



Legislative Priorities

2023

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Marion County Board of County Commissioners

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January 4, 2021

Honorable Senator Perry and members of the delegation,

Marion County is abundantly appreciative of the wonderful working relationship we enjoy with our state legislative delegation. We are thankful for your continued attention to the needs and interests of our residents and businesses. This year, Marion County is focused on improving our roads and utility infrastructure, providing our EMS services with a new facility, and improving the quality of life for our residents by delivering them clean drinking water.

We welcome your partnership in our vision for 2023, which will not only benefit Marion County, but also our neighboring counties, fellow Floridians, and all who visit our great county. On behalf of the Board of County Commissioners of Marion County, we submit the following legislative and appropriations requests for your consideration.

Marion County Appropriation Requests:

Bringing Municipal Drinking Water to the Lowell Community due to Contamination

The Lowell community, located in northwestern Marion County, includes the Florida State Fire College. This area has been identified with onsite groundwater contamination by perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) due to years of runoff from fire training activities and related materials. As of July 2022, 200 supply wells have been sampled; water produced by nearly 20 wells had levels of PFOA/PFOS above the health advisory level and several more were close to the health advisory level.

Marion County has developed a concept plan to extend a centralized potable water system into the Lowell community, which would provide clean drinking water to the residents within the area. We are requesting \$6,305,503 to fund the cost of design, permitting, and construction of approximately 35,513 feet of 12-inch water line extension with valves, fire hydrants, and a water booster station.

Roadway and Utility Improvements on W 80th Ave/NW 49th St Between SR 200 & I-75

Marion County is at the forefront of growth in Florida. Not only are 190 people moving into the county each week, but Interstate-75 (I-75) also carries more than 80,000 people daily through the county. With this accelerated growth we find ourselves with a shortfall and are not able to deliver relief to our roads, the state corridors, and I-75 fast enough. We are requesting \$140 million to complete the SW/NW 80th/70th Avenue/49th Street corridor for approximately 13.6 miles by widening some segments from 2 lanes to 4 lanes, building 4 lanes where no road exists, and relocating and interconnecting water and sewer utilities at this same time to provide for much-needed septic-to-sewer connections and new development.

New EMS Facility

Marion County Fire Rescue is planning an Emergency Medical Services (EMS) station at a new site. The current building was not designed for its current usage and is at its maximum capacity for housing EMS and supervisory crews. Further, additional expansion on the current site is not possible.

The total project cost estimate is \$8.04 million and the county has \$4 million budgeted for this project, and we are requesting \$4 million to fund the balance of the project.

For the upcoming legislative session, all of Marion County's legislative priorities have received statewide priority designation from the Florida Association of Counties. We request your legislative support for the following:

Statewide Priorities Supported by the Florida Association of Counties:

Exempting Certain Fees from Florida Building Code Carryforward Fund Limits

Legislation was passed in 2019 stating "A local government may not carry forward an amount exceeding the average of its operating budget for enforcing the Florida Building Code for the previous 4 fiscal years." This portion of the bill does not account for unexpended funds (liabilities) a local government holds for the completion of inspections on permits issued beyond the fiscal year, i.e., if a permit takes multiple years to have all inspections completed.

It is important to clarify that this amount can also be carried forward beyond just the average of the operating budget for the previous 4 fiscal years. We are requesting support to modify Florida Statute 553.80(7)(a) to clarify the county's ability to carry forward funds associated with outstanding inspections at their discretion.

Allowing Code Enforcement officers to Respond to Anonymous Complaints

As code enforcement is inherently an exercise in home rule by local governments, procedures for collecting complaints previously varied throughout the state. In many areas, complaints were made anonymously, while in other jurisdictions, a complainant must identify themselves. Florida Statute 125.96 (4)(b) now requires a person who reports a potential violation of a code or an ordinance to provide his or her personal information to the local government.

It appears the intention of requiring personal information from the person filing the complaint is less about nuisance abatement and code compliance and more about preventing persons from using the code enforcement process as a weapon to harass the alleged code violator. Disclosing the personal information of the person reporting the violation, however, allows the alleged code or ordinance violator to harass, threaten or intimidate the person who filed the complaint. We are requesting support for amending Florida Statute 125.96 (4)(b) to its previous language allowing a code inspector to act on a complaint submitted anonymously.

Extending the Charter County and Regional Transportation System Surtax to Non-Charter Counties.

Currently, only charter counties or counties that are within or under an interlocal agreement with a regional transportation or transit authority created under Chapter 343 or Chapter 349, Florida Statutes have the opportunity to levy a Transportation System Surtax. Marion County has an annual shortfall of approximately \$10 million for capital maintenance projects and a backlog of \$300 million for local

transportation capacity projects. We are requesting support for a legislative change to allow non-charter counties in Florida the opportunity to levy a transportation sales surtax similar to charter counties.

Municipal Service Areas

Marion County formally requests legislation that provides that where a county has, by ordinance, established one or more utility service areas in the unincorporated area and where the county has the current ability to provide service, a municipality may not provide utility services within such county service area(s) without consent of the county. Counties and municipalities are encouraged to cooperatively establish utility service boundary agreements that will maximize the capacities and efficiencies of their respective services, with the goal of providing the most cost-effective utility service to system customers.

The following priorities are local to Marion County, and some seek resolution outside of a legislative remedy. We request your continued support for the following:

Marion County's Continuing Local Priorities:

Allow Swimming Once Again at Silver Springs

The State took over the operations of the park, nearly a decade ago, but acquired ownership in 1993. Since this time, a host of improvements have been discussed and planned; however, few have come to fruition as the projects, including reopening swimming at the springs, have been mired in bureaucratic processes. The county commission strongly believes that opening the headsprings to swimming, increasing opportunities for access to the park specifically from Silver River, and increasing the opportunities for public/private partnerships within the park will be key components in the revitalization of the Silver Springs community. Therefore, Marion County requests your support in coordinating with state agencies to resolve permitting issues that are delaying the process.

Support Securing Grant Funding for The Florida Crossroads Commerce Park

The award-winning Florida Crossroads Commerce Park represents one of the largest truly shovel-ready parks in Florida. It is located along CR 484 approx. 3 miles west of the I-75/CR 484 interchange in southern Marion County. It is surrounded by a 28,000-unit existing residential development that is only 25% built out. The area is considered under-served and under-employed but already requires infrastructure improvements to support its steady growth. Water, sewer, and roadway infrastructure improvements are necessary for the existing developed community and are already identified for some areas experiencing growth. This project will allow connectivity in a more direct and cost-feasible manner - instead of accomplishing the improvements by going around the ±900-acre parcel, improvements can be connected through the parcel, serving both the community and the project.

Continue Support for Funding Septic to Sewer Conversion Programs

The Florida Legislature passed SB 552 and the Florida Springs and Aquifer Protection Act (part VIII of chapter 373, Florida Statutes) in 2016 to protect our water resources in Florida. A critical part of this legislation is the septic-to-sewer conversion requirement aimed at reducing nitrogen pollution released into the Upper Floridian Aquifer. To achieve this, Marion County proposed a program to fund septic-to-central sewer projects, package plants-to-central sewer projects, and enhanced septic tanks within the state-identified primary focus area utilizing a match funding within the program at a 50/50 rate; other funds and in-kind services secured by the County to advance the BMAP initiatives.

Therefore, Marion County requests your support as we continue to implement the developed septic-to-sewer plan with the ultimate goal of reducing the nutrient levels within the Silver Springs and Rainbow Springs spring shed. This will include the reduction of septic tanks and independent package plants through the installation of central wastewater collection systems.

Support Marion County's Selection as the 10th Site of an FDVA State Veterans' Home

In 2019, the Florida state legislature approved \$500,000 in funding to support and assist in site selection within Marion County. The ideal site for the county's state veterans' nursing home was identified after an analysis of multiple proposed sites. Marion County's central location provides a unique ability to directly impact approximately 650,000 veterans within a service area of 75 miles or less. Additionally, nearly 300,000 of these veterans are over the age of 65.

The Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs recommended Marion County as the location of the 10th site via letter in July 2022. Marion County is requesting your continued support of Marion County as the 10th site of an FDVA State Veterans' Home.

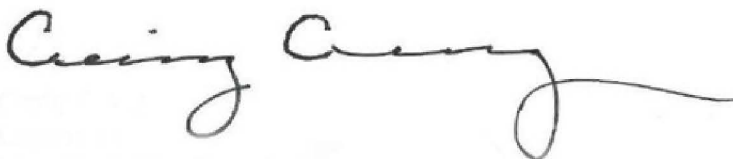
Continued Support for The Mission of The Ft. King Heritage Foundation

The Foundation plays a key role in developing the vision and oversight of Fort King, a National Historic Landmark. This public-private partnership between the Foundation, the City of Ocala, and Marion County serves as a shining example of how such partnerships can work together to deliver an excellent experience to both our citizens and the out-of-town visitors who frequent the fort.

There is no other facility in Florida that will provide such excellent interpretative and educational opportunities for visitors to learn about Fort King, the Seminole Wars, and the early years of Ocala/Marion County, and as such, we ask for your continued support for the Ft. King Heritage Foundation.

Marion County looks forward to another session in partnership with our legislative delegation and hopes to replicate the legislative and appropriations success we have enjoyed in the past. Should you require any additional information on any one of our priorities or requests, please do not hesitate to reach out and I or county staff will work diligently to provide you with whatever we can to help provide information or context. We thank you for your time and attention and appreciate your continued support of Marion County and its residents.

Very respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Craig Curry". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Craig Curry
Chairman
Marion County Board of County Commissioners



APPROPRIATION REQUEST

Mounir Bouyounes | mounir.bouyounes@marionfl.org | 352-438-2300
Matthew Cretul | matthew.cretul@marionfl.org | 352-438-2303

Support for \$6,300,000 to fund the cost of extending a centralized potable water system to provide clean, safe drinking water to residents in the Lowell community.

The Lowell community, located in northwestern Marion County, includes the Florida State Fire College. This area **has been identified with onsite groundwater contamination** by perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) due to years of runoff from fire training activities and related materials.

Additionally, **soil contamination in this area has been detected** above the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (FDEP) provisional cleanup target levels. FDEP advised the Florida Department of Health (FDOH) of these results and directed the FDOH to develop and implement a community-sampling plan.

As of July 2020, **200 supply wells** have been **sampled**; water produced by **20 wells** had levels of PFOA/PFOS **above** the health advisory level.

Marion County has developed a **concept plan to extend a centralized potable water system** into the Lowell community, which would provide clean drinking water to the residents within the area. The proposed 12-inch water line extension is approximately 35,513 feet or 6.73 miles in length with valves, fire hydrants, and a water booster station. We are requesting funding in the amount of **\$6,300,000** for the cost of design, permitting, and construction.





APPROPRIATION REQUEST

Mounir Bouyounes | mounir.bouyounes@marionfl.org | 352-438-2300
Matthew Cretul | matthew.cretul@marionfl.org | 352-438-2303

Support for \$140,000,000 to complete the SW/NW 80th/70th Avenue/ NW 49th Street corridor widening with water and sewer connections.

Marion County is at the forefront of growth in Florida. Not only are **190 people moving into the county each week**, but Interstate 75 (I-75) also carries more than **80,000 people** daily through Marion County.

The county commission is building parallel and **alternative corridors to I-75** as well as other state roads in the area. A voter-approved, one-percent sales tax will deliver more than **\$184 million** to roadway improvements by 2025.

However, with this accelerated growth, we find ourselves with a budgetary shortfall and are not able to deliver relief to our roads, the state corridors, and I-75 fast enough. This request seeks **\$140 million** to complete the SW/NW 80th/70th Avenue/NW 49th Street corridor for approximately **13.6 miles** by widening segments from 2 lanes to 4 lanes, building 4 lanes where no road exists, and relocating interconnecting water and sewer utilities to provide much-needed septic-to-sewer connections. In addition, these new segments of road will include central water and sewer lines to facilitate future interconnections of decentralized systems including package plants and septic tanks.

Marion County has partnered with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to build a **new interchange on I-75** with a future road aligning at **NW 49th Street**.

- Section A: 3.4-mile portion of NW 49th St, from NW 70th Ave to NW 44th Ave – \$25.5 million.
- Section B: 2-mile portion of SW 80th Ave, from north of SW 38th St through State Road 40 – \$30.9 million.
- Section C: 3.7-mile portion of SW 80th Ave, between SR 40 through US 27 – \$51 million.
- Section D: 4.5-mile portion of SW 80th Ave, north of SR 200 to north of SW 38th St – \$31.8 million.

Total project length – approximately 13.6 miles.
Total project cost – \$140,000,000.

Infrastructure improvements for new development





APPROPRIATION REQUEST

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Request appropriation for \$4,000,000 to fund new emergency medical services building.

Marion County Fire Rescue is planning a new emergency medical services (EMS) station. However, the current building was not designed for its current use and is at its maximum capacity for housing EMS personnel and supervisory crews.

Additionally, expansion on the current site is not possible. A new building will allow MCFR to continue to provide EMS services to the city of Ocala, surrounding areas in the county, and the two main hospitals in the area.

This new station will also have living space for up to 20 personnel, with sleeping quarters separated per crew, including additional living space for captains. It will contain a total of 12 truck bays, areas designated to house EMS equipment, 2 washers and dryers, as well as kitchen and pantry areas broken down by shift. The plan also includes a modern classroom and will contain work spaces for computers and three office spaces.

The total project cost is estimated at \$8.04 million, and the county has \$4 million budgeted for this project.

New emergency medical services facility construction





STATEWIDE PRIORITY

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Support modifying Florida Statute 553.80(7)(a), which would exempt funds set aside for the completion of inspections on issued permits from Florida Building Code carryforward fund limits.

Legislation was passed in 2019 stating "A local government **may not carry forward** an amount exceeding the average of its operating budget for enforcing the Florida Building Code for the previous four fiscal years."

This portion of the bill does not adequately account for unexpended funds (liabilities) a local government holds for the completion of inspections on permits issued beyond the fiscal year, i.e., if a permit takes multiple years to have all inspections completed.

To rebate and reduce building permit fees in cases such as this, places local governments in the precarious position of having to use funds associated with open permits to complete inspections.

This dollar amount can be **significant and has rapidly grown** in the last two years due to the upward economy. Additionally, builders, by no fault of their own, have been subject to delays due to supply chain issues, and there has been nationwide issues causing unexpected delays in construction, therefore causing permits to run much longer than anyone anticipated.

It is important to clarify that this amount can also be carried forward beyond just the average of the operating budget for the previous four fiscal years.

Expand Building Code carry-forward fund limits





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Support amending the Florida Statutes relating to county and municipal code enforcement to its previous language allowing a code inspector to act on a complaint submitted anonymously.

Code enforcement investigations usually begin with a complaint or tip from the public - typically by phone or online form - or a code enforcement officer personally observing an alleged violation while performing his or her duties.

As code enforcement is inherently an exercise in home rule by local governments, previous procedures for collecting complaints varied throughout the state. In many areas, complaints were made anonymously, while in other jurisdictions, **a complainant was required to identify themselves**. Code inspectors accepted any information given to them in the complaints and, using their own judgment, investigated the allegations.

Chapter 2021-167 now requires a person who reports a potential violation of a code or an ordinance to provide his or her personal information to the local government. The Florida Senate Bill Analysis and Fiscal Impact Statement (FIS) **does not identify the intended purpose** of the bill or the defect the bill is intended to cure.

It appears, however, that the intention of requiring personal information from the person filing the complaint is less about nuisance abatement and code compliance and more about **preventing persons from using the code enforcement process as a weapon** to harass the alleged code violator.

Disclosing the personal information of the person reporting the violation; however, allows the alleged code or ordinance **violation to harass, threaten, or intimidate the person who filed the complaint**. This law has resulted in a reduction in code complaints, which increases the threat to public health, safety, and welfare caused by unreported potential code violations.

Allow code enforcement to accept anonymous complaints





STATEWIDE PRIORITY

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Support extending the charter county and regional transportation system surtax to non-charter counties.

Tax reform measures that simplify administration and provide an **economic boost** to Florida's taxpayers are essential. These measures must consider and minimize the collective and cumulative negative impacts on local revenues, including state-shared and local discretionary revenue sources that are critical to local governments in providing community services.

The enactment of the transportation sales surtax for non-charter counties will provide a **much-needed revenue source** to fund transportation capital projects, especially since the local gas tax is not indexed and it has lost most of its purchasing power due to inflation.

Marion County has an **annual budgetary shortfall** of approximately **\$10 million** for capital maintenance projects and a **\$300-million backlog** of local transportation capacity projects. Therefore, we ask for the legislature to enact a law allowing non-charter counties in Florida the opportunity to levy a transportation sales surtax similar to existing legislation benefitting charter counties.

Extend charter county and regional transportation system surtax to non-charter counties





Support legislation providing that where a county has, by ordinance, established one or more utility service areas in the unincorporated area and where the county has the current ability to provide service, a municipality may not provide utility services within such county service area(s) without consent of the county.

The issue under consideration is the **scope of power available to municipalities** under Sec. 180.02, F.S, to establish extraterritorial utility zones or service areas within the unincorporated county.

Once established, the municipality may require pursuant to subsection (3) that **“all persons or corporations living or doing business within said area to connect, when available”** with described municipal systems. Sec. 180.191, F.S., provides for a 25% surcharge under paragraph (1)(a) and the possibility, under paragraph (1)(b), that customers of the unincorporated area within such zone or service area may pay rates, fees and charges of up to 50% more than municipal customers pay for the corresponding service. If only the surcharge is imposed over municipal rates, a public hearing is not required under paragraph (1)(a). However, a public hearing is required under paragraph (1)(b).

This statutory scheme creates the possibility that customers in the unincorporated area pay higher rates to subsidize the lower rates of municipal customers, and the city’s elected officials have no political accountability to the customers in the unincorporated areas. This scenario recently occurred in the city of Dunnellon in Marion County, where the city acquired an **investor-owned utility in the unincorporated area** and, pursuant to the above statute, imposed the surcharges and other impositions on the customers of that system. This resulted in litigation that was costly to the city and ultimately led to the system being acquired by the Florida Governmental Utility Authority.

In addition to the above-described concerns for residents of the unincorporated county, the municipality’s unrestricted power under Sec. 180.02 to establish such utility zones or service areas creates a disruptive influence on the planning and system development of county-owned utility systems.

Require county consent for municipalities to provide service within county service areas





MARION COUNTY PRIORITY

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Coordinate with state agencies and delegation members to resolve permitting issues that are delaying the process to allow swimming at Silver Springs.

In 2013, the Florida Park Service took control and assumed management of Silver Springs and merged it with the adjacent Silver River State Park to form Silver Springs State Park.

In 2014, the state's unit management plan (UMP) for Silver Springs State Park included the creation of a **public swimming area** at the headsprings and the construction of a mooring/convenience dock downriver.

In 2016, Wild Waters waterpark adjacent to the headsprings was closed and the infrastructure of the park was removed in 2019.

The State took over the operations of the park, nearly a decade ago, but acquired ownership in 1993. Since this time, a host of **improvements** have been discussed and planned; however, few have come to fruition as the projects, including reopening swimming at the springs, have been mired in bureaucratic processes.

The county commission and its citizens strongly believe that opening the headsprings to swimming, **increasing opportunities for access to the park** specifically from Silver River, and increasing the opportunities for public/private partnerships within the park are key components in the revitalization of the Silver Springs community.

Allow swimming once again at Silver Springs





MARION COUNTY PRIORITY

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Coordinate with the Department of Economic Opportunity to secure grant funding for the Florida Crossroads Commerce Park.

Marion County was one of the most severely impacted counties in the state by the Great Recession, with an **unemployment rate that peaked at 14.4%**; however, it has since strongly recovered. The recovery was led by the attraction and expansion of targeted industries with companies such as FedEx, AutoZone, Chewy, Mestizo Foods, and eResources, among others, that chose to locate new facilities in the community. These companies have invested more than \$370 million into the surrounding community and created more than 4,300 new jobs with wages that met or exceeded the area's targeted wages.

The Florida Crossroads Commerce Park (FCCP) project will seek to replicate that success near the Marion Oaks community, an area that did not experience the same level of job creation during the county's economic recovery.

Based on the site's successful review by JM Mullis, Inc., the following industries are being **targeted for recruitment**: food distribution, consumer product distribution, e-commerce distribution, food manufacturing, and aviation/aerospace manufacturing.

The Florida Crossroads Commerce Park represents one of the largest truly shovel-ready commerce parks in Florida. Additionally, it **offers 200+ acre parcels**, which are very much in demand. Many companies are looking to build larger facilities of one million square feet, but are not able to find size-appropriate sites in Florida.

The ability to quickly get a project permitted and under construction will be a key for the Florida Crossroads Commerce Park, just as it was for the success of the Ocala/Marion County Commerce Park. The OMCCP model shows it has seen **1.4 million square feet of new construction, created nearly 1,500 jobs, and \$270 million in capital investment.**

Extrapolating these figures to the FCCP, 3 million square feet of new construction has the potential to create more than **3,000 new jobs.**

Support securing grant funding for the Florida Crossroads Commerce Park





MARION COUNTY PRIORITY

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Continued support for the septic-to-sewer plan to reduce the pollutant load within the Silver Springs and Rainbow Springs basin management action plans.

The Florida Legislature passed SB 552 and the **Florida Springs and Aquifer Protection Act** (part VIII of chapter 373, Florida Statutes) in 2016 to protect the future of our state's water resources. The policy calls for a development of basin management action plans (BMAP), which are site-specific comprehensive strategies to reduce or eliminate pollutant loadings and restore particular waterbodies to health.

A specific part of this policy is the septic to sewer conversion requirement aimed at reducing the pollutant load to meet the total maximum daily load (TMDL) into the spring shed through the reduction of nitrogen pollution released into the Upper Floridian Aquifer.

To achieve this, Marion County proposed a program to fund septic to central sewer projects, package plants to central sewer projects, and enhanced septic tanks within the primary focus area utilizing a match funding within the program at a 50/50 rate; other funds and in-kind services secured by the county to advance the **BMAP initiatives**.

The septic-to-sewer project will bolster the state's goal of reducing the pollutant load by eliminating decentralized wastewater systems and on-site sewage treatment and disposal systems, which will result in a reduction of nutrient loading to groundwater and the springs. By decreasing **nutrient loading**, the county can **decrease the potential of algal blooms and eutrophication** (increased nutrient levels).

Marion County will continue to implement the developed septic to sewer plan through an ongoing wastewater feasibility study with an ultimate goal to reduce the nutrient levels within the Silver Springs and Rainbow Springs BMAP areas. This will include the **reduction of septic tanks and independent package plants** through the installation of central wastewater collection systems.

Support the septic-to-sewer plan reducing nutrient levels within the Silver Springs and Rainbow Springs





MARION COUNTY PRIORITY

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Provide the State of Florida and the Governor's Office with any correspondence or support as needed for the FDVA site.

The Florida Legislature approved **\$500,000 in funding** in 2019 to support and assist in site selection within Marion County for a new state veterans nursing home. After an analysis of multiple sites within the county, the ideal site for a new state veterans' nursing home was identified. The central location provides a unique ability to directly impact approximately 650,000 veterans within a service area of 75 miles or less. Additionally, nearly **300,000 of these veterans are over the age of 65.**

The proposed site is located near downtown, in close proximity to health and medical centers, near affordable housing for potential employees, and just minutes away from the Marion County Veterans Resource Center.

The Marion County Veterans Resource Center, which opened in 2017, showcases one of our community's largest public/private partnerships and serves as a one-stop shop for veterans and their families. Further, the county works with over **40 local veteran-centered organizations** to provide award-winning and prompt services to the more than **45,000 veterans** who call Marion County home.

On July 13th, 2022, the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs sent a letter to Governor DeSantis and his cabinet stating their recommendation that Marion County is named as the location of the 10th site (Collier County was recommended as the 9th). The county commission sent a letter to the Governor on July 15, 2022, seconding the FDVA's support for Marion County to be selected as the 10th site. Additionally, environmental studies have been conducted on the site with no issues identified to date.

Continued support for Marion County's selection as the 10th site of an FDVA state veteran's nursing home





MARION COUNTY PRIORITY

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Provide the Fort King Heritage Foundation with correspondence or support as needed.

The Fort King Heritage Foundation plays a key role in developing the vision and oversight of the **National Historic Landmark**, with much of the success being attributed to the partnership between it, Marion County, and the city of Ocala.

This public-private partnership serves as a shining example of how such partnerships can work together to deliver an **excellent experience** to our citizens and visitors who frequent the fort.

Marion County **passionately supports** the unified vision crafted by the County/City/Foundation partnership for Fort King. We also support the request for funding for this vision to become a reality.

With the completion of this phase, Fort King will no doubt become a **major destination for tourists**. There is no other facility in Florida that will provide such excellent interpretative and educational opportunities for visitors to learn about Fort King, the Seminole Wars, and the early years of Ocala/Marion County.

Continued support for the mission of the Fort King Heritage Foundation





Marion County Board of County Commissioners

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Located in north central Florida, Marion County spans 1,652 square miles and is home to over 385,000 residents.

Known as the Horse Capital of the World®, the county's rich equine and agricultural heritage is internationally known.

MARIONFL.ORG/LEGISLATIVE