

# 2021–2022 ANNUAL REPORT



**APALACHEE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL**

CALHOUN



FRANKLIN



JACKSON



LIBERTY



WAKULLA



WAKULLA



LEON

JEFFERSON



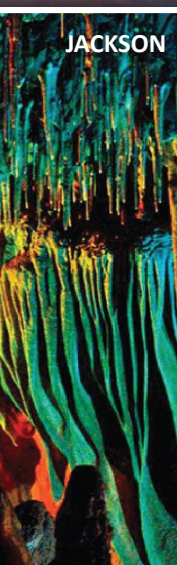
CALHOUN



GULF



GADSDEN



JACKSON

## 2021-2022 PRESS HIGHLIGHTS

- BREAKING THE BROADBAND BARRIER
- GOVERNOR RON DESANTIS ANNOUNCES NEARLY \$1.5 MILLION IN AWARDS TO ASSIST WITH COMMUNITY PLANNING PROJECTS
- NATIONAL ACADEMIES' GULF RESEARCH PROGRAM AWARDS \$3.7 MILLION TO SUPPORT INNOVATIVE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT METHODS AND ENHANCE DATA USAGE TO DEVELOP EQUITABLE OUT COMES TO CLIMATE HAZARDS
- ST. MARKS COMMISSION ATTRACTS CANDIDATES FOR NOV. 8 ELECTION
- DOMI STATION, VETERANS FLORIDA PARTNER TO BOOST VETERAN-OWNED STARTUPS
- 850 HEMP SUMMIT RETURNS TO TALLAHASSEE APRIL 26-28
- HEMP CONFERENCE PREVIEW
- HISTORIC FIRST FLORIDA HEMP BEER WILL DEBUT AT TALLAHASSEE 850 HEMP SUMMIT
- APALACHEE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL TO HOST DISASTER PREP MEETING
- GRANTS AWARDED TO APALACHICOLA, APALACHEE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
- REGIONAL EVACUATION STUDIES

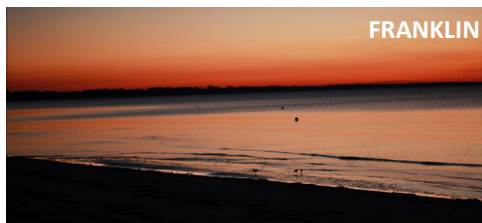




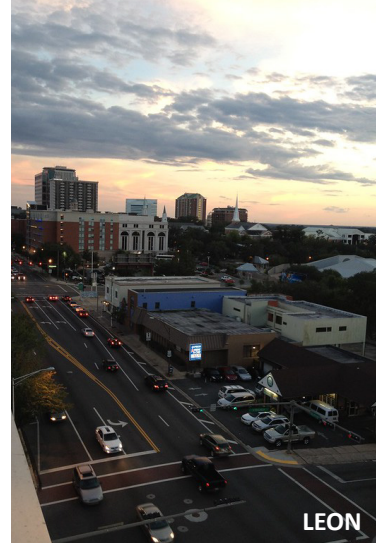
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## NOTE FROM THE 2021-2022 CHAIR

It has been a great pleasure to serve as ARPC Chair during the 2021-2022 year. During this time, we witnessed steady growth at the ARPC, in terms of staff, operating budget, and relevancy. The innovative nature of the Council has enabled us to embrace change, amplify existing partnerships, and make notable strides in key areas like housing, resiliency, emergency preparedness, and economic development in order to better position our diverse Region for success. As the ARPC continues to evolve and adapt to the needs of our member local governments, I invite our partners to make the most of this forum for regional collaboration so that we can continue to build on our momentum in the coming year. While I am stepping down from my position as Chair, I nevertheless look forward to celebrating ARPC's current and future accomplishments. Please use this annual report as a guide to ARPC's activities and accomplishments over the past year. Thank you all for your continued support, collaboration, and dedication to regionalism.

Kristin Dozier  
Chair, 2021-2022



The Apalachee Local Emergency Planning Committee sponsored training for 193 people totaling 1,354 training hours in 2022.



The ARPC Revolving Loan Funds created or retained a total of 86 jobs in 2022.



The ARPC Housing and Community Development Program completed 46 housing projects in 2022.

WAKULLA



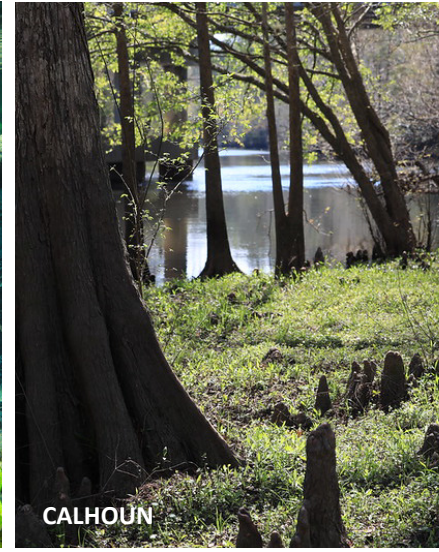
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ARPC FY 2021/2022 REVENUE SOURCES

**TOTAL BUDGET**  
**\$2,776,347**

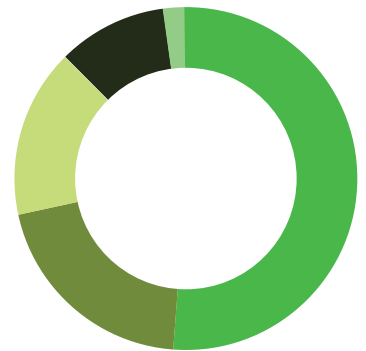


**ARPC MEMBER DUES**  
**\$69,947**

**ADDITIONAL REVENUE**  
**\$2,706,400**

**PER SECTOR**

FEDERAL: 10.5%  
STATE: 20.4%  
GOVERNMENT: 15.8%  
NON-PROFITS: 51.1%  
PRIVATE SECTOR: 2.1%

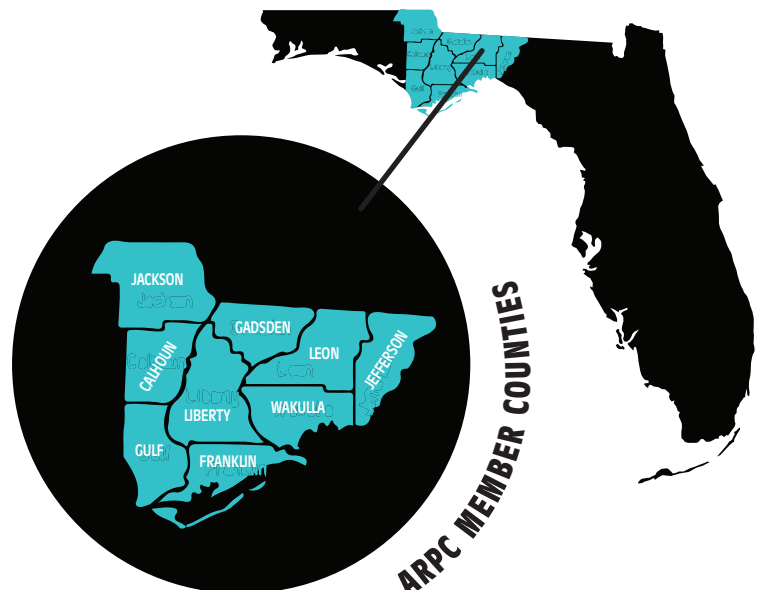


**PER PROGRAM**

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: 16%  
EMERGENCY PLANNING: 7%  
ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING: 42%  
HOUSING: 5%  
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE: 17%  
TRANSPORTATION: 13%

**\$39:1 RETURN**  
**ON MEMBER COUNTIES**  
**REGIONAL INVESTMENT**

2022 ARPC MEMBER DUES YIELDED A \$2,706,400  
DIRECT/INDIRECT RETURN ON INVESTMENT OF \$69,947







JEFFERSON



GULF



LIBERTY



FRANKLIN



LEON

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

EDA Planning  
EDA CARES Planning  
Revolving Loan Fund - Legacy  
Revolving Loan Fund - CARES Act

FDEO - Bristol Competitive FL  
FDEO - St. Marks Competitive FL  
FDEO - Liberty Broadband  
FDEO - Wakulla Broadband

## EMERGENCY PLANNING

FDEM - Hazards Analyses  
FDEM - HMEP Planning  
FDEM - HMEP Training  
FDEM - Local Emergency Planning

Leon County Exercise  
Wakulla Community Dev. Block Grant – Risk  
Small Emergency Planning Contracts

## ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING

EPA - Brownfield  
Franklin 98 - ARPC  
Franklin 98 - Project Costs

FDEP - Small Quantities Generators of Waste  
Regional Vulnerability Assessments  
Small Environmental Planning Contracts

## HOUSING

Calhoun Hurricane Housing Recovery Program  
Gadsden Housing

Jackson State Housing Initiatives Program  
Wakulla Community Dev. Block Grant – Shelter

## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

850 HEMP Summit  
Big Bend Health Care Coalition  
Continuum of Care

FL Regional Councils Association  
Small Technical Assistance Contracts

## TRANSPORTATION

CTD - Transportation Disadvantaged  
FDOT - RideOn Commuter Services  
Small Transportation Projects



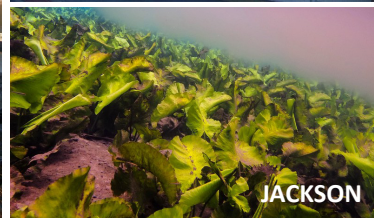
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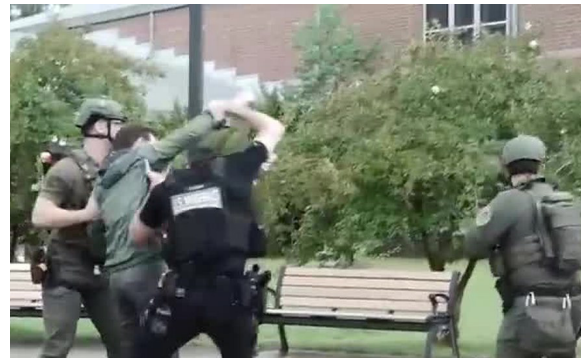
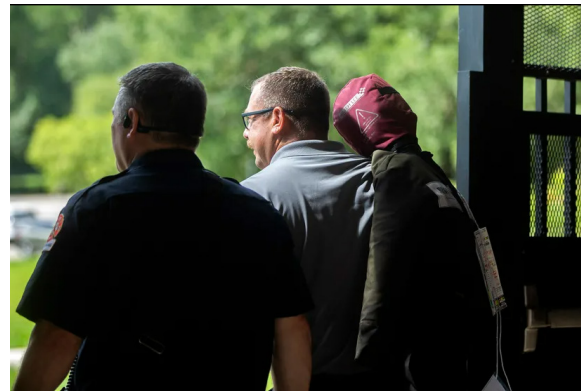
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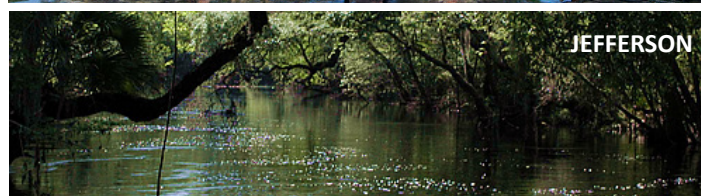
## 2021-2022 ARPC INNOVATIONS

### Leon County Sheriff's Office Family Reunification Full-Scale Exercise – "Operation Timberwolf"

On July 28, 2022, in coordination with the Leon County Sheriff's Office (LCSO), the ARPC coordinated "Operation Timberwolf", a multilocation family reunification full-scale exercise. The exercise began as an active-assailant exercise event at Lawton Chiles High School in Tallahassee. After law enforcement secured the school, LCSO Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) and Tallahassee Police Department Tactical Apprehension and Control (TAC) teams escorted student-actors to pick-up zones where Leon County School buses then transported them to Godby High School. Once at Godby, students were escorted through the reunification process outlined in the Leon County Sheriff's Office Active Assailant Family Reunification Plan for Schools. The exercise had more than 170 participants from ten different agencies ranging from the municipal Tallahassee Police Department to the U.S. Marshal Services. "Operation Timberwolf" was a highly informative and successful exercise, and the resulting plan was in place and ready to be executed if needed during the 2023 Gubernatorial Inauguration.







## Competitive Florida Partnership

Through the Competitive Florida Partnership Program, beginning in 2014 at the Department of Economic Opportunity, each participating community learns to utilize its unique assets and challenge its leaders to set realistic goals to advance their economic development visions. Competitive Florida encourages communities to identify social, not-for-profit, cultural, human, historic, recreational, commercial, and other assets to broaden the areas encompassed and impacted by their resulting economic development strategy.

A community that participates in this grant opportunity is committed to innovative strategies that promote partnerships, community design and a viable economy. The partnership establishes a network of vibrant communities and passionate

leaders who gain ideas on how to reach their goals through the success and lessons learned from their peers. Since the program's inception, ARPC has received a total of nine grants, assisting the following communities in developing a community-driven Economic Development Strategy:

- CITY OF SOPCHOPPY, FY 2018-2019
- COMMUNITY OF PANACEA, FY 2019-2020
- CITY OF MIDWAY, FY 2019-2020
- CITY OF CARRABELLE, FY 2020-2021
- COMMUNITY OF EASTPOINT, FY 2020-2021
- TOWN OF CAMPBELLTON, FY 2020-2021
- CITY OF ST MARKS, FY 2021-2022
- CITY OF BRISTOL, FY 2021-2022
- CITY OF GRETNA, FY 2022-2023

### Competitive Florida – City of St. Marks, Florida

City of St. Marks collaborated with ARPC staff to facilitate three public meetings as part of the community engagement process for this economic development strategic planning project. During these meetings, participants provided invaluable input that serves as the basis for this Economic Development Strategy.

The first public meeting focused on identifying what is and is not currently working well in St. Marks to provide a foundation of needs in the community. Participants also identified key points of economic activity or interest in St. Marks.

The second public meeting, called the "Community Inventory Process" meeting, brought partners from state agencies to St. Marks to tour key sites in the community along with city officials, city staff, and other stakeholders. This meeting generated ideas on how to enhance St. Marks to make the city more resilient to economic shifts and disasters as well as to improve overall quality of life.

The focus of the final public meeting was to solicit feedback on the city's draft economic development strategy in order to finalize the document and ensure that it fits the needs and expectations of the community.

Through this 3-part community engagement process, a communi-

ty-driven strategy with state agency input was developed to serve as a guide for economic development in St. Marks over the next decade.

The City of St. Marks is situated just south of the Florida Capitol—Tallahassee—along the coast of the Apalachee Bay in North Florida. Considered the oldest community in the State of Florida, St. Marks has a rich history and abundance of natural resources, such as the St. Marks and Wakulla Rivers, San Marcos de Apalache Historic State Park, St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge and Lighthouse, St. Marks Historic Railroad Multi-Use Trail, and section of the Florida National Scenic Trail, which passes directly through the city's commercial corridor.

The community is regionally known as a unique and laid-back small town, friendly to visitors, dogs, golf carts, and all enthusiasts of nature and outdoor recreation. Breathtaking river views and historic structures frame the community. Many local businesses are connected to the fishing and tourism industries, with others that support day-to-day life.

Nevertheless, St. Marks faces a variety of threats to sustainability and growth, such as natural disasters, recessions, and building restrictions, that the Economic Development Strategy addresses through a series of community-supported projects.

# APALACHEE REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL REGION AT A GLANCE

## DENSITY \*persons per square mile

**Calhoun: 24.1 ppsm\***  
(62nd most populous county; 0.1% of FL population)

**Franklin: 22.7 ppsm\***  
(64th most populous county; 0.1% of FL population)

**Gadsden: 84.8 ppsm\***  
(45th most populous county; 0.2% of FL population)

**Gulf: 26.8 ppsm\***  
(59th most populous county; 0.1% of FL population)

**Jackson: 51.4 ppsm\***  
(42nd most populous county; 0.2% of FL population)

**Jefferson: 24.4 ppsm\***  
(61st most populous county; 0.1% of FL population)

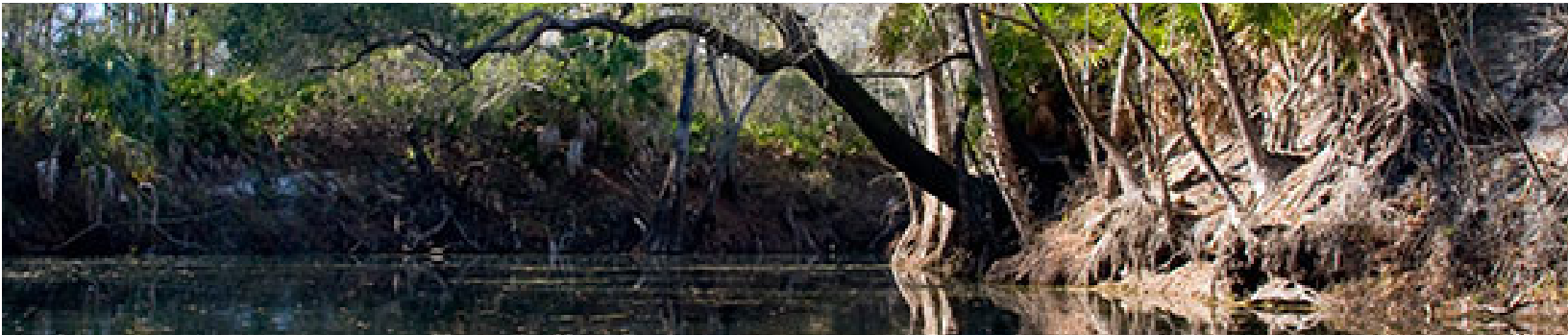
**Leon: 442.7 ppsm\***  
(22nd most populous county; 1.3% of FL population)

**Liberty: 8.9 ppsm\***  
(66th most populous county)

**Wakulla: 56.6 ppsm\***  
(48th most populous county; 0.2% of FL population)

## 2021 REAL GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT

Calhoun: \$261,426	0.0% of the State
Franklin: \$364,137	0.0% of the State
Gadsden: \$1,193,546	0.1% of the State
Gulf: \$428,090	0.0% of the State
Jackson: \$1,280,330	0.1% of the State
Jefferson: \$299,829	0.0% of the State
Leon: \$14,248,663	1.4% of the State
Liberty: \$227,372	0.0% of the State
Wakulla: \$644,353	0.1% of the State



## FLORIDA WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS IN THE APALACHEE REGION

Apalachee – Jackson County  
 Apalachicola – Franklin, Leon, Liberty, Wakulla  
 Apalachicola-Bradwell Unit – Liberty  
 Apalachicola River – Franklin, Gulf  
 Aucilla – Jefferson, Taylor  
 Beaverdam Creek – Liberty  
 Box – Franklin  
 Chipola River – Jackson  
 Flint Rock – Wakulla, Jefferson  
 Joe Budd – Gadsden  
 Juniper Creek – Calhoun  
 L. Kirk Edwards – Leon  
 Ochlocknee River – Leon  
 Plank Road – Leon, Jefferson  
 St. Mark's – Wakulla, Jefferson, Taylor  
 St. Vincent – Franklin  
 Talquin – Leon  
 Tate's Hell – Franklin, Liberty  
 Wakulla – Wakulla County

## FLORIDA STATE PARKS IN THE APALACHEE REGION

Alfred B. MacIay Gardens State Park – Leon  
 Bald Point State Park – Franklin – 4,065 acres  
 John Gorrie Museum State Park – Franklin – 1 acre  
 Orman House Historic State Park – Franklin – 1 acre  
 St. George Island State Park – Franklin – 1,962 acres  
 Constitution Convention Museum State Park – Gulf – 13 acres  
 T.H. Stone Memorial St. Joseph Peninsula State Park – Gulf – 1,900 acres  
 Florida Caverns State Park – Jackson – 1,300 acres  
 Three Rivers State Park – Jackson – 686 acres  
 Letchworth-Love Mounds Archaeological State Park – Jefferson – 188 acres  
 DeSoto Site Historic State Park – Leon – 5 acres  
 Lake Jackson Mounds Archaeological State Park – Leon – 100 acres  
 Natural Bridge Battlefield Historic State Park – Leon – 113 acres  
 St. Marks River Preserve State Park – Leon – 2,589 acres  
 Lake Talquin State Park – Leon, Gadsden – 526 acres  
 Torreya State Park – Liberty – 13,737 acres  
 Edward Ball Wakulla Springs State Park – Wakulla – 6,000 acres  
 Ochlocknee River State Park – Wakulla – 392 acres  
 San Marcos de Apalache Historic State Park – Wakulla – 17 acres

## NUMBER OF BUILDING PERMITS ISSUED IN 2021

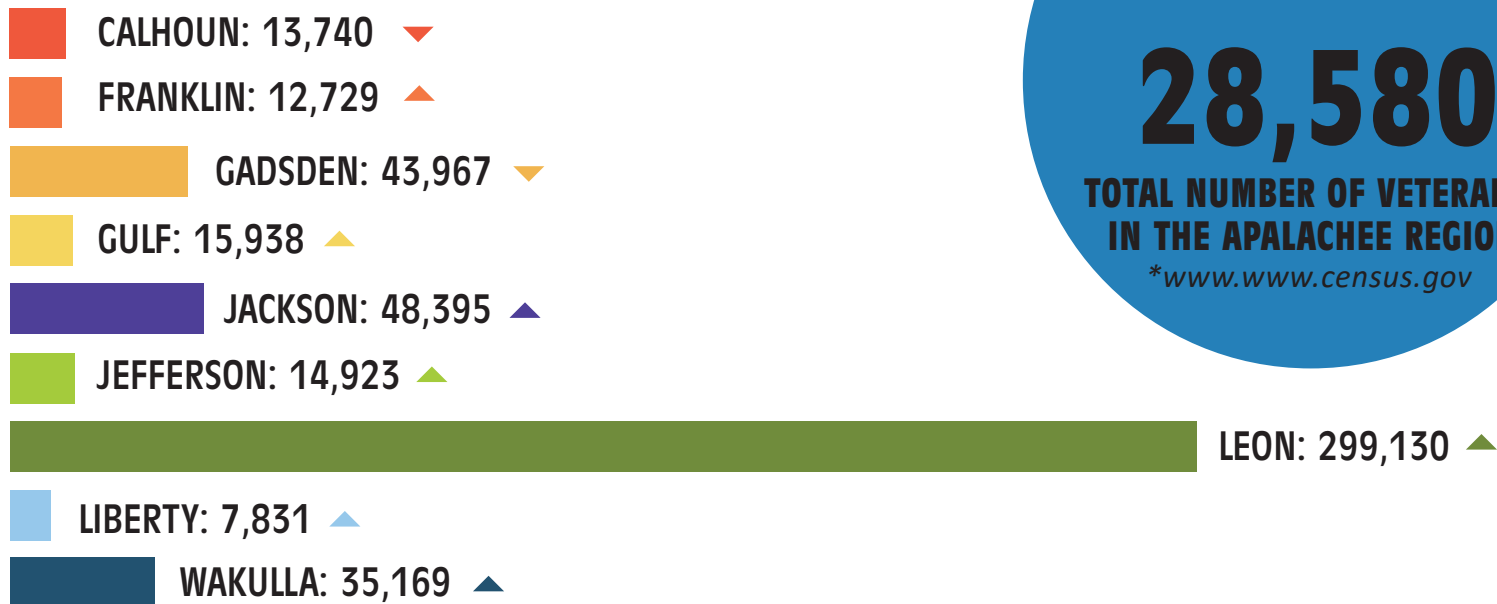
CALHOUN	FRANKLIN	GADSDEN	GULF	JACKSON	JEFFERSON	LEON	LIBERTY	WAKULLA
17	115	92	293	103	112	2,211	2	490

## TOTAL AREA IN SQUARE MILES

CALHOUN	FRANKLIN	GADSDEN	GULF	JACKSON	JEFFERSON	LEON	LIBERTY	WAKULLA
574 TOTAL 567 LAND 7.0 WATER	1,026 TOTAL 535 LAND 492 WATER	529 TOTAL 516 LAND 12 WATER	756 TOTAL 564 LAND 192 WATER	955 TOTAL 918 LAND 37 WATER	637 TOTAL 598 LAND 38 WATER	702 TOTAL 667 LAND 35 WATER	843 TOTAL 836 LAND 7.6 WATER	736 TOTAL 606 LAND 129 WATER



# POPULATION BY COUNTY



**28,580**

**TOTAL NUMBER OF VETERANS  
IN THE APALACHEE REGION**

*\*www.census.gov*

*\* Estimates, April 1, 2022, Florida Legislative Office of Economic & Demographic Research*

## PERCENTAGE OF HOMES WITH BROADBAND INTERNET ACCESS, 2021

Calhoun	Franklin	Gadsden	Gulf	Jackson	Jefferson	Leon	Liberty	Wakulla
73.8	82.8	67.6	81.9	77.8	76.1	89.8	71.4	88.1

*\* www.flhealthcharts.gov*

### Voluntary PreKindergarten Enrollment Rates, 10/2021

Calhoun: 43  
Franklin: 51  
Gadsden: 279  
Gulf: 61  
Jackson: 297  
Jefferson: 45  
Leon: 1,864  
Liberty: 68  
Wakulla: 172

*\* www.flhealthcharts.gov*

**10,924**

**TOTAL NUMBER OF EMPLOYER  
ESTABLISHMENTS IN THE  
APALACHEE REGION**

*\*www.census.gov*

**1,343**

**TOTAL NUMBER OF WOMEN  
OWNED EMPLOYER FIRMS IN  
THE APALACHEE REGION**

*\*www.census.gov*

### High School Graduation Rates 2020-2021

Calhoun: 93.1%  
Franklin: 74.4%  
Gadsden: 82.7%  
Gulf: 86.5%  
Jackson: 84.1%  
Jefferson: 81.8%  
Leon: 94%  
Liberty: 82.6%  
Wakulla: 95.5%

*\* www.flhealthcharts.gov*

## POVERTY RATE BY COUNTY

Calhoun	Franklin	Gadsden	Gulf	Jackson	Jefferson	Leon	Liberty	Wakulla
20.6%	21.0%	25.8%	15.7%	20.6%	16.4%	16.2%	23.1%	10.1%

*\*www.census.gov*



# 2021-2022 ARPC BOARD MEMBERS

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## **CALHOUN COUNTY**

Darryl O'Bryan-County Commissioner

Sheila Blackburn-Councilwoman, City of Blountstown

Don Stephens-Governor's Appointee

## **FRANKLIN COUNTY**

Ricky Jones-County Commissioner

Despina George-Commissioner, City of Apalachicola

Vacant-Governor's Appointee

## **GADSDEN COUNTY**

Brenda Holt-County Commissioner

Evelyn Goldwire-Mayor, City of Gretna

Henry Grant-Governor's Appointee

## **GULF COUNTY**

Ward McDaniel-County Commissioner

Johnny Paul-Commissioner, City of Wewahitchka

Michael Hammond-Governor's Appointee

## **JACKSON COUNTY**

Jim Peacock-County Commissioner

Gene Wright-Mayor, Town of Malone

Vacant-Governor's Appointee

## **JEFFERSON COUNTY**

Stephen Walker-County Commissioner

John Jones-Councilman, City of Monticello

Vacant-Governor's Appointee

## **LEON COUNTY**

Kristin Dozier-County Commissioner

Jack Porter-Commissioner, City of Tallahassee

Lisa Miller-Governor's Appointee

## **LIBERTY COUNTY**

Daniel Stanley-County Clerk

James Kersey-Mayor, City of Bristol

Davis Stoutamire-Governor's Appointee

## **WAKULLA COUNTY**

Quincee Messersmith-County Commissioner

Gail Gilman-Mayor, City of St. Marks

Vacant-Governor's Appointee

## **EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS**

Michael Fuller-FL Department of Environmental Protection

Darryl Boudreau-NW Florida Water Management District

Tanya Branton-FL Department of Transportation

Diane Scholz-FL Department of Economic Opportunity