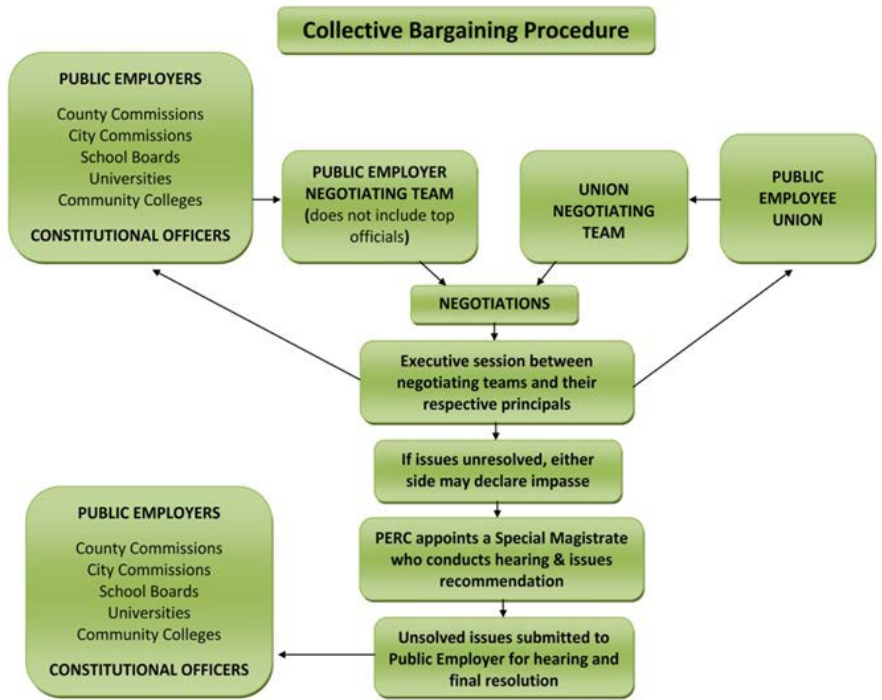




## Support Holding Constitutional Officers Accountable to the Public

Florida's Sheriffs want to ensure locally-elected constitutional officers remain accountable to the citizens and retain the management authority they need to carry out their responsibilities. In situations involving an impasse in collective bargaining, the constitutional officers who are elected and accountable to the public should continue to be the persons making the final decisions regarding their respective employees.

Providing constitutional officers the ability to resolve impasse keeps the process consistent with those of City Councils, Boards of County Commissioners, County School Boards, and those more recently affirmed by the Legislature for the Florida School for the Deaf and Blind and for the State University System. In collective bargaining, agency principals are not involved directly in the negotiations, and are only called upon at the end of the process when they are asked to make a judgment as to whether or not to declare an impasse. The chart above illustrates how the collective bargaining process, and the authority to declare impasse, works for all public employee agencies, and how it should also work for constitutional officers.



Floridians expect the person they elect to local constitutional office to be the person responsible and accountable for the crucial decisions and management of those offices and their employees. Constitutional officers are empowered by the voters with the authority and responsibility to operate their respective offices just as are County and City Commissions and School Boards, and they should have the final say as to how their agencies will operate, just as do the other elected officials. They cannot abrogate their accountability or allow their operational responsibilities to be shifted to other legislative bodies.

HB 649 and SB 816 allow locally-elected constitutional officers to decide issues that remain unresolved after a special hearing through the Public Employee Relations Commission. The bill provides an exemption for impasse involving wages. In these cases, the county or city commission will be responsible for resolving impasses between a constitutional officer and their employees.



**Support HB 649 by Rep. Cummings and SB 816 by Sen. Bradley**