



Public Policy Institute of Marion County 2006-2007 Annual Report

Inside the Institute

Karen Jernigan Rodgers, Executive Director

Throughout the past year, the **Public Policy Institute of Marion County (PPI)** has enhanced public awareness by conducting research studies and publishing reports on issues of community concern. The **2006 Housing Study** was completed in the fall of 2006 and as a result the Community Housing Council (CHC), a citizen advocacy group, has been established to ensure the availability of safe, adequate, and affordable housing to meet the needs of current and future Ocala/Marion County residents. In October, PPI hosted author and Florida demographer Lance deHaven-Smith for the PPI fall seminar entitled **Florida Megatrends: Critical Growth Management Issues for Marion County**. The seminar provided a perspective on past, present, and future growth management issues facing Ocala/Marion County. The **2007 Access to Health Care Study** will be released in the summer of 2007. Study recommendations will outline a plan of action to address the gap between the need for health care and the delivery of services.

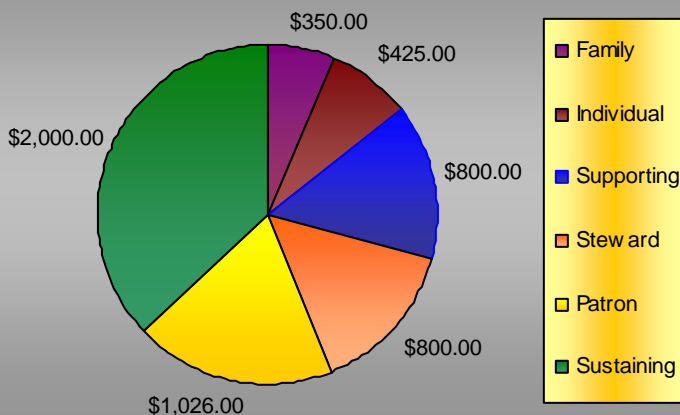
In the coming year, the Public Policy Institute will focus on future sustainability of the organization and will continue to encourage citizen involvement through studies and seminars dedicated to advancing public interest and building democracy. Partnerships with local civic organizations and government agencies serve to advance awareness of the vision and mission of the Institute in order to collectively shape public policy and improve community quality of life.

Building Community: PPI Releases the 2006 Affordable Housing Study

While property values steadily increase, escalating housing costs in Marion County continue to burden the low-wage, elderly, disabled, minority, and homeless populations. Concerns over affordable housing have also become prevalent among higher income populations. In September, the 2006 study committee began a 9-month process of developing solutions to critical issues. Key findings outlined in the published report focus on the need for local governments to adopt a policy that eliminates regulatory barriers and strongly promotes the rehabilitation of deteriorated, substandard housing. The Community Housing Council is responsible for the implementation of a strategic plan to encourage and facilitate adequate affordable and workforce housing and is currently reviewing the established policies and procedures, ordinances, land development regulations, and adopted comprehensive plans for Marion County. The CHC will recommend specific initiatives to encourage and facilitate affordable and workforce housing while protecting property values. The **2006 Affordable Housing Study** is available on the PPI website at <http://ppiofmarioncounty.cf.edu>.



2006-2007 Membership Revenue : \$5,401.00



Vision

To provide leadership in developing and implementing short-term and long-term goals and solutions for an improved community

Mission Statement

The Public Policy Institute of Marion County is dedicated to advancing public interest, building democracy, enhancing community, and improving the quality of life by involving citizens in the process.

2006-2007 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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PUBLIC POLICY INSTITUTE OF MARION COUNTY



Sustaining the Future of the Public Policy Institute Dr. Charles R. Dassance, Chair

The Public Policy Institute of Marion County was established to provide leadership in identifying recommendations for an improved community. In a continued effort to encourage effective public dialogue the Institute needs you to remain an active member. Please take the time to renew your membership and to invite new leadership to join the PPI. Your contribution is important for the future of the Institute. Thank you for your support.

Charles R. Dassance

A Year in Review: Events

2006 Fall Seminar: Florida Megatrends
Critical Growth Management Issues for Marion County
 October 26, 2006

PPI: Vision & Mission
Inside the Institute
 June 11, 2007




A Year in Review: Studies


2006 Housing Study:
A Framework for Affordable and Workforce Housing

2007 Access to Health Care Study:
Expanding the Availability of Quality Health Care in Our Community

2006 Housing Study



A Framework for Affordable and Workforce Housing



Public Policy Institute
 A Report to the Citizens of Marion County
 Fall 2006





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All PPI Publications are available online at:
<http://ppiofmarioncounty.cf.edu>

2007 Access to Health Care Study
Expanding the Availability of Quality Health Care in Our Community

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