Levy County Board of County Commissioners
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Levy County Quarterly Department Report

Department Information

Name of Department	**Board of County Commissioners**
Name of Department Head	**Mary-Ellen Harper**

Department Deliverables

Deliverable *(To be determined by the Department Head)*	**Second Quarter FY** (January-March 2026)	**Third Quarter FY** (April-June 2026)	**Fourth Quarter FY** (July-September 2026)
Public Records Requests	619	486	326
Meetings and Workshops	13	12	19
Press Releases	45	46	20
Comment:			

Department Highlights

- **Fiscal Year 2026–2027 Budget:** The Board approved the Fiscal Year 2026–2027 Budget on September 22, 2026. Following a series of budget workshops and careful review of County revenues and expenditures, Commissioners were able to reduce the millage rate from 8.75 mills to 8.25 mills while still returning funds to reserves. This effort would not have been possible without the work of Interim Director of Finance and Administration Kari Bastow and Financial Consultant Stuart McElhaney.

- **Timber Harvesting:** The County conducted a competitive procurement process for timber harvesting on approximately 107 acres of County-owned property at the Landfill, resulting in $187,854.40 in revenue to the County. The competitive process ensured the County received market-based pricing for its timber resources while maximizing the financial return to taxpayers.

Commissioners
Charlie Kennedy, Vice Chair, District 1
Rock Meeks, District 2
Desiree Mills, District 3
Tim Hodge, Chair, District 4
Johnny Hiers, District 5

- **Insurance:** The BoCC conducted competitive procurement processes this year for both Health Insurance and Property and Casualty Insurance. As a result, the County's Health Insurance will continue to be provided by Public Risk Management (PRM), while Property and Casualty Insurance will move from PRM to the Florida League of Cities.

  The cost to remain with PRM for Property and Casualty Insurance was $1,276,341, compared with $971,380 through the Florida League of Cities. The change will save the County $304,961 annually, representing an approximately 24% reduction in property and casualty insurance costs while maintaining the necessary coverage for County operations.

- **Meeting Room Improvements:** Sound Ideas has completed renovations to the Board Meeting Room audio system. The new system is a significant improvement over the previous wireless system, and additional adjustments are underway to further fine-tune audio quality.

- **Board Room Enhancements:** New tables have been constructed to complement the existing dais and podiums, providing a more consistent and professional appearance in the Board Meeting Room.

- **Project Grocer:** Work continues on the proposed economic development incentive agreement for Project Grocer. The County Manager continues to work directly with a Commissioner, the Finance Manager, and the developer to finalize the proposed agreement for consideration by the Board.

- **Economic Development Advisory Board:** The first meeting of the Economic Development Advisory Board (EDAB) was held on September 22, 2026. The County Manager is coordinating the Board and the County's economic development activities. By placing economic development within the Board of County Commissioners Office under the direct leadership of the County Manager, Levy County is creating a coordinated, countywide approach that integrates planning, infrastructure, tourism, grants, workforce development, and business recruitment. This structure promotes accountability, improves collaboration among departments, streamlines project implementation, and ensures economic development remains a strategic priority of County government.

- **SHIP Program – Resolution 2026-47:** The BoCC approved Resolution 2026-47 on September 22, 2026. The Resolution authorizes the County Manager, or designee, to administer and approve individual awards under Levy County's State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) Program without requiring each qualifying award to return to the Board for separate approval. The delegation is intended to streamline the delivery of housing assistance while requiring all awards to comply with the Board-approved Local Housing Assistance Plan (LHAP), eligibility requirements, maximum award amounts, available funding, applicable laws, and County policies.

- **Commercial Hauler Tipping Fees – Resolution 2026-42:** The BoCC approved Resolution 2026-42 on September 8, 2026, establishing tipping fees for commercial haulers disposing of residential waste at County solid waste facilities. Commercial haulers use County facilities as part of their business operations and deliver waste for compensation. Requiring commercial haulers to pay the applicable tipping fee for all waste delivered helps recover the County's cost of receiving, handling, transporting, and disposing of that waste rather than shifting those costs to residential property owners.

  County staff documented the annual full cost of solid waste management and determined that the tipping fees are reasonable and related to the County's actual disposal costs. The fees do not change or reduce the benefit provided to residential property owners through the County's solid waste assessment.

  The change is estimated to generate approximately $640,000 in additional annual revenue, helping offset the County's cost of managing commercially hauled waste and improving the financial sustainability of the Solid Waste system.