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## FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCILS ASSOCIATION NEW BOARD MEMBER FACT SHEET

The Florida Regional Councils Association was formed by Florida's 11 regional planning councils in 1976. The Association is a collective body of those 11 councils. It serves to do the following:

[F]urther the interests of the regional planning councils in Florida as these interests relate to their service to their local governments and their citizens, the promotion of these interests, the promotion of harmonious, productive relationships among the several member regional planning councils, the promotion of harmonious, productive relationships among member regional planning councils and any and all state and federal agencies as well as private groups whose interests overlap those of member regional planning councils, and to do any and all things necessary to assure that Florida's regional planning councils are effective service organizations to the people of Florida. (Florida Regional Councils Association Bylaws, 2009)

The Florida Regional Councils Association is governed by a Policy Board made up of three members from each of the 11 regional planning councils – two elected officials and one gubernatorial appointee – chosen by each council. Each member's term is continuous until replaced. Each year, the Policy Board typically meets in January in Tallahassee and then again in conjunction with either the Florida Association of Counties Annual Conference in June or Florida League of Cities Annual Conference in August (it alternates from year to year).

The Policy Board Officers are comprised of a President, First Vice President, Second Vice-President, and Immediate Past President. The officers are annually selected by a nominating committee made up of members from the Association at its January meeting and voted on at its subsequent meeting later in the year. The business of the Association may include professional development, member education, sharing of regional best practices, issues of concern related to regional planning councils, identification of funding opportunities, and developing and ratifying a legislative agenda.

The 11 regional planning council executive directors serve as an advisory body to the Policy Board, known as the Executive Directors Advisory Committee. The officers include a Chair and Vice-Chair. The committee typically meets eight times a year. Four of the meetings (January through April) are held in Tallahassee to leverage opportunities to interact with state agencies, enhance partner relationships, and engage in strategic opportunities. Two of the meetings are held in June and August, in conjunction with the annual conferences mentioned above. The other two meetings are held south of Orlando, as a convenience to the Directors in that part of the state.

The Association has one full-time staff, a Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, who reports to the Chair of the Executive Directors Advisory Committee. This person runs the day to day operations of the organization, including implementing the Association's programs, policies, and priorities, and engaging with local, regional, state, and federal agencies as well as other state associations and interest groups on matters pertaining to, and in some cases benefitting, regional planning councils. The Association's bookkeeping is handled by the Apalachee Regional Planning Council in Tallahassee. The Association also has a contract lobbyist/Executive Director who reports to the President of the Association and is responsible for the Association's legislative program and strategy.

The Association is funded by dues paid by each council based on a formula approved by the Policy Board. In accordance with that formula, 70% of the dollars needed to support the Association's budget is divided evenly among the 11 regional planning councils and the remaining 30% is divided according to each council's proportionate share of the state's population.