



ANNUAL REPORT 2020



Table of Contents

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP	3
HOME RULE ADVOCACY	4
ENGAGING COUNTY LEADERS	6
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	8
SAVING TAX DOLLARS WHILE PROVIDING VALUE ADDED RESOURCES TO FLORIDA'S COUNTIES	10
COVID-19	12
SHARING COUNTY NEWS	14
AFFILIATES	16
FINANCIAL	17
FAC STAFF	18



ANNUAL REPORT 2020

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

100% of Florida's counties are FAC members.

96 county officials on FAC committees and caucuses.

257 county officials attended at least one FAC event.

Bay, Clay, Franklin, Gulf, Hardee, Hendry, and Walton

counties had all county commissioners registered for at least one FAC event.

Hardee County

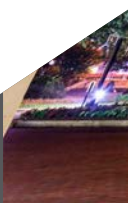
had all county commissioners registered for two FAC events.



HOME RULE ADVOCACY

2020 Legislative Session

- Prevented preemption of vacation rentals to the state that would thus prohibit a local law, ordinance, or regulation from allowing or requiring inspections or licensing of vacation rentals (HB 1011/SB 1128)
- Stopped Communications Services Tax preemption that would have cost local governments \$189.5 million on a recurring basis (SB 1174)
- Adopted and supported public records exemption for information obtained by a local government in the course of providing emergency management services (HB 1035)
- Supported the reduction of grant matching requirements, the increase of maximum grant to RAOs from \$150,000 to \$250,000, and pushed for grant funds to build the professional capacity of Opportunity Florida, Florida's Heartland Economic Region of Opportunity, and North Florida Economic Development Partnership (HB 1139)
- Backed a measure to provide an expansion of broadband services in underserved areas and an appropriation up to \$5 million annually for projects that assist in the development of broadband infrastructure (HB 969)



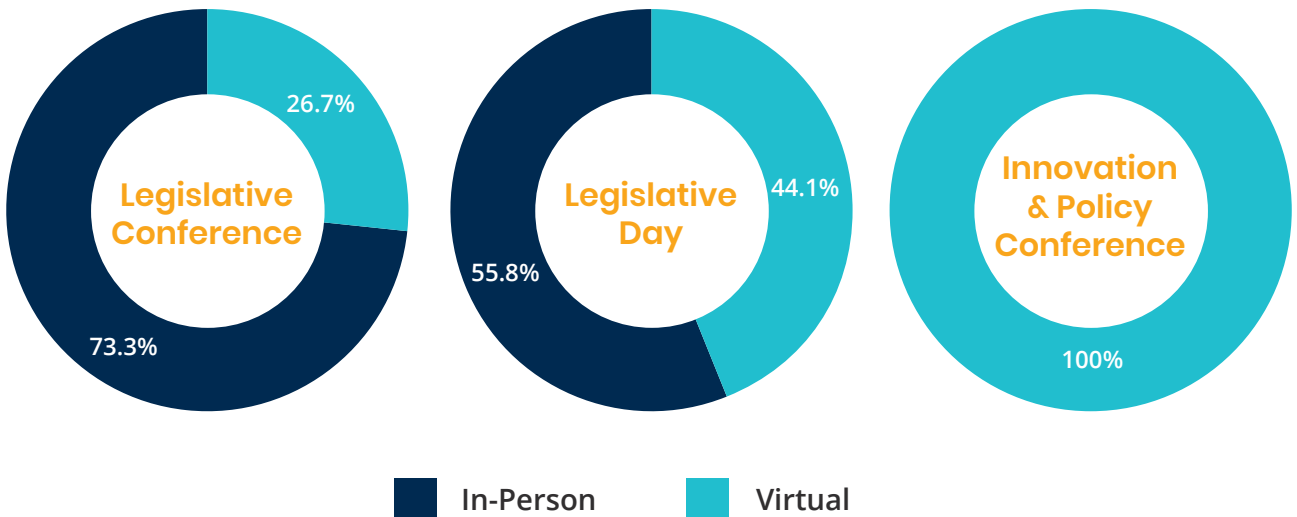
- Defeated legislation that would increase the statutory limits on liability for tort claims against the state and its subdivisions to \$500,000 (SB 1302)
- Stopped a fee cap that would prevent local governments from being represented by the best qualified law firms (HB 7043)
- Prevented the distribution of local government “report cards” with fiscal and economic metrics and the removal of local government financial reporting requirements (HB 7069/SB 1512)
- Secured a \$50 million appropriation for Visit Florida (SB 362)
- Defeated a measure for “similarly situated” properties to be treated the same under a Bert Harris disagreement (HB 519)
- Stopped a bill that would prohibit local governments from applying land development design provisions to single- and two-family dwellings unless certain conditions were met (HB 459)
- Ensured local governments’ ability to zone for affordable housing and created a biannual council of local elected officials to meet and share best practices on affordable housing (HB 1339)
- Addressed opioid concerns by pushing a measure that amends the requirement that a health care practitioner advise a patient of nonopioid alternatives before providing opioid anesthesia or prescribing, ordering, dispensing, or administering an opioid drug (HB 743)
- Defeated legislation to create and implement a reclaimed water program, a measure that would have an indeterminate negative fiscal impact on state and local government (HB 715/SB 1656)





ENGAGING COUNTY LEADERS

FAC held 3 conferences, introducing a successful hybrid model that allowed 331 county commissioners and county staff overall to attend virtually.



Look Ahead in Events

- **2021 Innovation & Policy Conference**

September 21 – 22, 2021
PGA National Resort
Palm Beach County

- **2021 Legislative Conference**

November 17 – 19, 2021
Hotel Effie
Walton County

- **2022 Legislative Day**

January 2022
Leon County

- **2022 Annual Conference and Educational Exposition**

June 28 - July 1, 2022
Orange County





PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

By the Numbers



482
CCC graduates
since inception



259
ACC graduates
since inception



14
ACC II graduates
since inception



13
CGEP graduates
since inception

In 2020, 6 county commissioners completed the coursework to graduate from the CCC program while 22 county commissioners graduated from the ACC I program and 14 county commissioners graduated from the ACC II program.

- **CCC Graduates:** David Osteen (Dixie), Scott Monlyn (Calhoun), Joe Mullins (Flagler), Harold Jenkins (Martin), Gregg Weiss (Palm Beach), Thomas Demps (Taylor)
- **ACC I Graduates:** Tony Anderson (Walton), Aaron Bell (Nassau), Robert Bender (Escambia), Wendy Breeden (Lake), Edward Ciampi (Martin), Michelle Coldiron (Monroe), Noey Flores (Hardee), Thomas Ford (Nassau), Danny Glidewell (Walton), Brad Goodbread (Okeechobee), Gene Hall (Jefferson), Gregory Hansen (Flagler), Gayward Hendry (Clay), Ricky Jones (Franklin), Alston Kelley (Madison), Rick Minor (Leon), Jim Moody (Taylor), Michelle Stone (Marion), Kenny Thompson (Bradford), Cathy Townsend (St. Lucie), Donnie Waldrep (Madison), Arlene Tuck (Highlands)
- **ACC II Graduates:** Timothy Stanley (Glades), John Meeks (Levy), Lawrence Harvey (Putnam), James Johns (St. Johns), Mike Cella (Clay), Chris Dougherty (Bradford), Emma Byrd (Hendry), Justin Taylor (Nassau), Mitchell Wills (Hendry), Matt Brooks (Levy), Ronnie Richardson (Suwannee), Mack Bernard (Palm Beach), Emily Bonilla (Orange), Peggy Choudhry (Osceola)
- To date, **Suwannee County** continues to have the highest number (17) of county commissioners that have graduated from the CCC program.
- **Flagler** and **Nassau Counties** have the highest number (11) of commissioners that have graduated from the ACC program since the inception.
- There are 126 county commissioners currently in office that have graduated from the CCC program, 86 county commissioners currently in office that have graduated from the ACC I program, 12 county commissioners in office that have graduated from the ACC II program, and 10 county staff that have graduated from the CGE program.
 - All of the **Charlotte County** Commissioners have graduated from the CCC Program and the ACC I Program.
 - All of the **Okeechobee County** Commissioners have graduated from the CCC Program, and two of those graduates from the ACC I Program.
 - 16 Counties have no graduates (but several commissioners are currently in the CCC Program): **Brevard, Collier, Columbia, Duval, Hernando, Hillsborough, Holmes, Jackson, Liberty, Manatee, Miami-Dade, Sarasota, Seminole, St. Johns, Union, Volusia**

2020 Best Practices Award Winners

- **Charlotte County**
Leadership Development Program
- **Flagler County**
Fire Leadership Academy
- **Leon County**
Created Equal
- **Okaloosa County**
Lazarus Field
- **Volusia County**
Youth Services in a Pandemic

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



FSA

- 60 counties received competitive discount pricing on vehicles and equipment by partnering with the Florida Sheriffs Association.
- Counties spent \$196,182,516.69 on vehicle and fire rescue contracts through FSA.



Nationwide®
is on your side

Nationwide

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

FLORIDA
LOCAL GOVERNMENT INVESTMENT
TRUST

FLGIT

- The Florida Trust averaged over a hundred attendees for each session during its 2020 Summer Investment Webinar Series. The series included 8 sessions over a month.
- The most highly attended 2020 Florida Trust Summer Investment Webinar session (240 attendees) was organized in partnership with the Florida Association of Counties and covered budgeting during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- The Florida Trust increased its total assets under management by 24% from December 31, 2019 to December 31, 2020, an increase of almost \$400 Million year over year.

FACT

FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES TRUST

• Since 1989 •



FACT

- 22 Florida counties benefitted from the risk protection offered through the Florida Association of Counties Trust, Florida's only public entity risk pool created by counties for counties. To find out if your county can benefit and minimize risk liability with FACT, visit www.fact-insurance.com.
- The 2020 FACT Risk Management Conference was held as a series of four webinars with four separate speakers during the month of October in lieu of the traditional in person event. Each webinar had approximately 45 pre-registered attendees which included commissioners, constitutionals and county staff.
- All FACT Quarterly Roundtables were held virtually in 2020. Attendance for the roundtables were well attended with an average of 30 attendees for each. Additionally, FACT held a FACT Risk Management Webinar as a part of FAC's Webinar Wednesday series. The webinar was successful with 114 attendees from the FAC membership.



FLGFP

- 9 counties financed their infrastructure and capital needs through the Florida Local Government Finance Program (FLGFP), a flexible, low-interest, short- to medium-term loan program.
- Sarasota County took advantage of 18.5 million for Manasota Beach Renourishment project, an EMS Warehouse/Fire Station in Siesta Key, and a Bee Ridge Road Fire Station and fuel site upgrade.
- Miami Shores Village also utilized FLGFP in 2020 to refinance. Their loans with FLGFP totaled 3.7 million.

COVID-19

COVID-19 Communications

- In 2020, 94 COVID-19 Newsletters were sent to subscribers

Emergency Resources

- The COVID-19 County Response Dashboard, a web center designed to keep county leadership informed on the latest COVID-19 updates, tracks COVID-19 relief, re-opening statuses, Governor's executive orders, county webpages, research, and various emergency resources. The main page has 21,784 total page views.
 - **Reopening Vacation Rentals:** 27,871 Page Views
 - **County COVID-19 Policies & Orders:** 23,016 Page Views
 - **Cares Act Florida:** 5,236 Page Views
 - **State Agency COVID-19 Orders:** 3,361 Page Views
 - **Research:** 3,160 Page Views
 - **Governor's COVID-19 Executive Orders:** 3,054 Page Views
 - **County COVID-19 Website:** 2,871 Page Views



Emerging Technology – Studio 67

With the wake of COVID-19, FAC created its live, in-house studio: Studio 67. Studio 67 currently manages 3 major projects.



Webinar Wednesday: FAC's virtual educational series, Webinar Wednesday, offers weekly, diverse elective credits for county commissioners' continuing education and will continue operating in the post-pandemic world.

- In 2020, Webinar Wednesday held 45 webinars with a total of 3,611 attendees
- In 2020, ICG held 6 additional classes – 3 in-person, 3 virtual – with a total of 217 attendees





SHARING COUNTY NEWS



Calendar

FAC once again held the Annual Calendar Photo Contest, collecting 359 photos for consideration in this highly anticipated publication.

- Received submissions from 56 counties
- Palm Beach County had the most submissions.

Winners

- Palm Beach County (Cover)
- Okeechobee County (December 2020)
- Jefferson County (January)
- Marion County (February)
- Sumter County (March)
- Okaloosa County (April)
- Indian River County (May)
- Leon County (June)
- Jackson County (July)
- Hernando County (August)
- Glades County (September)
- Polk County (October)
- Sarasota County (November)
- Wakulla County (December 2021)
- Hillsborough County (Back Cover)



FEATURED



Social Media



In 2020, FAC received 181,248 Twitter impressions

- **158** New Followers
- **4,842** Profile Visits
- **2,361** Mentions



FAC's Facebook posts reached **58,495** people, resulting in a 27% increase in outreach since 2018. FAC's Facebook homepage was viewed a total of **2,888** times.

- **2,525** Engagements (Reactions, Shares, Comments)
- **2,334** Total Followers and **2,313** Total Page Likes



In 2020, FAC's Instagram has **693** followers – a nearly 16% increase from 2019 – and **1,492** engagements (likes and comments).



Communications

- FAC sent a total of **772 e-blasts** throughout 2020



News & Notes

- News & Notes, a newsletter dedicated to featuring pertinent information relevant to counties, educational articles, and innovative counties ideas, receives an average open rate of 27.8% with a total distribution of **2,781**.



News Clips

- Sharing news headlines most relevant to Florida's counties, News Clips receives an average open rate of 29.6%. It is distributed to **2,084** county officials and staff.



FAC Mentioned in Articles

- In 2020, FAC was mentioned or used as an expert source in **477** articles, a 187% leap from the previous year.



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



AFFILIATES



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

80 MEMBERS



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

56 MEMBERS

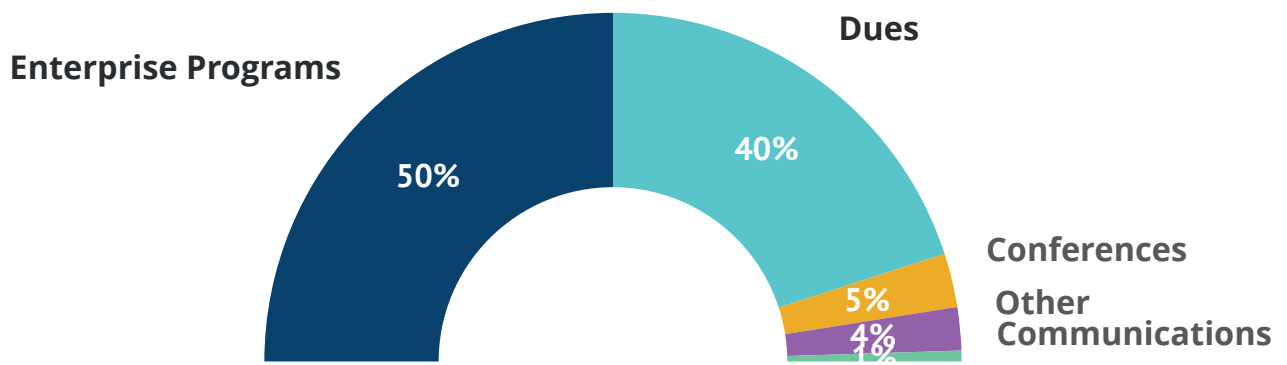


**FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF
COUNTY ATTORNEYS (FACA)**

282 MEMBERS

FINANCIAL

2020 Income



Public Policy



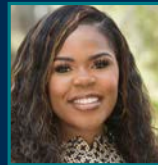
DAVIN SUGGS
DIRECTOR
dsuggs@flcounties.com



BOB McKEE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
bmckee@flcounties.com



EDDY LABRADOR, ESQ.
SENIOR LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL
elabrador@flcounties.com



TONNETTE S. GRAHAM
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR
tgraham@flcounties.com



JEFF SCALA
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR
jscala@flcounties.com



SARA HENLEY
POLICY ANALYST
shenley@flcounties.com

FAC STAFF

Executive



VIRGINIA "GINGER" DELEGAL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
gdelegal@flcounties.com



ROBERT J. SNIFFEN
SNIFFEN & SPELLMAN,
GENERAL COUNSEL
rsniffen@sniffenlaw.com



EMILY ANDERSON
SENIOR EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
TO THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
eanderson@flcounties.com

Institute for County Government



ERIC S. POOLE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
epoole@flcounties.com



FAYE BRAINARD
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
fbrainard@flcounties.com



BECKY BERENTSEN
EDUCATION MANAGER
bberentsen@flcounties.com

External Affairs



CRAGIN MOSTELLER
DIRECTOR
cmosteller@flcounties.com



KELLI WILLIAMS
EVENTS MANAGER
kwilliams@flcounties.com



LATOYA WASHINGTON
CORPORATE RELATIONS
MANAGER
lwashington@flcounties.com



TRACY KUSMIERZ
COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER
tkusmierz@flcounties.com



GABRIELLE McDONALD
COMMUNICATIONS
COORDINATOR
gmcdonald@flcounties.com



MILAN CLAYTON
MEMBER SERVICES ASSOCIATE
mclayton@flcounties.com



KAREN SAPP
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
ksapp@flcounties.com

Internal Affairs & Financial Services



ANNA R. DOUGHTY, CPA
DIRECTOR
adoughty@flcounties.com



CONNIE RODDENBERRY
ACCOUNTING MANAGER
croddenberry@flcounties.com



ROBERT SWANDOL
IT MANAGER
rswandol@flcounties.com



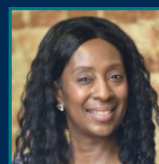
TERESA MARTIN
OFFICE MANAGER
tmartin@flcounties.com



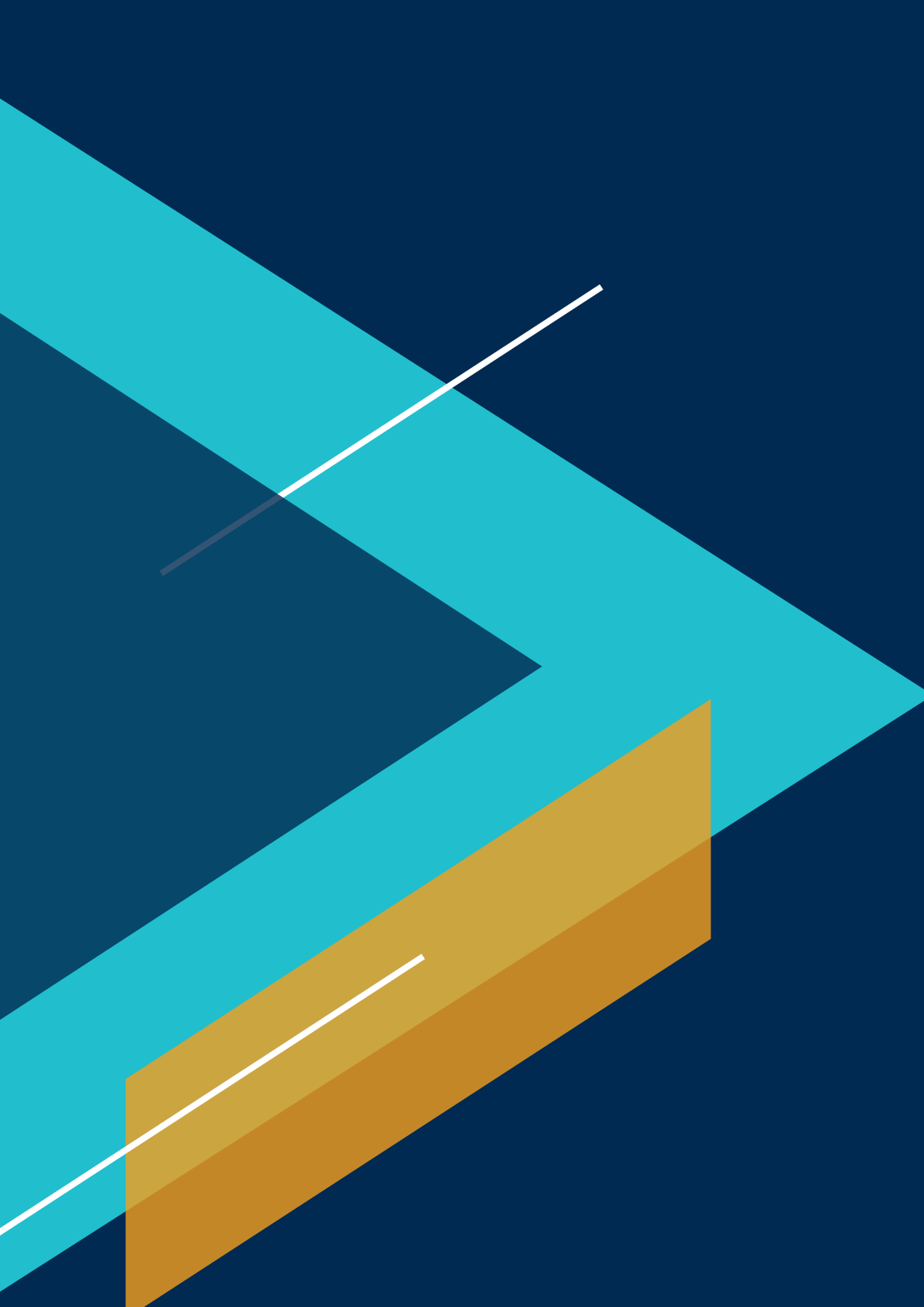
SUE HOPKINS
ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT
shopkins@flcounties.com



KIM MORGAN
SENIOR EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
kmorgan@flcounties.com



SORI SUTTON
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT/
RECEPTIONIST
ssutton@flcounties.com



-  [flcounties](#)
-  [@flcounties](#)
-  [flcounties](#)
-  [flcounties.com](#)