

# FRANKLIN COUNTY

REPLY TO: ✕  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
33 MARKET STREET, SUITE 203  
APALACHICOLA, FL 32320  
(850) 653-8861, EXT. 100  
(850) 653-4795 FAX



REPLY TO: □  
PLANNING & BUILDING DEPARTMENT  
34 FORBES STREET, SUITE 1  
APALACHICOLA, FL 32320  
(850) 653-9783  
(850) 653-9799 FAX

April 6, 2021

**The Honorable Wilton Simpson, President  
The Florida Senate  
Tallahassee, Florida, 32399-0001**

**The Honorable Chris Sprowls, Speaker  
The Florida House of Representatives  
Tallahassee, Florida, 32399-0001**

## **RE: Proposals for Prison Consolidation and Closure**

Dear President Simpson and Speaker Sprowls,

Recently, it was brought to the attention of the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners that the House and Senate's proposed budgets included proviso language directing the Department of Corrections to develop a plan that will lead to consolidation and/or closure of at least four prisons.

For many years, rural Florida communities, like Franklin County, Florida, have been a dedicated partner with the Department of Corrections allowing the State to locate state facilities in their communities. These facilities, in many cases, are one of the largest employers in a rural county. Additionally, they are important economic drivers within the local community having significant impact on the local economy.

We would respectfully request that there be no closures in Franklin County, Florida, or any fiscally constrained county. We would request an amendment that would prioritize protection of prisons located in rural, fiscally constrained counties from closures.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ricky D. Jones".

Ricky D. Jones  
Chairman

**RICKY D. JONES  
DISTRICT ONE**

**BERT BOLDT  
DISTRICT TWO**

**NOAH LOCKLEY, JR.  
DISTRICT THREE**

**JOSEPH PARRISH  
DISTRICT FOUR**

**JESSICA WARD  
DISTRICT FIVE**