

James L. Ley

Sarasota County Administrator

Jim Ley's vision for a high-performance organization has led Sarasota County to significant advances in technology, sustainability and private-public partnerships. This emphasis on organizational performance has enabled Sarasota County to maintain its level of services, and reduce its budget and staff size, despite state and federal cost shifting.

Mr. Ley's is a passionate advocate of the philosophies of community dialogue, empowerment, stewardship and accountability. He asks the "what if" and "why not" questions that drive his vision of a high-performance community.

As Sarasota County administrator since 1997, Mr. Ley's advocacy for innovative solutions to problems has earned him a seat on The Innovation Groups Board of Directors, a national group of government leaders devoted to transforming the cultures of local governments through high-quality thinking and creativity, maximizing technology and networking with non-profits, schools, professional associations and the business community.

Mr. Ley has 32 years of experience in county government, which shaped his development as a committed community visionary focused on maintaining Sarasota County as a sustainable community for future generations.

Organizations

- International City/County Management Association – member at large
- Florida City and County Management Association - Board of Directors
- Urban Consortium Steering Committee of Public Technology, Inc. - Chairman
- National Association of County Administrators – President

Education

Kent State University
B.A. - Geography

Ohio State University
M.A. - Urban Economic Geography