

Tallahassee, Florida

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Tallahassee /ˌtæləˈhæsiː/ is the capital of the U.S. state of Florida. It is the county seat and only incorporated municipality in Leon County, and is the 126th largest city in the United States. Tallahassee became the capital of Florida, then the Florida Territory, in 1824. In 2010, the population recorded by the U.S. Census Bureau was 181,376,^[5] and the Tallahassee metropolitan area is 375,751 as of 2014.

Tallahassee is home to Florida State University, ranked the nation's forty-third best public university by U.S. News & World Report.^[6] It is also home to the Florida A&M University, the country's largest historically black university by total enrollment.^[7] Tallahassee Community College is a large community college which serves mainly as a feeder school to both Florida State University and Florida A&M University. Tallahassee qualifies as significant college town with a student population exceeding 70,000.

Tallahassee is a center for trade and agriculture in the Big Bend (Florida) region and Southwest Georgia and is served by Tallahassee International Airport and Interstate 10. As a capital city, Tallahassee is home to the Florida State Capitol, Supreme Court of Florida, Florida Governor's Mansion, and nearly 30 state agency headquarters. The city is also known for its large number of law firms, lobbying organizations, trade associations and professional associations, including the Florida Bar and the Florida Chamber of Commerce.^[8] It is also a recognized regional center for scientific research, and home to the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory.

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Tallahassee, Florida

State capital

City of Tallahassee



Top, Left to Right: Tallahassee Skyline, Florida Capitol Buildings, Unconquered statue of Osceola and Renegade at FSU, FAMU's Marching 100, Old St. Augustine Canopy Road, and Cascades Park



Flag

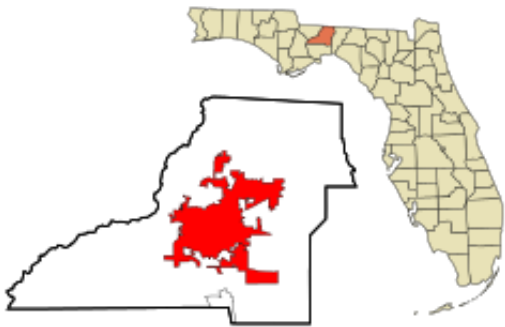


Seal

Nickname(s): "Tally"

Motto: "Florida's Capital City"

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Location in Leon County and the state of Florida

Coordinates: 30°27′18″N 84°15′12″W﻿ / ﻿

Country	United States
State	Florida
County	Leon
Established	1824
Government Type Mayor	Commission–Manager Andrew Gillum (D)
Area ^[1] Total Land Water	103.5 sq mi (268 km²) 100.3 sq mi (260 km²) 3.2 sq mi (8 km²)
Elevation ^[2]	203 ft (62 m)
Population (2010) ^{[3][4]} Total Estimate (2014) Rank Density Urban Metro	181,376 188,107 126th, U.S. 1,809.3/sq mi (698.6/km²) 240,223 (153rd) 375,751 (140th)
Time zone Summer (DST)	Eastern (EST) (UTC-5) EDT (UTC-4)
ZIP code(s)	32300–32399
Area code(s)	850
FIPS code	12-70600 ^[3]
GNIS feature ID	0308416 ^[2]
Website	www.talgov.com (http://www.talgov.com)

History



Mission San Luis de Apalachee as it may have appeared in the 17th century

During the 17th century several Spanish missions were established in the territory of the Apalachee to procure food and labor for the colony at St. Augustine. The largest, Mission San Luis de Apalachee, has been partially reconstructed by the state of Florida. The name "Tallahassee" is a Muskogean Indian word

often translated as "old fields" or "old town",^[9] and it likely stems from the Creek (later called Seminole) Indians who migrated from Georgia and Alabama to this region in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. They found large areas of cleared land previously occupied by the Apalachee tribe. Earlier, the Mississippian Indians built mounds near Lake Jackson around AD 1200, which survive today in the Lake Jackson Archaeological State Park.^[10]



Early Tallahassee; Showing points of interest from over a century ago

The expedition of Pánfilo de Narváez encountered the Apalachees, although it did not reach the site of Tallahassee. Hernando de Soto and his expedition occupied the Apalachee town of Anhaica in what is now Tallahassee in the winter of 1538–1539.



Battle of Natural Bridge; First reenactment of the Battle of Natural Bridge

Based on archaeological excavations this site is now known to be located about 0.5 miles (800 m) east of the present Florida State Capitol. The DeSoto encampment is believed to be the first place Christmas was celebrated in the continental United States.

During the First Seminole War, General Andrew Jackson fought two separate skirmishes in and around Tallahassee. The first battle took place on November 12, 1817. Chief Neamathla, of the village of Fowltown, just west of present day Tallahassee had refused Jackson's orders to relocate. Jackson responded by entering the village, burning it to the ground, and driving off its occupants. The Indians later retaliated, by killing 50 soldiers and civilians. Jackson reentered Florida in March 1818. According to Jackson's adjutant, Colonel Robert Butler, they "advanced on the Indian village called Tallahassee (sic) [where] two of the enemy were made prisoner."^[11]

State capital

Tallahassee became the capital of Florida during the second legislative session. It was chosen as it was roughly equidistant from St. Augustine and Pensacola, which had been the capitals of the Spanish colonies of East Florida and West Florida. The first session of Florida's Legislative Council—as a territory of the

United States—met on July 22, 1822 at Pensacola and members from St. Augustine traveled fifty-nine days by water to attend. The second session was in St. Augustine and required western delegates to travel perilously around the peninsula on a twenty-eight day trek. During this session, it was decided that future meetings should be held at a half-way point. Two appointed commissioners selected Tallahassee, at that point an abandoned Apalachee settlement, as a halfway point. In 1824 the third legislative session met there in a crude log capitol building.^[12]

From 1821 through 1845 the rough-hewn frontier capital gradually grew into a town during Florida's territorial period. The Marquis de Lafayette, French hero of the American Revolution, returned for a tour of the United States in 1824. The US Congress voted to give him \$200,000 (the same amount he had given the colonies in 1778), US citizenship, and the Lafayette Land Grant, 36 square miles

(93 km²) of land that today includes large portions of Tallahassee. In 1845 a Greek revival masonry structure was erected as the Capitol building in time for statehood. Now known as the "old Capitol," it stands in front of the high-rise Capitol building that was built in the 1970s.^[13]

Tallahassee was in the heart of Florida's Cotton Belt—Leon County led the state in cotton production—and was the center of the slave trade in Florida.^[14] During the American Civil War, Tallahassee was the only Confederate state capital east of the Mississippi not captured by Union forces, and the only one not burned. A small engagement, the Battle of Natural Bridge, was fought south of the city on March 6, 1865, just a month before the war ended.

During the 19th century the institutions that would eventually evolve into what is now Florida State University were established in Tallahassee, firmly cementing its foundations as a university town. These included the Tallahassee Female Academy (founded 1843) and the Florida Institute (founded 1854). In 1851 the Florida legislature decreed two seminaries to be built on either side of the Suwanee River, East Florida Seminary and West Florida Seminary. In 1855 West Florida Seminary was transferred to the Florida Institute building (which had been established as an inducement for the state to place the seminary in Tallahassee). In 1858 the seminary absorbed the Tallahassee Female Academy and became coeducational.^[15] Its main building was located near the northwest corner of South Copeland and West Jefferson streets, approximately where FSU's Westcott Building is today.

In 1887 the Normal College for Colored Students, ancestor of today's FAMU, opened its doors. The legislature decided that Tallahassee was the best location in Florida for a college serving negro students. Four years later its name was changed to State Normal and Industrial College for Colored Students.

After the Civil War much of Florida's industry moved to the south and east, a trend that continues today. The end of slavery hindered the cotton and tobacco trade, and the state's major industries shifted to citrus, lumber, naval stores, cattle ranching and tourism. The post-Civil War period was also when many former plantations in the Tallahassee area were purchased by wealthy northerners for use as winter hunting preserves. This included the hunting preserve of Henry L. Beadel, who bequeathed his land for the study of the effects of fire on wildlife habitat. Today the preserve is known as the Tall Timbers Research Station and Land Conservancy, nationally recognized for its research into fire ecology and the use of prescribed burning.



Historic Cascades Park; Hand-colored photograph of the Cascades

1900–present

Until World War II, Tallahassee remained a small southern town with virtually the entire population living within 1 mile (2 km) of the Capitol. The main economic drivers were the universities and state government, where politicians met to discuss spending money on grand public improvement projects to accommodate growth in places such as Miami and Tampa Bay, hundreds of miles away from the capital. By the 1960s there was a movement to transfer the capital to Orlando, closer to the growing population centers of the state. That motion was defeated and the 1970s saw a long-term commitment by the state to the capital city with construction of the new capitol complex and preservation of the old Florida State Capitol building.

In 1970, the Census Bureau reported city's population as 74.0% white and 25.4% black.^[16]

In 1977 a 22-story high-rise Capitol building designed by architect Edward Durell Stone was completed, which is now the third-tallest state capitol building in the United States. In 1978 the old capitol, directly in front of the new capitol, was scheduled for demolition, but state officials decided to keep the Old Capitol as a museum.^[17]



Florida's Old Capitol Building as seen at Night

Tallahassee was the center of world attention for six weeks during the 2000 United States Presidential election recount, which involved numerous rulings by the Florida Secretary of State and the Florida Supreme Court.

Geography

^[1] According to the United States Census Bureau the city has an area of 98.2 square miles (254.3 km²), of which, 95.7 square miles (247.9 km²) is land and 2.5 square miles (6.5 km²) (2.59%) is water.

Tallahassee's terrain is hilly by Florida standards, being located at the southern end of the Red Hills Region, just above the Cody Scarp. The

elevation varies from near sea level to just over 200 feet (61 m), with the state capitol on one of the highest hills in the city. The city includes two large lake basins, Lake Jackson and Lake Lafayette, and borders the northern end of the Apalachicola National Forest.

The flora and fauna are similar to those found in the mid-south and low country regions of South Carolina and Georgia. The palm trees are the more cold-hardy varieties like the state tree, the Sabal

Palmetto. Pines, magnolias, hickories, and a variety of oaks are the dominant trees. The Southern Live Oak is perhaps the most emblematic of the city.

Climate

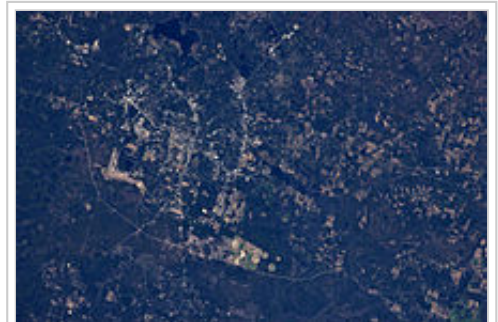


Photo of Tallahassee taken from the International Space Station (ISS) on January 22, 2011



Unlike most of Florida, Tallahassee experiences all four seasons. Shown are the autumn leaves along the sidewalks of Monroe Street in Downtown Tallahassee

Tallahassee has a humid subtropical climate (Köppen *Cfa*), with long summers and short, mild winters, as well as drier springs and autumns. Summers here are hotter than in the Florida peninsula and it is one of the few cities in the state to occasionally record temperatures above 100 °F (37.8 °C), averaging 2.4 days annually.^[18] The record high of 105 °F (41 °C) was set on June 15, 2011.^[19] Summer is characterized by brief



Snowball fight on the Florida State Capitol Building in Tallahassee on February 13, 1899

intense showers and thunderstorms that form along the afternoon sea breeze from the Gulf of Mexico. The daily mean temperature in July, the hottest month, is 82.0 °F (27.8 °C). Conversely, the city is markedly cooler in the winter, with a January daily average temperature of 51.2 °F (10.7 °C). In addition, as Tallahassee straddles the boundary between USDA Hardiness Zones 8B and 9A,^[20] the coldest temperature of the season is typically around 20 °F (−7 °C). During the Great Blizzard of 1899 the city reached −2 °F (−19 °C), the only recorded sub-zero Fahrenheit reading in Florida.

Snow and ice are rare in Tallahassee. Nonetheless, over the last 100 years the city has recorded some accumulating snowfalls; the heaviest was 2.8 inches (7.1 cm) on February 13, 1958. A White Christmas occurred in 1989,^[21] and during the March 13–14, 1993 eastern U.S. "superstorm," there were high winds and traces of snow. Historically, the city usually records at least flurries every three to four years, but on average, measurable amounts of snow 1.0 inch (2.5 cm) occur only once every 17 years. The last measurable snowfall took place December 22–23, 1989. The natural snow line (regular yearly snowfalls) ends 200 miles (320 km) to the north at Macon, Georgia, but the city averages 32 nights where the temperature falls below freezing, and, on average, the first freeze occurs on November 20, the last on March 22.^[18]

Although several hurricanes have brushed Tallahassee with their outer rain and wind bands, in recent years only Hurricane Kate, in 1985, has struck Tallahassee directly. The Big Bend area of North Florida sees several tornadoes each year during the season, but none have hit Tallahassee in living memory. During extremely heavy rains, some low-lying parts of Tallahassee may flood, notably the Franklin Boulevard area adjacent to the downtown and the Killearn Lakes subdivision (which is not within the city limits proper) on the north side.

Climate data for Tallahassee, Florida (Tallahassee Regional Airport), 1981–2010 normals, extremes 1892–present													
Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year
Record high °F (°C)	83 (28)	89 (32)	91 (33)	95 (35)	102 (39)	105 (41)	104 (40)	103 (39)	102 (39)	95 (35)	88 (31)	84 (29)	105 (41)
Average high °F (°C)	63.5 (17.5)	67.5 (19.7)	73.8 (23.2)	79.9 (26.6)	87.0 (30.6)	91.0 (32.8)	92.1 (33.4)	91.5 (33.1)	88.4 (31.3)	81.4 (27.4)	73.0 (22.8)	65.3 (18.5)	79.6 (26.4)
Daily mean °F (°C)	51.2 (10.7)	54.7 (12.6)	60.4 (15.8)	66.1 (18.9)	74.3 (23.5)	80.2 (26.8)	82.0 (27.8)	81.8 (27.7)	78.2 (25.7)	69.4 (20.8)	60.2 (15.7)	53.2 (11.8)	67.6 (19.8)
Average low °F (°C)	39.0 (3.9)	41.9 (5.5)	47.1 (8.4)	52.3 (11.3)	61.6 (16.4)	69.5 (20.8)	72.0 (22.2)	72.1 (22.3)	68.1 (20.1)	57.3 (14.1)	47.5 (8.6)	41.1 (5.1)	55.8 (13.2)
Record low °F (°C)	6 (−14)	−2 (−19)	20 (−7)	29 (−2)	34 (1)	46 (8)	57 (14)	57 (14)	40 (4)	29 (−2)	13 (−11)	10 (−12)	−2 (−19)
Average precipitation inches (mm)	4.34 (110.2)	4.84 (122.9)	5.92 (150.4)	3.06 (77.7)	3.47 (88.1)	7.73 (196.3)	7.28 (184.9)	7.34 (186.4)	4.68 (118.9)	3.23 (82)	3.49 (88.6)	3.90 (99.1)	59.29 (1,506)
Avg. precipitation days (≥ 0.01 inch)	8.9	8.4	7.9	6.1	7.1	13.6	15.9	14.4	8.5	5.7	6.6	8.1	111.2
Source: NOAA ^{[18][22]}													

Nearby cities and suburbs

- Crawfordville
- Havana
- Lamont
- Lloyd
- Midway
- Monticello
- Quincy
- Woodville
- Capitola



Downtown Tallahassee at night

Neighborhoods

Tallahassee has many neighborhoods inside the city limits. Some of the most known and defined include All Saints, Apalachee Ridge, Betton Hills, Callen, Frenchtown (the oldest historically black neighborhood in the state), Killearn Estates, Lafayette Park, Levy Park, Los Robles, Midtown, Holly Hills, Jake Gaither/University Park, Indian Head Acres, Myers Park, Smokey Hollow, SouthWood, Seminole Manor and Woodland Drives.

Demographics

Tallahassee Demographics			
2010 Census	Tallahassee	Leon County	Florida
Total population	181,376	275,487	18,801,310
Population,			

As of 2010, there were 84,248 households, of which 11.2% were vacant. As of 2000, 21.8% of which had children under 18 living in them. 30.1%

Historical population		
Census	Pop.	%±
1840	1,616	—
1860	1,932	—
1870	2,000	4.70%

percent change, 2000 to 2010	+20.4%	+15.0%	+17.6%	were married couples living together, 13.2% had a female householder with no husband, and 53.4% were non-families. 34.7% of all households were made up of individuals and 6.0% had someone living alone who was 65 years of age or older. The average household size was 2.17 and the average family size was 2.86.	1870	2,023	4.1%
Population density	1,809.3/sq mi	413.1/sq mi	350.6/sq mi		1880	2,494	23.3%
White or Caucasian (including White Hispanic)	57.4%	63.0%	75.0%		1890	2,934	17.6%
(Non-Hispanic White or Caucasian)	53.3%	59.3%	57.9%		1900	2,981	1.6%
Black or African-American	35.0%	30.3%	16.0%		1910	5,018	68.3%
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	6.3%	5.6%	22.5%		1920	5,637	12.3%
Asian	3.7%	2.9%	2.4%		1930	10,700	89.8%
Native American or Native Alaskan	0.2%	0.3%	0.4%		1940	16,240	51.8%
Pacific Islander or Native Hawaiian	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%		1950	27,237	67.7%
Two or more races (Multiracial)	2.3%	2.2%	2.5%		1960	48,174	76.9%
Some Other Race	1.3%	1.5%	3.6%		1970	72,624	50.8%
					1980	81,548	12.3%
					1990	124,773	53.0%
					2000	150,624	20.7%
					2010	181,376	20.4%
					Est. 2014	188,107 ^[23]	3.7%

U.S. Decennial Census^[24]

As of 2000, the city's population was spread out with 17.4% under the age of 18, 29.7% from 18 to 24, 27.9% from 25 to 44, 16.8% from 45 to 64, and 8.2% who were 65 years of age or older. The median age was 26 years. For every 100 females, there were 89.5 males. For every 100 females age 18 and over, there were 86.7 males.

In 2000, the median income for a household in the city was \$30,571, and the median income for a family was \$49,359. Males had a median income of \$32,428 versus \$27,838 for females. The per capita income for the city was \$18,981. About 12.6% of families and 24.7% of the population were below the poverty line, including 21.6% of those under age 18 and 8.4% of those age 65 or over.

Educationally, the population of Leon County is the most highly educated population in Florida with 49.9% of the residents with either a Bachelor's, Master's, professional or doctorate degree. The Florida average is 22.4% and the national average is 24.4%. Unfortunately most of these must be accounted as recent graduates of the University system.

Languages

As of 2000, 91.99% of residents spoke English as their first language, while 4.11% spoke Spanish, 0.63% spoke French, and 0.59% spoke German as their mother tongue. In total, 8.00% of the total population spoke languages other than English.^[25]

City accolades

- 1988: *Money Magazine*'s Southeast's three top medium size cities in which to live.

- 1992: Awarded Tree City USA by National Arbor Day Foundation
- 1999: Awarded All-America City Award by the National Civic League
- 2003: Awarded Tree Line USA by the National Arbor Day Foundation.
- 2006: Awarded "Best In America" Parks and Recreation by the National Recreation and Park Association.
- 2007: Recognized by Kiplinger's Personal Finance Magazine as one of the "Top Ten College Towns for Grownups" (ranking second, behind Chapel Hill, North Carolina)
- 2007: Ranked second in the "medium sized city" class on Epodunk's list of college towns.^[26]
- 2015: Awarded All-America City Award by the National Civic League^[27]



Tallahassee Asian Festival

Government and politics

Tallahassee has traditionally been a Democratic city, and is one of the few cities in the South known for progressive activism. It has had a black mayor and a black state representative.^[28] The city has voted Democratic throughout its history with a high voter-turnout. As of April 2007 there were 85,343 Democrats and 42,230 Republicans in Leon County. Other affiliations accounted for 22,284 voters.



Florida Supreme Court



Election 2000; Close-up view of satellite trucks parked by the Capitol during the 2000 Presidential election vote dispute.

Ion Sancho is the Supervisor of Elections for Leon

County, Florida. Serving since January 1989, he has been reelected to five additional terms. One of only three (out of 67) supervisors of elections in Florida without party affiliation, under his administration Leon County's voter turnout percentage has consistently ranked among the highest of Florida's 67 counties, with a record setting 86% turnout in the November 2008 General Election.^[29]

2000 Presidential election

Tallahassee took center stage during the Presidential Election of 2000, Bush v. Gore. On Election Day, before all polls closing in

Florida, the major television networks estimated that then Vice President Al Gore had beaten Texas Gov. George W. Bush in Florida. These networks were later forced to retract the projection as votes were tabulated from Florida's heavily Republican western panhandle. As the night went on, it became clear that the victor in Florida would receive the electoral votes necessary to claim the presidency. The next morning, Vice President Gore heard that Gov. Bush was ahead by an estimated 50,000 votes and therefore called to concede the election. Not long after, hearing that thousands of votes in key Florida counties were not counted due to machine malfunctions and irregularities, Vice President Gore retracted his concession.

The election played itself out over the next 30 days with Tallahassee set as ground zero for the answer to who would become next president of the United States. About a dozen appeals were heard by the Florida Supreme Court arising from the disputed election, including two that resulted in oral arguments broadcast on live television. On December 12, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in a 7–2 vote that the Florida Supreme Court's ruling requiring a statewide recount of ballots was unconstitutional, and in a 5–4 vote that the Florida recounts could not be completed before a December 12 "safe harbor" deadline, and should therefore cease and the previously certified total should hold. Florida Secretary of State, Katherine Harris, certified the election for Gov. George W. Bush, winning Florida by a margin of 537 votes.

Consolidation

Voters of Leon County have gone to the polls four times to vote on consolidation of Tallahassee and Leon County governments into one jurisdiction combining police and other city services with already shared (consolidated) Tallahassee Fire Department and Leon County Emergency Medical Services. Tallahassee's city limits would increase from 103.1 square miles (267 km²) to 702 square miles (1,820 km²). Roughly 36 percent of Leon County's 265,714 residents live outside the Tallahassee city limits.

The proponents of consolidation have stated that the new jurisdiction would attract business by its size. Merging governments would cut government waste, duplication of services, etc. Professor Richard Feiock of the Department of Public Administration of Korea University and the Askew School of Public Administration and Policy of Florida State University states that no discernible relationship exists between consolidation and the local economy.^[30]

Though overall Tallahassee's population would benefit the adoption of private enterprise to maintain the public avenues. Both in the Fire Protection domain and in the Sewage domain. Of which those systems have yet to be reconciled before the County Commissioners.

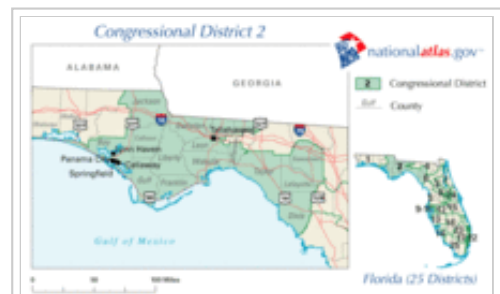
Tho each time, the measure was rejected: 1968: 10,381 (41.32%)|14,740 (58.68%); 1973: 11,056 (46.23%)|12,859 (53.77%); 1976: 20,336 (45.01%) | 24,855 (54.99%); 1992: 37,062 (39.8%) | 56,070 (60.2%).

Federal representation and offices

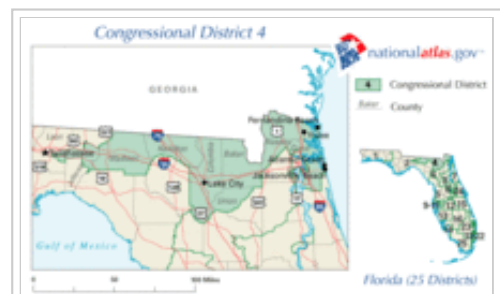
Tallahassee is part of Florida's 2nd congressional district.



Election 2000; Attorney General Bob Butterworth speaking at a news conference with Governor Jeb Bush on the initial Florida recount during the 2000 Presidential election.



Congressional District; Florida's Second Congressional District



Congressional District; Florida's Fourth Congressional District

The United States Postal Service operates post offices in Tallahassee. The Tallahassee Main Post Office is located at 2800 South Adams Street.^[31] Other post offices in the city limits include Centerville Station,^[32] Leon Station,^[33] Park Avenue Station,^[34] and Westside Station.^[35]

The National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration maintains a National Weather Service in Tallahassee. Their coverage-warning area includes the eastern Florida Panhandle and adjacent Gulf of Mexico waters, the north-central Florida peninsula, and parts of southeastern Alabama and southwestern Georgia.

Flag

The flag of Tallahassee is vaguely similar to the flag of Florida, a white saltire on a blue field, with the city's coat of arms, featuring the cupola of old capitol building, at the center.^[36]

Urban planning and expansion

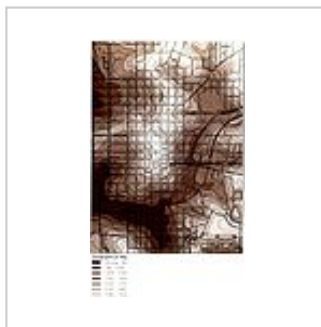
The first plan for the Capitol Center was the 1947 Taylor Plan, which consolidated several government buildings in one downtown area. In 1974, the Capitol Center Planning Commission for the City of Tallahassee, Fla. responded to growth of its urban center with a conceptual plan for the expansion of its Capitol Center. Hisham Ashkouri, working for The Architects' Collaborative, led the urban planning and design effort. Estimating growth and related development for approximately the next 25 years, the program projected the need for 2.3 million square feet (214,000 m² of new government facilities in the city core, with 3,500 dwelling units, 100 acres (40 ha) of new public open space, retail and private office space, and other ancillary spaces. Community participation was an integral part of the design review, welcoming Tallahassee residents to provide input as well as citizens' groups and government agencies, resulting in the creation of six separate Design Alternatives. The best elements of these various designs were combined to develop the final conceptual design, which was then incorporated into the existing Capitol area and adjacent areas.



Land use



Adams Street Mall



Topographical map

Tallest buildings

Rank	Name	Street Address	Height feet	Height meters	Floors	Year
1	Florida State Capitol	400 South Monroe Street,	345	101	25	1977
2	Turlington Building	325 West Gaines Street,	318	97	19	1990
3	Plaza Tower	Adams St,	276	84	24	2008
4	Highpoint Center	100 South Adams St	239	70	15	1990
5	Doubletree Hotel	101 South Adams St,	220	67	16	1972

Primary and secondary education

Tallahassee anchors the Leon County School District. As of the 2009 school year Leon County Schools had an estimated 32,796 students, 2209 teachers and 2100 administrative and support personnel. The current superintendent of schools is Jackie Pons. Leon County public school enrollment continues to grow steadily (up approximately 1% per year since the 1990-91 school year). The dropout rate for grades 9-12 improved to 2.2% in the 2007–2008 school year, the third time in the past four years the dropout rate has been below 3%.

To gauge performance the State of Florida rates all public schools according to student achievement on the state-sponsored Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT). Seventy-nine percent of Leon County Public Schools received an A or B grade in the 2008–2009 school year. The overall district grade assigned to the Leon County Schools is "A". Students in the Leon County School District continued to score favorably in comparison to Florida and national averages in the SAT and ACT student assessment tests. The Leon County School District has consistently scored at or above the average for districts statewide in total ACT and SAT mean composite scores.

List of middle schools

- Cobb Middle School
- Deerlake Middle School
- Fairview Middle School
- Fort Braden School k-8
- Griffin Middle School
- Maclay School
- Montford Middle School
- Nims Middle School
- Raa Middle School
- Success Academy of Tallahassee



Leon High School



Lawton Chiles High School



Lower School students at Maclay School celebrating Grandparents Day in 2008.

- Swift Creek Middle School
- Stars Middle School

List of high schools

- Amos P. Godby High School
- Atlantis Academy
- Community Christian School
- Florida A&M University Developmental Research School
- Florida State University High School
- James S. Rickards High School
- John Paul II Catholic High School
- Lawton Chiles High School
- Leon High School
- Lincoln High School
- Maclay School
- North Florida Christian High School
- SAIL High School
- Woodland Hall Academy

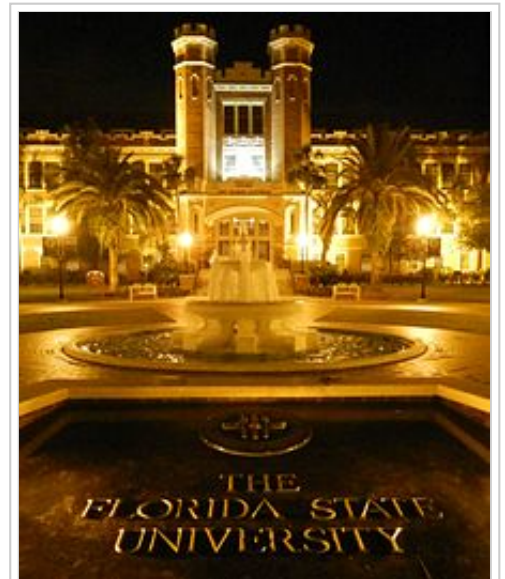
Higher education in Tallahassee

Florida State University

Florida State University (commonly referred to as Florida State or FSU) is a space-grant and sea-grant public university located in Tallahassee. It is a comprehensive doctoral research university with medical programs and significant research activity as determined by the Carnegie Foundation. The university consists of 16 separate colleges and more than 110 centers, facilities, labs and institutes that offer over 300 programs of study, including professional programs. As one of Florida's primary graduate research universities, FSU awards over 2,000 graduate and professional degrees each year.

In 2007, Florida State was placed in the first tier of research universities by the Florida Legislature, a distinction allowing FSU and the University of Florida to charge 40% higher tuition than other institutions in the State University System of Florida. While FSU was officially established in 1851 and is located on the oldest continuous site of higher education in Florida, at least one predecessor institution may be traced back to 1843, two years before Florida became a state.

Florida State University is also home to nationally ranked programs in many academic areas, including the sciences, social policy, film, engineering, library & information studies, the Arts, business, political science, social work, medicine, and law. Florida State is home to Florida's only National Laboratory—the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory and is the birthplace of the commercially viable anti-cancer drug Taxol.



Florida State University Westcott Plaza at night

The Florida State Seminoles athletics program are favorites of passionate students, fans and alumni across the United States, especially when led by the Marching Chiefs of the FSU College of Music. Florida State is a member of the Atlantic Coast Conference and has won twelve national athletic championships as well as multiple individual competitor NCAA championship awards.

Florida State University's Department of Art is known for the works of several distinguished faculty members, including Ray Burggraf, Lillian Garcia-Roig, and Mark Messersmith. Internationally recognized for their environmentally focused paintings, they are especially renowned for an innovative collaboration called, "A Mysterious Clarity". The highly acclaimed exhibition debuted in 2004, and by popular demand, has traveled to at least nine different museums and galleries from Houston to Miami.^{[37][38][39][40]}

Florida A&M University

Founded on October 3, 1887, Florida A&M University (FAMU) is part of the State University System of Florida and is fully accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Distinguished by lush foliage and massive oaks, FAMU's main campus comprises 156 buildings spread over 422 acres (1.7 km²) atop the highest of Tallahassee's seven hills. The university also has several satellite campuses including a site in Orlando where the College of Law is located and sites in Miami, Jacksonville and Tampa for its pharmacy program. Florida A&M University offers 62 bachelor's degrees and 39 master's degrees. The university has 13 schools and colleges and one institute. FAMU has 11 doctoral programs which includes 10 Ph.D. programs: chemical engineering; civil engineering; electrical engineering; mechanical engineering; industrial engineering; biomedical engineering; physics; pharmaceutical sciences; educational leadership; and environmental sciences. Top undergraduate programs are architecture; journalism; computer information sciences and psychology. FAMU's top graduate programs include pharmaceutical sciences along with public health; physical therapy; engineering; physics; master's of applied social sciences (especially history and public administration); business and sociology.



Florida A&M University

Tallahassee Community College

Tallahassee Community College (TCC) is an American state college, and is a member of the Florida College System. Tallahassee Community College is accredited by the Florida Department of Education and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. It's primary campus is located on a 270-acre (1.092 km²) campus in Tallahassee, Florida, United States. The institution was founded in 1966 by the Florida Legislature.^[41] TCC currently offers Associate of Science, Associate of Arts, and Associate of Applied Sciences degrees. In 2013, Tallahassee Community College was listed 1st in the nation in graduating students with A.A. degrees.^[42] TCC is also the #1 transfer school in the nation to Florida State University. As of Fall 2014, TCC reported 19,942 students.^[43]



Tallahassee Community College entrance

In partnership with Florida State University, Tallahassee Community College offers the *TCC2FSU* program. This program provides guaranteed admission into Florida State University for TCC Associate in Arts degree graduates.^[44]

List of other colleges

- Barry University School of Adult and Continuing Education – Tallahassee Campus
- Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
- Flagler College – Tallahassee Campus
- ITT Technical Institute
- Keiser University - Tallahassee
- Lewis M. Lively Area Vocational-Technical School
- Saint Leo University—Tallahassee Campus

Public safety

Established in 1826, the Tallahassee Police Department claims the distinction of being the oldest police department in the Southern United States, and the second-oldest in the U.S., preceded only by the Philadelphia Police Department (established in 1758). The Boston Police Department was established in 1838 and larger East Coast cities followed with New York City and Baltimore in 1845.

Law enforcement services are provided by the Tallahassee Police Department, the Leon County Sheriff's Office, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Florida Capitol Police, Florida State University Police Department, Florida A&M University Department of Public Safety, the Tallahassee Community College Police Department, and the Florida Highway Patrol.

The Tallahassee Growth Management Building Inspection Division is responsible for issuing permits and performing inspections of public and private buildings in the City limits. These duties include the enforcement of the Florida Building Codes and the Florida Fire Protection Codes. These standards are present to protect life and property. The Tallahassee Building Department is one of 13 currently Accredited Building Departments in the United States.^[45]

The Federal Bureau of Investigation, United States Marshals Service, Immigration and Customs Enforcement,^[46] Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, Secret Service and Drug Enforcement Administration have offices in Tallahassee. The US Attorney's Office for North Florida is based in Tallahassee.

Fire and rescue services are provided by the Tallahassee Fire Department and Leon County Emergency Medical Services.

Hospitals in the area include Tallahassee Memorial Healthcare, Capital Regional Medical Center and HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital of Tallahassee.



Tallahassee Police Department patrol car



Leon County EMS

Places of interest

- Alfred B. Maclay Gardens State Park
- Carnegie Library at FAMU
- Challenger Learning Center
- College Town at Florida State University
- Doak Campbell Stadium
- Elinor Klapp-Phipps Park
- Florida Governor's Mansion
- Florida State Capitol
- Florida Supreme Court
- Foster Tanner Fine Arts Gallery at Florida A&M University
- Goodwood Museum and Gardens
- John G. Riley Center/Museum of African American History & Culture (Riley Museum)
- Knott House Museum
- Lake Ella
- Lake Jackson Mounds Archaeological State Park
- Lafayette Heritage Trail Park
- LeMoyne Center for the Visual Arts
- Mission San Luis de Apalachee
- Museum of Fine Arts at Florida State University
- Museum of Florida History
- National High Magnetic Field Laboratory
- North Florida Fairgrounds
- Railroad Square
- Southeastern Regional Black Archives Research Center and Museum
- Tallahassee Automobile Museum
- Tallahassee Museum
- James D. Westcott Building and Ruby Diamond Auditorium at Florida State University



Maclay Gardens Reflection Pool



Tallahassee Automobile Museum

Festivals and events

- Downtown Getdown (Seasonal)
- First Friday festivals at Railroad Square
- Greek Food Festival
- Red Hills Horse Trials
- Seven Days of Opening Nights
- Southern Music Rising Festival
- Springtime Tallahassee/sens
- Tallahassee Film Festival
- Tallahassee Marathon and Half Marathon
- Tallahassee Wine and Food Festival
- Tallahassee Senior Center's Lifelong Learning Extravaganza - L3X^[47]
- Winter Festival



Cross-country at Red Hills Horse Trials, 2007.

Sports

- The Tallahassee Community College Eagles compete in the Panhandle Conference in Men's and Women's basketball, baseball and softball.
- The Tallahassee Rugby Football Club are a Division III Rugby Club that competes in the Florida Rugby Union.
- The Tallahassee-Leon County Civic Center hosted the First and Second Rounds of the 1995 NCAA Men's Division I Basketball Tournament.



FSU's Doak Campbell Stadium

Current Teams	Sport	League	Venue
Florida State Seminoles football	American football	Florida State University	Doak Campbell Stadium
Florida State Seminoles men's basketball	Basketball	Florida State University	Donald L. Tucker Center
Florida A&M Rattlers	American football	Florida A&M University	Bragg Memorial Stadium
Florida A&M Rattlers men's basketball	Basketball	Florida A&M University	Teaching Arena

Former Clubs	Sport	League	Years Active	Venue
Tallahassee Tiger Sharks	Hockey	ECHL	1994-2001	Donald L. Tucker Center
Tallahassee Scorpions	Indoor soccer	EISL	1997-1998	Donald L. Tucker Center
Tallahassee Thunder	American Football	Arena Football	2000-2002	Donald L. Tucker Center
Tallahassee Titans	American Football	AIFL	2006	Donald L. Tucker Center
Tallahassee Tigers	Basketball	ABA	2007	Donald L. Tucker Center

Transportation

Aviation

- Tallahassee International Airport (KTLH)

Defunct airports

- Dale Mabry Field (closed 1961)

- Tallahassee Commercial Airport (closed 2011)

Mass transit

- StarMetro provides bus service throughout the city.

Intercity bus

- Greyhound and Megabus based in downtown Tallahassee.

Railroads

- CSX operates a main freight line through the city.

Defunct railroads

- Tallahassee Railroad, now a state trail.
- Carrabelle, Tallahassee and Georgia Railroad.
- Amtrak's *Sunset Limited* closed 2005

Major highways

-  Interstate 10 runs east and west across the north side of the city. Tallahassee is served by five exits including: Exit 192 (U.S. 90), Exit 196 (Capital Circle NW), Exit 199 (U.S. 27/Monroe St.), Exit 203 (U.S. 319/Thomasville Road and Capital Circle NE), and Exit 209 (U.S. 90/Mahan Dr.)
-  U.S. Route 27 enters the city from the northwest before turning south and entering downtown. This portion of U.S. 27 is known locally as Monroe Street. In front of the Historic Capitol Building, U.S. 27 turns east and follows Apalachee Parkway out of the city.
-  U.S. Route 90 runs east and west through Tallahassee. It is known locally as Tennessee Street west of Magnolia Drive and Mahan Drive east of Magnolia.
-  U.S. Route 319 runs north and south along the west side of the city using Thomasville Road, Capital Circle NE, Capital Circle SE, and Crafordville Road.
-  State Road 20
-  State Road 61
-  State Road 363

Economy

Companies based in Tallahassee include: Citizens Property Insurance Corporation, the Municipal Code Corporation, the State Board of Administration of Florida (SBA), and United Solutions Company.^[48]

Top employers



Tallahassee International Airport, seen here as Tallahassee Regional Airport



StarMetro



Interstate 10 at Capital Circle Northeast

According to Tallahassee's 2014 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report,^[49] the top employers in the area are:

#	Employer	# of Employees	# of Employees in 2005
1	State of Florida	19,442	25,204
2	Florida State University	14,378	8,784
3	Leon County School Board	5,383	4,403
4	Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare	4,583	2,850
5	City of Tallahassee	2,811	3,327
6	Publix	2,200	2,000
7	Tallahassee Community College	1,518	1,090
8	Florida A&M University	1,767	2,681
9	Leon County	1,712	1,522
10	Capital Regional Medical Center	1,051	n/a

Media

Newspaper

- Tallahassee Democrat daily newspaper ^[50]
- FSView & Florida Flambeau covering FSU ^[51]
- The Famuan covering FAMU ^[52]

Television

- WCTV (CBS) channel 6.1 (My Network TV/This TV) channel 6.2
- WFSU (PBS) channel 11.1 (Florida Channel) channel 11.2 (Create) channel 11.3
- WTLH (METV) channel 49.1 (CW) channel 49.2
- WTWC (NBC) channel 40.1 (Fox) channel 40.2 (Get TV) channel 40.3
- WTXL (ABC) channel 27.1 (Bounce) channel 27.2 (Weather) channel 27.3
- WTLF (CW) channel 24.1
- WUFX (SSN) channel 38.1
- WVUP (CTN) channel 45.1
- WWRP-LP (IND) channel 9
- WBXT-CA (MTV) channel 43
- WTBC-LP (Religious) channel 65 (Comcast)

Radio

- WAIB-FM (Country)
- WBZE-FM (Hot Adult Contemporary)
- WFLA-FM (News/Talk)
- WFSQ-FM (Classical Music)
- WFSU-FM (News/Talk)

- WVFS-FM (College/Alternative)
- WGLF-FM (Classic Rock)
- WVFT (News/Talk)
- WGMY-FM (Top 40)
- WHTF-FM (Top 40)
- WNLS-AM (Sports)
- WTNT-FM (Country)
- WXSX-FM (Rock)
- WAYT-FM (Christian Hit Radio)
- WWLD (Hip Hop)
- WANM (Black)

Notable Tallahassee groups and organizations

- Cold Water Army—music group
- Creed—rock band
- Cream Abdul Babar—music group
- The Crüxshadows—music group
- Dead Prez—Alternative hip hop duo
- Go Radio—music group
- FAMU Marching 100—marching band
- FSU Marching Chiefs—marching band
- Look Mexico—rock band
- Mayday Parade—music group
- Mira—music group
- No Address—music group
- Socialburn—rock band
- Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra—symphony orchestra
- Woman's Club of Tallahassee

Namesakes

- CSS *Tallahassee*—1864 Confederate cruiser
- USS *Tallahassee* (BM-9)—1908 United States Navy monitor, originally named USS *Florida*
- USS *Tallahassee* (CL-61)—1941 United States Navy light cruiser, converted to the aircraft carrier USS *Princeton*
- USS *Tallahassee* (CL-116)—1944 United States Navy light cruiser
- Tallahassee—Main Character in the movie *Zombieland*
- *Tallahassee*—LP recorded by The Mountain Goats and released on 4AD.
- Tallahassee Community School, Eastern Passage, Nova Scotia—named after CSS *Tallahassee*^[53]
- Tallahassee Tight—early 20th century blues singer
- T-Pain—Originally "Tallahassee Pain"
- Tallahassee Lassie (Freddy Cannon song)

Sister cities

Tallahassee has six sister cities:

-  Krasnodar, Russia
-  Konongo-Odumase, Ghana
-  St. Maarten, Netherlands Antilles
-  Sligo, Co. Sligo, Ireland
-  Ramat HaSharon, Israel
-  Rugao, China

Tallahassee views



Panoramic view of downtown Tallahassee



Turlington Education Building as seen from the Civic Center.



Downtown Tallahassee Doubletree Hotel.



Tennyson Condominiums as seen through a break in the downtown Federal Courthouse Square.



Westminster Gardens, formerly the Georgia Bell Dickinson Apartments, in Downtown Tallahassee.



Highpoint Center as seen from the Florida Capitol.



Historic Tallahassee Exchange Building, the City's First "Highrise" Building.



Tallahassee Vietnam War Memorial facing the Capitol.



Union Bank, Florida's oldest surviving bank building.



Leon County Courthouse.



Tallahassee City Hall.



Florida's Historic Capitol, built 1845.



Kleman Plaza in the heart of downtown Tallahassee.



U.S. Federal Courthouse in Tallahassee.



Florida Korean War Memorial



Florida Supreme Court Building



St. Peter's Anglican Church



Old clock at the corner of Park Avenue and Monroe Street, downtown



Tallahassee-Leon County Visitors Center



Autumn Colors in Downtown Tallahassee

Notable Tallahassee residents

- W. Stanley "Sandy" Proctor, sculptor^[54]
- George Clinton, musician
- Cannonball Adderley, musician
- Bobby Bowden, Florida State University football coach
- Darragh 'The Headcase' Casey author

See also

- Consolidation of Leon County with Tallahassee
- Flag of Tallahassee, Florida
- Frenchtown (Tallahassee)
- History of Tallahassee, Florida
- Park Avenue Historic District
- Tallahassee Historic District Zones I And II
- Tallahassee in popular culture

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External links

- Official website (<http://www.talgov.com/>)
- The Local Conservation District - Information on Natural Resources, and Panoramic Tours (<http://localconservationboard.org/>)
- The Tallahassee Democrat Newspaper (<http://www.tallahassee.com/>)
- Mission San Luis (<http://www.missionsanluis.org/>)
- Tallahassee Trust for Historic Preservation - Places to Discover (<http://www.taltrust.org/select.htm>)
- Ochlockonee River - St. Marks River Watersheds - Florida DEP (http://www.protectingourwater.org/watersheds/map/ochlockonee_stmarks/)

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Categories: Tallahassee, Florida | County seats in Florida | Cities in Leon County, Florida
| Populated places established in 1821 | Tallahassee metropolitan area | Cities in Florida
| University towns in the United States

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