

Dotti Owens

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04/22/2025

Board of County Commissioners

Palm Beach County Government

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to express my strong interest in the County Administrator position for Palm Beach County, Florida. With over 17 years of leadership experience in county government, forensic operations, and public health, I bring a comprehensive understanding of local governance, strategic management, and community-centered service delivery. My background as an elected official and executive leader, coupled with my commitment to operational excellence and collaborative problem-solving, makes me uniquely qualified to serve as Palm Beach County's next County Manager.

As the elected Coroner for Ada County, Idaho from 2015 to 2023, I led a nationally accredited office, overseeing a multi-million-dollar budget and managing a staff of 33 across forensic, investigative, and administrative divisions. I worked directly with county commissioners, state legislators, and federal partners to implement strategic initiatives that addressed complex public health issues, including opioid misuse and suicide prevention. My leadership included the design and development of a \$48 million forensic facility, extensive contract management with 30 counties, and the successful acquisition and administration of numerous state and federal grants.

I am a system thinker who understands the importance of balancing rapid and sustained growth with thoughtful, cohesive policies. I have a proven ability to build effective, customer-focused teams and lead interdepartmental initiatives that align with both the operational goals of government and the priorities of the residents we serve. My tenure in county government has honed my skills in fiscal oversight, public engagement, and collaborative leadership with elected officials, including sheriffs, district attorneys, and treasurers. I have consistently driven innovation in service delivery while navigating challenges at both state and federal levels.

Adams County's commitment to inclusive community development, sustainable growth, and strategic leadership resonates with my professional values. I am eager to bring my experience and dedication to your team to support the Board of County Commissioners in advancing your vision for a thriving and resilient county.

Thank you for your consideration. I welcome the opportunity to further discuss how my background and leadership philosophy align with the goals of Palm Beach County.

Sincerely,

Dotti Owens

Dotti Owens

• dottiiowens1@gmail.com •

EXECUTIVE PROFILE

Dynamic and accomplished public sector leader with over 15 years of progressive experience in county-level management, forensic operations, and public health policy. Proven expertise in strategic planning, intergovernmental relations, fiscal oversight, and leading cross-functional teams in high-stakes environments. Recognized for developing innovative forensic programs, managing multimillion-dollar budgets, and fostering partnerships with local, state, and federal agencies. Committed to public service excellence with a focus on operational efficiency, community health, and evidence-based leadership.

CORE COMPETENCIES

- Strategic Planning & Execution
 - Budgeting & Financial Management (\$3.8M+)
 - Intergovernmental & Stakeholder Relations
 - Public Health Policy & Program Development
 - Contract Negotiation & Administration
 - Facility Design & Project Management
 - Staff Leadership & Development (33+ Employees)
 - Forensic & Medicolegal Operations
 - Grant Writing & Fund Management (ARPA, NIJ, Opioid)
 - Crisis & Emergency Response Coordination
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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Eastern Idaho Forensic Pathology Center Project Lead

Bannock County / Idaho State University Collaboration • 2023 – 2024

- Spearheaded early-stage planning for a regional forensic pathology facility intended to serve 17 counties.

- Directed recruitment of key personnel, including forensic pathologists, and crafted job descriptions with competitive wage analyses.
 - Led development of operational procedures, budget planning, HR frameworks, and inter-agency contracts.
 - Managed partnerships with Idaho State University, State of Idaho, and local governments; project ceased in April 2024 due to reallocation of funds.
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Ada County Coroner Elect

Ada County Coroner's Office (ACCO) – Boise, Idaho • January 2015 – January 2023

- Elevated office to national prominence, securing dual accreditation (NAME & IACME); only sixth Coroner in the U.S. to achieve this.
 - Directed operations of a 33-person multi-division team, overseeing forensic, investigative, and administrative functions.
 - Designed and executed a \$48M forensic facility project, from needs assessment to facility commissioning.
 - Negotiated contracts and operational policies for regional services to 30 contract counties.
 - Managed \$3.8M+ annual budget; secured and administered multiple grants totaling over \$500,000 for facility expansion and public health campaigns.
 - Championed public health initiatives in opioid misuse, suicide prevention, and overdose response; developed and led statewide training programs.
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Forensic Supervisor

Ada County Coroner's Office (ACCO) – Boise, Idaho • November 2014 – January 2015

- Supervised investigative and forensic staff, ensuring quality casework and operational compliance.
 - Administered division budgets, policy implementation, and case reviews for high-profile death investigations.
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Medicolegal Death Investigator

Ada County Coroner's Office (ACCO) – Boise, Idaho • January 2011 – July 2014

Twin Falls County Coroner's Office (TFCCO) – Twin Falls, Idaho • May 2006 – January 2011

- Conducted complex death investigations, collaborating with law enforcement, medical professionals, and legal entities.
 - Authored official reports, death certificates, and conducted public health surveillance through case data analysis.
 - Played a vital role in public education initiatives and community engagement regarding drug and alcohol awareness.
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EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Public Health/Public Administration *(In Progress)*

Anticipated Graduation: 2026

Master of Arts, Criminology/Criminal Justice Administration

Arizona State University – 2013 • GPA: 3.89

Bachelor of Arts, Criminal Justice Administration

Bachelor of Arts, Anthropology

Boise State University – 2010 • GPA: 3.70

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Past President, Intergovernmental Affairs Cast Chair, **Idaho Association of Counties**
 - Executive Board Member, **International Association of Coroners and Medical Examiners (IACME)**
 - Past President-Elect, **Idaho State Association of Counties**
 - Member, **National Association of Counties (NACo)**: Healthy Counties Initiative Board, Rural Action Caucus, Intergovernmental Affairs
 - Board Certified Diplomat, **American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators (ABMDI)**
 - Member, **National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME)**
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SELECTED PRESENTATIONS & TRAININGS

- *National Association of Counties*, “Coroners and Opioids”
- *Boise State University, Adjunct*, “Opioids and the Role of the Coroner”

- *Federal Office of Rural Health Policy*, “Suicides and Coroners”
 - *Idaho State Association of County Coroners*, “Investigating Deaths”
 - *Idaho Mental Health Summit*, “Opioids and Prescription Drug Take Back”
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GRANTS SECURED

- **\$250,000**: Facility Expansion for Population & Opioid Response
 - **\$67,000**: Toxicology Testing Enhancement Grant
 - **\$10,000**: Suicide Prevention Campaign
 - **\$10,000**: Equipment Grant for County Coroners
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REFERENCES

Available upon request.