Citizens' Guide to County Finances

For the fiscal year ended September 30, 2025

Pinellas County, Florida

Pinellas County

Table of Contents

Citizens of Pinellas County,

I'm proud to present the Citizens' Guide to County Finances (Citizens' Guide) for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2025. As your elected Clerk and Comptroller, I am honored to serve as the Chief Financial Officer for the Board of County Commissioners, sharing the critical responsibility of safeguarding county funds. This guide offers you an accessible and concise analysis of where our county's revenues originated and how these funds were utilized throughout the fiscal year. It also highlights trends in revenues and expenditures over the past three fiscal years, providing you with a clear and comprehensive picture of Pinellas County's financial health.

The Citizens' Guide distills the financial activities of Pinellas County's primary government, making the complex simple and approachable for every resident. While the presentation does not adhere to the technical requirements of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) or governmental reporting standards, it is intentionally designed to be clear and reader-friendly for non-financial audiences. Despite the simplified format, rest assured that all financial data in the Citizens' Guide is derived from the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report, which meets the rigorous standards of GAAP.

We are proud to announce that the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) recognized Pinellas County's commitment to excellence by awarding us the Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2024, marking an incredible eighteen consecutive years of receiving this distinction.

Additionally, Pinellas County has been awarded the prestigious Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2024—an honor we've achieved for an extraordinary 44 consecutive years. This accolade reflects our unwavering commitment to transparency, accuracy, and professionalism in financial reporting, and we have every confidence that our 2025 report will meet the same high standards as we pursue its eligibility for yet another certificate.

For those who wish to dive deeper, the full Annual Comprehensive Financial Report is available for your review, offering detailed insights into the county's fiscal activities. You can access this report on the Clerk's website at www.mypinellasclerk.gov or request a physical copy by contacting the Clerk's Finance Division at (727) 464-8300. Your feedback is always valued—please don't hesitate to share your comments or suggestions for improvement by reaching out to my office directly at (727) 464-3341.

It is an honor to serve as your Clerk and Comptroller, and I trust that this Citizens' Guide will provide you with valuable insights into our county's financial standing. Thank you for your continued trust and engagement as we work together to ensure a thriving and fiscally responsible Pinellas County.

Sincerely,

Ken Burke, CPA
Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller

Ken Burke, CPA
Clerk of the Circuit Court
and Comptroller
Pinellas County, Florida

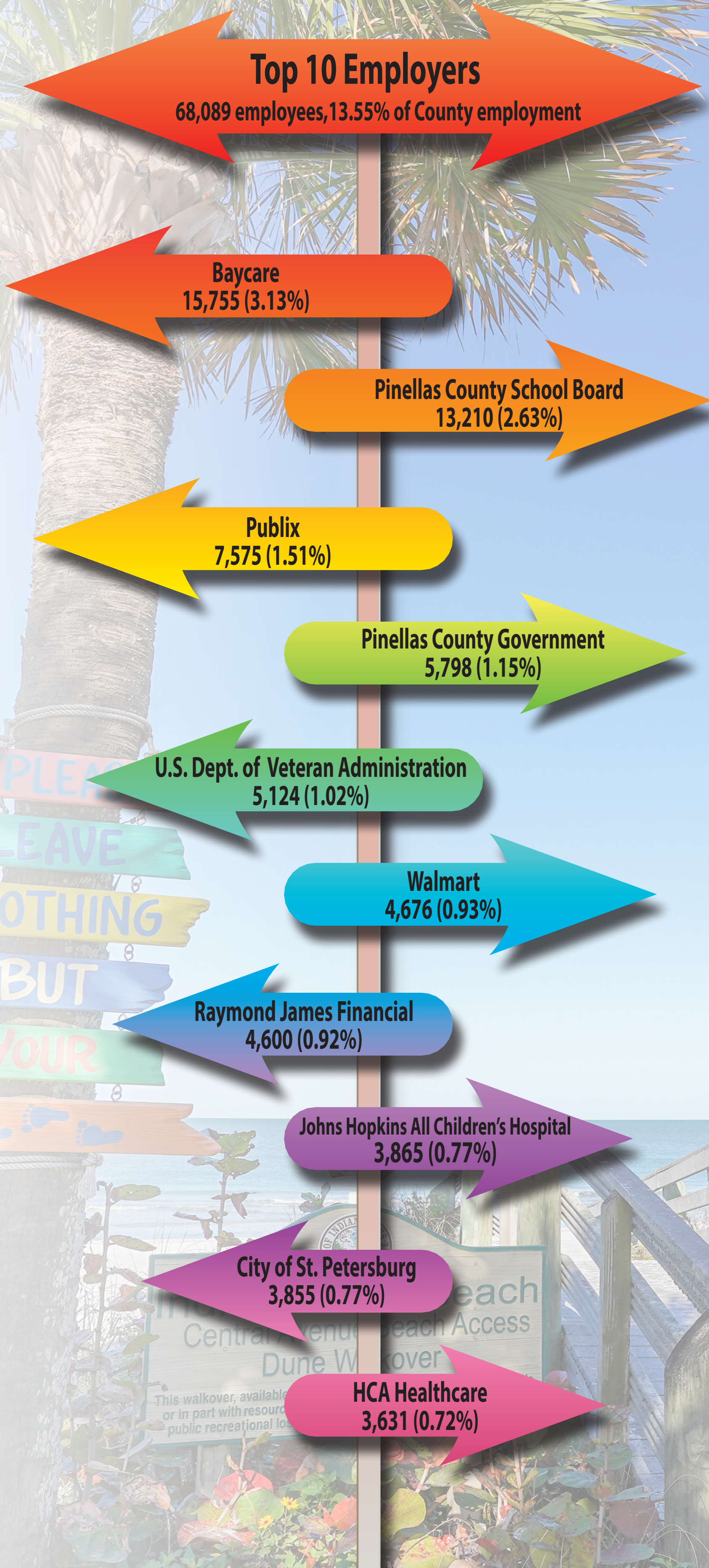
Clerk of Board of County Commissioners
County Auditor and Treasurer
Clerk to the Value Adjustment Board

Pinellas is an urban county, on a peninsula on the western coast of Florida, bounded on the east by Tampa Bay and on the west by the Gulf of America. Pinellas County is the most densely populated of all sixty-seven Florida counties. The County is the second smallest in landmass in Florida; measuring up to thirty-eight miles long and fifteen miles wide. The sparkling water of the Gulf of America, award-winning beaches, stunning sunsets and balmy weather make Pinellas an inviting destination for visitors and home to a diverse population of residents.

Pinellas County is a premier destination for professional baseball enthusiasts. Home to the spring training facilities of both the Philadelphia Phillies in Clearwater and the Toronto Blue Jays in Dunedin, the County plays a vital role in the spring training and development of major league talent. Numerous parks and preserves throughout the county support a variety of recreational activities such as fishing, boating, and other outdoor activities.

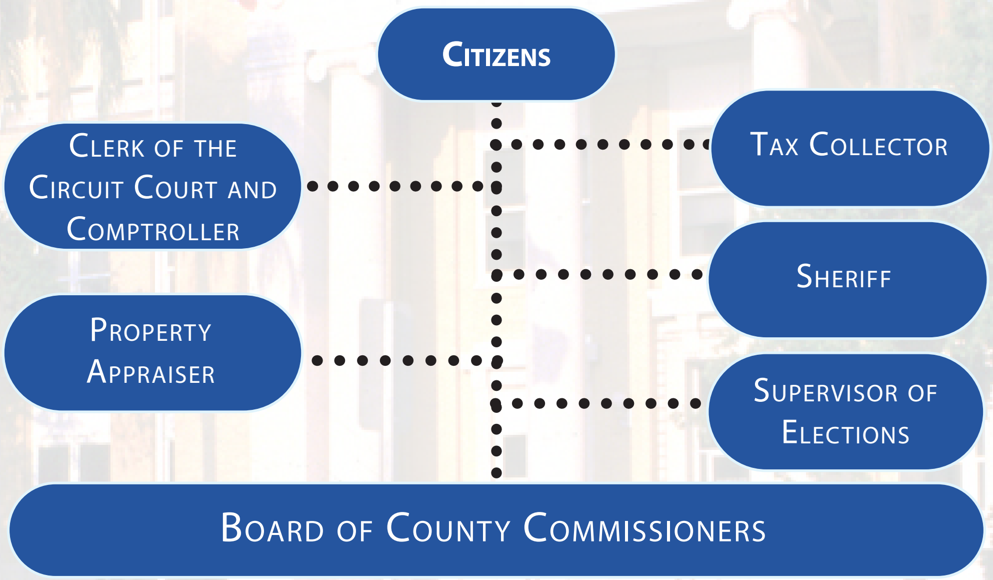
Accolades & Awards:

- ★ Clearwater Beach was ranked among the "15 Best White-sand Beaches Around the World" (#3) by Travel + Leisure.
- ★ MovieMaker Magazine recognized the area as one of the Best Places to Live and Work as a MovieMaker for several consecutive years.
- ★ Triple Crown Award Winner, recognized by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) for honors related to financial and budgetary reporting.

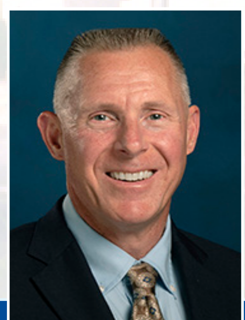


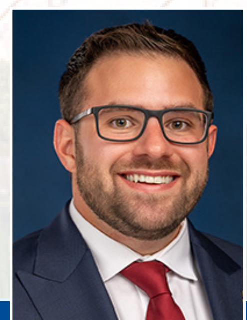
Pinellas County is a charter county established under the Constitution and laws of the State of Florida in 1911. In 1968, the Florida Constitution was amended to provide home rule powers for counties and municipalities. The voters of Pinellas County approved the first home rule charter in 1980. Pinellas was the first county in Florida to operate under a Board of County Commissioners/Administrator form of government.

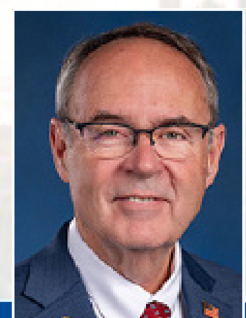
The elected Constitutional Officers include the Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller, Supervisor of Elections, Tax Collector, Property Appraiser and Sheriff. The seven member Board serves as the legislative body, and budgets and provides the funding for its departments, the entire operations of the Sheriff and the Supervisor of Elections and portions of the operations for the other Constitutional Officers.




Chris Scherer
District 1


Brian Scott
District 2


Vince Nowicki
District 3


Dave Eggers
District 4
Chair


Chris Latvala
District 5
Vice Chair


Kathleen Peters
District 6


René Flowers
District 7

Duties of the Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller

The Clerk of the Circuit Court was established as a public trustee by the Florida Constitution in 1838. Today, the Florida Statutes assign more than 1,000 tasks to the Clerk of the Circuit Court. The Clerk serves as the Clerk of the Circuit and County Courts, Recorder of Deeds, Clerk and Accountant to the Board of County Commissioners, custodian of all county funds and as the County Auditor. The Clerk's role as an elected public trustee is one of the most important aspects of the position because he serves at the will of the people. It is the Clerk's responsibility to serve as a "watchdog" for the citizens of Pinellas County to ensure funds expended are only for a public purpose and for the benefit of the public as a whole.

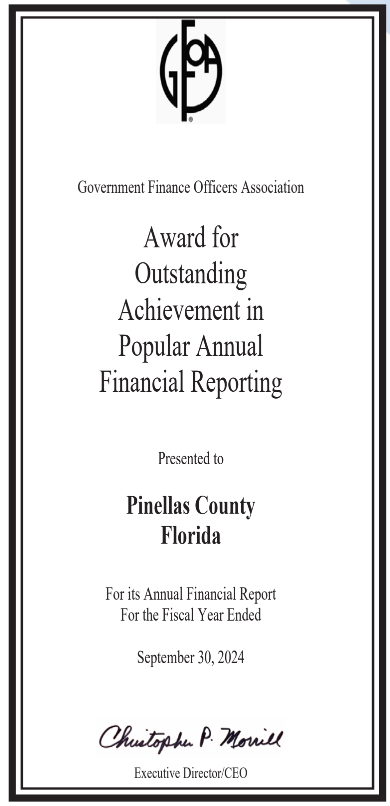
1 **As Clerk of the Circuit and County Courts,** the Clerk maintains custody of court records and all related pleadings filed, secures evidence entered in court, and ensures the integrity of court files is protected. The Clerk also collects and disburses court fines and assessments and court ordered child support and summons prospective jurors.

2 **As Recorder of Deeds**, the Clerk maintains Official Records of the County and ensures their integrity is protected.

3 **As Clerk and Accountant of the Board of County Commissioners,** the Clerk maintains official records of the Board. The Clerk also maintains county financial records and prepares financial reports, in addition to providing accounting services to all departments under the Board. The Clerk manages and maintains software for the financial accounting system and processes and pre-audits accounts payable, accounts receivable and payroll transactions.

4 **As Custodian of all County Funds**, the Clerk receives and records county revenue and invests county funds.

5 **As County Auditor,** the Clerk performs the comptroller function in pre-audit of invoices before payment, and performs internal audits of county departments. Additional services include performing Inspector General investigations.


Government Finance Officers Association

Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting

Presented to

Pinellas County Florida

For its Annual Financial Report
For the Fiscal Year Ended

September 30, 2024

Christopher P. Morrill

Executive Director/CEO

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) has given an Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting to Pinellas County, Florida for its Popular Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2024. The Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting is a prestigious national award recognizing conformance with the highest standards for preparation of state and local government popular reports.

To receive an Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting, a government must publish a Popular Annual Financial Report conforming to program standards of creativity, presentation, understandability, and reader appeal.

An Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting is valid for a period of one year only. We believe our report for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2025 conforms to the Popular Annual Financial Reporting requirements, and we are submitting it to the GFOA.

GENERAL REVENUES

Property taxes are ad valorem taxes levied on an assessed valuation of real and/or personal property. These taxes are collected annually and are computed as a percentage of the fair market value of locally assessed real estate and tangible personal property. Property taxes are considered general revenue for the county.

Sales taxes and other taxes are comprised of the following:
The one cent infrastructure sales tax or the *Penny for Pinellas* is imposed for funding infrastructure projects that normally would have to be funded by increased property taxes or other revenue sources. The *Penny for Pinellas* is earmarked for capital improvement projects for roads, flood control, park improvements, affordable housing, preservation of endangered lands and public safety. The *Penny for Pinellas* is paid by all who spend money in the county, including tourists and visitors.

Tourist development tax is a local tax imposed on most rentals or leases, which have been contracted for periods of six (6) months or less, or living accommodations in hotels, motels, apartment houses, rooming houses, and mobile home parks. The revenue is restricted and may be used for certain costs related to tourist development, beach re-nourishment, debt service, stadiums and promoting and advertising tourism internationally, nationally and in the State of Florida.

Fuel tax (local option gas tax) is a tax on every net gallon of motor and diesel fuel sold in Pinellas County. It is a county imposed tax for the purpose of paying the cost of establishing, operating and maintaining a transportation system and related facilities and the cost of acquisition, construction, reconstruction and maintenance of roads and streets.

Communications services tax is comprised of two components: a state communications services tax and a local communications services tax. The tax is imposed on retail sales of communications services which originate and terminate in the state, or originate or terminate in the state and are billed to an address within the state. Tax proceeds are transferred to the county. Communications services are defined as voice, data, audio, video or any other information or signals, including cable services.

Interest income is the revenue earned from investing County funds.

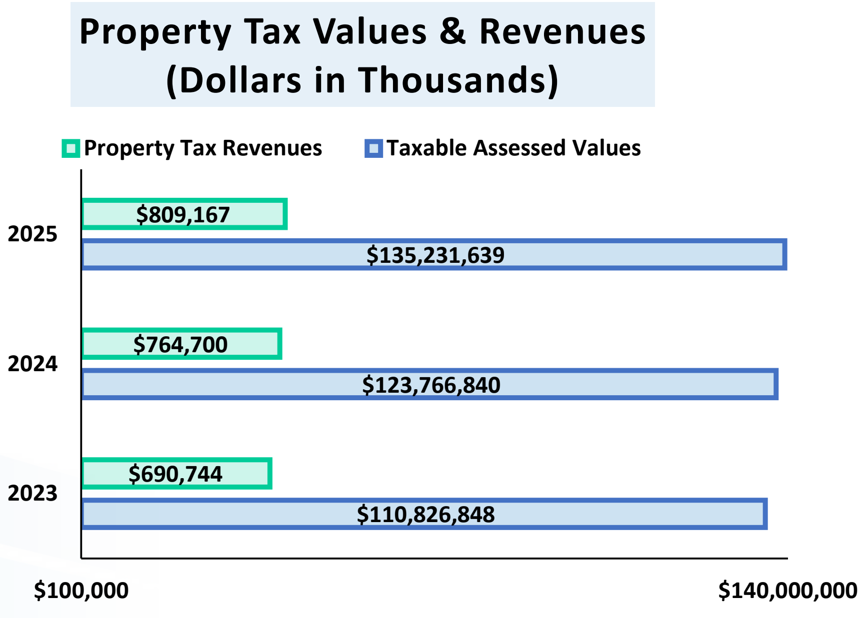
PROGRAM REVENUES

Charges for services are made up of fees collected from the public for services rendered (e.g. court costs, building permits, park fees, animal licenses, etc.).

Operating grants and contributions include monies received from the federal and state levels to fund the operating expenses of a specific program or project. Operating expenses can include salaries and wages, rent, utilities and more.

Capital grants and contributions include monies received from the federal and state levels for the acquisition and construction of capital assets, such as buildings, infrastructure,

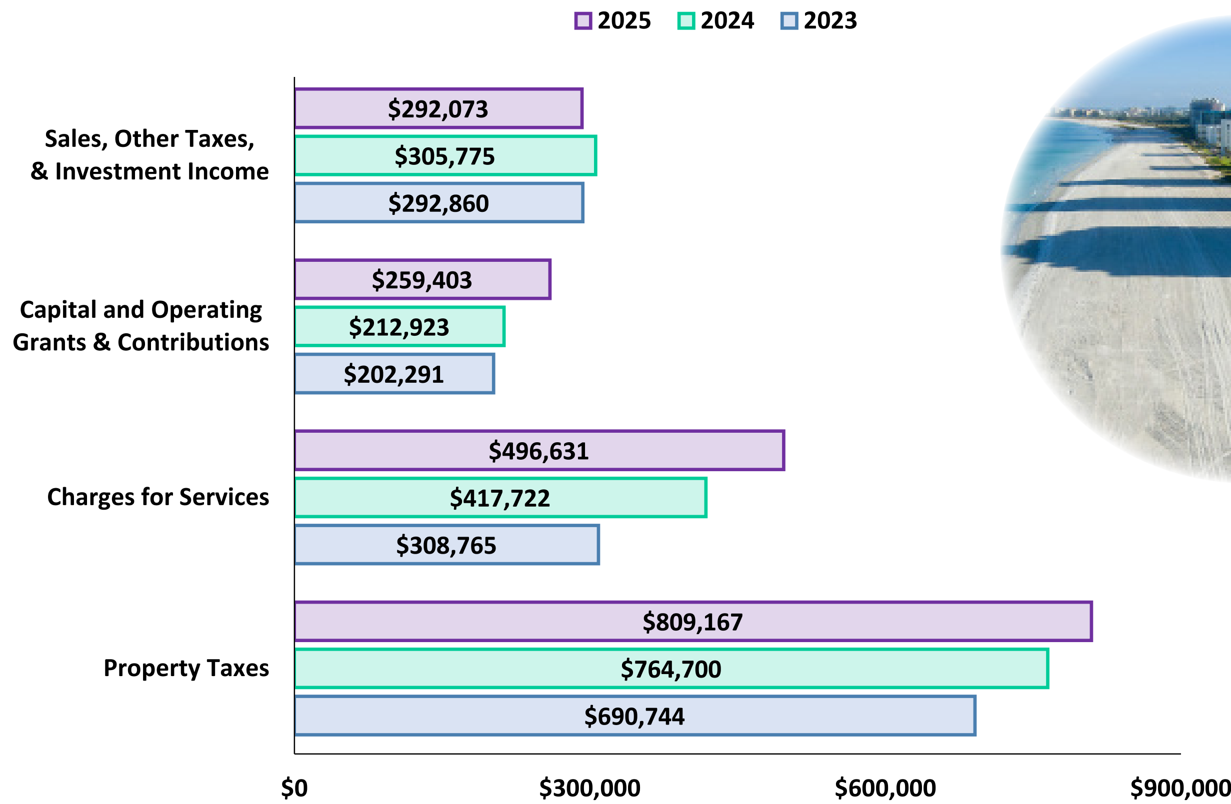
Dolphin Adventure



Pinellas County receives its revenue from many sources, the largest being property taxes, to fund governmental activities. Total revenues for the County increased 5.8 percent over last year. Approximately 35.5 percent of the County's total revenues come from property taxes and 11.2 percent from other taxes. Fees, service charges, revenues from other governments and unrestricted interest earnings account for 53.3 percent of all revenues.

Revenues in the County's governmental activities Increased by $156.2 million or 9.2 percent over the prior year. Key factors attributing to these changes are described below.

Governmental Activities Revenue (Dollars in Thousands)



Sand Key Beach Nourishment

Property tax revenues increased by $44.5 million, or 5.8 percent over last year for all governmental activities due to an increase in property tax values of 9.5 percent. The millage rate decreased by 0.1451 mills in FY2025 from the prior year.

Charges for services increased by $78.9 million; or 18.9 percent, primarily due to a $42.6 million increase related to the Local Provider Participation Fund special assessment, a $10.0 million increase in ambulance service fees, and a $8.2 million increase in interest revenue and investment earnings from legally restricted programs.

Capital and Operating Grants & Contributions increased by $46.5 million from the prior year, primarily due to an increase in federal funding and expenditures from the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) program authorized by the American Rescue Plan Act.

Sales, Other Taxes & Investment Income decreased by $2.2 million; or 0.9 percent due to a moderating consumer spending trend and tourism activity during the fiscal year.

Sources of County Funds: Property Taxes

The real estate property tax is a tax on land and improvements. Real estate property taxes are considered ad-valorem, meaning "according to worth" or that they are based on the value of the property, as determined by the Pinellas County Property Appraiser. The Pinellas County Property Appraiser's Office establishes the value of property every year. The Board of County Commissioners, School Board, municipalities, and other levying bodies set millage rates – the amount per $1,000 that is used to calculate taxes on property. A "mill" is equal to $1 of tax for every $1,000 of assessed property value. Using the taxable values and millage rates, the Property Appraiser prepares the "tax roll" and sends it to the Tax Collector. The Tax Collector then mails an annual tax notice to the property owner's address of record as it appears on the tax roll.

Example - City of Belleair Bluffs Resident
Breakdown of Property Tax Bill
Countywide & City Portion - Total Taxes: $ 5,012.31

The example is based on a taxable value of $266,369

St. Pete Skyline

Governmental activities include most of the basic services offered to citizens, including tax assessment and collections, election services, fire and law enforcement protection, judicial services, emergency medical services, civil emergency services, construction and maintenance of highways, streets and other infrastructure, natural resources conservation, economic and community development, social and human services, and cultural and recreational services. Property and sales and use taxes, intergovernmental revenues and various user fees support these operations. During the year, expenses for governmental activities increased by 10.0 percent or $137.0 million from the prior year. Key factors attributing to these changes are described below.

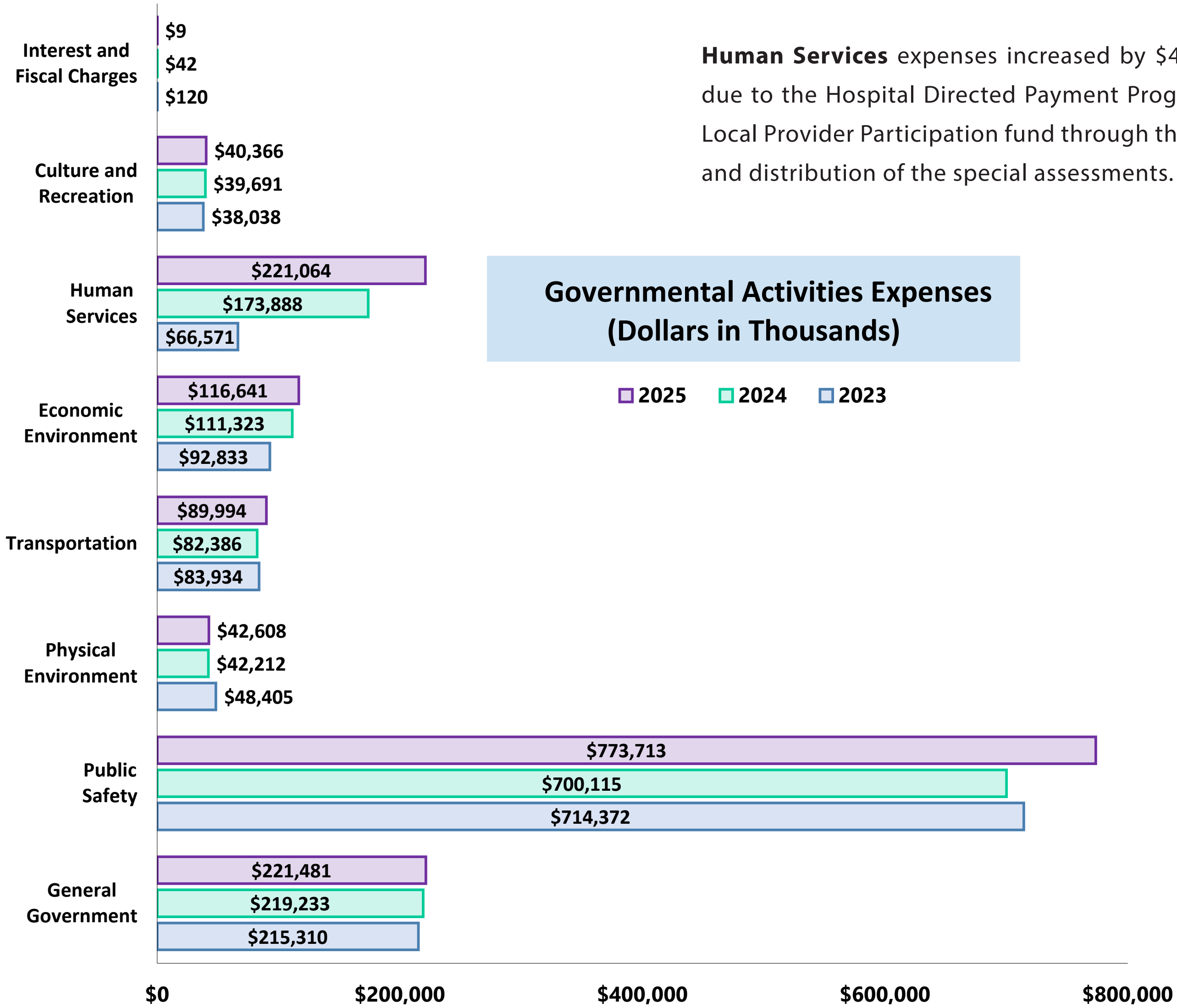
General government expenses increased by $2.2 million, with the most significant increase related to higher health claims and medical costs.

Public Safety expenses increased by $73.6 million largely driven by a $46.4 million increase in hurricane related response costs, including debris removal, emergency services, and shelter operations associated with Hurricanes Milton and Helene, and approximately $30.6 million in personnel service costs within the Sheriff's Office.

Transportation expenses increased by $7.6 million. This increase is due to general consulting services for the Traffic Safety Improvement Study which is for the *Safe Streets for All* grant project. Contract services also increased to support the sidewalk, pavement repairs, and underdrain related contracts, as well as the Pinellas Trail pavement markings project.

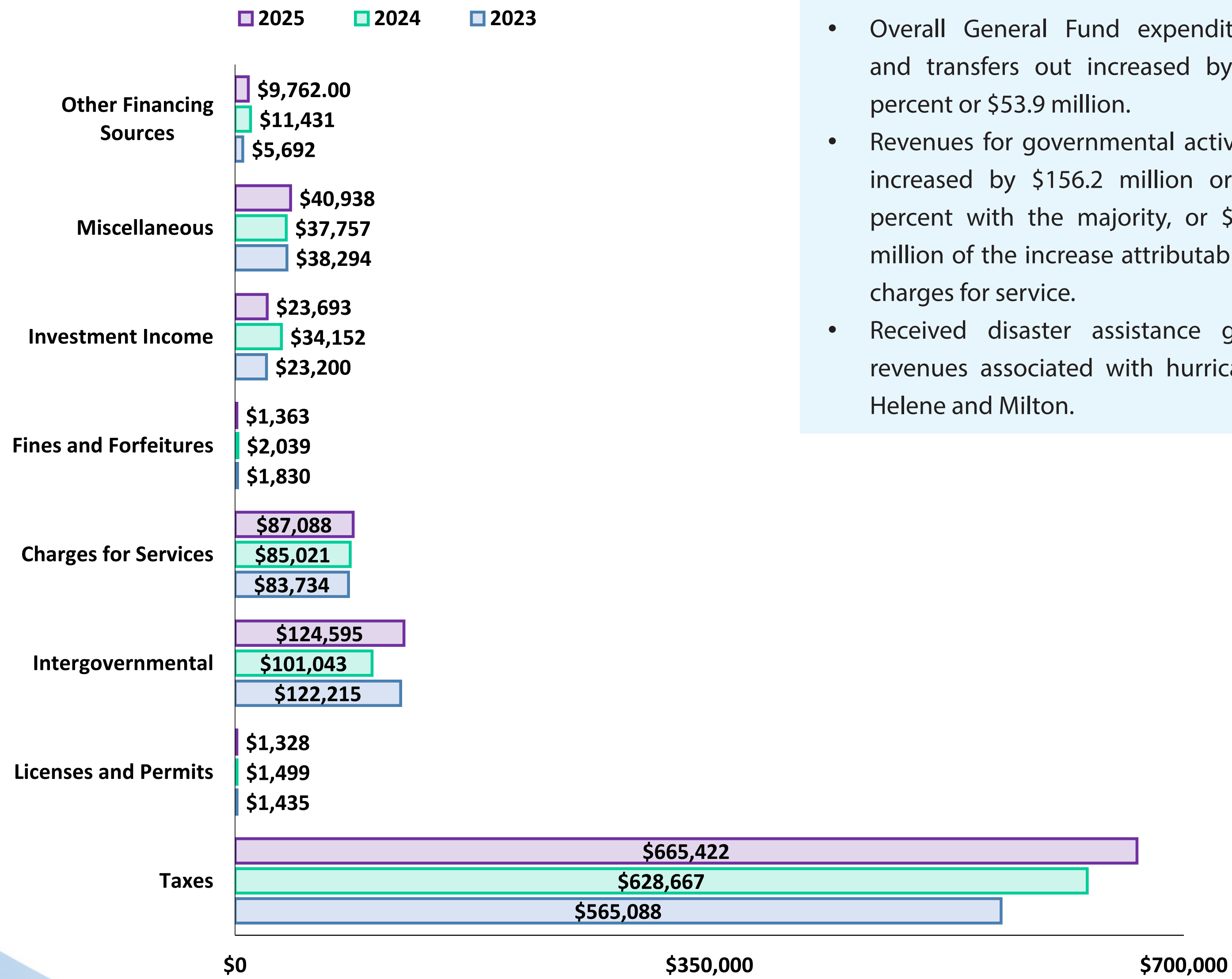
Economic Environment expenses increased by $5.3 million, driven by the higher costs associated with increased tax increments valuation.

Human Services expenses increased by $47.2 million, due to the Hospital Directed Payment Program (HDPP) Local Provider Participation fund through the collection and distribution of the special assessments.



The General Fund is the primary operating fund of the county that accounts for all financial resources of the general government, except for those that are required to be accounted for in another fund. Appropriations for the General Fund for the fiscal year totaled $1.2 billion.

General Fund Revenues and Other Financing Sources (Dollars in Thousands)



Key financial factors for the year were as follows:

- Overall General Fund expenditures and transfers out increased by 5.7 percent or $53.9 million.
- Revenues for governmental activities increased by $156.2 million or 9.2 percent with the majority, or $78.9 million of the increase attributable to charges for service.
- Received disaster assistance grant revenues associated with hurricanes Helene and Milton.

Weedon Island Preserve

General Fund Expenditures & Other Financing Uses

The General Fund is used to pay the general operating and administrative expenditures not accounted for in other funds. General fund expenditures and transfers out increased by $53.9 million (5.7 percent) in FY2025. From FY23 to FY25, general fund expenditures increased $216.9 million (27.5 percent). The following expenditures for the departments are paid from the General Fund (including transfers of funds).

General Government
Board of County Commissioners, County Administrator, Public Defender, State Attorney, County Attorney, Court Technology, Technology, Communications, Office of Management and Budget, Developmental Review Services, Purchasing, Engineering and Technical Support, Administrative Office of the Courts, Planning, Law Libraries, Human Resources, Clerk to the Board, Tax Collector, Supervisor of Elections, and Property Appraiser.

Public Safety
Medical Examiner, Emergency Communications (911), Fire Operations, Justice Coordination, Consumer Protection Services, Emergency Management, Code Enforcement, Emergency Events, and Sheriff.

Physical Environment
Air Quality, Vegetation Management, Urban Forestry, Public Works Customer Service, Stormwater and Vegetation Planning and Engineering, Stormwater Management, Water and Navigation, Environmental Monitoring, Watershed Planning, Ecological Services, and Coastal Management.

Transportation
Transportation Engineering and Design.

Economic Environment
Tax Increment Financing Program, Office of Human Rights, Community Housing Trust Fund, Economic Development, Small Business Development Center and Veteran's Services.

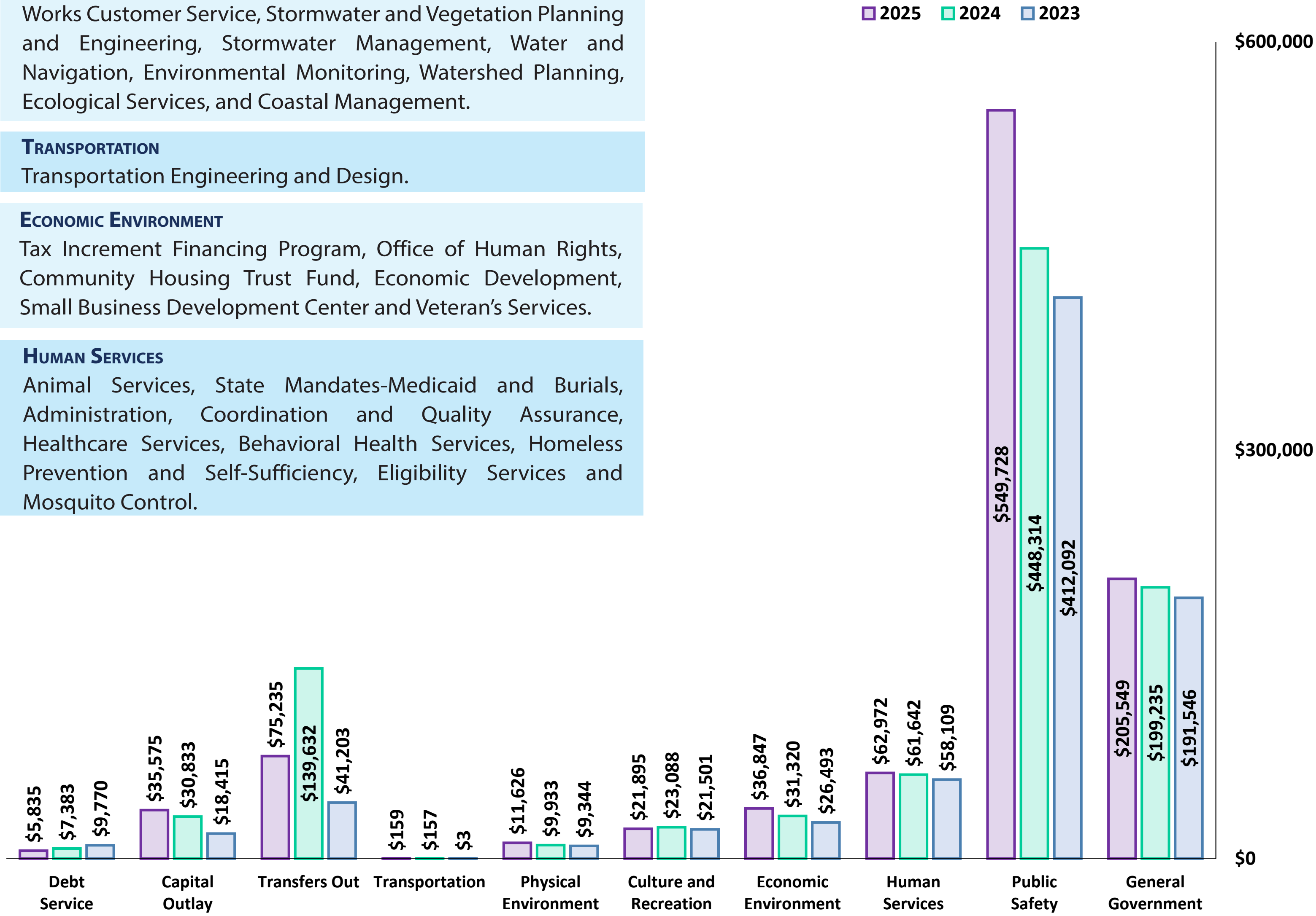
Human Services
Animal Services, State Mandates-Medicaid and Burials, Administration, Coordination and Quality Assurance, Healthcare Services, Behavioral Health Services, Homeless Prevention and Self-Sufficiency, Eligibility Services and Mosquito Control.

Culture and Recreation
Cultural Services, Libraries, Parks and Recreation, Horticultural Operations, Parks and Environmental Lands, Heritage Village, Ft. Desoto Park, Parks and Natural Resources.

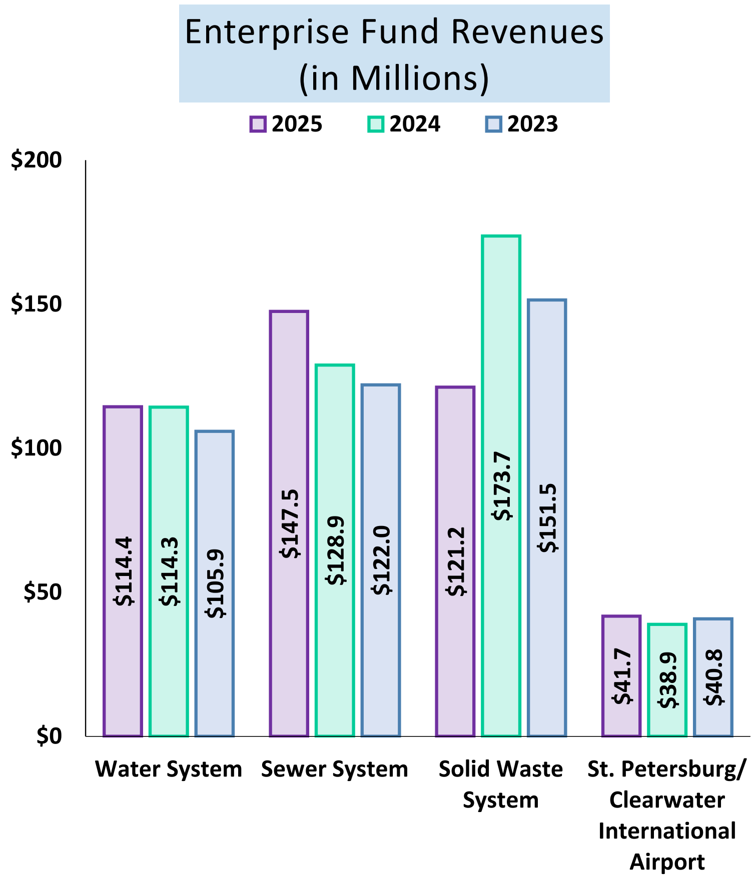
Transfers out
Financial support to other funds.

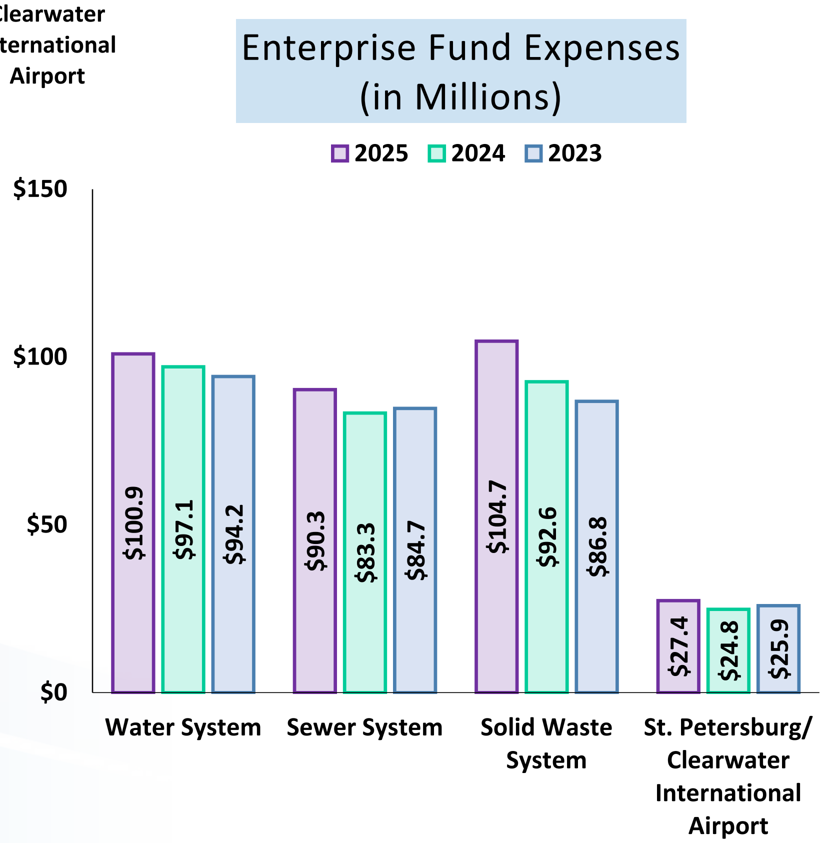
Capital Outlay
Expenditures for the construction, purchase, or improvement of capital assets that meet the capitalization thresholds.

General Fund Expenditures and Other Financing Uses (Dollars in Thousands)



Enterprise fund or business-type activities offer goods and services to the citizens of the county and are intended to be self-supporting. In FY2025, revenues in business-type activities decreased 7.0 percent over the prior year by $31.9 million. Expenses increased by $22.9 million or 7.6 percent. From FY2023 to FY2025, revenues increased by $4.6 million (1.1 percent) and expenses increased $31.7 million (10.9 percent). The following charts reflect the enterprise fund revenues and expenses for the last three years.





The Business-type activities of the county are:

Water System

- Net position of the Water System increased $13.5 million during the year compared to an increase of $17.2 million in the prior year.
- Total program revenues for the Water System, including charges for services, investment income, miscellaneous revenue and capital contributions, increased by $0.1 million or 0.1 percent from the prior year. This was primarily due to an increase in the water base rate. Investment income decreased by $2.8 million or 31.3 percent due to higher interest rates and larger investment balances. However, this was offset by an increase in expenses by $3.8 million or 3.9 percent primarily due to inflation and salary adjustments.

Sewer System

- Net position of the Sewer System increased $57.2 million during the year compared to an increase of $45.6 million in the prior year.
- Total program revenues increased by $18.6 million or 14.4 percent over the prior year. Charges for services to customers increased by $3.6 million or 3.0 percent. The largest contributing factor was retail rate increases.

Solid Waste System

- Net position of the Solid Waste System increased by $16.5 million during the year compared to an increase of $81.1 million in the prior year.
- Total program revenues of the system decreased by $52.4 million or 30.2 percent over the prior year. Charges for electrical capacity resulted in reduced revenues of $57.7 million over the previous fiscal year due to contractual rate increases. Revenues for tipping fees were up $7.8 million due to an increase in tipping fee rates and waste disposal tonnage processed compared to prior year. Investment income decreased by $5.1 million due to market fluctuations.
- Operating expenses for the system increased by $12.1 million or 13.1 percent over the prior year due to increased costs of operating the waste-to-energy facility.

St. Petersburg/Clearwater International Airport

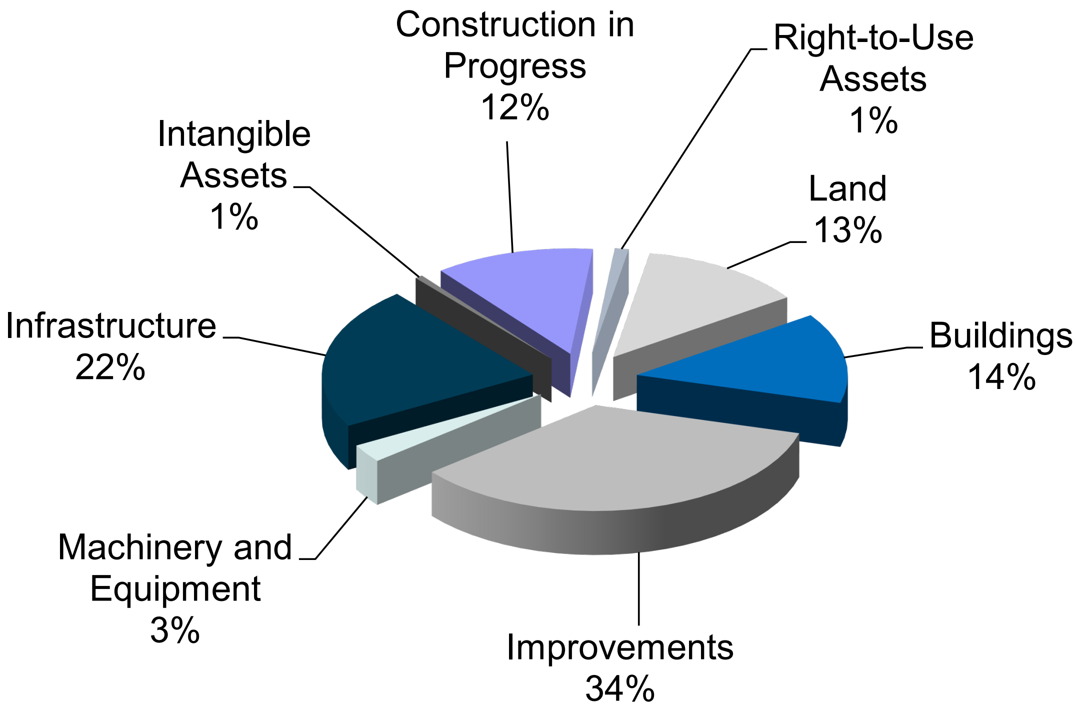
- Net position of the Airport increased $14.2 million during the year compared to an increase of $14.1 million in the prior year.
- Total Airport revenues increased by $2.7 million or 7.0 percent over the prior year. The Airport welcomed a record number of travelers during the year, leading to increased vehicle rentals, parking fees, rent collections and passenger facility charges of $2.7 million. Grants and contributions increased by $1.6 million. Funding for ongoing capital projects from Federal and State sources decreased by $0.7 million during the year. Payroll and benefit expenses increased $1.7 million.

St. Pete-Clearwater International Airport

Capital Assets

Pinellas County's investment in capital assets for governmental and business-type activities is $4.1 billion, net of accumulated depreciation. This includes land, buildings, improvements, equipment, roads, bridges, drainage systems, intangible assets, construction in progress and right to use (leased and subscription based information technology arrangements) assets. The total increase in capital assets was 6.1 percent over the prior year representing a 7.2 percent increase for governmental activities and 4.4 percent in business-type activities.

Capital Assets Governmental and Business-Type Activities

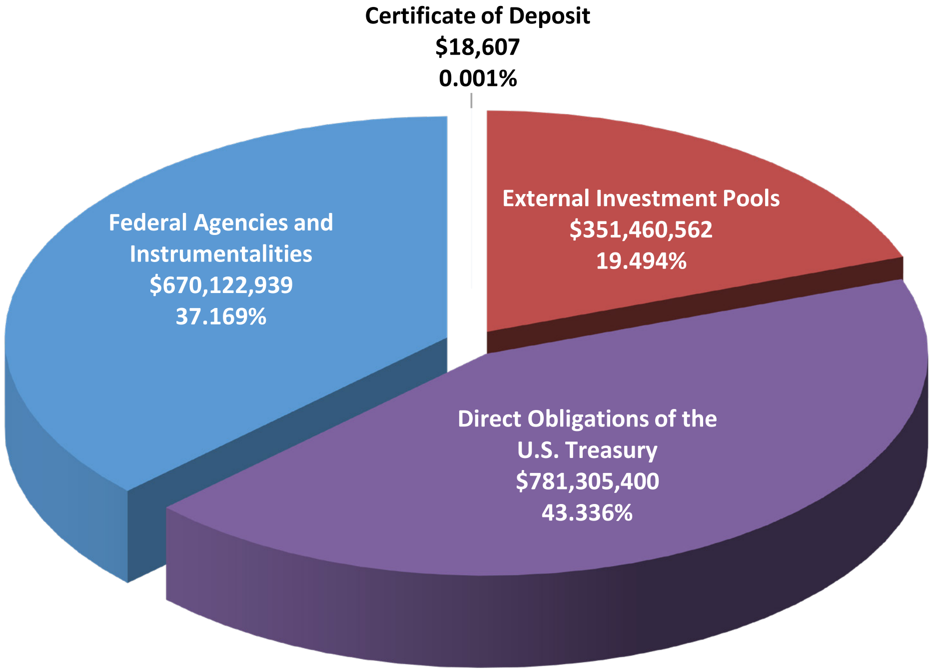


Coachman Park

In recent years the County has been successful in reducing its debt; as a result, there were no outstanding public bonds as of September 30, 2025.

	ISSUE DATE	ORIGINAL ISSUED AMOUNT (in Thousands)	AMOUNT OUTSTANDING AT YEAR END (in Thousands)
Sewer Revenue Note 1 Series 2008A	July 2008	$ 42,005	$ 26,760
Sewer Revenue Refunding Note: Series 2021B	January 2021	5,292	5,264
Sewer Revenue Refunding Note: Series 2022	July 2022	40,862	25,220
	Totals:	**$ 88,159**	**$ 57,244**

Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners Investment Portfolio



The Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller, through the Finance Division, conducts all investment activity of the Board of County Commissioners in accordance with Section 218.415, Florida Statutes, Local Government Investment Policies, as well as the investment ordinance adopted by the Board (Pinellas County Code, Investment of Surplus Public Funds, Section 2-144) and Board Resolution 2023-70 adopting investment policies. The investment policy and the ordinance can be found at: https://www.mypinellasclerk.gov/Home/Finance#127691-financial-reports

The Board's investment policy applies to all funds in excess of those required to meet current expenses for the Board of County Commissioners. The Association of Public Treasurers of the United States and Canada (APT US&C) awarded Pinellas County with the Certification of Excellence for its investment policy. The certification is renewed every five years. Receiving this certification denotes the county has a sound investment policy founded upon professional standards to assist in ensuring prudent management of public funds.

Investment Objectives

- Safety - Protection of the County funds.
- Liquidity - Provide sufficient liquidity to meet the County's operating, payroll and capital expenses.
- Income - Maximize the return, but avoid assuming unreasonable risk.

A Year of Recovery

2025 was a year of recovery and renewal for Pinellas County. Hurricanes Debby, Helene and Milton damaged nearly 47,000 homes and 1,200 businesses and claimed 14 lives. Pinellas' barrier islands were hit the hardest with stormwater destroying homes and eroding beaches. The highest priorities were helping those whose lives were disrupted by the storms along with rebuilding the beaches to restore their protection from future hurricanes. The County led post-storm recovery efforts including educating residents, streamlining the permit process and managing large-scale damage assessments. The County was awarded $813.8 million from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. This was the largest federal storm-recovery allocation to any local government in Florida. Over 2.5 million cubic yards of sand has been placed to restore Pinellas' beautiful beaches.

The top accomplishments of 2025 include:

Accelerating Relief to Residents: As mentioned above, the County secured Florida's largest federal storm recovery grant of almost $814 million and was able to cut administrative timelines to launch resident applications in just seven months, delivering aid nearly twice as fast as the standard timeline.

Streamlining Permitting and Waiving Fees for Faster Rebuilding: Hurricane recovery was streamlined by aligning code enforcement with relief programs and waiving fees, issuing over 34,100 permits and completing 85,000 inspections. Additionally, the County led a new initiative enabling cities to augment staff and improve permitting timelines for future emergencies.

Restoring Beaches for Storm Protection and Economic Vitality: The County completed a massive emergency beach renourishment project, restoring beaches from Clearwater to St. Petersburg. The vital investment was funded from the Tourist Development Tax and aimed to strengthen storm defenses while protecting homes and preserving the tourism economy.

Preserving FEMA Funding and Insurance Discounts: The County completed its five-year update of its Local Mitigation Strategy, maintaining access to FEMA grants and preserving valuable flood insurance discounts of up to 40 percent for property owners in unincorporated Pinellas County.

Securing Critical Healthcare Funding: The County helped hospitals secure hundreds of millions of dollars in federal funding to cover the cost of treating low-income patients. This helped stabilize the local healthcare system and expanded access to emergency and mental health services.

Restored Tourism and Jobs: The County worked with industry partners to drive a rapid tourism recovery. It welcomed nearly 15 million visitors and estimates to have secured a $10 billion economic impact that sustained 100,000 local jobs.

While the primary focus remained on public safety, human services, and safeguarding the economy, the County achieved significant operational milestones across all departments.

Notably, the Commission reduced the Countywide General Fund property tax millage rate for Fiscal Year 2026, marking the lowest rate since 1990. Economic vitality was further strengthened by more than 1,200 direct business engagements, resulting in the creation or retention of over 1,600 jobs and nearly $122 million in capital investment. This includes the retention of 18 key tenants at the Young-Rainey STAR Center, an effort that safeguarded $146 million in annual wages and preserved 1,600 high-wage positions. Additionally, the County leveraged $44.5 million in Penny for Pinellas funding to drive $344 million in private investment, securing 1.6 million square feet of industrial space and providing no-cost consulting to 600 small business owners.

Transportation and infrastructure reached historic heights as the St. Pete-Clearwater International Airport broke all-time records, serving 2.6 million passengers. To support future growth, the County secured $16 million in grants for the redevelopment of the 128-acre Airco site. Connectivity was further improved through the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA) partnership, which launched the Grouper Airport Express, transporting 5,000 travelers and reducing beach traffic.

On the ground, crews resurfaced nearly 225 miles of roadway and repaired 550 potholes with a 99 percent three-day response rate. In Lealman, five miles of new sidewalks and ADA-compliant paths were installed to improve safety and mitigate flooding.

Environmental and utility operations saw a similar commitment to modernization and sustainability.

Utilizing American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grants, the County initiated sewer and flood mitigation projects in seven manufactured home communities and built a new reclaimed water booster station in North County. Solid Waste disposal rates were stabilized by generating $13 million in revenue from Waste-to-Energy sales, while the County hit a recycling record of 1.2 million tons. Conservation efforts also grew, with 90 acres of natural area cleared of invasive species, the installation of 10,000 oyster reef modules, and the acquisition of 30 acres of sensitive land near Mariner's Point. At Weedon Island Preserve, 40 acres of salt marsh were restored to improve tidal flow and wildlife habitat.

Community wellbeing and safety were enhanced through targeted investments in housing, health, and emergency services. The County preserved or created 1,400 affordable housing units and expanded court treatment programs for neurotrauma survivors via a $4 million federal grant. Pinellas County Animal Services opened a newly renovated, state-of-the-art medical facility to elevate care for shelter pets.

To ensure disaster resilience, a seven-year project to harden emergency radio towers against Category 5 hurricanes was completed, alongside the funding of three new fire stations in Clearwater, Largo, and Palm Harbor to improve response times.

Finally, the County significantly expanded recreational access by opening the Lake Tarpon Outfall Canal Bridge, which completed the 65-mile Pinellas Trail Loop. Families across the region benefited from new playgrounds at Fred Howard, Ridgecrest, and Walsingham Parks. Further investments in waterfront access included the rehabilitation of boardwalks and fishing piers at A.L. Anderson Park and Weedon Island, ensuring these natural treasures remain accessible and safe for years to come.

Economic Outlook

The U.S. economy concluded 2025 with a resilient real GDP growth rate of approximately 2.3 percent, bolstered by strong consumer spending and a surge in technology investment. To support this expansion amid a cooling labor market, the Federal Reserve delivered three consecutive rate cuts, ending the year with a target funds rate of 3.50 percent to 3.75 percent. While the unemployment rate edged up to 4.4 percent by December 2025, the "low-hire, low-fire" dynamic helped maintain relatively stable conditions despite historically weak annual job gains. Inflation also continued its downward trend, with the Consumer Price Index (CPI) falling to 2.7 percent year-over-year in December, its lowest level in five years.

The County's net position (excess of assets and deferred outflows over liabilities and deferred inflows) increased by $450.9 million from the prior year, with increases of $351.4 million and $99.5 million, respectively, in governmental and business-type activities. The County's net position at the end of the fiscal year is $5.3 billion, consisting of $2.9 billion and $2.4 billion for governmental and business-type activities, respectively.

The Clerk & Comptroller closely monitors the economic impacts on various revenue sources, including state-shared revenues, tourist taxes, sales taxes, gas taxes, investment income, and other revenue streams sensitive to economic fluctuations, alongside the County's operating and capital cash flow needs. These factors may influence investment strategies and the duration of new investments. The County's portfolio is structured to maintain financial flexibility, enabling prudent management of funds through both rising and falling interest rate cycles.

Financing options for the new County complex are currently being evaluated. County headquarters will be moving from downtown Clearwater to a new government center near US19 and Ulmerton Road. The target for completing construction in 2029.

Sunken Gardens

"My team and I are proud to be Serving You with integrity, transparency, and compassion."

Ken Burke
Clerk of the Circuit Court
and Comptroller
kburke@mypinellasclerk.gov
(727) 464-3341
www.mypinellasclerk.gov

Julie Marcus has dedicated her career to ensuring equal access to voter registration and ballots and transparency of the electoral process.

Julie Marcus
Supervisor of Elections
jmarcus@votepinellas.gov
(727) 464-5710
www.votepinellas.gov

Commissioner Eggers is firmly committed to working one on one with our residents, working on solving county wide problems and on working cooperatively with our cities and our neighboring counties.

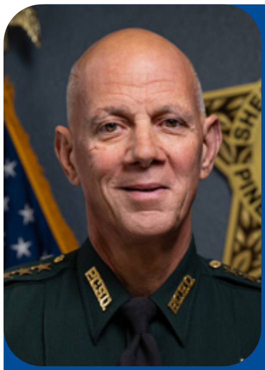
Dave Eggers
Board of County
Commissioners, Chair
deggers@pinellas.gov
(727) 464-3276
www.pinellas.gov

Pinellas County Property Appraiser Mike Twitty and his staff are dedicated to producing a fair and equitable tax roll while providing courteous, competent, and efficient customer service.

Mike Twitty
Property Appraiser
mtwitty@pcpao.gov
(727) 464-3207
www.pcpao.gov

Adam is proud to carry on the great tradition of providing excellent customer service to constituents.

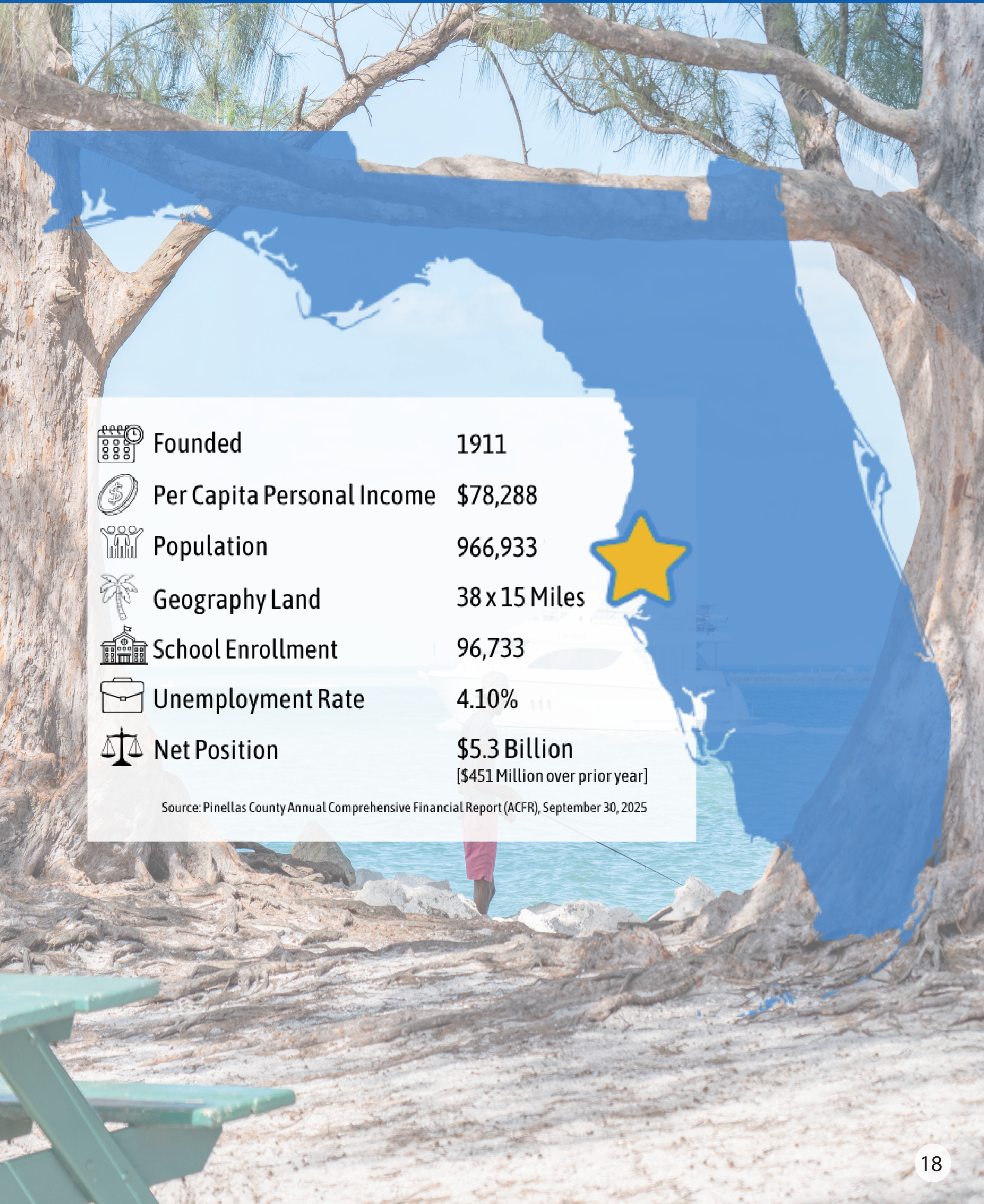
Adam Ross
Tax Collector
adamross@pinellastaxcollector.gov
(727) 562-3262
www.pinellastaxcollector.gov



"It is a privilege and an honor to serve as the Sheriff of Pinellas County."

Bob Gualtieri
Sheriff
bgualtieri@pcsonet.com
(727) 582-6200
www.pcsoweb.com

Pinellas County Government is committed to progressive public policy, superior public service, courteous public contact, judicious exercise of authority and sound management of public resources, to meet the needs and concerns of our citizens today and tomorrow.



Founded	1911
Per Capita Personal Income	$78,288
Population	966,933
Geography Land	38 x 15 Miles
School Enrollment	96,733
Unemployment Rate	4.10%
Net Position	$5.3 Billion [$451 Million over prior year]

Source: Pinellas County Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR), September 30, 2025

Citizens' Guide

Photo on the front cover courtesy of the Pinellas County Communications Department

This Citizens' Guide to County Finances was prepared by the Clerk's Finance Division and the Clerk's Print Shop.

Ken Burke, CPA
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#PinellasClerk #ServingYou

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