



# Board of County Commissioners Executive Office

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## Our Vision

*"We are a user-friendly and common sense organization dedicated to responsive citizen services."*

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November 5, 2019

Jeff Johnson, Director  
AARP Florida  
360 Central Ave #1750  
St. Petersburg, FL 33701

On behalf of Citrus County, Florida, we are excited about the opportunity to join with AARP and the World Health Organization (WHO) to become an Age-Friendly Community. Along with other selected communities in the nation, Citrus County is committed to promoting policies to make American counties friendly to aging populations. On April 23, 2019, Governor Ron DeSantis announced that the State of Florida has joined the AARP Network of Age Friendly States and Communities, making Florida the fourth state in the nation to commit to pursuing age friendly policies.

Citrus County, Florida has one of the largest populations in the State of people age 60 and older. They currently make up 44% of our population and that demographic is continuing to grow in our community.

To address our changing demographics, our community has partnered with the Florida Department of Health, specifically the Citrus Community Health Improvement Partnership (CHIP) and the Florida Department of Elder Affairs through the Aging Network. The Citrus County Health Department completed a "Community Health Assessment" survey and more recently an "Age Friendly Survey" in November 2018. Several committees currently exist, including the Citrus Community Health Improvement Partnership and Citrus2030 to address issues concerning our community and includes executives, profit and non-profit representatives, funding agencies, policy makers and community representatives as well as the interested public. Several people from those committees will also be a part of the Age-Friendly committee and will involve the community. Our goal is to ensure our community is livable for all ages and abilities and to help ensure everyone has the opportunity to live a long, healthy and full life.

As a participant in the national network of communities, it is the intent of Citrus County, Florida to:

- Include the active engagement of older adults on the Age Friendly committee
- Secure a Board of County Commissioners Resolution to work toward becoming age-friendly
- Establish a Plan of Action that responds to the needs identified by older adults in the community
- Commit to measuring activities, reviewing action plan outcomes and reporting on them publicly

We look forward to working with AARP Florida staff and volunteers to ensure our community has the appropriate infrastructure in place so we can all age with dignity.

Sincerely,



Jeff Kinnard, D.C.  
Chairman, Board of County Commissioners