

Lewis named League of Women in Government Leadership Trailblazer

By Hector Flores

I'm proud to announce that Deputy County Administrator Emily Lewis has been honored with the League of Women in Government's 2025 Leadership Trailblazer Award. She accepted the award at the organization's annual conference in Tampa. The League serves as the umbrella organization for state and regional groups that support local and statewide initiatives that advance women to local government leadership.

"There are so many women in local government who are leading their organizations and their colleagues with courage and distinction. We wanted a way to acknowledge their efforts," said League Chief Administrative Officer Pam Antil. "We hope the award will not only spotlight the nominees and winners but also honor the valuable work of all women in our profession."

In a question-and-answer session with the League, Lewis was asked what it meant for her to be nominated for the award.

"Being nominated for this award is a profound honor. It reflects not only the work I have done in my own career, but also the commitment I have made to mentoring and creating pathways for other women in local government. To be recognized for helping others grow in their leadership journey is one of the most meaningful validations of my career," Lewis said.

On her decision to pursue a career in public service, Lewis said, "I was drawn to public service out of a strong desire to make a tangible difference in my community. Local government is where decisions directly impact people's daily lives, and I wanted to contribute to creating stronger, more resilient communities. Over time, this calling has only deepened as I've seen how service, leadership, and collaboration can truly transform lives."

She reflected further on the meaning of public service in response to a question about lessons she has learned in her career: "The most important lesson I've learned is that leadership is not about a title – it's about service. True leadership comes from listening, empowering others, and creating opportunities for people to succeed. Building relationships and leading with integrity have always guided my decisions, and I've found that the impact of those values lasts longer than any individual achievement."

Lewis offered some advice for young women pursuing a career in local government.

"Be bold in pursuing opportunities, even if you don't feel 100% ready," she said. "Surround yourself with mentors and peers who will challenge and support you, and don't be afraid to advocate for yourself. Most importantly, focus on continuous learning and leading with authenticity – your unique perspective is your strength."

Congratulations to my longtime colleague and partner in service. This is a well-deserved honor and Charlotte County is lucky to have Emily working on our community's behalf.

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