

Contract: Robert Johnson
1194 Camp Avenue
Post Office Box 255
Mount Dora, Florida 32756
Phone: (352) 735-2506
Fax: (352) 735-2542
rdj@commerceparkinvestments.com



Press Release

For Immediate Release – December 19, 2005

Lake County Chambers Release Public Policy Survey Results

(December 21, 2005) The first initiative of the newly formed Chamber Alliance of Lake County was a comprehensive survey of local issues impacting businesses and our communities. The survey was conducted independently by the Business Assistance Center at Lake Sumter Community College and addressed growth management, economic development, health care, and education issues affecting Lake County.

“This is the first time that Chambers of Lake County have attempted to comprehensively survey the business community on major public policy issues. We now have a clear understanding of the issues our Chamber members want the Chambers to focus on,” states Robert Johnson, President of the Chamber Alliance of Lake County.

Survey results include:

- **59% of survey respondents felt Lake County was growing too fast but 96% felt it was feasible for local governments to use a balanced approach to address growth.**
- **96% of survey respondents believed that Lake County, local governments, and the School Board should work together to provide schools and roads in a timely manner.**
- **64% of respondents felt that Lake County should have an appointed superintendent of schools.**
- **81% of survey respondents support a 60 percent majority vote in order to amend the Florida Constitution.**

- **82% of respondents believe the Chambers of Commerce in Lake County need to be more actively involved in Public Policy issues that affect our County, State, and municipalities.**
- **73% of respondents believe Lake County Board of Commissioners should financially support and provide incentives for the initial development of a Class A Office Park for the purpose of attracting high wage employers to the County.**

Cathy Hoechst, President of the Mount Dora Chamber of Commerce commented, “These survey results are a great resource for our Chamber and will help to get business leaders talking about these major issues, and hopefully one step closer to addressing them in a proactive fashion.”

The results will set the tone and direction for the Alliance’s hosting of a legislative breakfast to be held during Lake County Days in Tallahassee on February 14, 2005. The event will serve to educate Chamber members on the legislative issues that will impact Lake County, and to train business leaders on how to communicate with the legislature during their stay at the Capitol.

The Chamber Alliance of Lake County is comprised of six Chambers of Commerce in Lake County, representing 2,530 businesses and organizations. The Alliance membership includes the Leesburg, Tavares, Lake Eustis, Mount Dora, Lady Lake, and South Lake Chambers.

The purpose of the Chamber Alliance is to assist individual Lake County Chambers in communicating with elected officials, and to encourage the participation of individual Chamber members in the legislative process. The Alliance will focus on addressing local issues that are of common concern to businesses throughout Lake County.