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JOY ANDREWS

**Joy Andrews**  
County Administrator  
St. Johns County, Florida  
qianjunyao@gmail.com  
[REDACTED]

April 17, 2025

**Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners**  
301 N Olive Avenue  
West Palm Beach, FL 33401-4700

**RE: Application for County Administrator Position**

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to respectfully express my interest in the County Administrator position with Palm Beach County. It would be a tremendous honor to serve a county as vibrant, diverse, and forward-thinking as yours. While I do not take lightly the legacy of strong leadership that precedes this opportunity, I am confident that the experience I've gained over the past decade uniquely positions me to contribute in meaningful ways.

As County Administrator for St. Johns County—one of Florida's fastest-growing counties—I've had the privilege of working alongside a dedicated team to navigate extraordinary growth while remaining mindful of fiscal stewardship and community values. Together, we implemented long-range planning models that aimed to balance infrastructure expansion with smart land use and sustainable service delivery.

Much of my journey has been shaped by challenges that demanded resilience and collaboration. I've helped guide our organization through multiple federally declared disasters, including major hurricanes including Matthew, Irma, Nichole, Ian and the COVID-19 pandemic, while overseeing recovery efforts funded through CARES, ARPA, and CDBG-DR programs. These moments underscored the importance of calm leadership and the strength of partnerships at every level.

Additionally, I've worked to protect and preserve our coastline, securing direct appropriations from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for large-scale beach renourishment and resiliency projects—efforts that have fortified more than 20 miles of shoreline. I've also been fortunate to help expand economic opportunity through initiatives such as healthcare expansions, major private investment, and targeted recruitment of high-impact employers.

Throughout my career, I've strived to lead with a servant's heart—elevating others, listening well, and building trust across diverse constituencies. I have deep respect for the responsibility entrusted to this role, and should the Board see fit, I would bring not only technical and operational know-how, but a deep commitment to collaboration, transparency, and service to the people of Palm Beach County.

Thank you for considering my application. Please find my resume attached. I would welcome the opportunity to speak with you further about how I might support your vision for the future.

With gratitude,

**Joy Andrews**

County Administrator

St. Johns County, Florida

## JOY ANDREWS

**PROFILE**     **Dynamic and results-driven County Administrator** with over 19 years of progressively responsible experience in municipal management, including 10 years in executive leadership roles as County Administrator and Deputy/Assistant County Administrator. Demonstrates a deep commitment to public service through a leadership style rooted in collaboration, transparency, and innovation.

Over the course of a 16-year leadership career, has developed and implemented strategic initiatives across a broad range of disciplines, including infrastructure delivery, growth management, policy modernization, economic development, emergency management, and health and human services. Proven expertise in community engagement, legislative and grant development, public-private partnerships, and destination and cultural asset development.

Currently serving as County Administrator for St. Johns County, Florida, overseeing a growing population of 320,000, an annual operating budget of \$1.8 billion, and a capital improvement budget of \$450 million. Recognized for advancing organizational excellence, driving complex projects to completion, and fostering a culture of openness and accountability in local government.

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**EXPERIENCE**     **COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR, ST. JOHNS COUNTY**

**2023 - PRESENT**

- Serve as chief executive officer overseeing all departments and a \$1.8B annual budget.
- Champion infrastructure acceleration and interagency collaboration.
- Lead major policy reform, intergovernmental strategy, and community engagement efforts.
- Guide the delivery of more than \$450M in capital projects across multiple service areas.

**DEPUTY COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

**/APPOINTED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PUBLIC AGENCY,**

**ST. JOHNS COUNTY (POP. 265,512)**

**2019 - 2023**

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- Served as Deputy County Administrator with a focus on development and strategic affairs, overseeing Growth Management, Economic and Tourist Development, Legislative and Grants Affairs, Community Redevelopment, Emergency Management, Coastal Management, and Arts and Culture.
  - Appointed Economic Development Director by ordinance; led countywide economic initiatives, securing an \$80M PGA digital/media facility, three major hospital expansions, and multiple business relocations including American Roll-On/Roll-Off.
  - Directed intergovernmental affairs and secured over \$100M in federal appropriations for beach renourishment and housing/infrastructure improvements.
  - Managed disaster recovery efforts, including CARES Act, ARPA, and CDBG-DR funding initiatives.
  - Led smart growth efforts, including Comprehensive Plan and Land Development Code updates focused on transportation, public services, and impact mitigation.
  - Advanced high-quality tourism by enhancing cultural and natural assets; initiated post-COVID economic recovery programs and expedited reopening of key venues.
  - Spearheaded strategic planning and branding for economic development, tourism, and overall government innovation.

**ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR, ST. JOHNS COUNTY**

**2015 - 2019**

- Oversees Public Safety, Fire Rescue, Emergency Management, Tourist Development, Health and Human Services, Housing, Parks and Recreation, Library, with approximately 1,000 employees.
- Execute policies, directives and legislative actions of County Board.
- Prepare annual overall county budget of approximately \$800 million with \$156 million of capital improvement projects.

**DIRECTOR, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, ST. JOHNS COUNTY**

**2009 - 2015**

- Directed integrated human services system, including child welfare, social services, and housing.
- Administered multi-million dollar budgets and over 20 community contracts.
- Built innovative partnerships with public/private/foundation sectors.

**BUDGET ANALYST, OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET, ST. JOHNS COUNTY**

**2006-2009**

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- Prepared and monitored county budgets and department performance measures.
  - Conducted financial forecasting and economic analysis for policy planning.
  - Evaluated departmental efficiencies and compliance with fiscal regulations.

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EDUCATION

**Master of Public Administration (Public Financing)**

Kansas State University, 2005

**Bachelor of Laws (International Commerce & Trade Law)**

Nanjing University – School of Law, 2002

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SKILLS & INTERESTS

Strategic Planning • Infrastructure Delivery • Land Use Policy • Community Engagement • Public-Private Partnerships • Grants & Legislative Affairs • Economic & Destination Development • Arts & Culture • Emergency & Human Services • Chinese (Fluent) • Reading • Travel