



# JACKSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

(850) 482-9633 [www.jacksoncountyfl.gov](http://www.jacksoncountyfl.gov) 2864 Madison St. Marianna, Fl. 32446

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Media Contact

 Mary Smith / Public Communications Officer  
 [smithm@jacksoncountyfl.gov](mailto:smithm@jacksoncountyfl.gov)  
 (850) 482-9633

February 20, 2026

## Jackson County Board of County Commissioners Announces 2026 Citizens Academy

*Jackson County, FL* – The Jackson County Board of County Commissioners is excited to announce the return of **Citizens Academy** for its fifth consecutive year. Building on the success of previous sessions, this popular educational initiative continues to strengthen the connection between Jackson County residents and their local government while fostering informed, engaged citizenship.

### Empowering Community Engagement Through Education

The **2026 Citizens Academy** offers an unparalleled, behind-the-scenes look at how local government operates and how County departments work together to serve the community. Designed to educate, engage, and empower residents, the program provides meaningful insight into the decisions, services, and infrastructure that shape daily life in Jackson County.

Beginning April 1, 2026, Jackson County residents are invited to participate in a seven-month educational experience held on the first Wednesday of each month from April through October. Participants will explore the roles and responsibilities of departments within the Board of County Commissioners and learn how their work directly impacts the community. The program also includes a special October session featuring elected constitutional offices. While these offices operate separately from the Board of County Commissioners, their collaboration with County departments is vital, and understanding those relationships is key to informed citizenship.

### 2026 Course Schedule & Highlights

- April 1: Introduction to County Administration
- May 6: Dive into Public Works
- June 3: Insights into Public Safety
- July 8: Exploring Community Development
- August 5: Community Services Overview
- September 2: The Role of Road & Bridge in Our Community
- October 7: Special Session Featuring Elected Constitutional Offices

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To ensure an engaging and interactive experience, enrollment is limited to 25 participants. Tuition is completely free, underscoring the Board's commitment to accessible public education and community involvement.

### **A Pathway to Informed Citizenship**

Citizens Academy combines interactive presentations, hands-on activities, and open discussions led by County officials, department leaders, and frontline staff. Through this experience, participants gain a clearer understanding of how local government operates, why decisions are made, and how residents can play an active role in shaping the future of their community.

Graduates leave the program with a deeper appreciation for public service and a stronger connection to the County they call home, while also providing valuable resident insight that helps staff better engage with, and respond to, the needs of the public.

### **Apply Now — Spots Fill Quickly**

Jackson County residents are encouraged to apply early for this unique opportunity to learn, engage, and lead through knowledge. Applications are now open, and space is limited.

For more information on the course and to apply, please visit:

<https://jacksoncountyfl.gov/projects/jackson-county-citizens-academy/>

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**District 1**  
Dr. Willie Spires

**District 2**  
Edward Crutchfield

**District 3**  
Paul Donofro Jr.

**District 4**  
Donnie Branch

**District 5**  
Jamey Westbrook