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MEETING NOTICE

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

There will be a meeting of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council on **February 26, 2026**. The meeting will be held as a hybrid meeting in-person at the **Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites, Suwannee Room, 213 Southwest Commerce Boulevard, Lake City, Florida**, and via Communications Media Technology at **7:00 p.m.**

To join the meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone:

<https://meet.goto.com/309895045>

DIAL IN NUMBER: **Toll Free: 1.877.309.2073**

ACCESS CODE: **309 895 045**

MEETING STARTS AT 7:00 P.M.

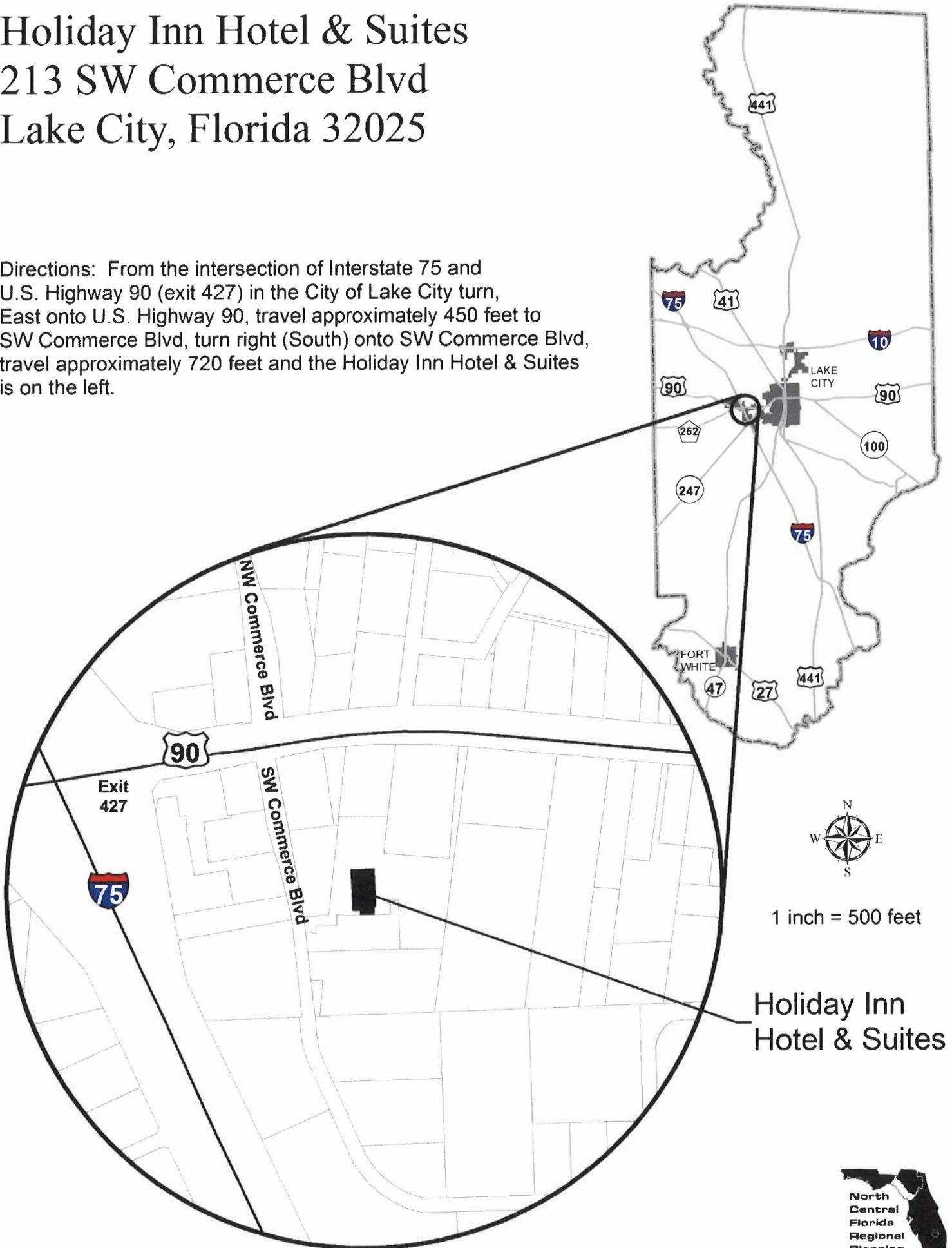
*Please email koons@ncfrpc.org by February 25, 2026 to let us know if you will be attending the meeting **in-person or via communications media technology**. **THANK YOU.***

Please be advised that the Council meeting packet is posted on the Council website at <http://ncfrpc.org> (click on Upcoming Meetings and Meeting Packets, then click on North Central Florida Regional Planning Council Full Packet.)

Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites

213 SW Commerce Blvd
Lake City, Florida 32025

Directions: From the intersection of Interstate 75 and U.S. Highway 90 (exit 427) in the City of Lake City turn, East onto U.S. Highway 90, travel approximately 450 feet to SW Commerce Blvd, turn right (South) onto SW Commerce Blvd, travel approximately 720 feet and the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites is on the left.





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AGENDA

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Hybrid Public Meeting
Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites
213 Southwest Commerce Boulevard
Lake City, Florida and
Via Communications Media Technology

February 26, 2026
7:00 p.m.

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2. #19 - City of Alachua Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (FC No. 25-1ESR)

IX. EX-OFFICIO MEMBER REPORTS

X. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The Council welcomes you to this meeting. This time is set aside for our citizens and general public to address the Council. If you would like to address the Council, please complete a form, come to the podium when you are called, speak into the microphone and state your name for the record. Please also limit your comments to not more than three minutes. Your participation is welcomed.

XI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

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XII. COUNCIL MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

This agenda item provides an opportunity for Council members to make announcements concerning community events and local government projects.

XIII. NEXT MEETING - March 26, 2026

* See Attachment

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
MINUTES

IV.A.

Hybrid Public Meeting
Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites
Lake City, Florida and
Via Communications Media Technology

January 22, 2026
7:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT
IN PERSON

Mary Alford, Alachua County
Patricia Bouie Hutchinson, City of Hawthorne
Thomas Demps, Taylor County
Jhelecia Hawkins, City of Jasper
Fletcher Hope Jr., City of Archer
James Howell, Hamilton County
Diane Landry, City of Perry
Kevin Parnell, Columbia County
Daniel Riddick, Bradford County
Judy Townsend, City of Madison
Marihelen Wheeler, Alachua County

MEMBERS PRESENT
VIA COMMUNICATIONS
MEDIA TECHNOLOGY
(FOR QUORUM)

Charles Chestnut IV, Alachua County
Frank Davis, City of Live Oak
Louie Davis, City of Waldo
Melissa Hendrix, City of Lake Butler
Donald Long, City of Newberry
Kirk Marhefka, Town of Cross City
Janice Mortimer, City of Starke
Jody Stephenson, Dixie County

MEMBERS PRESENT
VIA COMMUNICATIONS
MEDIA TECHNOLOGY
(NOT FOR QUORUM)

Anthony Adams, Lafayette County
Rick Davis, Madison County
Melissa McNeal, Union County
Dayna Williams, City of Alachua

MEDIA TECHNOLOGY
VIA COMMUNICATIONS
NON-VOTING DELEGATE ABSENT

Kristyn Adkins, City of High Springs

MEMBERS ABSENT

Wayne Bloodsworth Jr., City of High Springs
James Carter Jr., City of Lake City
Bryan Eastman, City of Gainesville
Don Hale, Suwannee County
James Ingle, City of Gainesville
Desiree Mills, Levy County
Kenrick Thomas, Gilchrist County

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT

Austin Burgess, Florida Fish and
Wildlife Commission - Virtual
David Tyler, Florida Department of
Transportation - Virtual
Tyler Winburn, Suwannee River
Water Management District - Virtual

COUNCIL ATTORNEY PRESENT

Jonathan Wershow - Virtual

OTHERS PRESENT

Diana Davis - Virtual
Kody Glazer - In-Person
Stew Lilker - In-Person

STAFF PRESENT

Lynn Franson - In-Person
Scott Koons - In-Person

Executive Committee Members names are bold

I. INVOCATION

Chair Mary Alford noting a quorum being present called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. Councilwoman Jhelecia Hawkins gave the invocation.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Council and guests pledged allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

III. INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Alford welcomed Stew Lilker, Columbia County Observer. Also, attending the meeting virtually was Diana Davis, Executive Director, Alachua County League of Cities and wife of Council Member Louie Davis.

IV. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Alford asked that the consent agenda be approved.

ACTION: Commissioner Demps made the motion, with a second by Councilwoman Hawkins, to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

A. Minutes - December 11, 2025

B. Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board Appointment

V. APPROVAL OF REGULAR AGENDA

Chair Alford asked that the regular agenda be approved.

ACTION: Commissioner Townsend made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Parnell, to approve the regular agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

VI. GUEST SPEAKER - Kody Glazer, Chief Legal and Policy Officer
Florida Housing Coalition

Scott Koons, Executive Director, introduced Kody Glazer, Chief Legal and Policy Officer, Florida Housing Coalition. Mr. Glazer made a presentation concerning the Sadowski Affordable Housing Fund and other affordable housing initiatives. Chair Alford thanked him for his presentation.

VII. CHAIR REPORT

A. New Member

Chair Alford welcomed new Council member Marihelen Wheeler, Alachua County. She stated that Bryan Eastman, City of Gainesville was also a new member.

B. Resolutions of Appreciation

1. Ed Book, City of Gainesville

ACTION: Commissioner Demps made the motion, with a second by Councilwoman Hawkins, to authorize the Chair to sign a Resolution of Appreciation for former Council member Ed Book from the City of Gainesville. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Desmon Duncan-Walker, City of Gainesville

ACTION: Commissioner Demps made the motion, with a second by Councilwoman Hawkins, to authorize the Chair to sign a Resolution of Appreciation for former Council member Desmon Duncan-Walker from the City of Gainesville. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Transportation Disadvantaged Resolution of Appreciation

1. Desiree Mills

ACTION: Vice-Mayor Bouie Hutchinson made the motion, with a second by Councilwoman Hawkins, to authorize the Chair to sign a Transportation Disadvantaged Program Resolution of Appreciation for former Levy County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board Chair Desiree Mills. The motion carried unanimously.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Executive Committee

1. Proclamation Proclaiming February 23, 2026 - March 1, 2026
Hazardous Materials Awareness Week

Chair Alford stated that the Executive Committee recommends that the Council proclaim the week of February 23, 2026 thru March 1, 2026 as Hazardous Materials Awareness Week in the north central Florida region.

ACTION: Vice-Mayor Landry made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Parnell, to adopt a proclamation proclaiming February 23, 2026 - March 1, 2026 Hazardous Materials Awareness Week in the north central Florida region. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Clearinghouse Committee - Committee Level Comprehensive Plan Review Items

Commissioner Daniel Riddick, Vice-Chair of the Clearinghouse Committee, reported that the Clearinghouse Committee met in person and virtually via communications media technology earlier in the evening and reviewed the following local government comprehensive plan amendments which were included on the Council agenda for consideration.

- #13 - City of Lake City Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (FC No. 25-2ESR)
- #14 - City of Gainesville Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (FC No. 25-1ESR)

Commissioner Riddick stated with regards to these items, the Committee found that the local government comprehensive plans, as amended, were not anticipated to result in significant adverse impacts to regional facilities, Natural Resources of Regional Significance or adjacent local governments. He stated that the Committee recommends forwarding these findings to the respective local governments and the Florida Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Commissioner Riddick made the motion, with a second by Vice-Mayor Bouie Hutchinson, to approve the Clearinghouse Committee recommendations concerning Item - #13 City of Lake City Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (FC No. 25-2ESR); and Item - #14 City of Gainesville Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (FC No. 25-1ESR). The motion carried unanimously.

C. Nominating Committee - Election of Vice-Chair, Treasurer and Secretary

Mayor Hope, Council Immediate Past Chair and Nominating Committee Chair, gave the Nominating Committee report. He stated that the Nominating Committee met virtually via communications media technology on January 15, 2026 to prepare, for the Council's consideration, recommendations concerning officers for vacant positions on the Executive Committee for the remainder of Program Year 2025-26.

Mayor Hope stated that the Nominating Committee recommendations for Vice-Chair, Treasurer and Secretary for the remainder of Program Year 2025-26 are, as follows:

Vice-Chair - Jhelecia Hawkins, City of Jasper
Treasurer - Patricia Bouie Hutchinson, City of Hawthorne
Secretary - Melissa McNeal, Union County

Chair Alford asked for any nominations from the floor. Hearing no nominations from the floor, she closed the nominations.

ACTION: Mayor Hope made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Judy Townsend, to elect Jhelecia Hawkins, City of Jasper, Vice-Chair; Patricia Bouie Hutchinson, City of Hawthorne, Treasurer; and Melissa McNeal, Union County, Secretary; for the remainder of Program Year 2025-26 as recommended by the Nominating Committee. The motion carried unanimously.

- IX. EX-OFFICIO MEMBER REPORTS - None
- X. PUBLIC COMMENTS - None

XI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

A. Florida Regional Councils Association Monthly Activity Report

Mr. Koons reported that the Florida Regional Councils Association is the statewide organization of the ten regional planning councils. He stated that the Association strengthens Florida's regional planning councils, partners with government and the business community to enhance regional economic prosperity and improves the consistency and quality of regional planning councils programs to ensure they add value to state, regional and local initiatives. Mr. Koons also stated that the Association strives to accomplish these goals by carrying out the activities listed in the December 2025 activity report included in the Council meeting packet. He reviewed the activities listed in the December 2025 report.

B. Florida Chamber Foundation Scorecard™

Mr. Koons reported that the Florida Chamber Foundation has developed the Florida Scorecard™ to provide Florida leaders the metrics needed to secure Florida's future. He stated that the Florida Chamber Foundation's objective to developing a 20-year, statewide strategic plan requires a commitment to measuring our current status and progress toward the stated goals of the Six Pillars 20-year Strategic Plan. Mr. Koons noted that the Scorecard reports metrics for each of the following Six Pillars: Talent and Supply Education, Innovation and Economic Development, Infrastructure and Growth Leadership, Business Climate and Competitiveness, Civic and Governance Systems, and Quality of Life and Quality Places. He reviewed the January 2026 Scorecard™ that was included in the Council meeting packet.

C. Legislative Report

Mr. Koons stated the 2026 Legislature Session convened on January 13, 2026 and is scheduled to adjourn on March 13, 2026. He reported that the legislative interim Committee schedule was, as follows:

- Week of October 6-10, 2025
- Week of October 13-17, 2025
- Week of November 3-7, 2025
- Week of November 17-21, 2025
- Week of December 1-5, 2025
- Week of December 8-12, 2025

Mr. Koons reported on bills of interest to Council members and local governments.

D. Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery Infrastructure Repair Program and Rural Infrastructure Fund Program Grant Awards

Mr. Koons reported that awards through the Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery Infrastructure Repair Program, helping communities impacted by the 2023 and 2024 Storms - Hurricanes Idalia, Debby, Helene, Milton and the 2024 North Florida Tornadoes and funding from the Rural Infrastructure Fund were recently made to local governments, state colleges and not-for-profit organizations.

He noted a total of \$161,146,623 in funding was awarded to 23 projects in the north central Florida region, including Bradford County, Columbia County, Gilchrist County, Hamilton County, Lafayette County, two projects in Levy County, Madison County, three projects in Taylor County, Union County, two projects in the Town of Cross City, the City of Live Oak, three projects in the City of Perry, the Big Bend Water Authority, two projects to the Cedar Key Water and Sewer District, Doctor's Memorial Hospital in Perry and Santa Fe College in Gainesville.

Mr. Koons also reported that awards through the Rural Infrastructure Fund Program were recently made to local governments. He noted that a total of \$4,493,415 in funding was awarded to five projects in the north central Florida region, including Columbia County, Hamilton County, Madison County, the Town of Jennings and the City of Lake City.

XII. COUNCIL MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilwoman Hawkins announced that a ribbon cutting ceremony for Watson Healthcare, a primary care clinic, was held on January 14, 2026 in Jasper.

Councilwoman Landry announced that the Big Bend Brew Fest will be held on January 31, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. in Rosehead Park in Perry.

XIII. NEXT MEETING

Chair Alford stated that the next Council meeting is scheduled to be held on February 26, 2026.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Mary C. Alford, Chair

2/26/26
Date

Resolution

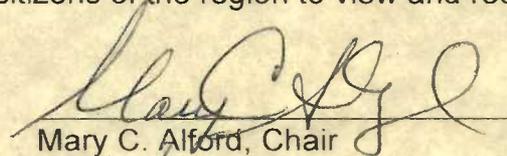
OF APPRECIATION

WHEREAS, Ed Book has been representing the City of Gainesville on the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council since January 2023;

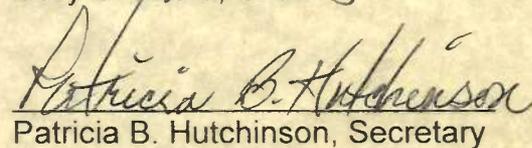
WHEREAS, Ed Book has ably discharged the duties of a representative on the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the membership and staff of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council do hereby express their appreciation to Ed Book for dedicated service rendered to the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council and concern for the future growth and development of the region and the State of Florida; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That this expression of appreciation be spread upon the minutes of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council for all citizens of the region to view and recognize the accomplishments and service of Ed Book.



Mary C. Alford, Chair



Patricia B. Hutchinson, Secretary

ATTEST:

ADOPTED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL AT THEIR MEETING
OF JANUARY 22, 2026.



Resolution

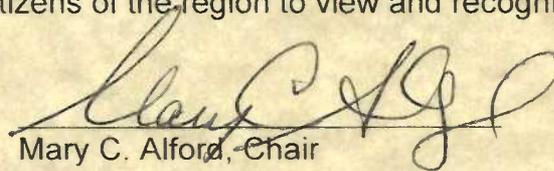
OF APPRECIATION

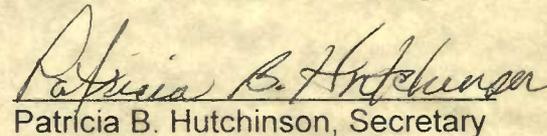
WHEREAS, Desmon Duncan-Walker has been representing the City of Gainesville on the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council since May 2021;

WHEREAS, Desmon Duncan-Walker has ably discharged the duties of a representative on the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the membership and staff of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council do hereby express their appreciation to Desmon Duncan-Walker for dedicated service rendered to the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council and concern for the future growth and development of the region and the State of Florida; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That this expression of appreciation be spread upon the minutes of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council for all citizens of the region to view and recognize the accomplishments and service of Desmon Duncan-Walker.


Mary C. Alford, Chair


Patricia B. Hutchinson, Secretary

ATTEST:

ADOPTED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL AT THEIR MEETING
OF JANUARY 22, 2026.



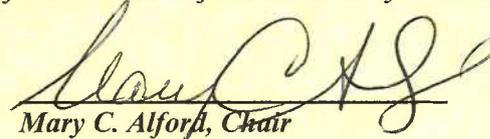
RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Desire Mills has served as Chair of the Levy County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board since January 2024; and

WHEREAS, Desire Mills. ably discharged the duties as Chair of the Levy County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the members and staff of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council do hereby express their appreciation to Desire Mills for dedicated service rendered to the Levy County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board and concern for the transportation disadvantaged needs of Levy County and the State of Florida; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That this expression of appreciation be spread upon the minutes of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council for all citizens of the community to view and recognize the accomplishments and service of Desire Mills.


Mary C. Alford, Chair

ADOPTED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

January 22, 2026

Date

PROCLAMATION

PROCLAIMING FEBRUARY 23, 2026 - MARCH 1, 2026 AS HAZARDOUS MATERIALS AWARENESS WEEK

WHEREAS, the safe use of hazardous materials is essential to citizens, business, industry and local governments to maintain economic stability and the public health; and

WHEREAS, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council recognizes the importance of protecting our communities from both accidental and deliberate releases of hazardous materials and joins the North Central Florida Local Emergency Planning Committee, and numerous municipalities, counties and school boards, in publicly promoting community hazardous materials safety; and

WHEREAS, it is essential for local governments, regional planning councils and local emergency planning committees to work together to increase community safety by encouraging emergency responders to attend free training on how to safely respond to releases of hazardous materials; and

WHEREAS, citizens need to know that local governments, businesses, emergency responders and emergency planners are working together to ensure that our communities are as prepared as possible for both accidental and deliberate releases of hazardous materials.

NOW, THEREFORE, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council hereby proclaims the week of February 23, 2026 - March 1, 2026 as *Hazardous Materials Awareness Week* throughout the north central Florida region.

DULY ADOPTED AND PROCLAIMED this 22nd day of January 2026.

ATTEST:

SEAL



Patricia B. Hutchinson, Secretary



Mary C. Alford, Chair



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February 19, 2026

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Small Quantity Hazardous Waste Generator Agreement with
Northeast Florida Regional Council - Fiscal Year 2025-26

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize the Executive Director to execute a Small Quantity Hazardous Waste Generator Agreement with Northeast Florida Regional Council in the amount of \$9,998.66 for Fiscal Year 2025-26.

BACKGROUND:

The Northeast Florida Regional Council has requested assistance from the Council to complete small quantity hazardous waste generator inspections in Baker County and Nassau County.

The Council will verify onsite inspections and the waste management practices of at least 20 percent of the facilities identified on the small quantity hazardous waste generator assessment roll for Baker County and Nassau County. The amount of the agreement will be \$9,998.66.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.



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February 19, 2026

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Transportation Disadvantaged Program Local Coordinating Board Appointments

RECOMMENDATION:

- **Appoint Dalton Elliot as the voting Florida Department of Children and Families Representative on the Bradford County, Dixie County, Gilchrist County and Levy County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Boards.**
- **Appoint Timothy Hannon as the alternate Florida Department of Elder Affairs Representative on the Alachua County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board.**

BACKGROUND:

According to Rule 41-2.012 of the Florida Administrative Code, the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council, serving as the Designated Official Planning Agency, is responsible for appointing members to the local Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Boards. It is recommended Dalton Elliot be appointed the voting Florida Department of Children and Families Representative on the Bradford County, Dixie County, Gilchrist County and Levy County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Boards. It is recommended Timothy Hannon be appointed the alternate Florida Department of Elder Affairs Representative on the Alachua County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.



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February 19, 2026

TO: Council Members
FROM: Mary C. Alford, Chair
SUBJECT: Resolution of Appreciation - Ken Cornell

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the attached resolution of appreciation for Ken Cornell.

BACKGROUND:

As a token of appreciation for service on the Council since January 2025 and in recognition of commitment and concern for the growth and development of the north central Florida area, the attached resolution of appreciation is recommended for approval by the Council.

Attachment

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Resolution

OF APPRECIATION

WHEREAS, Ken Cornell has been representing Alachua County on the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council since January 2025;

WHEREAS, Ken Cornell has ably discharged the duties of a representative on the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the membership and staff of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council do hereby express their appreciation to Ken Cornell for dedicated service rendered to the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council and concern for the future growth and development of the region and the State of Florida; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That this expression of appreciation be spread upon the minutes of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council for all citizens of the region to view and recognize the accomplishments and service of Ken Cornell.

Mary C. Alford, Chair

ATTEST:

Melissa McNeal, Secretary

ADOPTED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL AT THEIR MEETING
OF FEBRUARY 26, 2026.





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February 19, 2026

TO: Council Members
FROM: Mary C. Alford, Chair
SUBJECT: Resolution of Appreciation - Desiree Mills

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the attached resolution of appreciation for Desiree Mills.

BACKGROUND:

As a token of appreciation for service on the Council since January 2025 and in recognition of commitment and concern for the growth and development of the north central Florida area, the attached resolution of appreciation is recommended for approval by the Council.

Attachment

Resolution

OF APPRECIATION

WHEREAS, Desiree Mills has been representing Levy County on the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council since January 2025;

WHEREAS, Desiree Mills has ably discharged the duties of a representative on the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the membership and staff of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council do hereby express their appreciation to Desiree Mills for dedicated service rendered to the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council and concern for the future growth and development of the region and the State of Florida; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That this expression of appreciation be spread upon the minutes of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council for all citizens of the region to view and recognize the accomplishments and service of Desiree Mills.

Mary C. Alford, Chair

ATTEST:

Melissa McNeal, Secretary

ADOPTED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL AT THEIR MEETING
OF FEBRUARY 26, 2026.





VII.C.1.

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February 19, 2026

TO: Council Members
FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director 
SUBJECT: Transportation Disadvantaged Program Resolution of Appreciation

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the attached resolution of appreciation for Nick Hauzer.

BACKGROUND:

The attached resolution of appreciation is regarding Florida's Transportation Disadvantaged Program established by Chapter 427, Florida Statutes. Nick Hauzer served as the alternate Florida Department of Elder Affairs Representative on the Alachua County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board.

If you have questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Attachment

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RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Nick Hauzer has served as the alternate Florida Department of Elder Affairs Representative on the Alachua County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board since October 2018; and

WHEREAS, Nick Hauzer, ably discharged the duties as the alternate Florida Department of Elder Affairs Representative on the Alachua County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the members and staff of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council do hereby express their appreciation to Nick Hauzer for dedicated service rendered to the Alachua County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board and concern for the transportation disadvantaged needs of Alachua County and the State of Florida; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That this expression of appreciation be spread upon the minutes of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council for all citizens of the community to view and recognize the accomplishments and service of Nick Hauzer.

Mary C. Alford, Chair

ADOPTED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

February 26, 2026

Date



VII.C.2.

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February 19, 2026

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Transportation Disadvantaged Program Resolution of Appreciation

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the attached resolution of appreciation for John Wisker.

BACKGROUND:

The attached resolution of appreciation is regarding Florida's Transportation Disadvantaged Program established by Chapter 427, Florida Statutes. John Wisker served as the voting Florida Department of Children and Families Representative on the Bradford County, Dixie County, Gilchrist County and Union County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Boards.

If you have questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Attachment

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Dedicated to improving the quality of life of the Region's citizens,
by enhancing public safety, protecting regional resources,
promoting economic development and providing technical services to local governments.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, John Wisker has served as the voting Florida Department of Children and Families Representative on the Bradford County, Dixie County, Gilchrist County and Levy County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Boards since April 2019; and

WHEREAS, John Wisker. ably discharged the duties as the voting Florida Department of Children and Families Representative on the Bradford County, Dixie County, Gilchrist County and Levy County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Boards;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the members and staff of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council do hereby express their appreciation to John Wisker for dedicated service rendered to the Bradford County, Dixie County, Gilchrist County and Levy County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Boards and concern for the transportation disadvantaged needs of Bradford County, Dixie County, Gilchrist County and Levy County and the State of Florida; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That this expression of appreciation be spread upon the minutes of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council for all citizens of the community to view and recognize the accomplishments and service of John Wisker.

Mary C. Alford, Chair

ADOPTED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

February 26, 2026

Date

J



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February 19, 2026

TO: Council Members
FROM: Mary C. Alford, Chair
SUBJECT: Committee Appointments

RECOMMENDATION:

Ratify the appointment of Commissioner Judy Townsend as Chair of the Clearinghouse Committee; Commissioner Don Hale and Commissioner Marihelen Wheeler to the Clearinghouse Committee; Vice-Mayor Patricia Bouie Hutchinson as Chair of the Finance Committee; Councilwoman Jhelecia Hawkins as the Chair of the Program Committee; Commissioner Johnny Hiers to the Program Committee; and Commissioner Marihelen Wheeler to the Regional Planning Committee.

BACKGROUND:

Due to vacancies on the Clearinghouse Committee, Finance Committee, Program Committee and Regional Planning Committee, appointments to these committees need to be made at this time.

I am recommending the appointment of Commissioner Judy Townsend as Chair of the Clearinghouse Committee; Commissioner Don Hale and Commissioner Marihelen Wheeler to the Clearinghouse Committee; Vice-Mayor Patricia Bouie Hutchinson as Chair of the Finance Committee; Councilwoman Jhelecia Hawkins as the Chair of the Program Committee; Commissioner Johnny Hiers to the Program Committee; and Commissioner Marihelen Wheeler to the Regional Planning Committee.

Jurisdictional balance and geographic balance were considered in making these appointments.



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February 19, 2026

TO: Council Members
FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director
SUBJECT: Employee Health Insurance Proposal

RECOMMENDATION:

Review health insurance alternative proposals and either select the replacement plan or select an alternative plan for employee health insurance for the year beginning April 1, 2026.

BACKGROUND:

United Healthcare has offered to continue health insurance coverage for the Council with an increase in premiums for the coming year beginning April 1, 2026. The total change in the cost to the Council for the coming year would be \$8,124 or 16.1 percent. The resulting total monthly cost to the Council would be \$4,882.

Staff has secured alternative proposals for health insurance from United Healthcare for your consideration. Attached is a summary of the renewal plan and two alternative plans with coverage and costs. The alternative proposals include changes to benefits for employees.

The Executive Committee will make a recommendation to the Council at its February 26, 2026 meeting concerning employee health insurance and life insurance for the year beginning April 1, 2026.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Attachment

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NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

**SUMMARY OF HEALTH INSURANCE BENEFIT PLANS
UNITED HEALTHCARE**

February 19, 2026

	<u>DEDUCTIBLE</u> (Individual/Family)	<u>CO-INSURANCE</u> (In Network/Out Network)	<u>OUT-OF-POCKET</u> <u>MAXIMUM</u> (Individual/Family)	<u>PRESCRIPTIONS</u> (Generic/Brand/ Non-Preferred)
<u>CURRENT PLAN</u> DY-YL/RXL27S	\$3,500/\$7,000	90%/60%	\$7,000/\$14,000	\$10/\$40/\$150
<u>RENEWAL PLAN</u> EP-9T/RX/L28S	\$3,500/\$7,000	90%/60%	\$8,000/\$16,000	\$5/\$40/\$150
<u>OPTION #1</u> EQ-AW/RXL28S	\$8,200/\$16,400	50%/N/A	\$10,150/\$20,300	\$5/\$40/\$150
<u>OPTION #2</u> EQ-AX/RXL28S	\$7,000/\$14,000	80%/50%	\$10,150/\$20,300	\$5/\$40/\$150

Council Cost per Month/Annum

	<u>Month / Annum</u>	<u>Annual Change</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
Current Plan - Existing Cost	\$4,205 / \$50,460	N/A	N/A
Renewal Plan - Proposed Cost	\$4,882 / \$58,584	\$8,124	16.1%
Option #1 - EQ-AW/RXL28S	\$4,299/ \$51,588	\$1,128	2.2%
Option #2 - EQ-AX/RXL28S	\$4,555 / \$54,660	\$4,200	8.3%

N/A - Not Applicable



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February 19, 2026

TO: Council Members
FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director
SUBJECT: Land, Warehouse and Office Building

RECOMMENDATION

Authorize the Executive Director to have an appraisal of the land, warehouse and office building completed by a licensed appraiser.

BACKGROUND

On August 4, 1999, the Council purchased the office building and warehouse located at 2009 NW 67th Place, Gainesville, Florida. The office building and warehouse of pre-engineered steel construction were constructed in 1980. The Council had been renting the office building and warehouse for the previous seven years beginning on November 1, 1992.

The purchase price for the 7,560 square foot office building and 1,989 square foot warehouse located on a 4.4-acre site was \$490,400. Along with \$31,400 in cash, the Council secured a 15-year promissory note from SouthTrust Bank in the amount of \$459,000 to purchase the office building and warehouse. Since the Council is a governmental agency and is prohibited from mortgaging real property to secure a promissory note, the Council pledged certain revenues to repay the promissory note.

The January 1, 2014 payment in the amount of \$3,134.95 constituted the final payment in full satisfying the promissory note. Thus, the Council currently does not have any outstanding long-term debt. The average annual building and grounds occupancy cost, including insurance; utilities; custodial services; heating, ventilation and air conditioning services; and termite and pest control services is \$45,000.

On January 13, 2020, Emerson Appraisal Company, Inc., an appraiser, consultant and market analyst company, completed an appraisal of the property. The appraised value was determined to be \$970,000.

The Alachua County Property Appraiser 2025 assessed value of the land is \$548,856, and the assessed value of the buildings is \$742,035. Thus, the total assessed value of land and buildings is \$1,290,891.

A commercial real estate broker has contacted Council staff indicating that potential buyers may be interested in purchasing the land, warehouse and office building owned by the Council.

It is recommended that the Council authorize the Executive Director to have an appraisal of the land, warehouse and office building completed by a licensed appraiser.

If you have questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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February 19, 2026

TO: Council Members
FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director
SUBJECT: Council Legal Services

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize the Executive Director to contact attorneys to obtain proposed letters of engagement for legal services for review, selection and approval by the Council.

BACKGROUND:

Council Attorney Jonathan Wershow has resigned effective March 1, 2026 (see attached letter).

It is recommended that the Council authorize the Executive Director to contact attorneys to obtain proposed letters of engagement for legal services for review, selection and approval by the Council.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Attachment



SCRUGGS, CARMICHAEL & WERSHOW, P.A.

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

4923 N.W. 43rd Street
Gainesville, Florida 32606

Telephone (352) 376-5242

Fax (352) 375-0690

www.scwlegal.org

Harvey E. Baxter
Jeffery R. Dollinger†
Stephanie L. Emrick †
William Richard Ezzell
Maury W. Ivey*
Raymond M. Ivey

†Florida Bar Board Certified - Real Estate

†Certified Family Law Mediator

*LL.M. (Taxation)

Kelley D. Jones
Kevin D. Jurecko
Lauren A. McCord
Kirstin Jurecko Megraw
Taylor K. Rose
Jonathan F. Wershow

Retired
Mitzi Cockrell Austin
Philip A. DeLaney
John F. Roscow, III
Pamela A. Schneider+
John G. Stinson

January 28, 2026

North Central Florida Regional Planning Council

2009 NW 87th Place

Gainesville, FL 32653

Attn: Scott Koon

Sent via email to: koons@ncfrpc.org

Re: Retirement from Council

Dear Scott,

I have been either a board member, including Chairman, or the attorney for the Council since 1974. I have enjoyed this experience immensely. The time has come for me to resign as the attorney for the Council. I am trying to work fewer hours and only practice in certain areas of the law. Additionally, my wife, Pam, has retired and we want to have more time to travel and to do other things that interest us. Consequently, please accept this letter of resignation effective March 31, 2026. This should provide you and the Council adequate time to retain the services of another attorney.

Sincerely,

Jonathan F. Wershow

JFW/kc

RECEIVED

JAN 28 2026

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA
REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL



VIII.B.

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February 19, 2026

TO: Council Members

FROM: Melissa McNeal, Chair
Clearinghouse Committee

RE: Chair's Report

I. COMMITTEE-LEVEL REVIEW ITEMS

The next regularly-scheduled meeting of the Clearinghouse Committee is 6:00 p.m., February 26, 2026. The meeting will be a hybrid meeting conducted both in-person and via communications media technology. At its meeting, the Committee will review the following Committee-level items which require Council action. I will present an oral report on the Committee's actions and recommendations at the Council meeting held later that evening.

Local Government Comprehensive Plan Amendments

1. #18 - City of Jasper Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (FC No. 25-1ESR)
2. #19 - City of Alachua Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (FC No. 25-1ESR)

Please be advised that the Clearinghouse Committee meeting packet is posted on the Council website at <http://ncfrpc.org> (click on Upcoming Meetings and Meeting Packets, then click on Clearinghouse Committee Full Packet).

v:\chouse\meeting\chair reports\2026\chairreport.260226.docx

Dedicated to improving the quality of life of the Region's citizens,
by enhancing public safety, protecting regional resources,
promoting economic development and providing technical services to local governments.



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February 19, 2026

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director 

SUBJECT: Florida Regional Councils Association Monthly Activity Report

The Florida Regional Councils Association is the statewide organization of the ten regional planning councils. The Association strengthens Florida's regional planning councils, partners with government and the business community to enhance regional economic prosperity and improves the consistency and quality of regional planning councils programs to ensure they add value to state, regional and local initiatives.

The Association strives to accomplish these goals by carrying-out the following objectives.

- Ensure regional planning councils are effective service organizations to the State of Florida, its local governments, and the citizens they serve;
- Ensure regional planning councils are consensus builders and problem solvers, and serve as conveners of the region by helping to articulate those multijurisdictional issues that need resolution;
- Encourage and promote opportunities for regional planning councils to become partners in state programs and initiatives, while promoting the unique themes of each region within the state and legislative environments;
- Monitor substantive state and federal legislative issues for the benefit of its members, and promote mutually supportive policy positions among the regional planning councils;
- Represent regional planning councils in national organizations, such as the National Association of Regional Councils, National Association of Development Organizations, and SouthEast Regional Directors Institute; and
- Foster relationships and partnerships and coordinate with state, regional, and national associations and organizations; non-profit entities; public-private partnerships; the Governor's Office; state agencies; and others, on issues of mutual interest and concern, and with whom the Association shares mutual goals and programs.

Please find attached the January 2026 Monthly Activity Report highlighting the activities of the Association.

If you have questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Attachment

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MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT: January 2026

ASSOCIATION MANAGEMENT

- Monthly meeting with FRCA’s Bookkeeper and EDAC Treasurer to review November Financial Report
- FRCAs January EDAC Meeting in Tallahassee: prepared agenda and coordinated meeting at the Apalachee Regional Planning Council office.
- FRCA 2026 Winter Policy Board Meeting: finalized agenda for the Policy Board meeting, confirmed speakers, coordinated and managed Policy Board meeting at the AC Marriott in Tallahassee on January 30th, 2026, and Policy Board dinner on January 29th, 2026
- FRCA 2024-2025 Annual Report: coordinated and drafted content for the Annual Report, and managed design and printing of the Annual Report.
- FRCA FY25 Financial Statements and Independent Auditor’s Report: Worked with FRCA’s auditor, Moran & Smith CPA, to complete the FY25 audit and prepare presentation for the Policy Board’s winter meeting.
- FRCA 2026 Legislative Priorities and 2026 Legislative Session Reports: worked with FRCA’s Legislative Consultants to revise 2026 Legislative Priorities, approved by FRCA Policy Board at the Winter meeting, and reviewed weekly Legislative Reports prepared by Legislative Consultants

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT/CAPACITY BUILDING and OUTREACH

- FRCA 2026 Winter Policy Board Meeting: Confirmed speakers for the Policy Board meeting
 - **Greg Vaday, Florida Economic Development Representative**
U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration
 - **Huiwei Shen, Chief Planner, Florida Department of Transportation**
 - **Chief Resiliency Officer Eddy Bouza**
Resilient Florida Program, Florida Department of Environmental Protection
- Attended RPC presentation with EDAC for the **Florida Chamber of Commerce Foundation virtual 2026 Florida Economic Outlook & Jobs Solution Summit**, January 29th, 1pm-4pm





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February 19, 2026

TO: Council Members
FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director 
SUBJECT: Florida Regional Councils Association Policy Board Meeting Report

Former Chair Charles Chestnut IV and Former Chair Thomas Demps and I attended the semi-annual meeting of the Florida Regional Councils Association Policy Board held on January 30, 2026 in Tallahassee.

The Policy Board heard presentations from Greg Vaday, Florida Economic Development Representative, United States Economic Development Administration; Huiwei Shen, Chief Planner, Florida Department of Transportation; and Eddy Bouza, Chief Resiliency Officer, Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

The Policy Board also heard reports on various projects of regional planning councils throughout the state and received the 2024-25 Florida Regional Councils Association Annual Report. The Policy Board heard a legislative report and adopted legislative priorities. In addition, the Policy Board accepted the Financial Audit for Fiscal Year 2024-25 and received a financial report.

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February 19, 2026

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director

SUBJECT: 2024-25 Florida Regional Councils Association Annual Report

The 2024-25 Annual Report for the Florida Regional Councils Association is attached for your information. The Florida Regional Councils Association is the statewide association of all ten regional councils in Florida. It is governed by a Policy Board made up of three representatives from each Council who are in turn advised by the Executive Directors Advisory Committee comprised of all ten executive directors.

The following members of the Council currently serve on the Florida Regional Councils Association Policy Board.

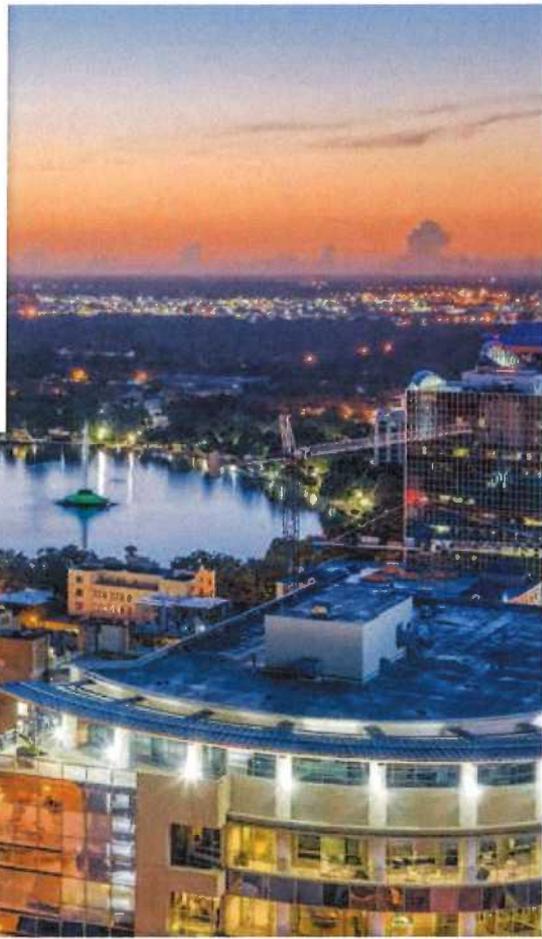
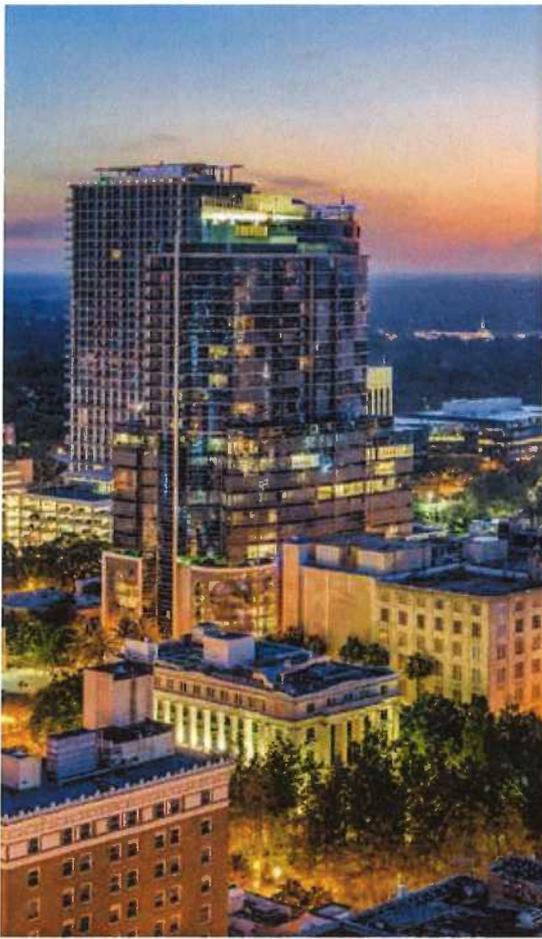
Charles Chestnut IV, Former Chair
Thomas Demps, Former Chair
Janice Mortimer, Former Chair

Activities of the Council are featured on pages 5, 7, 8, 11 and 16. However, you are encouraged to review the document in its entirety to gain an understanding of the activities that are occurring on a statewide basis.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

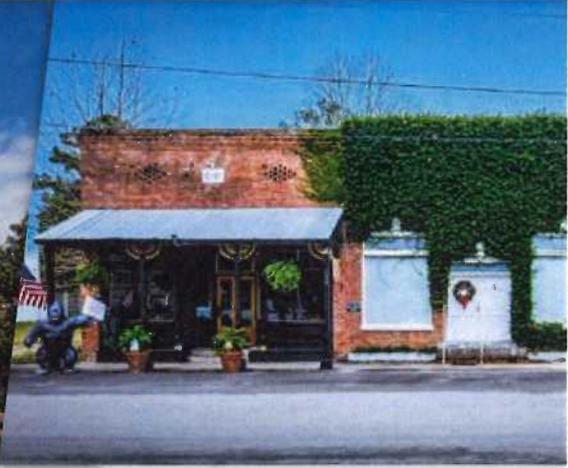
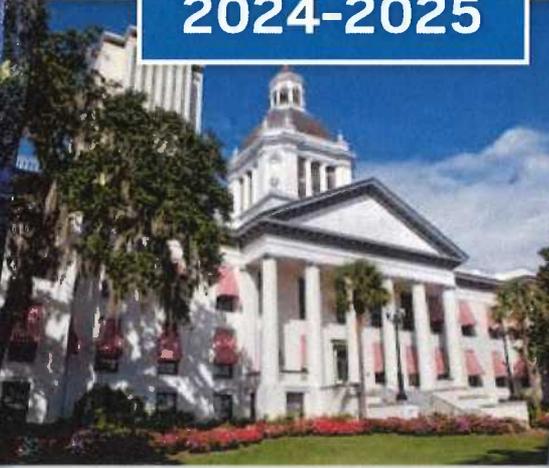
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ANNUAL REPORT

2024-2025



LOCAL
KNOWLEDGE

REGIONAL
SOLUTIONS

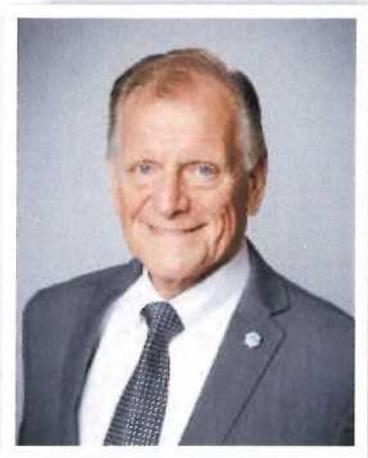
STATEWIDE
IMPACT

Our Mission

Leveraging partnerships to build a strong economy and improve the lives of all Floridians



President's Message



Florida's Regional Planning Councils continue to play a vital role in supporting communities as they plan for growth, recover from disasters, strengthen resilience, and respond to evolving challenges. Through collaboration, innovation, and regional leadership, FRCA remains well positioned to support this important work and to help shape a strong future for Florida.

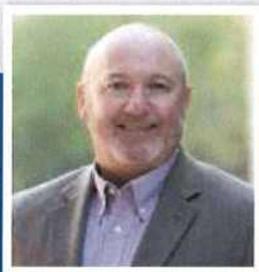
By fostering partnerships and encouraging cooperation across regions and sectors, FRCA helps ensure that Regional Planning Councils are equipped to address shared challenges and respond to emerging opportunities. These relationships reinforce the value of regional approaches and highlight the importance of coordination among counties, cities, and the state in every part of Florida.

It has been a privilege to serve as President of FRCA's Policy Board and to work alongside dedicated leaders from across the state. Our Regional Planning Councils bring deep local knowledge, technical expertise, and a strong commitment to public service. Their work reflects a shared dedication to collaboration and problem-solving in support of Florida's communities.

This Annual Report highlights some of the accomplishments of Florida's Regional Planning Councils over the past year. I invite you to explore the stories and accomplishments that demonstrate the impact of regional planning and the strength of working together.

Mayor Jeff Hmara

Royal Palm Beach, Treasurer Coast RPC



1st VICE PRESIDENT

Mr. Darryl Register
Gubernatorial Appointee,
Northeast Florida RC



2nd VICE PRESIDENT

Commissioner Jack Mariano
Pasco County, Tampa Bay RPC



PAST PRESIDENT

Commissioner Tray Hawkins
Washington County, Emerald Coast RC

Message from the Executive Director



This past year marked an important period of growth and momentum for the Florida Regional Councils Association. Together, we focused on strengthening FRCA's role as a collaborative, forward-looking organization that supports Regional Planning Councils as they deliver critical services to communities across Florida.

We made important progress in positioning the Association for the future, including advancing key governance milestones and securing IRS approval of FRCA's 501(c)(4) designation. This achievement enhances our ability to engage in policy and advocacy efforts on behalf of Florida's Regional Planning Councils.

FRCA also played an active role beyond our internal work. We supported U.S. Economic Development Administration Disaster Recovery Workshops and represented Regional Planning Councils at statewide conferences, strengthening relationships, and reinforcing the value of collaboration across jurisdictions and sectors.

At the heart of this work is partnership. By working together, we ensure that Florida's Regional Planning Councils remain well-positioned to serve their communities. I am deeply appreciative of the dedication of our RPCs and their leadership, and of our Policy Board and the continued support of our friends and advocates who champion the importance of regional collaboration.

I look forward to the year ahead as we build on this strong foundation, guided by shared purpose, collaboration, and commitment to Florida's communities.

Kristin Dozier

Executive Director, Florida Regional Councils Association



FRCA Policy Board

2024 – 2025 Policy Board

Apalachee Regional Planning Council

Commissioner Rick Minor, *Leon County*
Commissioner Jack Porter, *City of Tallahassee*
Lisa Miller, *Gubernatorial Appointee*

Central Florida Regional Planning Council

Mayor Nathaniel Birdsong, *City of Winter Haven*
Council Member Keith Keen, *City of Arcadia*

East Central Florida Regional Planning Council

Commissioner Sean Parks, *Lake County*
Commissioner Julian Green, *City of Wildwood*
Josh Lesman, *Gubernatorial Appointee*

Emerald Coast Regional Council

Council Member April Sutton, *City of Mary Esther*
J.D. Smith, *Gubernatorial Appointee*
Kurvin Qualls, *Gubernatorial Appointee*

North Central Florida Regional Planning Council

Commissioner Charles Chestnut IV, *Alachua County*
Commissioner Thomas Demps, *Taylor County*
Vice Mayor Janice Mortimer, *Stark City*
Lorene Thomas, *Gubernatorial Appointee*

Northeast Florida Regional Council

Commissioner James Renninger, *Clay County*
Mayor Sean Lynch, *Town of Baldwin*
Darryl Register, *Gubernatorial Appointee, 1st Vice President*

South Florida Regional Planning Council

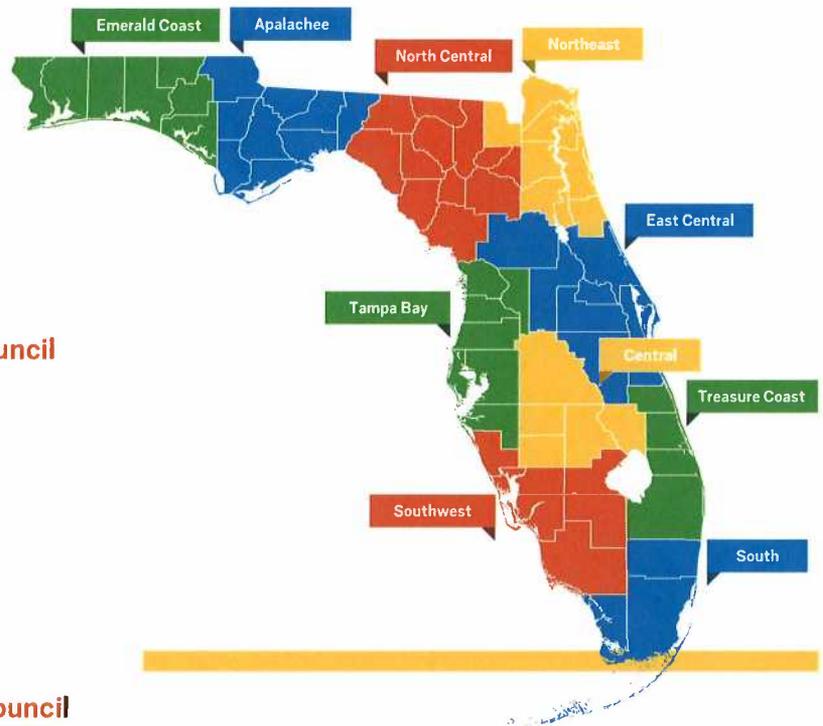
Commissioner Michael Udine, *Broward County*
Council Member Frank Caplan, *Village of Key Biscayne*

Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council

Commissioner Jack Mariano, *Pasco County, 2nd Vice President*
Commissioner Brandi Gabbard, *City of St. Petersburg*
Barbara Sheen Todd, *Gubernatorial Appointee*

Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council

Commissioner Larry Leet, *St. Lucie County*
Mayor Jeff Hmara, *Royal Palm Beach, President*
Reece Parrish, *Gubernatorial Appointee*
Michael Davis, *Gubernatorial Appointee*



RPC Executive Directors Advisory Committee

Chair, Thomas Lanahan,

Executive Director, Treasure Coast RPC

Vice Chair, Tara McCue,

Executive Director, East Central Florida RPC

Treasurer, Jennifer Codo-Salisbury,

Executive Director, Central Florida RPC

FRCA Staff

Kristin Dozier, *Executive Director*

850.509.2907 | kdozier@arpc.org

Ronald L. Book, *Legislative Consultant*

850.224.3427 | ron@rlbookpa.com

Rana Brown, *Legislative Consultant*

850.224.3427 | rana@rlbookpa.com

By the Numbers



\$12.8M

Grant Funding Awarded to Councils and Communities



54

Grants Awarded to Councils and Communities



25

Economic Analyses Completed (REMI)



27

Economic Development Administration Grant Applications



730

Hazardous Materials Inspections of Small Quantity Generators (SQG)



1,601

First Responders Trained with LEPC/HMEP Funding



5

Metropolitan / Transportation Planning Organizations Staffed



774,171

Transportation Disadvantaged Trips Planned

The Florida Regional Councils Association (FRCA) unites Florida's Regional Planning Councils (RPCs) to foster collaboration, innovation, and impactful solutions.

RPCs serve as consensus builders and problem solvers. They are regional conveners, helping to resolve complex, multi-jurisdictional issues while delivering programs and services.

Together, FRCA and the RPCs are shaping a future where local knowledge drives regional solutions and creates statewide impact.

Regional Councils

<i>Bringing local governments together to solve problems at the regional level and help communities grow.</i>	Date Established	2025 Regional Population ¹	Governing Board Size	Staff Size (FTE) ²	Square Miles ³	Budget in Millions
Apalachee Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Jackson, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, Wakulla	Aug. 23, 1977	506,133	25	22	6,757	\$5.05 million
Central Florida DeSoto, Hardee, Highlands, Okeechobee, Polk	July 1, 1974	1,057,175	18	21	5,287	\$5.6 million
East Central Florida Brevard, Lake, Marion, Orange, Osceola, Seminole, Sumter, Volusia	Feb. 22, 1962	4,830,638	35	18	9,244	\$5.1 million
Emerald Coast Bay, Escambia, Holmes, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Walton, Washington	Oct. 1, 1964	1,112,781	28	25	6,509	\$12.5 million
North Central Florida Alachua, Bradford, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Lafayette, Levy, Madison, Suwannee, Taylor, Union	May 7, 1969	609,465	47	6	8,660	\$1.3 million
Northeast Florida Baker, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Nassau, Putnam, St. Johns	Feb. 14, 1977	2,019,491	35	17	5,097	\$3.2 million
South Florida Broward, Miami-Dade, Monroe	July 1, 1974	4,893,169	14	12	7,492	\$3.5 million
Southwest Florida Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry, Lee, Sarasota	Nov. 8, 1973	2,023,747	19	2	7,278	\$831,074
Tampa Bay Citrus, Hernando, Hillborough, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas	Feb. 16, 1962	4,037,133	44	14	4,998	\$3.8 million
Treasure Coast Indian River, Martin, Palm Beach, St. Lucie	Aug. 19, 1976	2,289,529	28	10	4,441	\$2.7 million



¹ Source: Bureau of Economic and Business Research: 2025 Population Estimates

² FTE means Full-Time Equivalent

³ Total land and water area

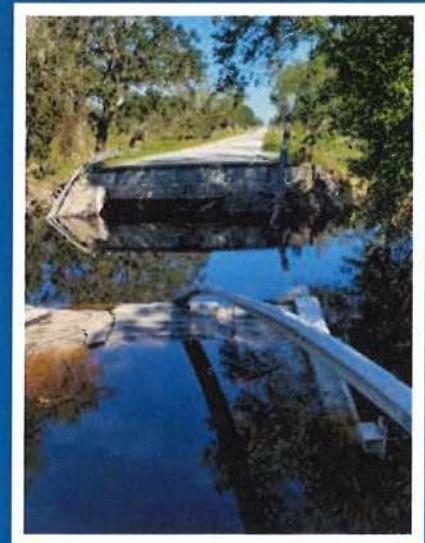
Emergency Preparedness

Training First Responders for Real-World Emergencies

Florida's **Regional Planning Councils** play a critical role in preparing first responders for complex emergencies. Through contracts with the **Florida Division of Emergency Management**, the state's ten Regional Planning Councils manage the **Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs)**, coordinating first responder training, reporting of hazardous materials and toxic chemicals, and maintaining the hazardous materials response plan for their region.

The **North Central Florida Regional Planning Council's LEPC** conducted a full-scale exercise at a **Live Oak** rail spur simulating a train and vehicle collision involving ethanol and potassium hydroxide. The drill brought together representatives from 26 agencies and companies, including firefighters, law enforcement, emergency managers, health agencies, and industry partners, to test regional coordination, communication, and response capabilities.

The **Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council's LEPC** also supported first responder readiness by providing financial assistance for training, including support for the **Sarasota County Fire Department HazMat Team**, which earned second place at the **2025 Hazardous Materials Symposium** competition.



Planning for Resilience Before Disaster Strikes

By promoting regional coordination and data-driven decision-making, Regional Planning Councils help communities reduce risk and recover faster when disasters occur.

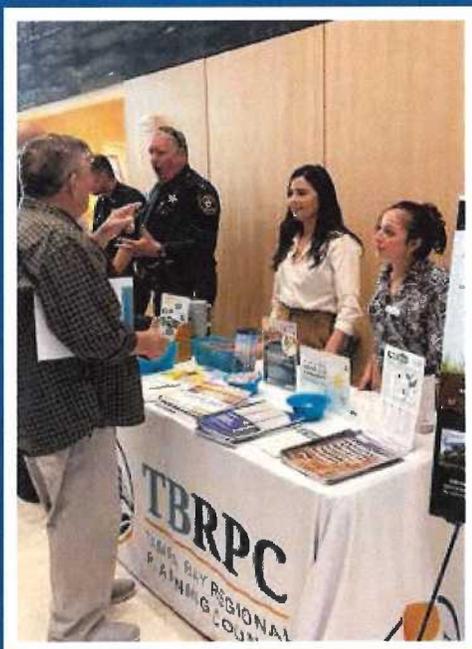
The **Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council** supports cities and counties through coastal planning, flood assessments, and resiliency mapping that identify areas vulnerable to flooding, storm surge, and extreme rainfall. In 2025, the Council presented final **vulnerability assessments** for **Citrus County** and the **City of Inverness**, identifying critical assets exposed to inland and coastal flooding under current and future conditions and recommending priority areas for adaptation planning.

The **Central Florida Regional Planning Council** partnered with **Hardee County** to update the county's **Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS)**, a core component of resilience planning. The updated strategy reduces potential impacts from natural hazards, protects life and property, and ensures **FEMA** compliance while providing a clear framework for implementing mitigation projects.

Quality of Life through Regional Collaboration

Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council advances quality of life by uniting local governments to address shared environmental and public health challenges. Through leadership of **Clean Air Tampa Bay**, the Council coordinates data, aligns local strategies, and secures federal planning resources to reduce pollution and improve regional resilience. This work includes leading a four-year, \$1 million **EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant** that will help the Tampa Bay region protect natural resources, improve air quality, and plan for a healthier future.

Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council enhances community livability by guiding thoughtful redevelopment in partnership with **Martin County** and its **Community Redevelopment Agency**. Building on prior form-based code work, the Council updated architectural design standards across six CRA areas through extensive stakeholder engagement. The revisions clarify standards for commercial buildings, add district-specific design styles, and simplify guidance, supporting walkable streets, cohesive development, and long-term economic vitality.



Quality of Life

Preserving Natural Connections Across Florida

Central Florida Regional Planning Council supports quality of life and environmental stewardship by advancing planning efforts connected to the **Florida Wildlife Corridor**. Working with local governments and conservation partners, the Council integrates wildlife connectivity and conservation priorities into regional and local planning. Through mapping, data analysis, and coordination, this work balances growth with conservation, protects critical habitat and water resources, and preserves natural landscapes that support recreation and resilience.



Resiliency

Protecting Critical Infrastructure and Evacuation Routes

The [Apalachee Regional Planning Council](#), working with [WSP, Franklin's Promise Coalition](#), [North Florida Construction, Inc.](#), and local contractors, advanced the [Franklin-98 Living Shoreline](#) to protect coastal evacuation routes. This innovative living shoreline project was designed to withstand at least Category 3 wave energy and to reduce erosion, absorb storm surge, and limit storm damage to critical transportation corridors. This project is already showing promising signs of early success, withstanding Hurricane Helene and trapping more sediment than anticipated.

Strengthening Military and Community Readiness

Six of [Florida's Regional Planning Councils](#) lead [Military Installation Readiness Reviews \(MIRRs\)](#) in partnership with the [U.S. Department of Defense](#). These reviews examine conditions outside the fence line, including land use, infrastructure, utilities, and environmental factors. By convening military leaders, local governments, planners, and engineers, MIRRs identify vulnerabilities and prioritize projects that strengthen military readiness and community resilience.

The [East Central Florida Regional Planning Council](#) completed a comprehensive MIRR for installations in [Brevard](#) and [Orange Counties](#), evaluating external risks to mission assurance at [Cape Canaveral Space Force Station](#), [Patrick Space Force Base](#) and [Naval Support Activity Orlando](#). The review is informing targeted investments and policy updates that enhance operational readiness and regional disaster resilience.

The [Northeast Florida Regional Council](#) is conducting a region-wide MIRR in partnership with [Jacobs Solutions Inc.](#), including installation tours and stakeholder workshops at [Marine Corps Support Facility Blount Island](#), [Naval Station Mayport](#), [Camp Blanding Joint Training Center](#), and [Naval Air Station Jacksonville](#). The effort is identifying vulnerabilities and developing a prioritized list of resilience projects.

The [Emerald Coast Regional Council](#) completed the [Emerald Coast MIRR](#) in December 2024. Spanning five counties and six installations, the review identified more than 50 resilience strategies now being advanced through the [Emerald Coast Area Resilience Collaborative](#).



From Response to Recovery: Coordinated Federal Support

Following Hurricanes Milton and Helene in 2024, all impacted Regional Planning Councils convened [Federal Interagency Resource Exchange \(FIRE\)](#) meetings to support coordinated disaster economic recovery. Florida's Regional Planning Councils are designated [Economic Development Districts](#) by the [U.S. Economic Development Administration](#), positioning them to convene federal, state, and local partners, align recovery resources, and accelerate long-term economic recovery planning under the [National Disaster Recovery Framework](#).

The [North Central Florida Regional Planning Council](#) co-hosted a regional FIRE listening session at [Big Bend Technical College](#) that brought together federal and state agencies and local governments to discuss hurricane impacts and recovery needs. The session provided a forum for communities to share on-the-ground conditions, identify priorities, and strengthen coordination to support long-term economic recovery, an approach mirrored by Regional Planning Councils across the state following the 2024 hurricanes.

Shaping Place through Public Collaboration

The **Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council** partnered with the **City of Fort Pierce**, the **Fort Pierce Utility Authority**, and the **Fort Pierce Redevelopment Agency** to lead a robust planning process for the Western Peninsula. Through workshops, design charrettes, and market analysis, the **Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council** convened residents, officials, and professionals to translate long-standing community conversations into a shared vision for redevelopment.



Regional Convening

Building Local Vision Through Regional Leadership

The **Northeast Florida Regional Council** launched its **Community Visioning Program** to convene local governments, residents, and stakeholders around shared goals, especially in smaller communities with limited planning resources. This program kicked off in September 2025, with participation from the **City of Bunnell** and the **City of Palm Coast**. By connecting communities with regional expertise, the Community Visioning Program builds consensus, resilience, and momentum for long-term success and economic growth.

Planning for Growth Across County Lines

The **East Central Florida Regional Planning Council**, in partnership with **Lake, Orange, Osceola, and Polk Counties** and the **Central Florida Regional Planning Council**, led the **Four Corners Future Growth and Collaborative Strategic Planning** project to address growth pressures in one of Florida's fastest-growing regions. Funded by **Florida Commerce**, the initiative examined governance, transportation, infrastructure, and protection of the Green Swamp. Through technical analysis and public outreach, the project recommended a unified **Four Corners Community Development Plan** and a cross-jurisdictional overlay district to align land use, improve service delivery, and support a cohesive, resilient economic future.

Advancing Regional Solutions for Water Quality

The **North Central Florida Regional Planning Council** formed and staffed the **Middle and Lower Suwannee and Withlacoochee River Task Force**, convening county commissioners, state and federal agencies, advocacy organizations, and citizens to confront complex water quality challenges. By fostering collaboration, amplifying regional voices, and sustaining dialogue across boundaries, the **North Central Florida Regional Planning Council** turned concern into coordinated action and strengthened regional stewardship.

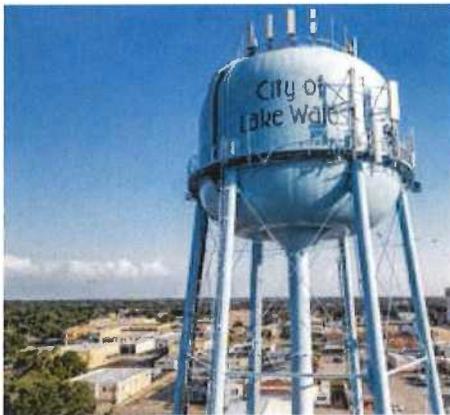


Economic Development

Turning Local Vision into Economic Opportunity

By working hand-in-hand with local governments, state agencies, businesses, and regional partners, Florida's Regional Planning Councils turn data, collaboration, and local insight into real-world economic results.

The **Apalachee Regional Planning Council** convened partners to develop a countywide economic development plan for **Gadsden County**. The plan created a shared roadmap for workforce development, business support, and downtown revitalization, and has already produced results, including the reinstatement of recurring funding for local Main Street organizations.



The **East Central Florida Regional Planning Council** partnered with the **City of Titusville** to deliver an economic development strategy focused on diversification and resilience. The plan leverages **Titusville's** historic and aerospace assets to position the city as a comprehensive economic hub with high-quality jobs and improved quality of life.



The **Central Florida Regional Planning Council** worked with the **City of Lake Wales** to develop a forward-looking Economic Development Strategy grounded in data analysis and community input, strengthening existing businesses while positioning the city for long-term, sustainable growth.

Powering Business Growth Through Economic Insight

Regional Planning Councils support business growth by delivering clear, data-driven analysis of key industries and regional investments.

The **Northeast Florida Regional Council**, with support from the **Florida Department of Commerce**, led a regional **Shrimping Industry Market Study** examining ways to strengthen small businesses, support the regional food economy, and sustain an iconic coastal industry across four counties.

The **South Florida Regional Planning Council** partnered with **Florida Atlantic University's Office of the Ocean Economy** to quantify the scale and future potential of Florida's ocean industries. In 2023, the ocean economy supported 908,800 jobs, contributed \$96 billion to Florida's Gross State Product, and generated \$23 billion in tax revenues, with forecasts projecting 115,000 new jobs by 2026 in tourism and transportation-related sectors.



Planning for Rural Mobility and Resilient Infrastructure

Apalachee Regional Planning Council works with five rural North Florida counties—Calhoun, Franklin, Gulf, Jackson, and Liberty—and the Florida Department of Transportation to guide long-term transportation investment through its Regional Rural Transportation Plan. This 20-year roadmap addresses aging infrastructure, safety challenges, and limited mobility while preparing the region for emerging technologies. Developed with local governments, technical advisory committees, and residents, the plan prioritizes roadway improvements, safer intersections, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and future transit options to strengthen rural connectivity and resilience.



Creating Safer Streets Through Local Partnerships

Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council works with cities and counties to design transportation systems that prioritize safety, accessibility, and community character. In the City of Greenacres, the Council led development of a Safe Streets for All Action Plan to address high crash rates on busy regional roadways. Through extensive stakeholder engagement, data analysis, and fieldwork, the plan outlines roadway typologies, bicycle networks, and quick-build safety improvements that help communities implement people-focused infrastructure solutions.

Transportation

Building a Smarter, Safer Transportation Network

Emerald Coast Regional Council is advancing one of Florida's most sophisticated transportation initiatives through its innovative 7-Layer Cake approach to intelligent transportation systems. In partnership with local governments, Florida Department of Transportation, and regional stakeholders, the Council is coordinating fiber infrastructure, traffic management technologies, and safety strategies. Anchored by the new Regional Transportation Management Center, the effort supports real-time monitoring, data analytics, and coordinated incident response—advancing Vision Zero goals and building a connected, future-ready transportation system.



Advancing Active Transportation and Economic Benefits

South Florida Regional Planning Council partners with local governments, the Florida Department of Transportation, and the Miami-Dade Transportation Planning Organization to advance pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure in a complex urban environment. Through data-driven research, the Council demonstrates how targeted investments in bike lanes, trails, and safe connections to transit improve safety, public health, and economic outcomes. Findings show that even modest increases in bicycle commuting can yield billions in long-term benefits while reducing fatalities.



Awards



ARPC NADO Award



FPZA Award



TCRPC Wheel of Achievement



National Association of Development Organizations Awards

Apalachee Regional Planning Council

- 2025 Aliceann Wohlbruck Impact Award (NADO): Gadsden County Economic Development Plan
- 2025 NADO Excellence in Regional Transportation Award: Regional Rural Transportation Plan

East Central Florida Regional Planning Council

- 2025 Aliceann Wohlbruck NADO Impact Award: East Central Florida Regional CRS Cohort (Resilience Collaborative)
- 2025 Aliceann Wohlbruck NADO Impact Award: The Palm Bay Compound Strategic Plan

Northeast Florida Regional Council

- 2025 NADO Impact Award: City of Palatka Vision Plan

Florida Planning & Zoning Association

Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council

- 2025 Outstanding Study/Plan Award: Wellington Green & SR-7 Study

Bike/Walk Central Florida & the Florida Bicycle Association

Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council

- 2025 Wheel of Achievement Award: Greenacres Safety Action Plan

Partners

State Agencies and Entities

- Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
- Florida Commerce
- Florida Department of Environmental Protection
- Florida Department of Health
- Florida Department of Transportation
- Florida Division of Emergency Management
- Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
- Florida House of Representatives
- Florida Senate
- Office of Economic and Demographic Research
- The Office of Governor
- Career Source Florida

Water Management Districts

- Northwest Florida Water Management District
- South Florida Water Management District
- Southwest Florida Water Management District
- St. Johns River Water Management District
- Suwanee River Water Management District

State and Regional Initiatives

- Cooperative Conservation Blueprint
- Developing Florida's 5-Year Strategic Plan
- Florida Chamber Foundation's Six Pillars
- Florida Defense Alliance
- Florida Heartland Economic Region of Opportunity
- Florida Transportation Plan
- North Florida Economic Development Partnership
- Opportunity Florida
- Peninsular Florida Landscape Conservation Cooperative
- Rural Economic Development Initiative
- Statewide Regional Evacuation Study
- State Emergency Response Commission

National Partners and Organizations

- National Association of Counties
- National Association of Development Organizations
- National Association of Regional Councils
- National League of Cities
- SouthEast Regional Directors Institute
- US Conference of Mayors

State Partners and Organizations

- 1000 Friends of Florida
- American Planning Association, Florida Chapter
- Association of Florida Community Developers
- Audubon of Florida
- Florida Association of Counties
- Florida Chamber Foundation
- Florida Chamber of Commerce
- Florida City and County Management Association
- Florida Conflict Resolution Consortium Consensus Center
- Florida Economic Development Council
- Florida Greenways and Trails Council
- Florida Greenways and Trails Foundation
- Florida Home Builders Association
- Florida Housing Coalition
- Florida Land Council
- Florida League of Cities
- Florida Local Government Coalition
- Florida Planning and Zoning Association
- Florida Ports Council
- Florida Redevelopment Association
- Florida School Board Association
- Florida Trails Association
- Florida Wildlife Corridor Foundation
- Florida Wildlife Federation
- Floridians for Better Transportation
- Metropolitan Planning Organizations Advisory Council
- Sadowski Housing Coalition
- Safe Mobility for Life Coalition
- Sierra Club of Florida
- Small County Coalition
- The Nature Conservancy
- The Trust for Public Land

Federal Agencies

- US Department of Commerce
- US Department of Defense
- US Department of Energy
- US Department of Housing and Urban Development
- US Department of Transportation
- US Economic Development Administration
- US Environmental Protection Agency

Florida Regional Planning Council Directory



Florida Regional Councils Association

2507 Callaway Road, Suite 100 • Tallahassee, FL 32303 • 850.488.6211

FLRegionalCouncils.org

Apalachee Regional Planning Council

Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Jackson, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, Wakulla

Chris Rietow, Executive Director

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Central Florida Regional Planning Council

DeSoto, Hardee, Highlands, Okeechobee, Polk

Jennifer Codo-Salisbury, Executive Director

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East Central Florida Regional Planning Council

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Tara McCue, Executive Director

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Emerald Coast Regional Council

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Kandase Lee, Chief Executive Officer

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North Central Florida Regional Planning Council

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Levy, Madison, Suwannee, Taylor, Union

Scott R. Koons, Executive Director

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Northeast Florida Regional Council

Baker, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Nassau, Putnam, St. Johns

Beth Payne, Chief Executive Officer

Jessie Ball Dupont Center, Suite 320

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South Florida Regional Planning Council

Broward, Miami-Dade, Monroe

Isabel Cosio Carballo, Executive Director

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Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council

Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry, Lee, Sarasota

Rebekah Harp, Executive Director

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Citrus, Hernando, Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas

Wren Krahl, Executive Director

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Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council

Indian River, Martin, Palm Beach, St. Lucie

Thomas Lanahan, Executive Director

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Stuart, FL 34994

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February 19, 2026

TO: Council Members
FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director
SUBJECT: Florida Chamber Foundation Scorecard™

The Florida Chamber Foundation has developed the Florida Scorecard™ to provide Florida leaders the metrics needed to secure Florida's future. The Florida Chamber Foundation's objective of developing a 20-year, statewide strategic plan requires a commitment to measuring our current status and progress toward the stated goals of the Six Pillars 20-year Strategic Plan.

The Scorecard reports metrics for each of the following Six Pillars.

- Talent and Supply Education;
- Innovation and Economic Development;
- Infrastructure and Growth Leadership;
- Business Climate and Competitiveness;
- Civic and Governance Systems; and
- Quality of Life and Quality Places.

Please find attached the February 2026 Scorecard.

If you have questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Attachment

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Dedicated to improving the quality of life of the Region's citizens,
by enhancing public safety, protecting regional resources,
promoting economic development and providing technical services to local governments.

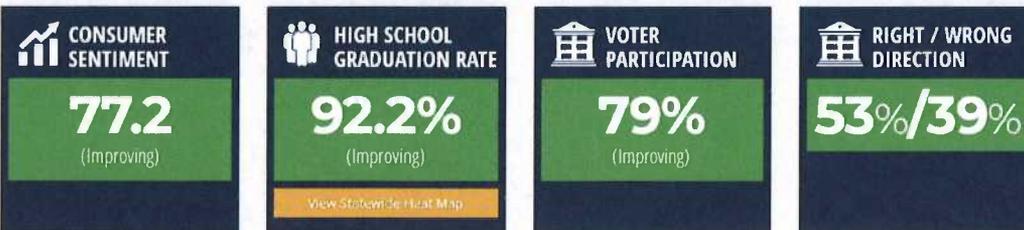
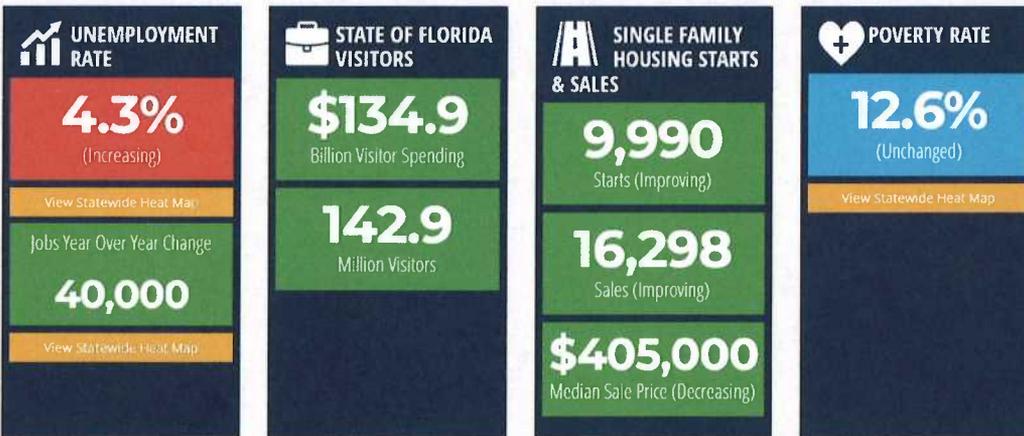
State of Florida Metrics

Click any metric to get more information! (What is this?)

Florida FutureCast

FLORIDA POPULATION 02/18/2026

23,470,489



State of Florida Metrics (What is this?)

State of Florida FutureCast

Talent Supply & Education

Click any metric to get more information!



State of Florida Metrics (What is this?)

State of Florida FutureCast

Innovation & Economic Development

Click any metric to get more information!



THE FLORIDA SCORECARD

METRICS TO HELP SECURE FLORIDA'S FUTURE

View County Data... ▼

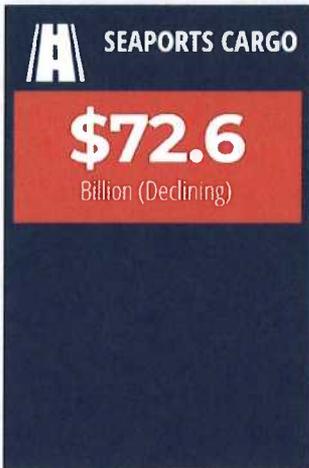
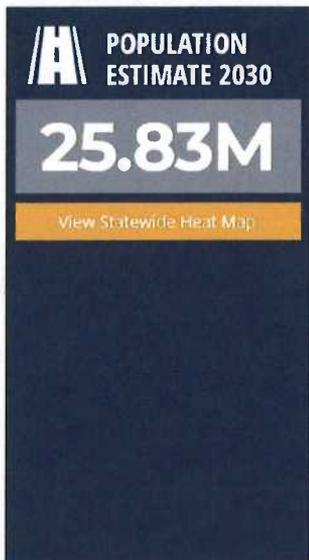


State of Florida Metrics (What is this?)

Infrastructure & Growth Leadership

State of Florida FutureCast

Click any metric to get more information!



THE FLORIDA SCORECARD

METRICS TO HELP SECURE FLORIDA'S FUTURE

View County Data... ▼

TALENT SUPPLY & EDUCATION

INNOVATION & ECON. DEVELOP.

INFRASTRUCTURE & GROWTH LEADERSHIP

BUSINESS CLIMATE & COMPETITIVENESS

CIVICS & GOVERNANCE

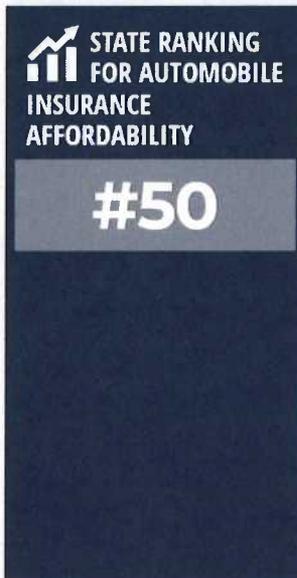
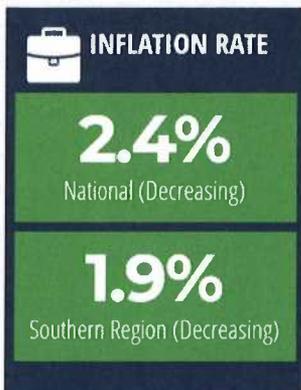
QUALITY OF LIFE

State of Florida Metrics (What is this?)

State of Florida FutureCast

Business Climate & Competitiveness

Click any metric to get more information!



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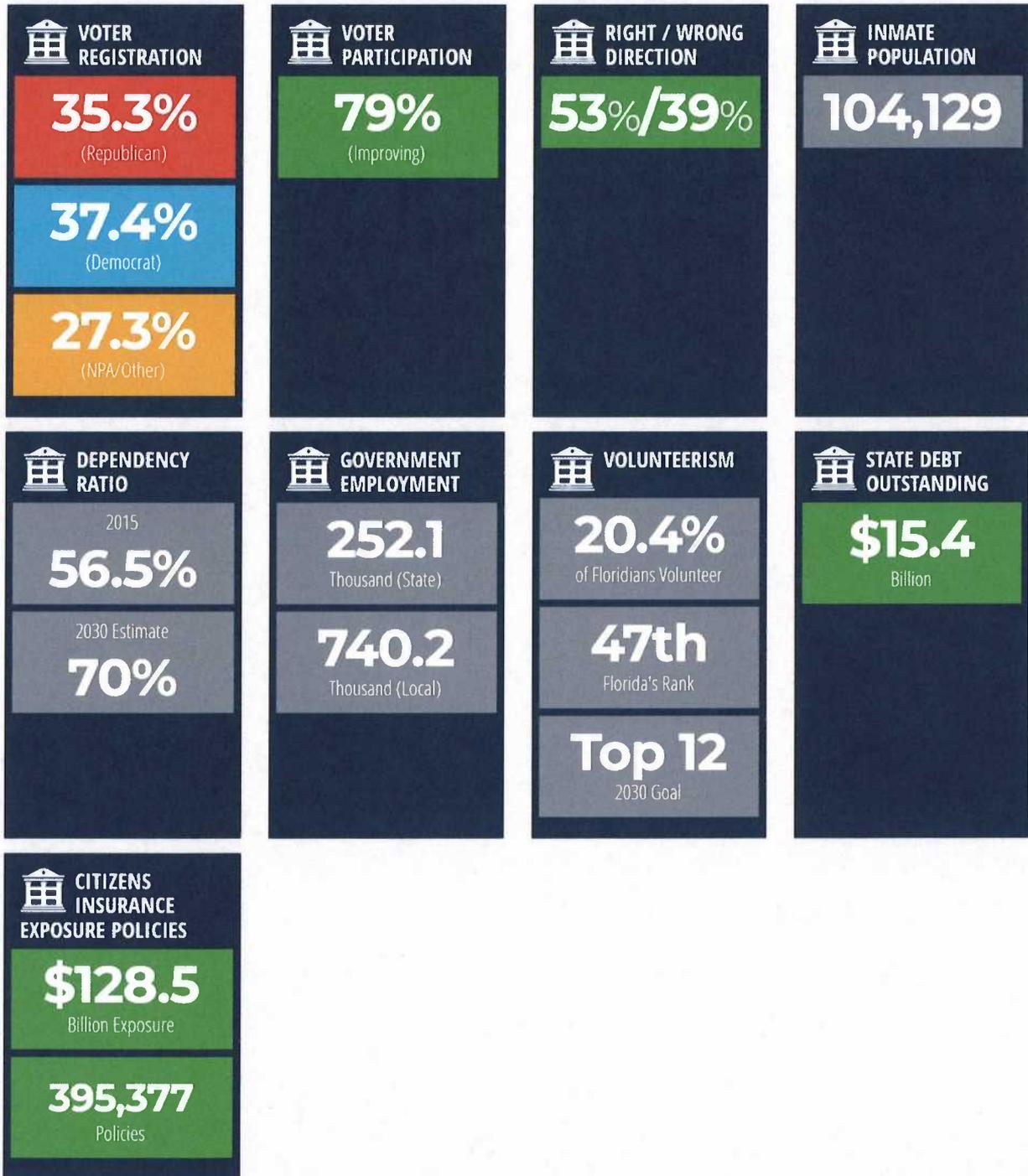


State of Florida Metrics (What is this?)

Civic & Governance Systems

State of Florida FutureCast

Click any metric to get more information!



State of Florida Metrics (What is this?)

State of Florida FutureCast

Quality of Life and Quality Places

Click any metric to get more information!





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February 19, 2026

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Legislative Report

The 2026 regular Legislature Session convened on January 13, 2026 and is scheduled to adjourn on March 13, 2026. The legislative interim Committee schedule was, as follows:

- Week of October 6-10, 2025
- Week of October 13-17, 2025
- Week of November 3-7, 2025
- Week of November 17-21, 2025
- Week of December 1-5, 2025
- Week of December 8-12, 2025

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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Dedicated to improving the quality of life of the Region's citizens,
by enhancing public safety, protecting regional resources,
promoting economic development and providing technical services to local governments.

