



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	
Meetings and Workshops	13	12	
Press Releases	45	46	
Comment:			

Department Highlights

- **Meeting Room Improvements:** Sound Ideas has completed an acoustic evaluation of the Board Meeting Room and will be making improvements to the audio system during the month of August.
- **Board Room Enhancements:** New podiums have been constructed to match the existing dais, providing a more consistent and professional appearance.
- **Former Building Department Property:** The former Building Department building has been declared surplus and is currently for sale. Bid opening is scheduled for August 7, 2026.
- **Project Grocer:** I continue to work directly with the developer on the proposed economic development incentive agreement for the Grocer Project.



Commissioners

Charlie Kennedy, Vice Chair, District 1

Rock Meeks, District 2

Desiree Mills, District 3

Tim Hodge, Chair, District 4

Johnny Hiers, District 5

- **Fire Services Funding:** Commissioner Kennedy, Public Safety staff, and I continue to meet with the municipal Fire Chiefs to develop a fair and sustainable funding formula for fire protection services in the unincorporated areas.
- **Hiring Freeze:** I have implemented a partial hiring freeze. The County currently has 14 vacant positions, and each vacancy is being evaluated before being filled.
- **Data Center Moratorium:** Staff and the Interim County Attorney are drafting a proposed Data Center Moratorium for Board consideration.
- **Purchasing Manual:** I am updating the County's Purchasing Manual to improve clarity, consistency, and efficiency.
- **County Manager Directive 2026-1 – Grants:** I have issued CM 2026-1 to establish a coordinated countywide grants process. As we anticipate greater reliance on grant funding in the coming years, this directive creates a structured approach for evaluating, pursuing, and managing grant opportunities.
- **County Manager Directive 2026-2 – Economic Development:** I have issued CM 2026-2 establishing a countywide economic development framework managed directly through the Board of County Commissioners Office. This structure ensures economic development initiatives remain aligned with the Board's priorities, the Comprehensive Plan, and the long-term interests of Levy County residents and businesses.
- **Animal Services Transition:** The Interlocal Agreement, Surplus Resolution, employee transfers, and facility renovations were completed, successfully transferring Animal Services to the Levy County Sheriff's Office effective May 1, 2026.
- **Emergency Management:** The Emergency Operations Center was activated from April 21–24, 2026, in response to the Bird Creek Fire.
- **Water Utilities:** I am working with Public Works to identify operational efficiencies and reduce costs within the Water Utilities Division. The Board-approved rate adjustments have taken effect, and a new utility rate study is underway.
- **University Oaks Water System:** Staff identified 11 previously unmetered households that are now being billed for water service, improving both accountability and utility revenues.
- **FY 2026-2027 Budget:** Work on the upcoming fiscal year budget continues.
- **Hurricane Claims:** A multidisciplinary staff work group has been established to close out outstanding insurance claims related to Hurricanes Idalia and Helene.
- **Surplus Properties:** Staff and the Interim County Attorney continue working on the sale of three surplus County-owned properties.
- **Bird Creek Park:** Staff and the Interim County Attorney are evaluating the location of the new Bird Creek pavilions.
- **Indigent Cremation Policy:** The Indigent Cremation Policy has been updated to establish clear eligibility criteria, address suspected abuses of the program, and reduce increasing program costs.