brought together those areas of the budget which we feel are of the greatest interest to you. Included are pages outlining the Board's mission and priorities, the budget process, major sources of revenue, and major expenditures by service area. Furthermore, included is what we believe to be very useful factual and statistical information regarding Leon County's economic profile, and interesting comparative data from other similar Florida counties.

In addition to the guide to the FY 2002/2003 budget, a Directory of County Services for FY 2002/2003 is presented. This directory has been designed to provide valuable information that will help citizens identify the appropriate County office to contact when in need of assistance. The Board of County Commissioners hopes this directory will assist the citizens of Leon County in becoming familiar with those services offered to them and that it will increase the public's awareness of the many facets of County Government.

As we move forward into FY 2002/2003 we pledge to do our best in meeting the challenge of balancing competing needs and interests under the parameter of limited, but stable resources while continuing to maintain a high level of service delivery to our citizenry. We sincerely hope that you find this document, and the information contained within, interesting, informative and useful.

Sincerely,

Parwez Alam  
County Administrator