News and Updates

October 30, 2026

President's Message



As we navigate our organization's leadership transition, I want to thank Terry Atchley for his dedication and years of service to FCCMA. We wish him and his family all the best as he begins this next chapter. For those interested in learning more about the transition, the **leadership announcement** includes a link to Terry's resignation letter. I'm honored to step into the role of FCCMA President, and I'm grateful to Matt Spoor for stepping into the President-Elect role. FCCMA is a strong community because of the commitment and collaboration of its members, and I look forward to working alongside all of you to continue building on that foundation and supporting Florida's local government management professionals. Thank you for your continued involvement and support of our Association!

I hope everyone who was able to attend the **ICMA Annual Conference in Long Beach, California**, had a great experience. Conferences like ICMA provide a valuable opportunity to learn from others in the profession, share ideas, and connect with colleagues from across the country. A special THANK YOU to everyone

who joined us for the FCCMA social event. It was a wonderful opportunity for our members to connect, catch up with colleagues, and enjoy some time together.

Mark your calendars for the **free coaching webinar, "Onboarding Elected Officials – Building Trust Before the First Agenda Packet,"** which will be held on **November 5, at 2:00 p.m.** In this session, moderated by a former Manager, attendees will hear directly from elected board members as they reflect on the information they wish they had when they first began their board service. Register **here** to secure your spot.

Registration is now open for the **Fall Symposium**, which will be held virtually on **December 10, 2026, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.** This year's theme, "Leadership Under Pressure: Principled Decision-Making," promises engaging discussions and valuable insights. The Symposium is an excellent opportunity to meet your **four-hour ethics training requirement**. To register for the Symposium, click **here**.

The FCCMA Directory Photo Contest opens for submissions in November. The winning photo will be featured on the cover of next year's directory, showcasing the places and people that make Florida's communities unique.

FCCMA is now accepting nominations for the **2027 Awards Program**, which recognizes outstanding leadership, professionalism, and service in public administration. These peer-nominated awards will be presented at our 2027 Annual Conference. In addition, applications are open for **Academic and Conference Scholarships**. If someone in your organization qualifies, please encourage them to apply. For more information, click **here**.

Registration for the **2027 Winter Institute is open**. The event will take place **January 21-22, 2027, at the Sheraton Sand Key Resort**. The event's theme is "The Long Game, Drive the Narrative: Commissioners turn over, Legislators term out, Managers are still here making sure the numbers hold. Nobody knows your budget better than you. It's time everyone else heard it from you first." To register, click **here**.

Finally, a reminder that **dues invoices were sent electronically on October 1**. If you didn't receive your invoice, please contact **FCCMA staff.**

Sincerely,

Mike Staffopoulos



WestonGOV Academy: Building Civic Ambassadors

By Denise Barrett-Miller, Director of Communications, City of Weston

WestonGOV Academy, launched in 2022, is a natural extension of the City's successful Weston University program, which has provided civic education to high school students since 2002. Recognizing an opportunity to offer a similar experience for adults, City Manager Don Decker envisioned a program that would give residents a firsthand look at the operations, services, and responsibilities of their municipal government. Through personal interaction, presentations, and activities, participants learn directly from the professionals who lead City departments and deliver services each day.

Another important goal of the program is to cultivate civic "ambassadors" within Weston's neighborhoods. Equipped with a greater understanding of Weston's government, these residents become trusted sources of accurate information, help dispel misinformation, and guide neighbors who are seeking City services or assistance.

We are pleased to say that WestonGOV Academy has been an overwhelming success. Registration for the inaugural class reached capacity in just over an hour, and subsequent classes have filled before the end of the first day of registration. Each year, spouses, neighbors, and friends of previous participants apply after hearing about the experience. The appreciative and encouraging feedback we receive from participants affirms the value of the program and reminds us why we chose careers in public service.

You can find more information **here.**

Member News and Updates

The following membership applications have been received:

- **David Brannon**, District II, Interim City Manager, City of Bunnell, Full Member

- **Ailin Cano**, District I, Master of Public Administration and Urban and Regional Planning, Florida State University, Student Member
- **Renee Cooper**, District VII, Assistant City Manager, City of Safety Harbor, Full Member
- **Leigh Davis**, District I, Town Manager, Town of Havana, Full Member
- **Andrew Donawa**, District VII, Deputy City Manager, City of Dade City, Full Member
- **Jared Lee**, District VI, Master of Public Administration, Florida Gulf Coast University, Student Member
- **Carley Lewis**, District VII, City Administrator, City of South Pasadena, Full Member
- **Penny Robinson**, District VI, Assistant City Administrator, City of Sebring, Full Member
- **Joseph Sullivan**, District VII, Master of Urban and Regional Planning, University of South Florida, Student Member
- **Mike Thornton**, District I, Deputy County Administrator, Walton County, Full Member

If no current member comes forth with a reason why these applicants should not be approved as members, he/she will be approved for membership.

From Our Partners



ICMA Assistant Chief Administrative Officers (ACAO) Committee

Congratulations to **Tony M. Lopez, DBA, ICMA-CM, CPRE**, and **Horace McHugh, ICMA-CM**, on their incoming leadership roles with ICMA's ACAO Committee, where

Tony will serve as an incoming Co-Chair and Horace as a Vice Co-Chair.

FCCMA members, follow the ACAO Committee's new LinkedIn page **here** for resources, updates, and opportunities to connect with local government professionals from across the country.

Congratulations, Tony and Horace, and thank you for representing FCCMA so well!

Florida Civic Advance (FCA) Releases New Report Examining Civic Engagement Among Florida's Older Adults

As Florida's older adult population continues to grow and diversify, a new report from Florida Civic Advance (FCA) finds that the state has an opportunity to better harness the experience, knowledge, and willingness of older Floridians to participate in civic life.

Today, FCA released its second Civic Matters report, "**Closing the Civic Deficit by Engaging Older Floridians**," an analysis of civic participation among Floridians age 65 and older. Examining 15 years of civic participation data from 2008 to 2023, the report finds that Florida's older adults face a lack of accessible civic pathways, rather than a lack of motivation to engage.

Read More

Florida Civic Advance *is a statewide organization working to advance civic connections and participation across Florida. Through research, collaboration, education, and the Civic Matters Series, FCA works to better understand the state of civic participation in Florida and identify actionable solutions that help build stronger, more connected communities.*

Remember the MITs

Members-in-Transition (MITs)

Please take a minute to show support for the MITs by emailing or calling the members of your district. A phone call or an email can go a long way to help someone temporarily out of work. You can also help if you have any job opportunities or special projects available for which one of our MITs may be qualified.

With current technology, the project could even be done from the MIT's home. Some of the MITs have provided their resumes and indicated their areas of expertise. The resumes and areas of expertise are now available on the **FCCMA**

website. Also, please keep FCCMA staff informed of any FCCMA members who may be eligible for MIT status. You can email **FCCMA staff**.

The FCCMA Podcast

Each week, the Florida City and County Management Association releases a podcast featuring a professional in local government. Tune in to discover success stories, leadership insights, innovative local initiatives, and more to keep you informed.

- **#232 Amendment 3 and the Fight for Home Rule in Florida**
  Steve Vancore
- **#233 Building Pathways into Local Government Through Internships**
  Jason Davis, City Manager of Fort Walton Beach and Wyatt Wagner, Former FCCMA Intern Turned Full-Time IT Systems Administrator
- **#234 Talking to Residents About Amendment 3 in Port St. Lucie**
  Kristina Ciuperger, Assistant City Manager of Port St. Lucie and Sarah Prohaska, Director of Communications for Port St. Lucie
- **#235 From the Sheriff's Office to City Hall in Haines City**
  Joe Halman, City Manager of Haines City

Click to Hear the Latest FCCMA Podcasts

Perspectives

What's the hardest conversation you've had as a leader, and what did it teach you?



Featured Member



Meet Liliya Sablukova, Chief Financial Officer, Lakewood Ranch Inter-District Authority

How long have you been an FCCMA member, and why did you join?
After first joining FCCMA in 2017, I am thrilled to return to the association at this pivotal stage of my career. Serving as a Chief Financial Officer for five Special Districts in Florida, I recognize the immense value of FCCMA's specialized resources, from technical webinars to executive seminars. My recent experience at the AI seminar in Fort Myers reaffirmed why this organization is essential; the engaging atmosphere reminded me exactly what I've been missing. With 16 years of experience in local government in Southwest Florida, I am eager to transition from a learner to a contributor. I look forward to joining committees where I can share my expertise while continuing to grow, network, and enjoy the unique opportunities that FCCMA offers.

Please describe your areas of formal/advanced education.

Argosy University, Sarasota, FL
Master of Business Administration in Finance & Public Administration
February, 2014

Keiser University, Sarasota, FL
Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration – Finance
December, 2010

Read More

Events and Trainings

November 5, 2026
2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
FCCMA Coaching Webinar

Deadline to submit
November 20 at 5:00 p.m. EST
2027 Richard "Dick" Simmons Award

December 10, 2026
1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. EST
Fall Symposium

January 21-22, 2027
FCCMA Winter Institute

Deadline to submit
January 11 at 5:00 p.m. EST
2027 FCCMA Awards

Deadline to submit
February 8 at 5:00 p.m. EST
2027 FCCMA Academic Scholarships

Deadline to submit
February 8 at 5:00 p.m. EST
2027 FCCMA Emerging Leaders Conference Scholarship

Upcoming Webinars

Save the date for future webinar offerings!

November 5, 2026	**Onboarding Elected Officials – Building Trust Before the First Agenda Packet**
January 7, 2027	**Building an Effective Legislative Advocacy Program**
February 4, 2027	**Grant Opportunities – How to determine which grant could serve your project? Strategies for Securing Grant Funding**
March 4, 2027	**How to Handle Difficult Public Meetings**

April 1, 2027	**Funding the Future: Creative Collaboration Revenue Solutions for Cities and Counties Working Together**
May 6, 2027	**Employee Recognition That Doesn't Cost Much**
June 10, 2027	**Legislative Recap**
July 8, 2027	**Artificial Intelligence in Local Government: Opportunities, Governance, and Practical Applications: Making the Case in AI Municipal Implementation - Case Studies**
August 5, 2027	**Engagement That Matters: Inspiring Residents to Participate, Volunteer, and Lead, Which Can Include Your Community's Voice in Your Strategic Plan**
September 2, 2027	**Data Centers – Policy Development, Municipal Leadership Perspective**

Jobs

Below is a list of active FCCMA job advertisements accessible on our website. **Click here** for details.

AVON PARK – City Clerk
BROOKSVILLE – Assistant Director of Public Works
BUNNELL – City Manager
CARLSBAD, NM – City Attorney
CHARLOTTE COUNTY – Director of People Operations
COLUMBIA, MO – Assistant City Manager
DEFUNIAK SPRINGS – Finance Director
DENTON, TX – City Manager
DUNEDIN – Assistant Director of Public Works
ESTERO – Finance Director
FLORIDA CITY – City Manager
HAZELWOOD, MO – City Manager
JACKSONVILLE – Attorney III – Transactional
JACKSONVILLE – Attorney III – Labor and Employment
JACKSONVILLE – Attorney III – Tort
JACKSONVILLE ELECTRIC AUTHORITY (JEA) – Attorney III – Transactional
KENNESAW, GA – City Manager
LARGO – Performance and Budget Manager
LOGANVILLE, GA – City Manager
LONGVIEW, TX – Assistant Director of Finance
MARCO ISLAND – Comptroller
MISSOURI CITY, TX – Director of Development Services
PORT ARTHUR, TX – Fire Chief

HENRY COUNTY, GA – County Manager
HIGH SPRINGS – Interim City Manager
JACKSONVILLE – Attorney General Litigation
JACKSONVILLE – Attorney II – Labor and Employment
JACKSONVILLE – Attorney II – Land Use
SEMINOLE COUNTY SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS – Administrative Services Director
TALLAHASSEE, FL – Manager – Accounting & Financial Reporting
TAMPA – Project Manager, Development Transactions and Vacating

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