

Effective Date: This Comprehensive Plan is the result of the periodic review and revision process mandated by the Florida Legislature. It is the Comprehensive Plan the elected representatives of the people of Levy County believe Levy County needs to, as prior legislatures have wisely required, provide for "... the orderly and balanced future economic, social, physical, environmental, and fiscal development of ..." Levy County, and is "...based upon relevant and appropriate data and an analysis by the local government that may include, but not be limited to, surveys, studies, community goals and vision, and other data available at the time of adoption..." F.S. 163.3177 (1) and (1)(f).

The Board of County Commissioners is mindful of the fact that some provisions of this Comprehensive Plan almost certainly run afoul of the restrictions of F.S. 252.422 (2). Rather bizarrely, the predicted increase of the impacts of the very kinds of storm events which make Levy County an "impacted local government" and therefore substantially restrict its ability to change its Comprehensive Plan would, absent F.S. 252.422 (2), virtually require that, as a matter of good planning, we make significant but now prohibited modifications of our plan. We are a coastal county and sea level rise is an observable fact which clearly should be planned for. And yet, while the Legislature demands that we plan appropriately for our future, it precludes us from doing so.

Commented [ML1]: Sea level change

Other changing circumstances, including the potential passage of the Legislature initiated Amendment 3 which will most significantly impact rural counties like Levy, demand attention including, perhaps most obviously, (i) review and expansion of other sources of revenue, including impact fees, and (ii) consideration of whether we can even afford residential growth which may, going forward, contribute far less to the costs of the services it requires. And yet F.S. 252.422(2) precludes us from doing so. The Legislature has created a situation that basic common sense demands we plan for, while depriving us of the ability to access the most obvious tools for doing so.

Mindful of the fact that we cannot predict if and when the Legislature will release us from the restrictions of F.S. 242.422(2), and convinced that many of the changes we believe necessary to at all properly plan for the future of Levy County should become effective as soon as possible, we have elected to approve the Comprehensive Plan that Levy County needs and its citizens want without self-editing ourselves based on what F.S.242.422(2) may or may not allow. To assure compliance with F.S.242.422(2) those provisions of this Comprehensive Plan that violate that statute shall become effective automatically, but only upon, termination of the restrictions of that statute.