



# ALL ABOUT FLORIDA

A FLORIDA COUNTY RESOURCE

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## *Action Needed: Sign bipartisan letter to support counties in next relief package*

On behalf of Florida's 67 counties, we urge our Congressional Delegation members to sign on to a bipartisan "Dear Colleague" letter circulated by Reps. Abigail Spanberger (D-Va.), John Katko (R-N.Y.), Peter DeFazio (D-Ore.) and Rodney Davis (R-Ill) , urging direct funding for county governments in the next coronavirus relief package.

*Sign Electronically by April 30, 2020 Close of Business*

### ***Bipartisan Letter of Support - Provide Direct Aid to our County Governments in the Next Coronavirus Package***

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader McCarthy:

As you consider the next COVID-19 (coronavirus) relief package, we write to urge you to support dedicated and robust funding for county governments of all sizes across the country. Across America, Counties operate nearly 1,000 public hospitals, 1,900 local public health departments, more than 800 long-term care facilities, and 750 behavioral health departments, and are responsible for other essential functions including emergency operations centers, human services, jail management, 911 services, veterans' services, coroners, and medical examiners. Through these services, our counties act as our nation's front-line of defense in the response to the coronavirus pandemic.

However, the current public health crisis has put a significant strain on the budgets of our counties. Today our county governments are not only dealing with an unprecedented uptick in the demand for essential services but are doing so during an unprecedented economic downturn that has caused considerable hardship and growing shortfalls in tax revenue. These realities place a strain on the budgets of our counties at a time when our constituents need their support the most. Moving forward, we must empower our local governments with greater flexibility to spend federal relief dollars as they see fit, including to help make up for the loss of expected tax revenues or other unexpected budget shortfalls.

While the funding provided through the Coronavirus Relief Fund in the CARES Act was an important first step in getting much-needed relief to our localities, the additional stipulation that only localities of over 500,000 residents would receive direct funding makes it difficult for counties to know much of their state's allocation will be available for their needs.

We are particularly concerned that smaller and more rural counties—which

need to continue operating their hospitals, emergency response centers, and more—receive adequate resources to successfully address the needs of their residents. As such, we urge you to disburse funding directly to localities to ensure that these allocations more closely reflect the special role and critical responsibilities of county governments of all sizes during this public health crisis.

We thank you for your leadership during this crisis and thank you for your attention to this important matter.

[Click here to sign the letter](#)

## Florida Counties Respond to COVID-19 Pandemic

The Florida Association of Counties (FAC), continues to focus on Coronavirus pandemic and its impact to local government. We are continuing to track counties and how they are operating during this time. Our COVID-19 website contains all information relating to Florida's 67 counties including ordinances and orders, local state of emergency declarations, curfews and reopening information. Please visit the website for all things pertaining to Florida counties during the COVID-19 pandemic.



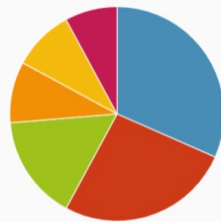
### Public Meetings

Regular BOCC Meetings  
**54**  
Counties

Meeting in Person  
**39**  
Counties

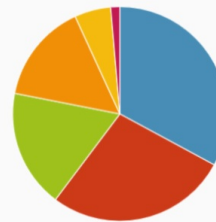
Meeting Remotely  
**31**  
Counties

What virtual format is your BOCC using?



- Other
- Zoom
- Facebook Live
- GoTo Meeting/Webinar

How are citizens able to give public comment?



- Other
- Email
- Through electronic chat function
- In person

Questions? Contact Tiffany Henderson at  
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