

# Benjamin H. Pingree, MPA, CEcD

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## Profile:

- EXPERIENCED LEADERSHIP – third decade of proven, consistent and scalable success.
- CERTIFIED ECONOMIC DEVELOPER - Top IEDC Credentials; One of only 2,000 CEcD's, globally.
- CONSENSUS BUILDER - bridging external collaborators to achieve high impact/high profile objectives,
- INFRASTRUCTURE – experience leveraging state & federal funding, bonding and building large multimodal transportation facilities, improving connectivity, and growing economic and community vitality.
- IMPACT – proven management, spanning decades and numerous leadership roles, for cumulative multi-billion dollar incentives, projects, and major transportation facilities generating < \$billions of economic impact.

## Executive Experience:

*Tallahassee/Leon County, FL Quick Facts: MSA of 650,000+; GDP of \$14.7 B; Major Research Center; Capital Driven by Private Growth*

### Director

**(February 2016 to Present)**

*Department of Planning Land Management and Community Enhancement (PLACE)*

*- Functionally Consolidated Department under the Joint Leon County and City of Tallahassee Intergovernmental Agency (IA) – Tallahassee, FL ([www.talgov.com/PLACE](http://www.talgov.com/PLACE))*

**Key Duties & Accomplishments:** Management and of multiple high profile, high output consolidated programs (totaling \$1.1B over 20 years; 50+ staff) under the policy direction of the city and county commissions:

- Created and manage the first public economic development organization for Florida's Capital ([www.oevforbusiness.org](http://www.oevforbusiness.org));
- Led development/implementation of the first multi-decade Economic Development Strategic Plan, and Bond Planning;
- Manage high profile, functionally consolidated, programs and services including a \$1.1B book of major infrastructure projects, multimodal transportation planning, economic development and placemaking programs ([www.blueprintia.org](http://www.blueprintia.org));
- Ambassador to the America's Competitiveness Exchange program ([www.riacevents.org/ace/](http://www.riacevents.org/ace/)).

### Executive Vice President\*

**(July 2013 to February 2016)**

*The Economic Development Council of Tallahassee/Leon County, Inc.*

*& the Greater Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce - Tallahassee, FL ([www.talchamber.com](http://www.talchamber.com))*

**Key Duties & Accomplishments:** Responsible for the full book of our community's economic development programs and strategic planning process, including the administration of state and local economic incentives for recruiting and growing existing businesses within our marketplace. \*Serving the first 18 months of this tenure as Vice President for the Chamber and EDC, then as EVP, I developed and implemented a comprehensive advocacy program for the business community before local and state governments. Highlights of achievements within this Economic Development Organization (EDO) include:

- Federal and state grant and incentive program administration;
- Full public policy and operational responsibilities before state and local governments;
- Implemented new marketing platform and data/analytics program;
- Bridged and built significant connectivity between leading public sector, private sector and talent sector (including research) institutions at a time of major growth; Led the seamless closure of one EDO into the creation of another.

*Zoo Miami Quick Facts: Top 10 US Zoo; #1 So. FL Attraction; 1M+ annual visitors; (ZSF) \$4M budget, 200+ staff & volunteers*

### President & CEO

**(November 2010 to May 2013)**

*Zoological Society of Florida (now the "Zoo Miami Foundation") - Miami, FL ([www.zoomiami.org](http://www.zoomiami.org))*

**Key Duties & Accomplishments:** Served as the President and Chief Executive Officer for the Zoological Society of Florida (ZSF) and upon its Board of Directors. Established in 1956, and aligned with Miami-Dade County, the ZSF is one of South Florida's largest non-profit organizations (45,000 members). Key successes include leading:

- Annual revenue, membership, and endowment growth of 20% during three years of exemplary service;
- Strategic and fiscal management and development of the ZSF Zoo Miami;
- Successfully launched new multi-year development campaign for zoo's \$45M expansion;
- Co-led initial recruitment of a \$250M theme park in coordination with Fox Studios for co-location at Zoo Miami.

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## Executive Experience (Continued):

Wakulla County Quick Facts: \$47M total budget; 150 employees; 607 square miles; 35,000+ population

### County Administrator

(January 2007 to November 2010)

Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners – Crawfordville, FL ([www.mywakulla.com](http://www.mywakulla.com))

**Key Duties & Accomplishments:** Served as the chief executive officer for Wakulla County, Florida's government. Executed management of all employees, departments, programs, functions, contracts and affairs of county government under the direction of the county's elected Board of County Commissioners. Major successes included:

- Prepared four annual balanced budgets - inclusive of the largest property tax reductions in county history, and repeat international GFOA Distinguished Budget Award winner;
- Increased professionalism, efficiency and quality of county services to the public;
- Maximized program productivity by implementing a performance based budget;
- Expanded and improved key county enterprise programs (solid waste, sewer, and water) at lower cost and fees;
- Increased governmental transparency via updated agenda, engagement, and web optimization processes;
- Developed and strategically led the process toward passage of a home rule charter form of government (approved by referendum in November of 2008); received statewide service award in recognition of same.

Leon County Quick Facts: \$240M total budget; 1,769 employees; 702 square miles; 300,000+ population

### Assistant to the County Administrator

(August 2004 to December 2006)

Leon County Board of County Commissioners - Tallahassee, FL ([www.leoncountyfl.gov](http://www.leoncountyfl.gov))

**Key Duties & Accomplishments:** Management and oversight of multiple program growth and implementation activities as part of the county's senior executive team, including:

- Served as Assistant Director - Public Services Department; Managed the Department's annual budget process and key operations (\$25.3M budget, 287 employees);
- Managed the county's state & federal legislative programs (average \$50M in annual appropriation requests).

## Management Experience:

### Special Projects Coordinator

(2001 – 2004)

Leon County Board of County Commissioners - Tallahassee, FL ([www.leoncountyfl.gov](http://www.leoncountyfl.gov))

- Coordinated the development and implementation of the County's new Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Program (\$10.5M budget, 94 employees);
- Performed public information campaign for County's "home rule" Charter Referendum,
- Managed the county's legislative and intergovernmental affairs programs, gaining nearly \$70M for targeted projects at the state and federal levels;
- Performed comprehensive fiscal and performance audits of county and external agencies, including the Leon County Research and Development Authority.

### Management and Budget Analyst

(2000 – 2001)

Leon County Board of County Commissioners - Tallahassee, FL ([www.leoncountyfl.gov](http://www.leoncountyfl.gov))

- Led the development and implementation of the County's new Healthcare Program for Uninsured Citizens (\$1.5M budget, serves 7,000+ members, annually).
- Performed all budget development and oversight duties for the county's Public Works Department (\$20.5M budget, 260 employees) and other constitutional offices;
- Led the forecasting of major revenue and expenditure trends for the county's budgetary process.

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## Professional Experience:

### **Program Analyst**

(1998 - 2000)

Florida Agency for Healthcare Administration (State Headquarters) - Tallahassee, FL (<https://ahca.myflorida.com/>)

- o Managed a provider service network of Florida's Medicaid program at AHCA's HQ;
- o Led development of a Disease Management Organization for Medicaid and of MediPass program provider credentialing process; responsible for preparing the MediPass program analysis for presentation to the legislature.

### **Lead Social Worker**

(1996 – 1997)

Florida Department of Health & Rehabilitative Services - Miami, FL (<https://www.myflfamilies.com/>)

- o Managed client benefits for district's Medicaid recipients in long-term care facilities;
- o Team leader in elite Crisis Intervention and Stabilization Unit for Miami-Dade's District XI;
- o Recipient of numerous District XI performance awards for excellence in service.

## Higher Education:

**Certified Economic Developer (CEcD)** (2020) Credentials bestowed by the IEDC ([www.iedconline.org](http://www.iedconline.org))

**Certification, IEDC Economic Development Institute** (2016) **University of Oklahoma**, Norman, OK

- Graduate from the Nation's top-ranked, top-recognized and world-renowned economic development training institution for professional practitioners.

**Master in Public Administration** (2001) **Florida State University**, Tallahassee, FL

- Graduate from a Top 15 Public Administration Graduate Degree Program
- Served in the Florida House Speaker's Graduate Internship Program - 1998.

**Bachelor of Arts** (1996) **Boston University**, Boston, MA

- Major in Sociology with a concentration in International Studies;
- Attended the **University of Queensland**, St. Lucia, Australia during 1994 (two semesters).
  - o Founder/Player/Manager of the UQ Baseball Team (ranked #7 in Australia).
- Attended the **Boston University in Madrid** (at the Center for International Studies), Madrid, Spain during spring 1995 (one semester).
  - o Trained with the Spanish National (Olympic) Baseball Team in addition to study.

## Board Leadership & Service:

Leadership Florida (2010 – Present) [www.leadershipflorida.org](http://www.leadershipflorida.org)

**Member, Class XXIX**

Florida State Parks Foundation (2014 – Present) [www.floridastateparksfoundation.org](http://www.floridastateparksfoundation.org)

**Board (Past President)**

Tallahassee-Leon Federal Credit Union (2006-2011; 2014-2019) [www.tlfcu.org](http://www.tlfcu.org)

**Director (Board)**

Florida Utility Financing Commission (2007 - 2010)

**Commissioner (Past Chairman)**

Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University (2002-2004) [www.famu.edu](http://www.famu.edu) (#1 Ranked HBCU)

**Adjunct Professor**

**REFERENCES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST**