



**Marion County
Board of County Commissioners**

McPherson Governmental Campus

601 SE 25th Ave.
Ocala, FL 34471
Phone: 352-438-2300
Fax: 352-438-2324

District 1 - Craig Curry, Commissioner
District 2 - Kathy Bryant, Commissioner
District 3 - Matt McClain, Vice Chairman
District 4 - Carl Zalak III, Chairman
District 5 - Michelle Stone, Commissioner

May 13, 2026

Florida Department of State
Division of Historical Resources
R.A. Gray Building
500 S. Bronough Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0250

RE: Support for the City of Ocala's request for archaeological grant consideration

Dear Review Committee:

On behalf of the Marion County Board of County Commissioners, I am pleased to offer our support to the City of Ocala for the furtherment of archaeological endeavors at Fort King. Our Commission celebrates the history of the Fort during the Seminole Wars and is deeply interested in furthering the education of Marion County schoolchildren regarding the facts of those wars.

The Marion County Commission greatly supports this grant application for the advancement of Fort King's historical preservation efforts. This work is a benefit to the local community and aligns with our mission to educate the citizens of Marion County, Florida, and the nation on the rich history of Fort King. This grant will help ensure the preservation of the early history of Marion County and the State of Florida for future generations. The archaeological excavations to be conducted will advance Fort King as a center point of local and regional history.

The planned excavation of artifacts from this National Historic Landmark, combined with the reconstruction of buildings as described in soldiers' historical drawings, will draw visitors to the site and educate the public about Florida's history from the early 1800s. The Marion County Commissioners are proud to endorse this effort and encourage your favorable consideration of this grant application.

Very respectfully,

Carl Zalak, III
Chairman
Marion County Board of County Commissioners