

GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ELEMENT

Goal 1: To recognize the viability of existing businesses and seek to retain their presence in the County and include them in expansion efforts by providing assistance to the State-designated Enterprise Zones and pursuing a planned economic growth program that broadens and increases job and income opportunities and expands the tax base. To implement this intent and pursuant to the Florida administrative code, the county will adopt as the basis for its growth and economic decisions the most recently published medium range population statistics from the University of Florida.

Objective 1: Promote the cooperation and coordination among private and public sector organizations to expand existing industries and business, especially within the designated Enterprise Zones.

Policy 1.1: Wakulla County shall establish business assistance programs with an emphasis on providing incentives for job creation and training. Such incentives shall include, but are not limited to, technical assistance relative to land development and permitting, assistance with infrastructure needs assessment, and coordination with other public agencies providing technical and business assistance.

Policy 1.2: The county shall seek to mitigate the harmful effects of the Net Ban on Wakulla's commercial vitality by assisting the State-designated Enterprise Zones in Medart, Panacea, and the Opportunity Park vicinity in their efforts to replace Wakulla County's lost economic opportunities and further economic expansion.

Policy 1.3: The county shall encourage private investment and participation in the Rural Enterprise Zones by making known the State sponsored revitalization incentives available to investors within these zones and by providing technical assistance relative to utilizing those incentive programs, including the following: the Enterprise Zone property tax credit provided in section 220.182, F.S.; the Enterprise Zone jobs credit provided in section 220.181, F.S.; the Enterprise Zone jobs credit against the sales tax provided in section 212.096, F.S.; the community contribution tax credits provided in sections 220.183 and 624.5105, F.S.; the sales tax exemption for building materials used to rehabilitate real property in Enterprise Zones provided in section 212.08(5)(g), F.S.; the sales tax exemption for electrical energy used in an Enterprise Zone provided in section 212.08(15), F.S.; the sales tax exemption for business equipment used in an Enterprise Zone provided in section 212.08(5)(h), F.S.; and discounts up to 50 percent on tariffed rates for services from public utilities and telecommunications companies as allowed by the Public Service Commission to small businesses located in an Enterprise Zone for a period not to exceed 5 years.

Policy 1.4: The County shall assist local businesses registered within the County in promoting growth in higher paying jobs, using resources available from Enterprise Florida.

Objective 2: Expand the employment base by identifying which businesses and industry jobs can be increased.

Policy 2.1: The County recognizes the importance of tourism as an economic growth industry and shall include as a goal the pursuit of growth within the tourism industry, especially tourism that encourages overnight visits, and shall investigate tourism development activities of other counties and recommend specific actions to the

Board of County Commissioners.

Policy 2.2: The County shall use the resource-based economic opportunities that exist in Wakulla County as a basis for major economic growth and shall evaluate techniques used by other jurisdictions for encouraging new businesses and expansion of existing businesses related to seafood, timber, agriculture, aquaculture, water resources, and other resources that are dominant in the County.

Policy 2.3: The County shall promote the economic importance of clean air and water, historic and prehistoric landmarks, and copious natural resources, while encouraging expansion of the business community. This shall be accomplished by evaluating each new regulation in light of its impacts on environmental protection required in this plan, as well as its impacts on opportunities for development of employment opportunities.

Objective 3: Promote the cooperation and coordination among private and public sector organizations to expand the eco-tourism and heritage-based tourism opportunities within the County.

Policy 3.1: The County shall pursue funding opportunities for the development of a bicycle, pedestrian and recreation facilities master plan.

Policy 3.2: When deemed appropriate by the Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners, the County shall provide resolutions and letters of support for grants written by the Big Bend Scenic Byway Corridor Management Entity and other private or not-for-profit organizations to further expand the eco-tourism and heritage-based tourism opportunities within the County.