



WELCOME TO YOUR ASSOCIATION

NEW COMMISSIONER PACKET

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YOU PROBABLY HAVE A LOT OF QUESTIONS. WE HAVE THE ANSWERS.

Whether this is your first public office or you are a veteran public servant – things are different when you are a county commissioner. Navigating in the sunshine. Communicating with your county manager. Dealing with angry citizens and bad press. Balancing the budget.

No need to reinvent the wheel! FAC is your resource - in person or online - will put you on a path to feeling knowledgeable and confident in the rules, laws and boundaries of elected office so you can focus on your priorities.

WELCOME

FROM PRESIDENT CONSTANTINE



Congratulations! We are excited to welcome you to the county commission family. Whether you are a seasoned veteran in public service or new to this arena, the Florida Association of Counties (FAC) is your resource for information, education and policy to help you better serve your constituency by guiding you through the red tape and mine fields that is county government.

Lee Constantine
President
Seminole

There is a lot to do for your citizens – many things you’ve already committed to – but you may find that to fulfill those promises it will take not just navigating county government but state and federal policies as well. FAC can help you get through all of that to accomplish your goals and fulfill your promises.

Bill Truex
President-Elect
Charlotte

Terry Burroughs
First Vice
President
Okechobee

FAC is a non-partisan organization. The policies FAC advocates for revolve around the fundamental belief that you at a county level should make the decisions that will most impact your citizens and communities. You were elected to lead and we want to make sure you can do just that!

Michelle Coldiron
Second
Vice President
Monroe

Ralph C. Thomas, Jr.
Immediate
Past President
Wakulla

Please review the information in this packet – it will tell you how you can get involved in FAC and how FAC can help you fulfill those promises.

Lee Constantine

Lee Constantine
FAC President
Seminole County





ABOUT FAC

MISSION

Help Florida's counties effectively serve and represent their communities through advocacy, collaboration, and education.

In 1929 - More than 90 years ago - the Florida Association of Counties formed to represent counties when the state wanted to put up fences to stop cattle from roaming on the burgeoning road systems. And since then, the Florida Association of Counties (FAC) has represented the diverse interests of Florida's counties, emphasizing the importance of protecting home rule - the concept that communities and their local leaders should make the decisions that impact their community.

FAC has grown to focus not just on advocacy but on providing continuing education for county commissioners, collaborating with federal, state and other local leaders to better serve Florida and by providing key services at a reduced cost to help counties with the business of government.



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SAVE THE DATES

FAC Conferences and Events are an important part of the value of membership. Our events provide opportunities for education, peer-to-peer engagement, shaping legislative policy and service to your communities and fellow counties.

Join us this coming year at these FAC events and see FAC in action!



NOVEMBER 29:

Ethics, Public Records & Sunshine Laws Workshop

(Pinellas County)



NOVEMBER 30:

New Commissioner Orientation

(Pinellas County)



NOVEMBER 30 - DECEMBER 2:

FAC Legislative Conference

(Pinellas County)

*Have a passion for health care, water, the environment, urban or rural issues?
Serve on a FAC committee – see Advocacy for more information*



JANUARY 26-27, 2023:

Access 67 Broadband Summit

(St. Johns County)



MARCH 15, 2023:

FAC Legislative Day

(Leon County)



MARCH 16-17, 2023:

Growth Management Workshop

(Leon County)



JUNE 27 - 30TH, 2023:

FAC Annual Conference

(Orange County)



INSTITUTE FOR COUNTY GOVERNMENT TEAM



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DID YOU KNOW?



4 hours of ethics training – every year! Don't sweat it – FAC has you covered – online or in person!



The **"Government in the Sunshine Law"**! Everything is public! Sign up for FAC's CCC (Certified County Commissioner) classes and you'll be an expert in no time!



Counties must try to **recycle 75%** of recyclable materials annually.



Each county is required to coordinate plans and process with the **county school board**.



Counties may levy **local option fuel taxes** (no more than 12 cents)



During a **declared emergency**, counties have wide latitude to appoint or remove any needed staff including with or without compensation.



Counties are required to support to **juvenile detention care**.



Counties are mandated to contribute to Florida's **Medicaid program**.



Counties must allow **small wireless facilities** in county rights-of-way.



Counties are required to have a **growth management plan**, implement **land use regulations** and plan for **affordable housing**.



EDUCATION

Ready to dive in?

FAC offers several programs, in person and virtually, that can help you navigate the red tape that is government. FAC's Institute for County Government (ICG) offers more than 40 different classes covering all aspects of county government to help commissioners like you fulfill your call to public service. And just like other professional accreditation programs, should you choose, you can earn your Certified County Commissioner (CCC), Advanced Certified County Commissioner I & II designations.

CERTIFIED COUNTY COMMISSIONER - CORE COURSES

Your first step on the road to success is the Certified County Commissioner Program. Each of the core courses is designed to cover the fundamental information necessary to effectively serve your citizens in your new role as county commissioner.

- Ethics, Public Records & Sunshine Laws
- County Government Roles & Responsibilities
- County Government Structure & Authority
- Financial Management
- Growth Management & Land Use Decisions

ELECTIVE SPECIALIZATIONS

The county government function has become increasingly more important and complex. Our elective specialization areas offer classes in each specialization to help you continue to grow your expertise in navigating county government to increase your effectiveness and success as a county commissioner.

Specializations include:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| • Affordable Housing | • Human Resources |
| • Communications | • Planning & Growth Management |
| • County Structure | • Resiliency |
| • Economic Development | • Technology |
| • County Operations & Efficiencies | • Transportation & Infrastructure |
| • Emergency Management | |



In addition, ICG offers several of its classes on line, allowing commissioners to take classes at their convenience. However, recognizing that in-person classes provide valuable peer-to-peer networking, some in-person classes are required to finish your certification.

Learn more at flicg.org

PUBLIC POLICY TEAM



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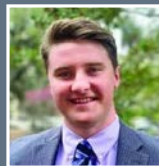
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ADVOCACY

Most of the policies proposed, debated and passed in the state legislature will impact your ability to govern at the local level. As a result, one of FAC's primary objectives is advocacy. Membership within the Association is as diverse as the state of Florida itself: cultural diversity, geographic diversity, political diversity and everything in between.

Prior to the legislative session, county commissioners go through an extensive policy process where the policies FAC will support or oppose during the legislative session are discussed, debated and decided. It may be easy to assume this process is as contentious as a campaign. But the truth is, with home rule as the focus of all policies the majority of our commissioners agree despite any political divide.

Policies focus not on regulations, incentives, or blanket laws but instead on the importance of your ability to implement or NOT implement the policies best for your county. What works for Pensacola might not be the best policy for Palm Beach. What works for Miami-Dade may not work in Liberty County. Our focus at FAC is to ensure you and your commissioners are empowered to implement the solutions that best fit your county.

Ready to dive in?



**Join a
committee**



**Attend the
Legislative
Conference**



**Attend our
Legislative Day**



**Get to know the
Public Policy Team**

NOVEMBER 30 - DECEMBER 2:
FAC Legislative Conference
(Pinellas County)

MARCH 15, 2023:
FAC Legislative Day
(Leon County)



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FLORIDA LOCAL
GOVERNMENT
FINANCE PROGRAM
— FloridaLocal.org

FAC BUSINESS SOLUTIONS

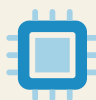
FAC has partnered with industry leaders and peer organizations to provide your county with cost effective solutions to the business of running a government. Through our partnerships we are able to offer a variety of services, including:



Insurance



Retirement



IT Infrastructure
& Support



Investments
and Loans



Fleet purchasing

FAC BUSINESS SOLUTIONS PARTNERS | 2022-2023



Nationwide®
is on your side



FLORIDA
LOCAL GOVERNMENT INVESTMENT
TRUST



PRESCRIPTION, DENTAL AND HEALTH
DISCOUNT PROGRAMS FOR RESIDENTS





THIS IS JUST THE BEGINNING!

Over the coming months and years, we hope to get to know you better; providing the tools you need in your first year or twentieth year that allow you to be the best public servant possible.

Just like you, FAC does a lot – too much to include here! But over the coming months (and years) we will be sharing with you much of what to do to ensure you have all of the needed resources at your fingertips.



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