



67 counties
united
to make
a difference





benefits of membership

With all 67 counties represented by FAC, we act for the local concerns of every Floridian.

Our members were elected by the same citizens that elected those serving in the legislature.

Our united voice in Tallahassee empowers FAC and its members to make gains in preserving home rule, limiting mandates and ensuring counties are heard.

In addition to legislative influence, FAC members benefit from [cost savings programs](#), local government [investment opportunities](#), advanced education courses, conferences and a sharing of [solutions](#) with other counties.





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people are what matter.

Whether you are an elected official or staff member, through your public service you are making a difference in your community. FAC is dedicated to helping you continue to have the local authority to serve the needs of your citizens in a responsible manner.



Teresa Jacobs

Last year, working together, we fought 18 bills that attempted to preempt the authority of counties to respond to and serve our local communities. Through our collective efforts, we defeated all but two of those bills. Another proposal would have eliminated home rule as we know it, requiring the state to set millage rates for all counties and cities.

This year we will face similar challenges and like last year, if we remain united we will prevail in our efforts to preserve home rule. FAC, as the voice of local governments, must defend home-rule authority and stand up for Floridians to ensure that efficiency and accountability are returned to government. FAC will also strive to protect local governments from unfunded mandates and cost shifts.

Remember, we are not fighting for our power, but for the ability of citizens to decide what basic and quality of life services they expect from their local government. This is the very essence of home rule and why FAC has worked so hard to defend it.

We know our goal is noble and our motivations sincere. We must not tire during these trials but triumph by standing united for our citizens throughout the state.

Sincerely,

Teresa Jacobs
2007-2008 FAC President
Orange County Commissioner



a quick glance

For almost 80 years, the Florida Association of Counties (FAC) has advocated on behalf of the diverse interests of Florida's counties. The Association is driven by its mission to preserve and promote democratic principles by keeping appropriate authority at the level of government closest to the people. Throughout the state, Florida's counties perform vital public service functions such as public safety, fire, emergency medical services, public record-keeping, jails, parks, libraries, health care, comprehensive planning, economic development, and roads, just to name a few.

FAC is committed to working with the state legislature and governor to make Florida a place where state and local governments keep the power of Floridians in their communities.

florida counties united to make a difference

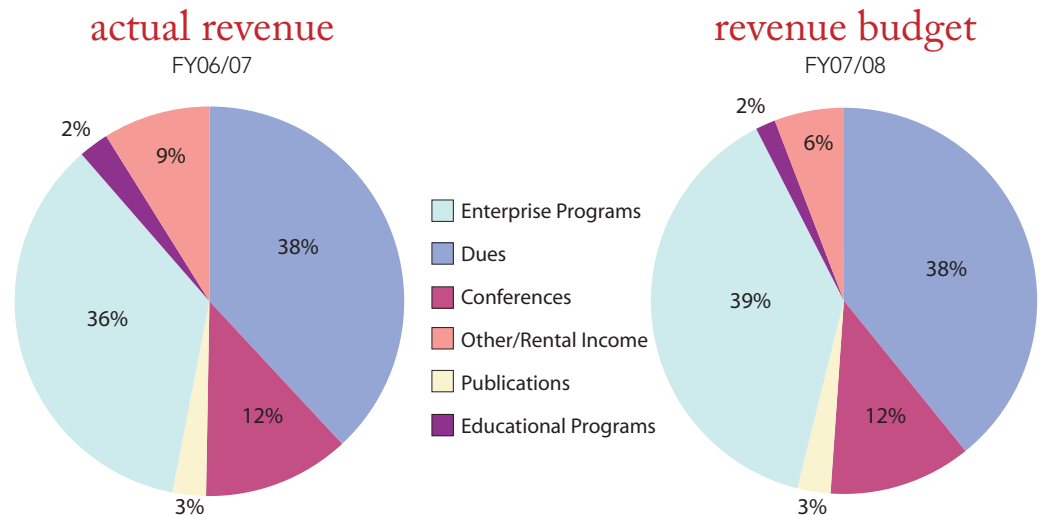
Now more than ever all 67 counties in Florida have to stand united. As the only association representing every county in Florida, the Association brings together the collective experience and knowledge of 67 counties, represented by 377 county commissioners and supported by thousands of county professional staff. Through FAC, counties are better able to serve not only their communities but the entire state of Florida. FAC provides the cohesive platform that enables county officials and staff to speak with a unified voice on behalf of all citizens about matters of statewide importance.

FAC also works to ensure its membership voice is heard. From the state legislature to the media, and other groups of interest, FAC is strategic in its communications efforts, resulting in high visibility for Florida's counties and the issues important to their communities.

"The mission of the Association is to preserve and promote democratic principles by working to keep appropriate authority at the level of government closest to the people, and to increase the capacity of Florida counties to effectively serve and represent the citizens of the state through legislative action, education of public officials, and enhancement of public awareness about the role and functions of county government."



Palm Beach County Commissioner
Karen Marcus

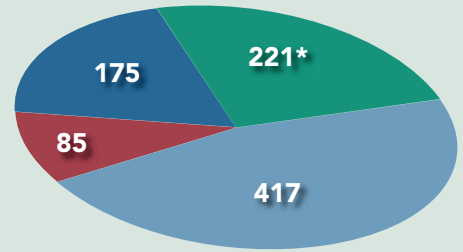


conferences

what we did

- FAC held five successful conferences in 2007. All combined, more than 1,000 commissioners and county staff participated in Association events.
- FAC was especially proud to host so many honored guests and speakers at our events this year including Former Governor of Maryland, Parris Glendening; Secretary Michael Sole from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection; Secretary Thomas Pelham from the Florida Department of Community Affairs; Florida Representative Ron Saunders; Dr. Jimmy Cheek, Senior Vice President IFAS at the University of Florida; and Allan Bense, former Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives and Chair of the Taxation and Budget Reform Commission.
- The theme for the 2007 FAC Annual Conference and Educational Exposition was "Our County Legacy: A Florida Designed to Last." In addition to discussing the late breaking information coming from Tallahassee during the property tax special session, the conference focused on sustainability issues. Topics were discussed such as smart growth, building green in the public and private sector, cost savings and a focus on the sustainable programs that our counties are already participating in during the Florida Counties Go Green workshop and county sustainability exhibits.

event attendance



- Legislative Day – 221*
- Annual Conference – 417
- Policy Meeting – 85
- Legislative Conference – 175

*Record year

what we are doing

- FAC is continuing to keep costs down for counties by freezing existing registration fees at 2006 levels and focusing on having events in more central locations.
- The Association is providing conference attendees with informative national, state and local experts as event speakers. Presenters will provide program content that is current and focused on the issues that are important to commissioners, such as growth management, health, environment, financial management, and leadership skills.
- Focusing educational seminars at the 2008 FAC Annual Conference and Education Exposition around "Restore the Partnership: Working Together for Florida's Future."

DEP Secretary
Mike Sole speaks at 2007
FAC Annual Conference.



Celebrating our commissioners' achievements for completing FAC's education programs.



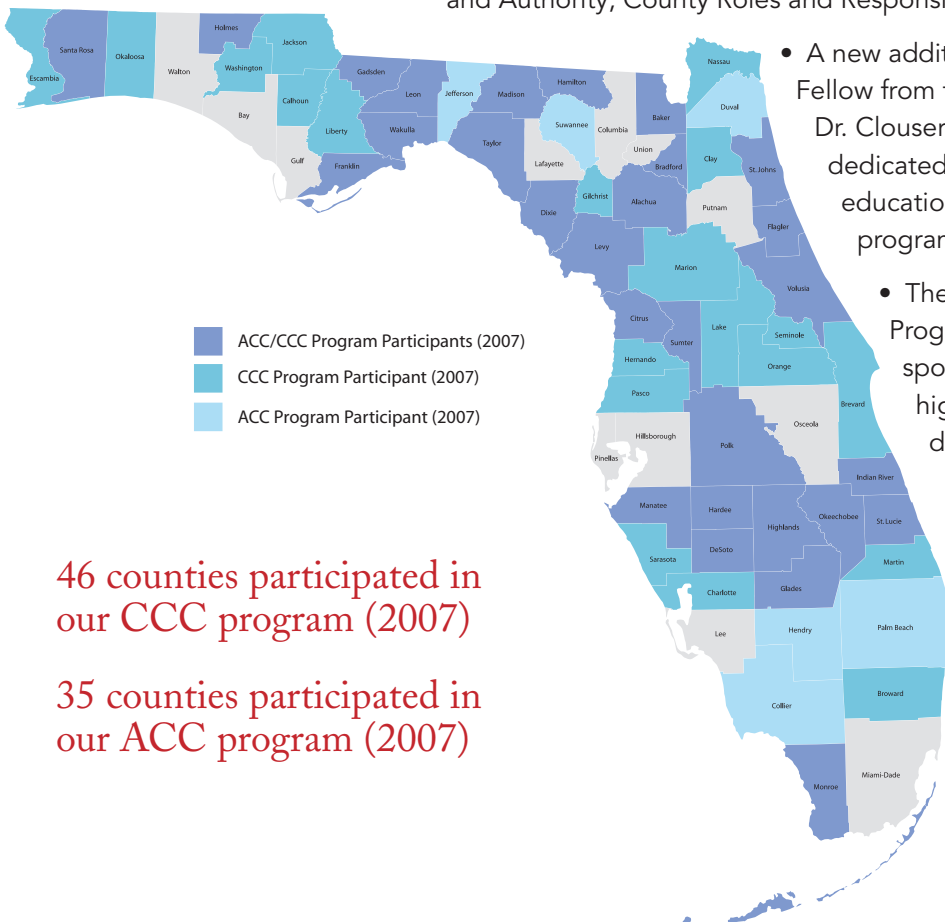
education/florida counties foundation

what we did

- In the Fall of 2006, Florida Counties Foundation (FCF) began a new cycle of the two-year Certified County Commissioner Program (CCC) course schedule. The eight CCC programs were well attended, with more than 280 commissioners participating. The classes included: New Commissioner Orientation; New Commissioner Workshop; Ethics, Public Records and the Sunshine Law; County Structure and Authority; County Roles and Responsibilities; Negotiation Skills; Growth Management; and Florida's Legislative Process.
- In 2006, FCF launched the Advanced County Commissioner (ACC) education program. The advanced leadership program designed for graduates of the CCC program is a year long program, organized as a series of three seminars, with 27 hours of course work. The course content focuses on leadership with an overarching theme of growth and development in Florida. This year FCF's first class (2006-07) graduated 26 commissioners and began the second class (2007-08) which is expected to graduate 21 commissioners.
- At the 2007 FAC Annual Conference and Educational Exposition, FCF graduated seven Certified County Commissioners and the Inaugural Advanced County Commissioner Class of 26.

what we are doing

- FCF will complete the two-year course cycle for the CCC program and will offer the following workshops: Financial Management; Understanding Charter Government; County Structure and Authority; County Roles and Responsibilities; and Effective Communications.



- A new addition to the education team is Senior Fellow from the University of Florida, Dr. Rodney Clouser. Dr. Clouser, a familiar face to education programs, dedicated additional time to assist in improving education materials and capabilities for the CCC program.
- The University of Florida IFAS Extension Program sponsored the 2007-08 ACC Class. This sponsorship has allowed FAC to continue to offer high caliber speakers in addition to opening the doors to the talent at the University.
- FCF currently has a total of 199 CCC graduates since the program's inception in 1996 and 26 ACC graduates from last year. FCF is expecting a large graduating class at the 2008 FAC Annual Conference of 35 Certified County Commissioners and 21 Advanced County Commissioners. When our goals are met in June, FCF will have over 225 CCC graduates and almost 50 ACC graduates.

46 counties participated in our CCC program (2007)

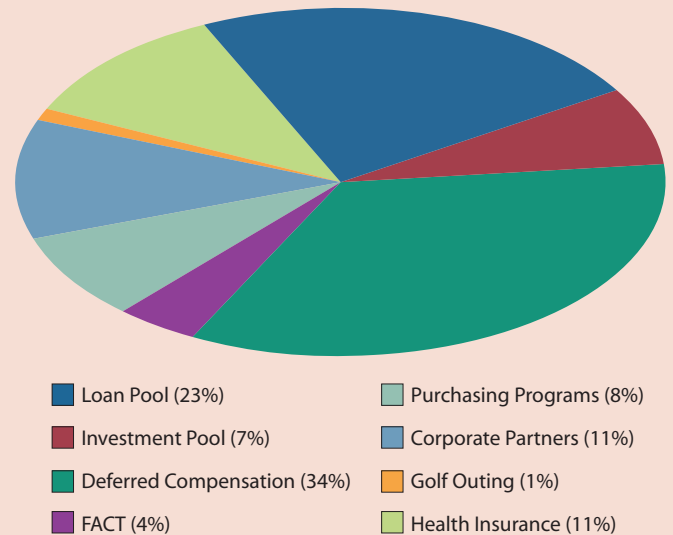
35 counties participated in our ACC program (2007)

enterprise programs reach new heights

what we did

- The FAC Health Insurance Program added two counties in 2007, bringing the total number of lives covered to 26,000. This program continues to show solid growth and now comprises 11 percent of FAC's enterprise revenue.
- More than 120 vendors participated in the 2007 Annual Conference. FAC's 2007 Legislative Day in Tallahassee posted a record number of sponsors.
- The Florida Local Government Investment Trust (FLGIT), an interim investment fund co-sponsored by FAC and the Florida Association of Court Clerks & Comptrollers, fared well in 2007. FLGIT is a AAA-rated 16 year old investment pool which posted a 5.7 percent return in 2007 and has no subprime exposure due to a conservative investment policy.

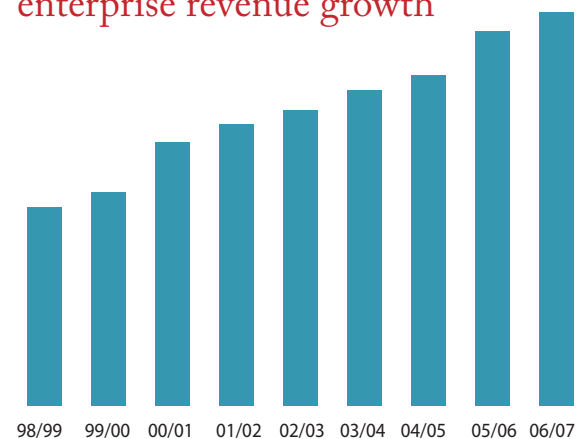
enterprise revenue '06-'07



what we are doing

- FAC has been working for several years to develop a workers' compensation program for counties. In 2007, the Florida Association of Counties Workers' Compensation Program Board of Trustees was established in the anticipation of offering coverage to counties.
- FAC's Membership & Marketing Coordinator is meeting with commissioners and staff in each county to discuss FAC upcoming events, Enterprise Programs and to find out how to better serve our members.
- FAC has been working on enhancing our affiliate relationships. Realizing the importance and value each affiliate adds to our membership, FAC will continue to broaden affiliate participation in coordination with FAC conferences and events.

a decade of enterprise revenue growth



"Small counties are in the forefront of FAC's efforts. Each year - last year especially - FAC is ensuring Florida's smaller counties are not overlooked in Tallahassee. In addition, I am better able to serve Wakulla County because of FAC's education programs—they're exceptional!"

— Wakulla County Commissioner ED BRIMNER

legal

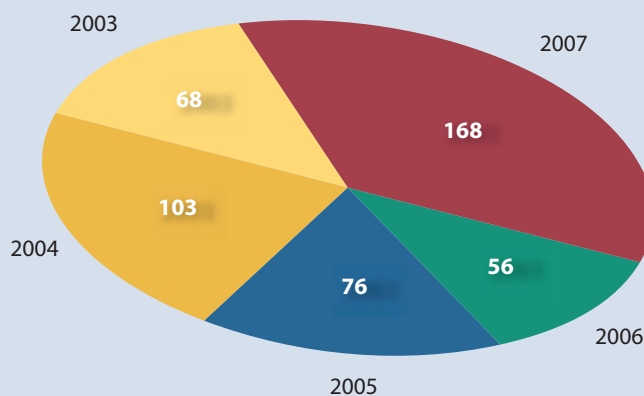
what we did

- **Dual Tax Lawsuit:** Drafted and filed a brief on behalf of Palm Beach County in *City of Boca Raton v. Palm Beach County* (using countywide property tax revenues to fund 9-1-1 dispatch when some municipalities have their own primary dispatch systems).
- **Managed the drafting and filing of a brief** on behalf of Escambia County in the *Supreme Court of Florida* in *Escambia County v. Strand* (bond validation case on the home rule ability of counties to pledge tax increment for debt, without statutory authority) and on behalf of Walton County in *Save Our Beaches v. Walton County* (the demarcation of the erosion control line for when compensation is required for beach renourishment activities).
- **Actively monitored** (defined as initiating strategic conference calls, research, and other advice and assistance): Property Tax Reform Lawsuit: *Hersh v. Browning*; Save Our Homes Lawsuit: *Lanning v. Pilcher*; Save Our Homes/Portability Lawsuit: *Bruner v. Hartsfield*; Federal property tax challenge: *Kanier v. Nelson*; Clerk of Court Auditing Authority: *Collier County v. Brock*; Article V/Regional Conflict Counsel: *Fla. Ass'n of Criminal Defense Lawyers v. Crist*; Public Access Cable Channels: *City of Tampa v. Bright House Networks*.

what we are doing

- **2008 Pocket Guide** to the Florida Ballot (to include official FAC positions and/or pro-con information): monitoring all proposed constitutional amendments, whether they are citizen initiative petitions, legislative joint resolutions or Taxation & Budget Reform Commission proposals as well as individual county referenda questions relating to charter, taxation, and debt issues. The guide will be distributed to all members, many county staff and will be available for wider public dissemination.
- **FACA 100% initiative:** assisting the county attorneys association achieve its goal of having each county in the state with at least one member of FACA by participating in active outreach efforts, including preparing and hosting a "First Friday" roundtable conference call to facilitate peer-to-peer communication among the county attorneys and to provide judicial updates on cases of interest around the state.
- **Visiting with county attorneys around the state:** providing and presenting substantive information for Board of County Commissioner workshops, for charter review commissions, for civic groups; and researching and writing portions of the work plan products for the UF/IFAS Senior Fellow Program.

yearly mandates passed by state to counties and cities



legislative

what we did

- **FAC won a decisive victory as part of the property tax debate** by eliminating existing provisions and other references to the state acquiring control over county millage rates and local budgets. While FAC garnered the support of many state legislators, FAC recognized Rep. Dean Cannon and Rep. Dick Kravitz in particular for their efforts and leadership during the property tax debate regarding preservation of home rule principles.
- **FAC was successful in preventing numerous bad bills** preempting local government authority regarding mining, fertilizer and fireworks among others.
- **FAC was successful in receiving appropriations to assist the Dept of Juvenile Justice** in developing an electronic billing system and uniform billing system for the pre-trial detention of juveniles as a cost efficiency measure.

what we are doing

- **FAC adopted as one of its top priorities an effort to strengthen Florida's constitutional limitation on state mandates.** Consequently, FAC is working jointly with the Florida League of Cities to eliminate many of the existing loopholes in the current constitutional limitation as well as creating an alternative process for addressing state and local disputes. The Honorable Mike Hogan, Duval County Tax Collector, has agreed to champion FAC's mandates initiative.
- **FAC is establishing a long term relationship with the Center for Florida Local Government Excellence at Florida State University.** One of CFLGE's first

research policy projects will be to prepare a report on Florida's system of public finance. The paper will provide a comprehensive perspective on state and local revenues and expenditures over the past several decades and on unfunded mandates and tax and expenditure limitations imposed from 1978 to the present.

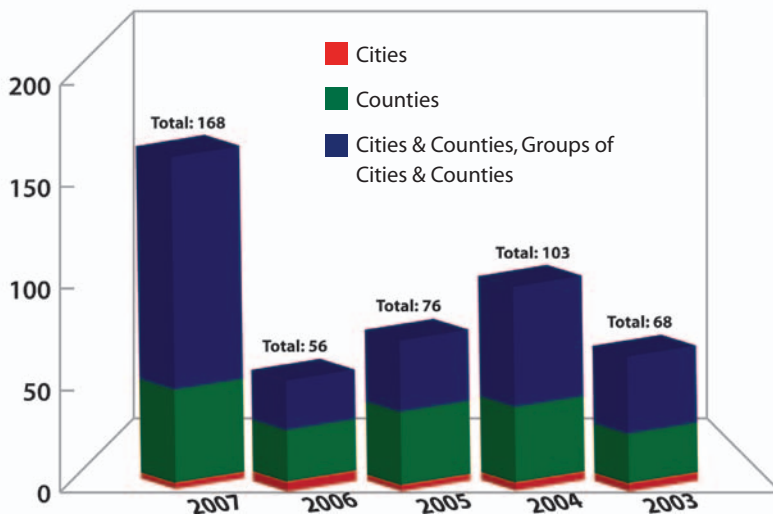
- This year FAC will be working with the state: to **get legislative authorization for assignment of benefits and direct billing for emergency medical services** to improve the receipt of funds for services rendered and eliminate subsidization of emergency medical services; to eliminate the funding requirements for regional conflict counsels and seek state funding; to improve and enhance the role of the state in providing a state vision and streamlining the growth management process; and, to restrict the continued passage of unfunded mandates.

communications

what we did

- **Efforts focused primarily on supporting our membership** and legislative team with messaging in regards to property tax reform. Multiple tool kits were created for the membership to speak with their constituents regarding the impacts of various property tax proposals and Amendment 1.
- **FAC revamped the way it communicates with its membership** by introducing a daily email of the state's most pertinent news that affects local governments and redesigning *News & Notes* to make it a web based newsletter focused on news our members could use.
- **FAC started bi-monthly conference calls** and regular communications with county public information officers and communication staffs to keep them apprised of what was happening in Tallahassee and offer a chance for communication between counties to share ideas and solutions to common communication problems.

breakdown of mandates by cities and counties



what we are doing

- **Efforts continue to focus on the state's assault on home rule.** Additional messaging will be provided to the membership to address the Taxpayer Bill of Rights and other legislation proposed that dramatically affects local governments.
- **A comprehensive look at the FAC website** is currently underway and new website development will likely begin shortly. FAC hopes to create a website that is geared toward our membership getting the information they need, from legislative priorities to cost saving enterprise solutions.
- **FAC is investing in software that will better keep our membership information.** This new software will allow members to login through the FAC website and gain committee meeting information and update their member profile.

“Over the past 9+ years as both a private citizen and a County Commissioner of Martin County, I have had the opportunity to work with and interact with FAC. One of the many things that we take great pride in is our excellent FAC leadership and staff of which are some of the best I have ever worked with. FAC's ability to be able to respond to the issues that come before us is nothing short of first class. We are a very diverse State with very different needs; FAC always achieves a balance for both small and large counties and that results in policy for the betterment of our State.”



— Martin County Commissioner DOUG SMITH

FAC

looking ahead

Focusing on priorities can be one of the most challenging things each of us does on a daily basis. Despite all the daily distractions, it is important that we stay the course and work collaboratively to strengthen our communities while addressing our residents' most vital needs. This year, the Florida Association of Counties' priorities include protecting and preserving local control and home rule.



Christopher L. Holley

We must continue to stand united – local governments working together to keep home rule with our citizens and out of the hands of the legislature. The pendulum has swung and it is time that rather than the constant push and pull between local and state governments that we work together to restore the partnership. If there ever was a time to stand united -- it is now. Whether you are from the Panhandle, South Florida, or in between, we must speak with one voice to protect and preserve home rule.



“Our county has saved more than a half million dollars through FAC membership. FAC’s cost savings programs save tax dollars that I can keep in Polk County. While these dollar savings are great, the intangible value provided through the information I receive and legislative efforts are priceless.”

— Polk County Commissioner
SAM JOHNSON



Each year, the legislature proposes hundreds of mandates and preemptions that are passed on to local governments which attempt to strip local control. FAC has been successful in ensuring the defeat of many of these mandates and continues to work determinedly on your behalf to protect county government.

While our legislative department is working tirelessly to preserve your authority and prevent unfunded mandates, our enterprise division is focusing on ways to save your county tax payers dollars through our group purchasing programs, local investment pools and insurance programs. Let FAC partner with your county and help

you and your staff find new strategic ways to invest and save tax payer dollars.

Times may be trying but we know more than ever the importance counties play for our state and the citizens of Florida. FAC is committed to each of you and we will continue to fight for you in Tallahassee, provide education and networking opportunities for you to build solutions and partner with your county to provide cost saving solutions.

Sincerely,

Christopher L. Holley
Executive Director



All About Florida

To contact association staff, call (850) 922-4300 or send an email through the FAC web site at www.fl-counties.com.

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**executive
committee**
2007-2008



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Commissioner Teresa Jacobs
Orange County



President-elect
Commissioner Randy Hatch
Suwannee County



1st Vice President
Commissioner Rodney Long
Alachua County



2nd Vice President
Commissioner Ilene Lieberman
Broward County



Immediate Past President
Commissioner Susan Latvala
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