



**20
19**

**ANNUAL
REPORT**



All About Florida

20
19

ANNUAL REPORT

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MISSION

The Florida Association of Counties helps counties effectively serve and represent Floridians by strengthening and preserving county home rule through advocacy, education and collaboration.

Florida Association of Counties • 100 South Monroe Street • Tallahassee, FL 32301

2019-20 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



PRESIDENT
Commissioner Nick Maddox
Leon County



PRESIDENT-ELECT
Commissioner
Melissa McKinlay
Palm Beach County



FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT
Commissioner
Ralph Thomas
Wakulla County



SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT
Commissioner
Lee Constantine
Seminole County



IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT
Commissioner
Karson Turner
Hendry County

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP



100%

of Florida's
counties are

**FAC
Members**



126

County officials on

**FAC
Committees**



County officials

Attended
at least one
FAC Event

Launched the **Water Policy Committee** at Legislative Day
which included remarks from Governor Ron DeSantis



Bay, Columbia, Franklin, Suwannee, Polk, Gilchrist, Glades, Gulf, Hardee, Hendry, Jackson, Lafayette, Levy, and Manatee had all county commissioners registered for at least one FAC event.



HOME RULE **ADVOCACY**

- Professional and Occupation Licensing Preemption Defeated (HB 3)
- Secured Stricter Enforcement of Texting While Driving (HB 107)
- Ensured a Coastal and Beach Management Ranking and Scoring System (HB 325)
- Promoted the Creation and Enhancement of Apprenticeship Programs (HB 7071)
- Stopped Measure to Rename “Fees” as a “Tax” (HB 7053)
- Defeated Preemption of Bans on Plastic Straws and Sunscreen as well as on the Marketing Regulations for Tobacco/Nicotine Products (HB 1299)



- Stopped Measure that Would Require Significant Additional Notice Requirements for Tax Increase Considerations (HB 15)
- Established an Initiative to Address Impacts of Red Tide (SB 1552)
- Secured Local Authority when Regulating Micro-mobility Devices (HB 453)
- Stopped Preemption on Vacation Rentals (SB 824 / HB 987)
- Ensured Counties Ability to Establish a Needle Exchange Program (SB 366)



ENGAGING COUNTY LEADERS



FAC held

5 Successful Conferences & Events

with an overall

4% Increase

in commissioner and county staff participation



The 2019 **FAC Federal Fly-In** saw a record number of attendees with nearly 100 commissioners and staff going to Washington D.C. - that's **more than double** the number of attendees in 2018!



FAC's Legislative Day had a **14% increase** in attendance from the previous year with commissioner attendance alone **increasing over 20%**.



The **Annual Conference** saw almost a **10% overall increase** in attendance in comparison to 2018. County staff participation rose to **over 20%** while commissioner participation increased **nearly 7%**.



Opened the first opportunity for a county to submit a proposal to showcase their community and host the



2020 FAC Innovation & Policy Conference

As a result, **Palm Beach County** will host in 2020.



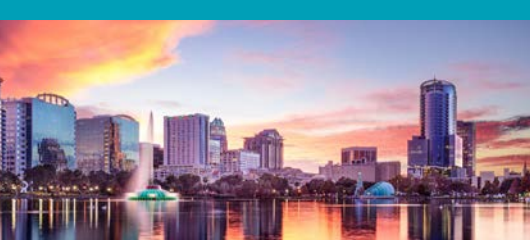
LOOK AHEAD IN **EVENTS**



2020 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

JUNE 9 – 12, 2020

Hyatt Regency Orlando
Orange County



2020 INNOVATION & POLICY CONFERENCE

SEPTEMBER 9 – 10, 2020

PGA National Resort
Palm Beach County





**2020 NACo ANNUAL
CONFERENCE**

JULY 17 – 20, 2020

Orange County, Florida

[naco.org/events/
nacos-85th-annual-conference-
exposition](https://naco.org/events/nacos-85th-annual-conference-exposition)



**2020 FAC
FEDERAL FLY-IN**

**SEPTEMBER 29 –
OCTOBER 1, 2020**

Washington, D.C



**2020 LEGISLATIVE
CONFERENCE**

DECEMBER 2 – 4, 2020

Hyatt Regency Jacksonville
Duval County



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



In 2019, the former Florida Counties Foundation (FCF) rebranded to better reflect the mission and goals of the organization. At the FAC Annual Conference, the new branding (including a new name, logo, and strategic plan) was unveiled. As a result, the Institute for County Government (ICG) was born.

Certified County Commissioner (CCC)

Since the inception of the education programs, 476 county commissioners have taken courses to enhance their skillset necessary and excel in their roles as public officials through the Certified County Commissioner (CCC) Program.

To date, **Suwannee County** continues to have the **highest number (17)** of county commissioners that have graduated from the **CCC program**.

There are **171** commissioners currently in office with the **CCC designation**.

Advanced County Commissioner (ACC)

Over the history of the education program, 237 county commissioners have continued their education by receiving an advanced designation and graduating from the ICG's Advanced County Commissioner (ACC) Program.

Flagler County has the **highest number (10)** of commissioners that have graduated from the **ACC program** since the inception.

There are currently **103** commissioners in office with the **ACC designation**.

All of the county commissioners currently in office in **Charlotte, Gadsden, Glades, and Osceola** counties are **CCC and ACC graduates**.



CCC Graduates

This year, 16 county commissioners completed the 45 hours of coursework to graduate from the CCC program:

Kenneth Thompson (Bradford), Gavin Rollins (Clay), W.C. Mills (Dixie), Robert Bender (Escambia), Ricky Jones (Franklin), Noey Flores (Hardee), Arlene Tuck (Highlands), Rick Minor (Leon), Donnie Waldrep (Madison), Michelle Coldiron (Monroe), Aaron Bell (Nassau), Thomas Ford (Nassau), Christine Moore (Orange), Don Hale (Suwannee), Len Stapleton (Suwannee), Danny Glidewell (Walton)



ACC Graduates

This year, 23 commissioners dedicated 27 hours to graduate from the ACC program:

Chris Dougherty (Bradford), Frank Durrance (Bradford), Michael Udine (Broward), Joseph Tiseo (Charlotte), Mike Cella (Clay), David Sullivan (Flagler), Donald O'Brien (Flagler), Donald Strenth (Glades), Beth Burnam (Hamilton), Emma Byrd (Hendry), Mitchell Wills (Hendry), Susan Adams (Indian River), Matt Brooks (Levy), Doug Smith (Martin), Justin Taylor (Nassau), Emily Bonilla (Orange), Peggy Choudhry (Osceola), Mack Bernard (Palm Beach), Kathryn Starkey (Pasco), Janet Long (Pinellas), Buddy Goddard (Putnam), Stephen Printz (Sumter), Ronnie Richardson (Suwannee)

CGE Graduate

This year, 1 county staff member finished the 45 hours of coursework to graduate: Darren Romelus (Palm Beach)

In 2019, ICG launched the second level to the standard ACC program, ACC Level II. Collaborating with UF/IFAS Leadership Institute, this new leadership program is designed to build upon the skills learned in the CCC and ACC programs by giving ACC alumni an opportunity to develop the tools and skills needed to be strong versatile leaders and pave the way in transforming their counties and the state of Florida.




















ACC Level II Graduates

The first class of ACC Level II completed the three seminars for a total of 27 hours of coursework in December 2019. All 14 graduates will be formally acknowledged at the 2020 Annual Conference.

Chris Dougherty (Bradford), Mike Cella (Clay), Timothy Stanley (Glades), Emma Byrd (Hendry), Mitchell Wills (Hendry), John Meeks (Levy), Matt Brooks (Levy), Justin Taylor (Nassau), Emily Bonilla (Orange), Peggy Choudhry (Osceola), Mack Bernard (Palm Beach), Lawrence Harvey (Putnam), James Johns (St. Johns), Ronnie Richardson (Suwannee)

Institute for County Government 2019 Education Workshop Attendance Numbers

CLASS	ATTENDANCE
New Commissioner Workshop	12 
County Government Structure & Authority	12 
County Government Roles & Responsibilities	11 
Ethics, Public Records & Sunshine Laws - March	31 
Growth Management	20 
Financial Management	19 
Ethics, Public Records & Sunshine Laws - June	55 
Political Training - Part 1	17 
Political Training - Part 2	17 
Public Works 101	42 
Emergency Management 101	48 
ACC Alumni	52 
Flood Plain Management	44 
After the Storm	27 
Hazard Mitigation	37 
Ethics, Public Records & Sunshine Laws - November	13 
Ethics, Public Records & Sunshine Laws - Online	87 
TOTAL	544

In 2019, ICG launched the County Government Best Practices Awards Program which recognizes the efforts of county leadership in creating new, efficient and effective solutions to challenges facing local governments.



2019 County Government Best Practices Awards Program Recipients

Alachua County, St. Lucie County, Orange County, Pasco County, Volusia County, Leon County, Osceola County, Polk County

SAVING TAX DOLLARS WHILE PROVIDING VALUE ADDED RESOURCES TO FLORIDA'S COUNTIES

OMNIA
PARTNERS



Omnia Partners

- **Every county in Florida participated in Omnia Partners** by utilizing their cooperative buying power on various products and services to help do more with less.
- In 2019, Florida counties spent **\$87,972,695** through Omnia Partners contracts.

Florida Sheriff's Association Cooperative Purchasing Program

- By partnering with the Florida Sheriffs Association (FSA), **63 counties** received competitive discount pricing on vehicles and equipment.
 - Through contracts with FSA, counties spent over **\$188 million in 2019** on a variety of vehicles, equipment and services.
- Since its inception in November 1993, approximately **55,000 vehicles** have been purchased through the Florida Sheriffs Association Cooperative Fleet Bid Awards program.



Florida Local Government Investment Trust

- Investing in the Florida Trust's short-to-intermediate term securities funds, 60 counties were able to responsibly manage their public dollars while still meeting their investment needs – often times receiving returns generally greater than the national average!
 - **Participation in the Florida Trust has risen 46.3% from the previous year.**
- County representatives on the six-member Trust Board include the Chair, Bryan Desloge (Leon), Ken Welch (Pinellas) and Doug Smith (Martin).



Nationwide

- Through a partnership with NACo, Nationwide, and FAC, **63 counties** were able to offer employees access to the premier deferred compensation program.



Florida Association of Counties Trust

- In 2019, FACT celebrated **30 years of service** to Florida's counties.
- **23 Florida counties benefitted** from the risk protection offered through the Florida Association of Counties Trust, Florida's only public entity risk pool created by counties for counties.
- FACT held their 2019 Risk Management Conference in Walton County in which **73** commissioners, constitutinals, and county staff participated in the two-day series featuring **7 educational workshops** focused on reducing risk exposure.
- In 2019, **37** commissioners, constitutinals, and county staff attended FACT Roundtable Meetings on best practices in risk management.



Florida Local Government Finance Program

- By participating in FLGFP's short-to-medium term loan program, **8 counties** in Florida were able to secure funding to help meet their many infrastructure and capital needs
 - **Sarasota County** took advantage of **\$12.9 million** in loans to use towards upgrading their jail and fire station, a beach re-nourishment project, and on energy conservative measures for their facilities.
 - **Flagler County** also utilized FLGFP in 2019 in order to purchase fire rescue equipment and enterprise resource planning (ERP) software – their loans with FLGFP totaled **\$1 million**

SHARING COUNTY NEWS



Calendar

- FAC once again held the annual calendar photo contest collecting 275 photos for consideration in this highly anticipated publication.
 - The announcement of our calendar on social media is consistently our highest performing post. In 2019, the post announcing our calendar reached 8,600 people on Facebook and received over 500 reactions, comments, or shares!

Winners:

- | | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| • Leon (Cover) | • Lake (April) | • Levy (September) |
| • Bay (December 2019) | • Miami-Dade (May) | • Polk (October) |
| • Highlands (January) | • Okaloosa (June) | • Pasco (November) |
| • St. Johns (February) | • Manatee (July) | • Lee (December 2020) |
| • Broward (March) | • Palm Beach (August) | • Seminole (Back Cover) |



Social Media



Facebook

- FAC's following on Facebook **increased by 11%** in 2019, allowing posts to reach on average almost 600 people and receive nearly 25 reactions, comments, or shares per post.



Twitter

- In 2019, FAC delivered **272,000** Twitter impressions, almost a **40% increase** from the previous year.
- From March 2019 to December 2019, FAC was mentioned on Twitter **654 times** and received **6,704 profile visits**.



Instagram

- Since launching in late 2017, FAC's Instagram page showcases all the photos submitted in our annual calendar contest. After only two years, FAC has gained over **600 followers** and counting!
- In 2019, FAC's Instagram posts received an average of **32 likes per post**.
 - Photos from **St. Lucie** (78), **Martin** (67), and **Dixie** (64) counties received the most likes.



Use **#LocalRules** or **#FACinAction** when attending any FAC events or reporting any county news!



News & Notes

- With an emphasis on sharing information pertinent to counties including educational articles and innovative county ideas, News & Notes receives an average **open rate of nearly 30%** with a total distribution of **2,625**.



News Clips

- Sharing headlines about Florida's local and state government as well as the U.S. federal government to over **1,500 people**, News Clips receives an average open rate of **34% - that's 14% above the industry standard** of 20%.



FAC Mention in News Articles

- In 2019, FAC was mentioned or served as an expert source in **166 articles**. These articles received an estimated **4.35 million views**, representing an online readership of **64.8 billion people**.



AFFILIATES



**FLORIDA ASSOCIATION
OF COUNTY ENGINEERS &
ROAD SUPERINTENDENTS (FACERS)**

139 MEMBERS



**FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF
COUNTY MANAGERS (FACM)**

61 MEMBERS

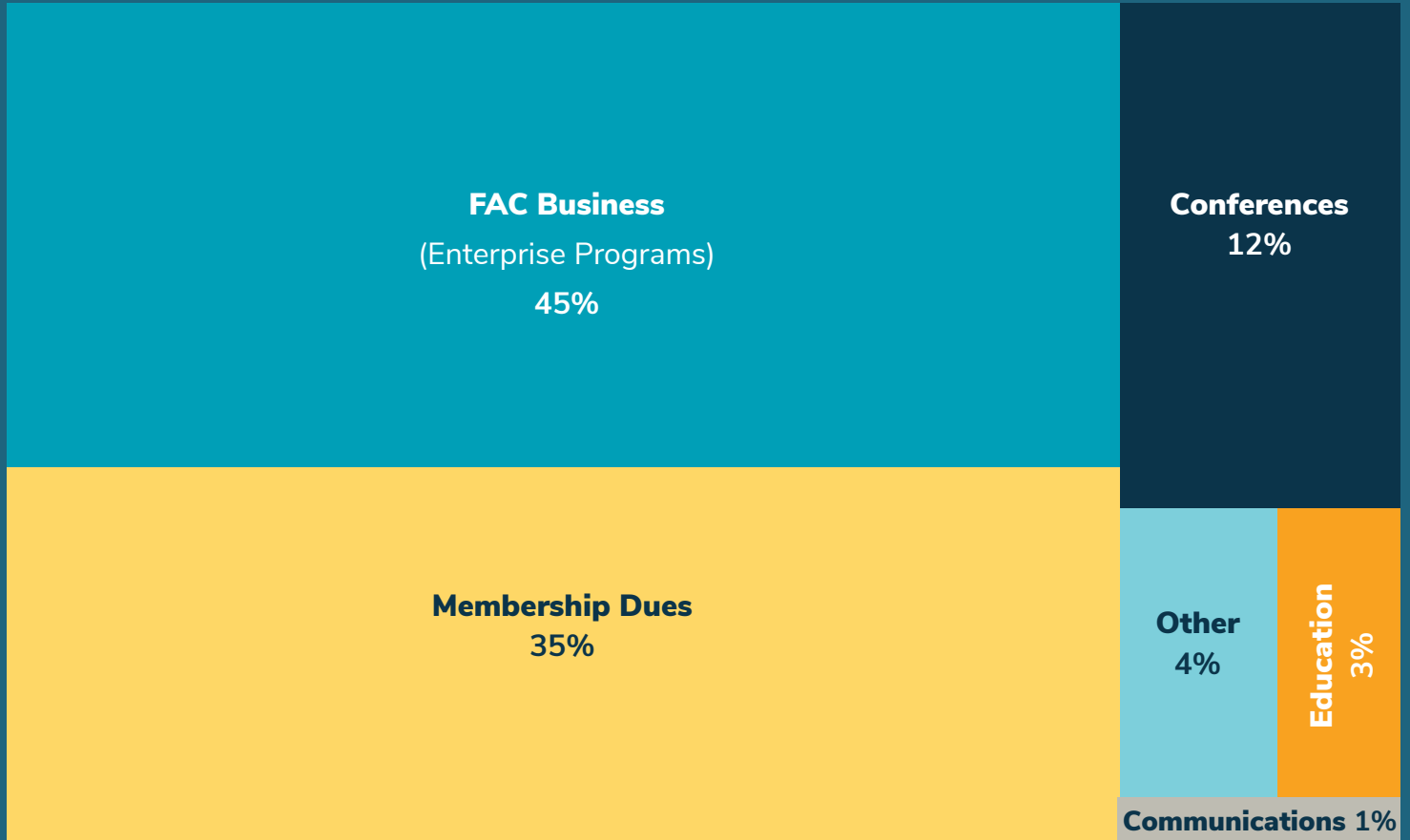


**FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF
COUNTY ATTORNEYS (FACA)**

261 MEMBERS

FINANCIALS

2019 ESTIMATED INCOME



FAC STAFF

EXECUTIVE

- Executive Director – **Virginia “Ginger” Delegal**
- General Counsel – **Robert J. Sniffen**,
Sniffen & Spellman
- Sr. Executive Assistant to the Executive Director –
Emily Anderson

INSTITUTE FOR COUNTY GOVERNMENT

- Executive Director – **Eric Poole**
- Education Manager – **Becky Berentsen**

PUBLIC POLICY

- Director of Public Policy – **Davin Suggs**
- Deputy Director of Public Policy –
Susan Harbin, Esq.
- Legislative Counsel – **Laura Youmans, Esq.**
- Associate Director of Public Policy –
Tonnette S. Graham
- Senior Public Policy Coordinator –
Tiffany Henderson
- Policy Analyst – **Jeff Scala**

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

- Director of External Affairs – **Cragin Mosteller**
- Communications Manager – **Tracy Kusmierz**
- Digital Communications Coordinator –
Jennifer Laxner
- Member Services Associate – **Milan Clayton**
- Corporate Relations Manager –
Latoya Washington
- Events Manager – **Kelli Williams**
- Senior Executive Assistant for External Affairs –
Karen Sapp

INTERNAL AFFAIRS & FINANCIAL SERVICES

- Director of Internal Affairs & Financial Services –
Anna R. Doughty, CPA
- Accounting Manager – **Connie Osborn**
- Accounting Assistant – **Sue Hopkins**
- IT Manager – **Robert Swandol**
- Office Manager – **Teresa Martin**
- Senior Executive Assistant to Internal Affairs &
Financial Services – **Kim Morgan**
- Administrative Assistant / Receptionist –
Sori Sutton



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