

## **Collective Bargaining: Why Florida's corrections administrators must accept it as the future of labor relations**

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Collective bargaining units represent approximately one-sixth of Florida's sixty-seven county corrections agencies. These counties, Broward, Charlotte, Dade, Duval, Escambia, Flagler, Hardee, Levy, Monroe, Orange, and Volusia, range from very small inmate and staff populations to mega-jails (1000+ inmate populations) with large detention staffs. There is no specific geographic location in the state that can be identified as a unionism "hot-bed" and contrary to popular belief most unionized corrections agencies are wards of the Sheriff. As corrections evolves into its own identity within the law enforcement community its administrators will be forced to adopt strategies to work with the fact that front-line staff and supervisors will seek collective bargaining as a labor relations tool in its dealings with management.