



NORTHWEST FLORIDA BEACHES INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NORTHWEST FLORIDA BEACHES INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT TO WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS

*Brad Drake and Ben Lee to begin service in July on the Panama City-Bay County
Airport and Industrial District Board*

PANAMA CITY, Fla. (July 10, 2026) – the Panama City-Bay County Airport and Industrial District will welcome two new members to its Board of Directors at the Board’s July 22 meeting. Brad Drake, representing Walton County, and Ben Lee, representing Panama City, will begin their service, bringing valuable leadership experience and regional expertise to support the continued growth and long-term strategic vision of Northwest Florida Beaches International Airport (ECP).

As the Airport continues to advance key initiatives that enhance the passenger experience and drive economic development across Northwest Florida, Drake and Lee will help provide strategic oversight and guidance as members of the Board.

Drake currently serves as Chair of the Walton County Board of County Commissioners, representing District 3. A longtime public servant, he previously served in the Florida House of Representatives from 2008 to 2012 and again from 2014 to 2022, and has held leadership roles at the state level, including serving as Director of Rural and Community Affairs.

Lee currently serves as the Senior Vice President and Market President for Hancock Whitney Bank’s Bay-Destin Market, leading strategic growth and client development efforts across Northwest Florida. He previously served as Executive Director for the Office of the State Attorney, overseeing operations across six Florida counties, and has held leadership roles with regional organizations including Triumph Gulf Coast and the Bay Economic Development Alliance.

“We are pleased to welcome Brad Drake and Ben Lee to the Board,” said Airport Board Chair Mark Sheldon. “Their leadership experience and deep understanding of Northwest Florida will be a valuable asset as we continue advancing strategic initiatives that support the Airport’s growth and regional impact.”

The Airport’s Board of Directors provides strategic oversight and governance, guiding key investments, infrastructure improvements, and initiatives that enhance the passenger experience while supporting economic development across Northwest Florida.

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About Northwest Florida Beaches International Airport

Northwest Florida Beaches International Airport (ECP) is located less than 30 minutes from Panama City Beach, Panama City and the beaches of South Walton. Today, with service from American Airlines, Delta Air Lines, Southwest Airlines, and United Airlines, ECP provides daily, nonstop flights to Atlanta (ATL), Austin (AUS) Baltimore (BWI), Boston (BOS), Charlotte (CLT), Chicago (MDW/ORD), Columbus (CMH), Dallas (DAL/DFW), Denver (DEN), Houston (HOU/IAH), Kansas City (MCI), Nashville (BNA), New York City (LGA), St. Louis (STL), Washington DC (DCA), and one-stop to worldwide destinations. The first international airport to be built in more than a decade, ECP provides Northwest Florida communities with first-class facilities and was strategically developed for major economic development opportunities. ECP is the gateway to visitors seeking Northwest Florida’s famous beaches.