

## **About the LeRoy Collins Institute:**

Established in 1988, the LeRoy Collins Institute is an independent, nonpartisan, non-profit organization which studies and promotes creative solutions to key private and public issues facing the people of Florida and the nation. The Institute, located in Tallahassee at Florida State University, is affiliated and works in collaboration with the State University System of Florida.



Named in honor of former Florida Governor LeRoy Collins, the Institute is governed by a distinguished board of directors, chaired by Allison DeFoor, D.Min. Other board members include executives, local elected officials, and senior professionals from throughout the state.

Beginning in 2005, the Institute published several reports in a series called, *Tough Choices: Shaping Florida's Future*. These publications provided an in-depth analysis of Florida tax and spending policy including Medicaid, PreK-12 education, higher education, and children's health and welfare. The research concluded Florida's pattern of low spending and low taxes conflicted with the growing demands of the state's residents, predicting trouble may be ahead.

In the newest research series, *Tough Choices: Facing Florida's Governments*, the Institute takes an objective look at the often tumultuous relationship between state and local governments in Florida. This report *Trouble Ahead: Florida Local Governments and Retirement Obligations* is the initial release under this research series. This report was written by David Matkin, Ph.D., assistant professor in the Askew School of Public Administration and Policy, who is the lead researcher on the local retirement component of the Institute's state-local analysis.

Future reports will feature analysis of trends in municipal and county spending and revenue, the effects of state mandates on Florida's local governments, state proposals to limit local revenues, and differential effects of the economy and state mandates on distressed communities. The *Tough Choices* research series is funded by the Jessie Ball duPont Fund. All publications from the Institute can be found at the Institute's website: **[CollinsInstitute.fsu.edu](http://CollinsInstitute.fsu.edu)**

### ***LeRoy Collins Institute Board of Directors:***

**Chairman** Allison DeFoor, D.Min., *Tallahassee*  
**Vice Chairman** Lester Abberger, *Tallahassee*  
**Director** Carol S. Weissert, Ph.D., *Tallahassee*  
Clarence Anthony, *West Palm Beach*  
Jim Apthorp, *Tallahassee*  
Jane Collins Aurell, *Tallahassee*  
Jeffrey Bartel, *Miami*  
Colleen Castille, *Tallahassee*  
Rena Coughlin, *Jacksonville*  
Richard Crotty, *Belle Isle*  
Sandy D'Alemberte, *Tallahassee*  
Brian Dassler, *New Orleans, LA*  
David Denslow, Ph.D., *Gainesville*

Rick Edmonds, *St. Petersburg*  
Joel Embry, *Fernandina Beach*  
Pegeen Hanrahan, *Gainesville*  
Patricia Levesque, *Tallahassee*  
Jim Ley, *Sarasota*  
Elizabeth Lindsay, *Sarasota*  
John Marks, III, *Tallahassee*  
John McKay, *Bradenton*  
Mike Michalson, Ph.D., *Sarasota*  
John Padget, *Key West*  
David Rasmussen, Ph.D., *Tallahassee*  
Mike Sittig, *Tallahassee*

### ***LeRoy Collins Institute***

*FSU Campus • 506 West Pensacola Street • Tallahassee, Florida 32306-1601*  
850.644.1441 • Fax 850.644.1442 • <http://collinsinstitute.fsu.edu> • Twitter: @LCInstitute\_FL