

The Role of Local Government in Economically Depressed Times Questions to Stimulate Discussion

1. What opportunities can we identify that can advance our core mission and change or shed any outmodeled business practices?
2. What are the benefits and risks of increasing revenues or drawing down reserves in order to maintain spending?
3. What are the benefits and risks of expanding or accelerating local capital projects?
4. What obligation does city government have to help address foreclosed properties and dislocated families? What can be done to help avoid family financial risk (housing, family debt, etc.) in the future?
5. What is the impact on delivery of service and the ability to retain quality public employees in the wake of cutbacks? With fewer young adults choosing to enter the field of public service, how do we continue to attract and retain employees?
6. What is the impact of fiscal stress on the City Commission and city staff? How do we help ensure cool, rational actions?
7. How do we ensure strong communication with citizens so that they understand the scope of the problems?
8. What is the fiscal impact of deferring maintenance versus prioritization and targeted budget cuts?
9. Page 17 of the “Navigating the Fiscal Crisis: Tested Strategies for Local Leaders” white paper from ICMA lists important guiding principles for weathering the current fiscal crisis, some of which are counter-intuitive. Are these guiding principles applicable for Tallahassee?