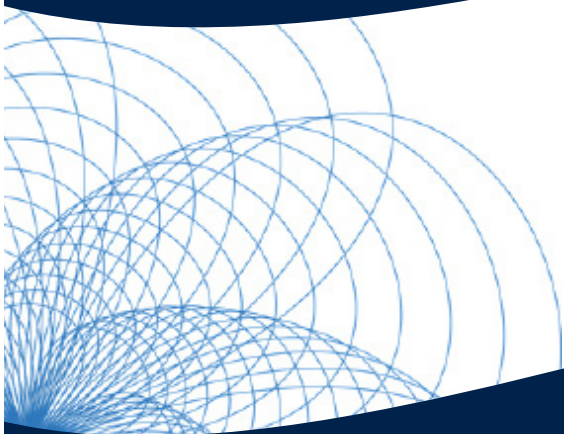




# Annual Debt Report 2023

For the fiscal year ended September 30, 2023



Pinellas County, Florida  
[pinellas.gov](http://pinellas.gov)

*Photo: Utilities Laboratory and Logan Pumping Station*

C Customer Service Excellence  
C Commitment to the Work  
C Compassion for One Another

## BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



Janet C. Long  
District 1



Brian Scott  
District 2  
Vice Chair



Charlie Justice  
District 3



Dave Eggers  
District 4



Chris Latvala  
District 5



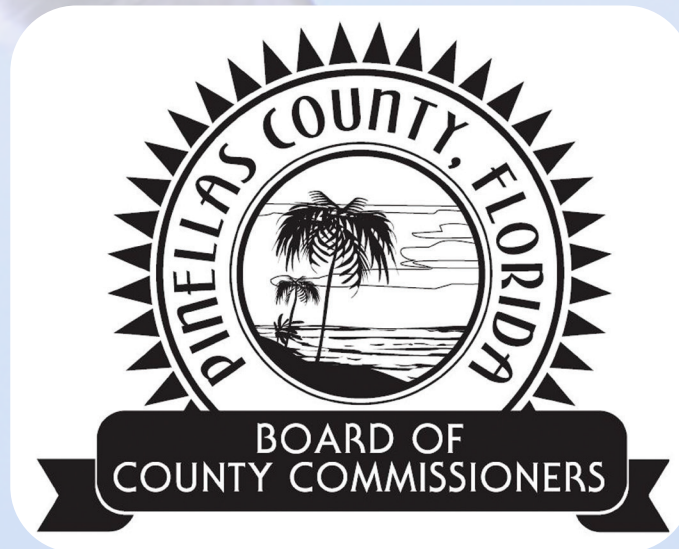
Kathleen Peters  
District 6  
Chair



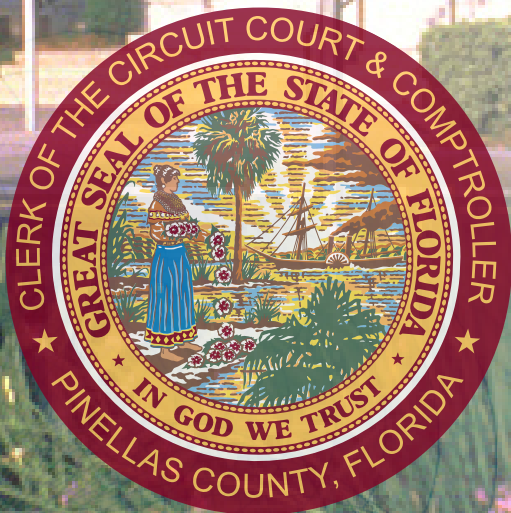
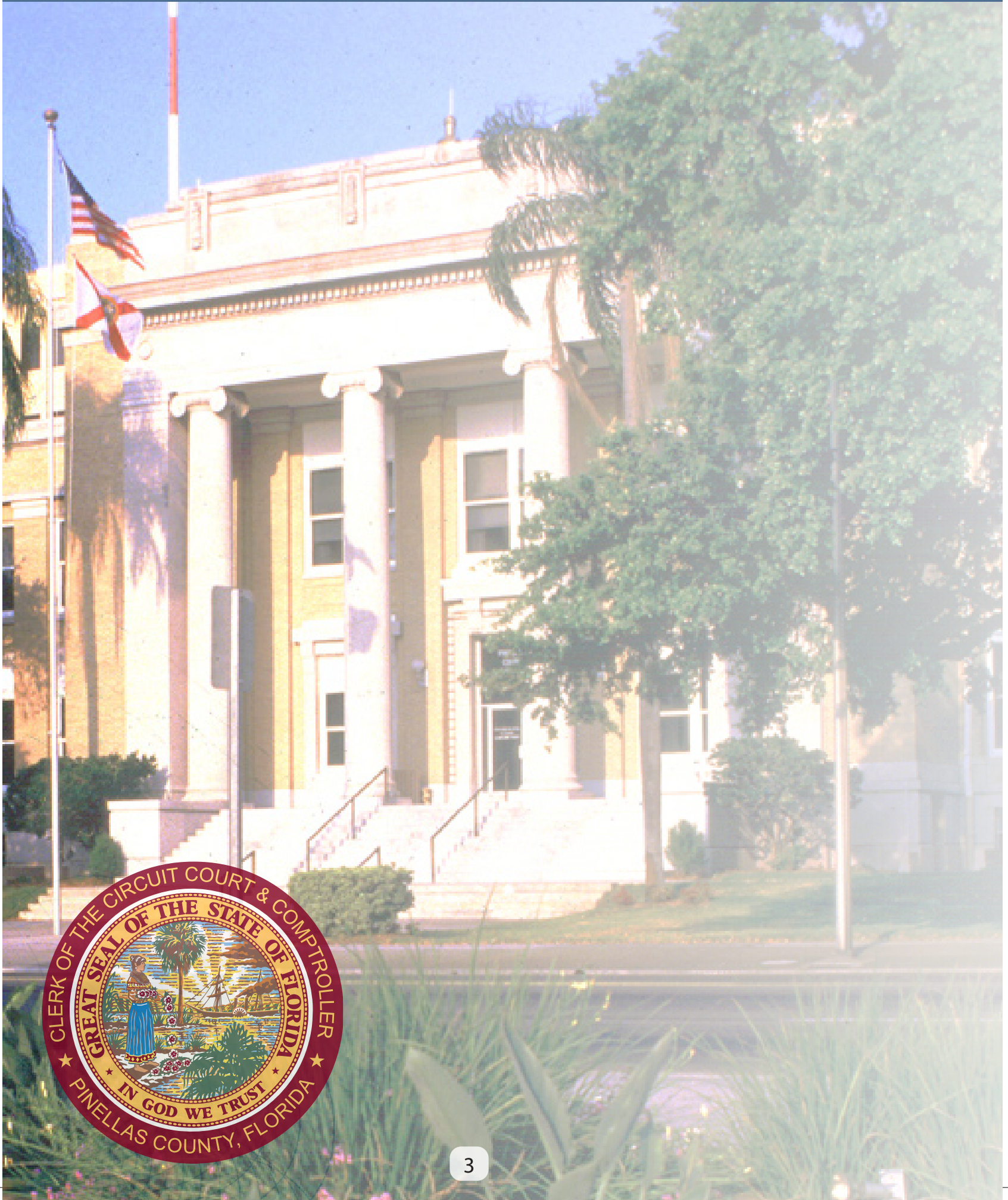
René Flowers  
District 7

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Pinellas County complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act. To obtain accessible formats of this document, please contact the Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller's Finance Division at (727) 464-8300.



### To the Citizens of Pinellas County:

As your elected Clerk, I serve as the Chief Financial Officer of the Board of County Commissioners and share fiscal responsibility for county funds with them. It is my pleasure to provide you with the Pinellas County Debt Report. The purpose of this report is to present information related to the debt of the County clearly and concisely so that you may understand the extent, nature, and purpose of the debt. This report provides a detailed look at the County's debt as of September 30, 2023, a ten-year history showing the change in debt over time, and a comparison of Pinellas County's debt with four other Counties of comparable population.

The Finance Division of the Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller issues an Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR), which conforms to generally accepted accounting principles. The ACFR is subject to an annual audit by independent auditors who opine that the report presents fairly the County's financial condition for the fiscal year. The information presented in the Debt Report is consistent with the disclosures in the ACFR.

The Finance Division also prepares the Citizens' Guide to County Finances, which briefly analyzes the source and use of county revenues during the current and three previous fiscal years. This report gives the Citizens an easy-to-read synopsis of the County's financial health. The ACFR and Citizen's Guides are available for inspection at <https://www.mypinellasclerk.gov/Home/Finance#60691-financial-reports>.

We hope this report helps enhance your understanding of the County's debt. If you need additional information or have questions about the report, please do not hesitate to contact my office for assistance at (727) 464-8300 or email [clerkinfo@mypinellasclerk.gov](mailto:clerkinfo@mypinellasclerk.gov).



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ken Burke". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

Ken Burke, CPA  
Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller  
Clerk of Board of County Commissioners  
County Auditor and Treasurer

# Awards and Accomplishments

The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA), an independent organization of government finance officials, evaluates Annual Comprehensive Financial Reports from local governments throughout the United States and Canada. Pinellas County was awarded a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for its Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2022. This was the 42nd consecutive year that Pinellas County has achieved this prestigious award.

This Certificate is awarded only for Annual Comprehensive Financial Reports that achieve the highest governmental accounting and financial reporting standards. To receive the award, a government unit must publish an easily readable and efficiently organized Annual Comprehensive Financial Report whose contents conform to program standards, generally accepted accounting principles, and applicable legal requirements.

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) has given an Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2022. The Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting is a prestigious award recognizing conformance with the highest standards for preparing state and local government popular reports.

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

An Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting is valid for one year only. Pinellas County has received the award for the last seventeen consecutive years.



Government Finance Officers Association

## Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting

Presented to

**Pinellas County  
Florida**

For its Annual Comprehensive  
Financial Report  
For the Fiscal Year Ended

September 30, 2022

*Christopher P. Morill*

Executive Director/CEO



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, 2022

# Awards and Accomplishments

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) awarded Pinellas County a Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for its separately issued annual budget for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2022. This was the eighteenth consecutive year Pinellas County has achieved this prestigious award. To be awarded a Distinguished Budget Presentation Award, a government must publish a document meeting program criteria as a policy document, an operations guide, a financial plan, and a communication device.

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 for the fifth time in 2022. This certification is subject to renewal every five years. Receiving this certification denotes the County has a sound investment policy founded upon professional standards to ensure prudent management of public funds.



GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

*Distinguished  
Budget Presentation  
Award*

PRESENTED TO

**Pinellas County  
Florida**

For the Fiscal Year Beginning

**October 01, 2022**

ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC TREASURERS  
OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA

CERTIFICATION OF EXCELLENCE

INVESTMENT POLICY

AWARDED TO

**PINELLAS COUNTY  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FLORIDA**

IN RECOGNITION OF CONFORMANCE  
TO THE SPECIFIED STANDARDS OF  
INVESTMENT POLICY  
AS ESTABLISHED BY THE ASSOCIATION

2022

# Types of Debt and Debt Ratings

## TYPES OF DEBT

Local government debt is typically divided into three types: general obligation debt, non-self-supporting revenue debt, and self-supporting revenue debt. Pinellas County had no outstanding general obligation or non-self-supporting revenue debt and \$81,111,000 outstanding self-supporting revenue debt on September 30, 2023.

**1 GENERAL OBLIGATION DEBT** pledges the full faith and credit of the County, with general taxing power as the repayment method. The County had no general obligation debt outstanding at fiscal year-end.

**2 NON-SELF-SUPPORTING REVENUE DEBT** pledges a specific revenue source as a method of repayment of the outstanding debt. This type of debt is a special obligation of the County and does not constitute a general obligation. The County had no non-self-supporting revenue debt outstanding at fiscal year-end.

**3 SELF-SUPPORTING REVENUE DEBT** is funded by user revenues generated from operations. In Pinellas County, revenues from the Sewer System have been pledged to repay outstanding debt.

Note: The interest rates listed in each debt issue represent the current fixed rates for the outstanding maturities. Currently, all County debt is in the form of bank loans, which are not rated.

## DEBT RATINGS

Many debt issues are assigned a rating by a rating agency, such as Moody's Investment Services, Inc., Standard & Poor's Ratings Services, and Fitch Ratings. The rating is an important factor for determining an issue's marketability and the interest rate the County will pay. Investors rely on ratings to make investment decisions and underwriters to decide whether to underwrite a particular issue.

For a debt issue to be rated, the government must contract with a rating agency and pay a fee. The government provides the rating agency with operational and financial information. The agency assesses the risk and rates the debt issue based on a detailed analysis of this information. Although somewhat different in their letter usage, debt is rated in descending alphabetical order. Debt rating codes may be appended by Moody's (1, 2, or 3), Standard and Poor's ("+" or "-"), and Fitch ("+" or "-") to denote relative status in a major rating category.

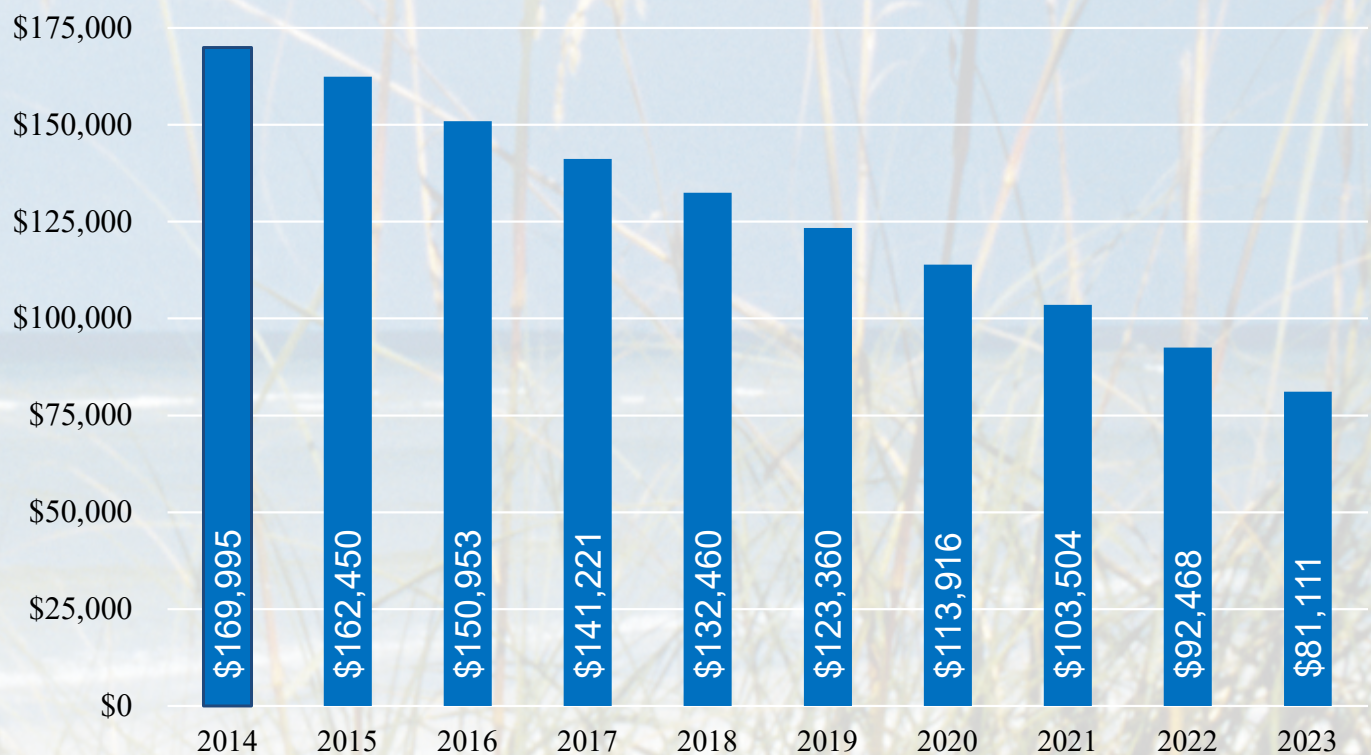
RATING	MOODY'S	S&P	FITCH
Highest Quality	Aaa	AAA	AAA
High Quality	Aa	AA	AA
Upper medium Quality	A	A	A
Medium grade	Baa	BBB	BBB
Somewhat speculative	Ba	BB	BB
Low grade, speculative	B	B	B
Low grade, default possible	Caa	CCC	CCC
Low grade, partial recovery possible	Ca	CC	CC
Default, recovery unlikely	C	C	C



# Outstanding Debt Issues

ISSUE DATE	DESCRIPTION	ORIGINAL ISSUE AMOUNT	AMOUNT OUTSTANDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2023
July 2008	Sewer Revenue Note, Series 2008A	\$ 42,005,000	\$ 35,530,000
July 2008	Sewer Revenue Refunding Note, Series 2008B-1	32,700,000	5,165,000
July 2016	Sewer Revenue Refunding Note, Series 2016	14,733,000	1,985,000
January 2021	Sewer Revenue Refunding Note, Series 2021B	5,292,000	5,276,000
July 2022	Sewer Revenue Refunding Note, Series 2022	40,862,000	33,155,000
Total		\$ 135,592,000	\$ 81,111,000

**SELF-SUPPORTING REVENUE DEBT**  
(DOLLARS IN THOUSANDS)



# Self-Supporting Revenue Debt

**\$42,005,000**

## **SEWER REVENUE NOTE, SERIES 2008A**

**Amount Outstanding:** \$35,530,000

**FY2024 Debt Service:**

Principal - \$0

Interest - \$796,494

**Maturity Date:** October 1, 2028

**Initial Call Date:** Anytime; Make-Whole Call

**Interest Rate:** 4.41%

**Ratings:** N/A (bank loan)

**Purpose:** The County issued the \$42,005,000 Sewer Revenue Note, Series 2008A to provide funds, together with other available funds of the County, to finance the cost of specific capital projects for the Sewer System and fund a debt service reserve.

**Pledge:** The payment of principal and interest on the Note is secured solely by a lien upon and pledge of the net revenues derived from the operation of the County's Sewer System, all monies on deposit, investments held for the credit of certain funds, and the earnings on such investments. The Series 2008A Note is on parity with the 2008B-1, 2016, 2021B, and 2022 Notes.

**\$32,700,000**

## **SEWER REVENUE REFUNDING NOTE, SERIES 2008B-1**

**Amount outstanding:** \$5,165,000

**FY2024 Debt Service:**

Principal - \$0

Interest - \$111,323

**Maturity Date:** October 1, 2024

**Initial Call Date:** Anytime; Make-Whole Call

**Interest Rate:** 4.24%

**Ratings:** N/A (bank loan)

**Purpose:** The County issued the \$32,700,000 Sewer Revenue Refunding Note, Series 2008B-1 to provide funds, together with other available funds of the County, to refund \$32,045,000 of the County's outstanding Sewer Revenue and Revenue Refunding Bonds, Series 1998 and to pay related costs of issuance of the Note.

**Pledge:** The payment of principal and interest on the Note is secured solely by a lien upon and pledge of the net revenues derived from the operation of the County's Sewer System, all monies on deposit, investments held for the credit of certain funds, and the earnings on such investments. The Series 2008B-1 Note is on parity with the Series 2008A, 2016, 2021B, and 2022 Notes.

**\$14,733,000**

## **SEWER REVENUE REFUNDING NOTE, SERIES 2016**

**Amount Outstanding:** \$1,985,000

**FY2024 Debt Service:**

Principal - \$0

Interest - \$21,835

**Maturity Date:** October 1, 2024

**Initial Call Date:** Not Callable

**Interest Rate:** 2.20%

**Ratings:** N/A (bank loan)

**Purpose:** The County issued the \$14,733,000 Sewer Revenue Refunding Note, Series 2016 to refund a portion of the County's outstanding Sewer Revenue Refunding Bonds, Series 2006 and pay related costs.

**Pledge:** The payment of principal and interest on the Note is secured solely by a lien upon and pledge of the net revenues derived from the operation of the County's Sewer System, all monies on deposit, investments held for the credit of certain funds, and the earnings on such investments. The Series 2016 Note is on parity with the Series 2008A, 2008B-1, 2021B, and 2022 Notes.

# Self-Supporting Revenue Debt

## **\$5,292,000** **SEWER REVENUE REFUNDING NOTE,** **SERIES 2021B**

**Amount Outstanding:** \$5,276,000

**FY 2024 Debt Service:**

Principal - \$0

Interest - \$52,760

**Maturity Date:** October 1, 2032

**Initial Call Date:** Anytime; Make-Whole Call

**Interest Rate:** 2.00%

**Ratings:** N/A (bank loan)

**Purpose:** The County issued the \$5,292,000 Sewer Revenue Refunding Note, Series 2021B to provide funds, together with other available funds of the County, to refund the County's outstanding Sewer Revenue Bonds, Series 2003 and to pay related costs.

**Pledge:** Payment of principal and interest on the Note is secured solely by a lien upon and pledge of the net revenue derived from the operation of the County's Sewer System, all monies on deposit, investments held for the credit of certain funds, and the earnings on such investments. The Series 2021B Note is on parity with the Series 2008A, 2008B-1, 2016, and 2022 Notes.

## **\$40,862,000** **SEWER REVENUE REFUNDING NOTE,** **SERIES 2022**

**Amount Outstanding:** \$33,155,000

**FY 2024 Debt Service:**

Principal - \$0

Interest - \$193,957

**Maturity Date:** October 1, 2031

**Initial Call Date:** Anytime; Make-Whole Call

**Interest Rate:** 1.17%

**Ratings:** N/A (bank loan)

**Purpose:** The County issued the \$40,862,000 Sewer Revenue Refunding Note, Series 2022 in exchange for and replacement of the taxable Series 2021A Sewer Revenue Refunding Note outstanding.

**Pledge:** Payment of principal and interest on the Note is secured solely by a lien upon and pledge of the net revenue derived from the operation of the County's Sewer System, all monies on deposit, investments held for the credit of certain funds, and the earnings on such investments. The Series 2022 Note is on parity with the Series 2008A, 2008B-1, 2016, and 2021B Notes.



# Schedules of Revenue Debt Coverage

## SEWER SYSTEM REVENUE DEBT FOR THE LAST TEN YEARS (DOLLARS IN THOUSANDS)

FISCAL YEAR	GROSS REVENUES (c)	EXPENSES (a)	NET REVENUE AVAILABLE FOR DEBT SERVICE	DEBT SERVICE REQUIREMENTS (b)			COVERAGE (d)
				PRINCIPAL	INTEREST	TOTAL	
2014	\$ 70,767	\$ 38,411	\$ 32,356	\$ 7,545	\$ 6,909	\$ 14,454	2.24
2015	74,540	39,969	34,571	7,730	6,726	14,456	2.39
2016	75,367	40,313	35,054	7,935	6,453	14,388	2.44
2017	80,998	42,661	38,337	8,312	5,998	14,310	2.68
2018	78,534	44,607	33,927	8,861	5,768	14,629	2.32
2019	82,105	47,525	34,580	9,205	5,431	14,636	2.36
2020	89,182	47,183	41,999	9,554	5,087	14,641	2.87
2021	95,010	45,980	49,030	10,489	3,798	14,287	3.43
2022	105,470	49,159	56,311	11,036	3,074	14,110	3.99
2023	114,483	53,424	61,059	11,357	2,674	14,031	4.35

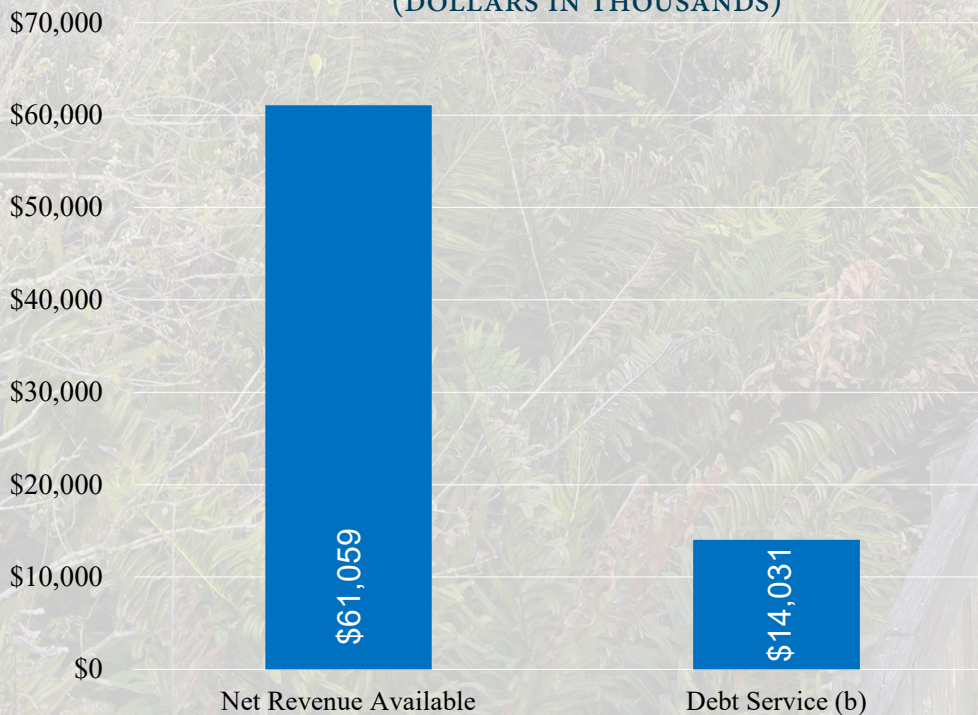
(a) Excludes depreciation, amortization, loss on abandonment of fixed assets, and debt interest expense.

(b) Interest due April 1st and October 1st and principal due on October 1st.

(c) Gross Revenue has been restated for FY 2014 to be net of bad debt expense.

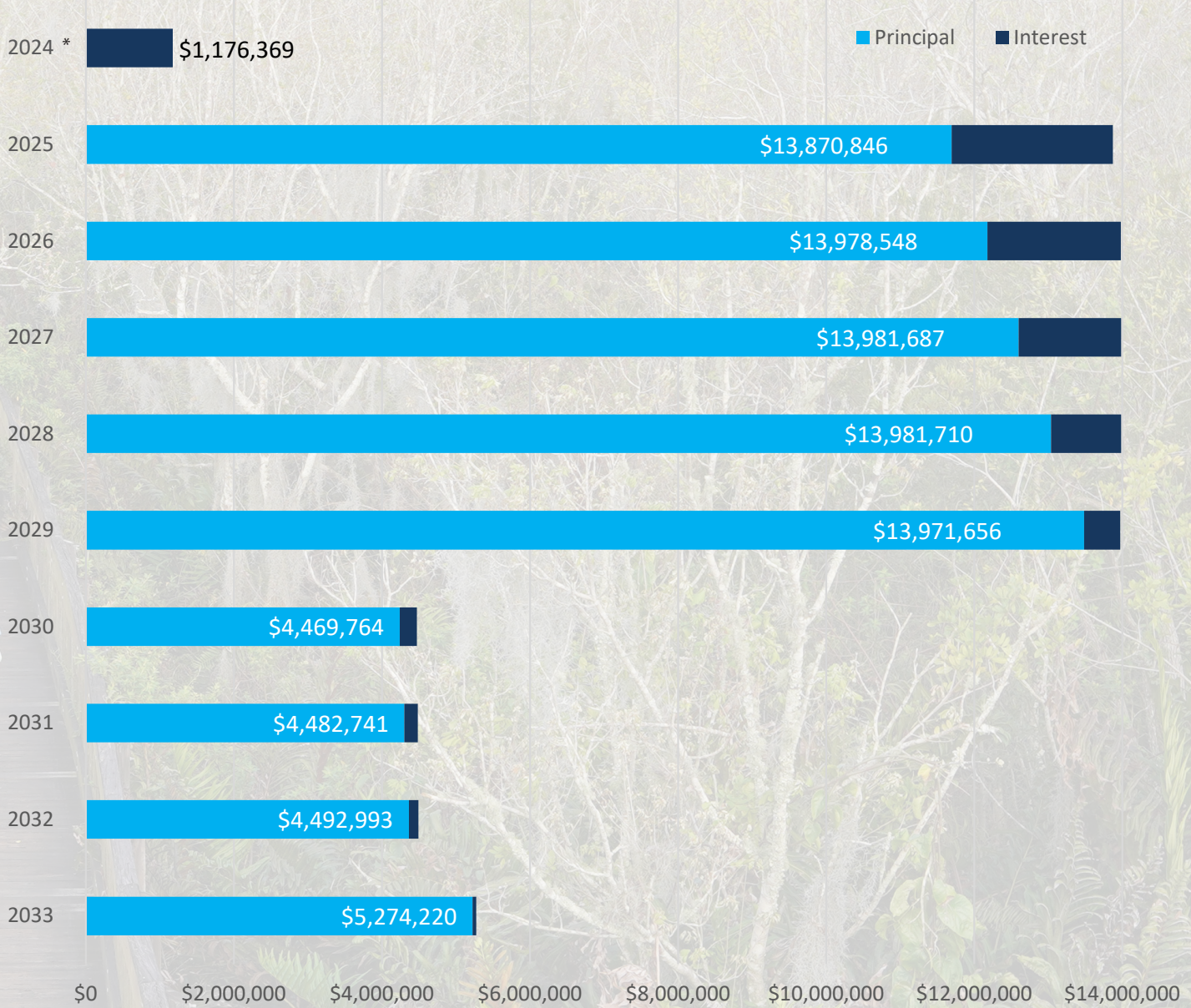
(d) The County is contractually obligated to establish and maintain Sewer rates that will provide a "Coverage" as computed above of at least 1.15x.

### 2023 SEWER SYSTEM REVENUE DEBT ACTIVITY (DOLLARS IN THOUSANDS)



# Future Principal & Interest Payments

## DEBT SERVICE PAYMENTS FISCAL YEARS 2024 - 2033



\* \$11,357,000 of principal payments due on October 1, 2023 were paid by September 30, 2023.

# Comparison of Outstanding Debt & Debt Ratios With Other Florida Counties

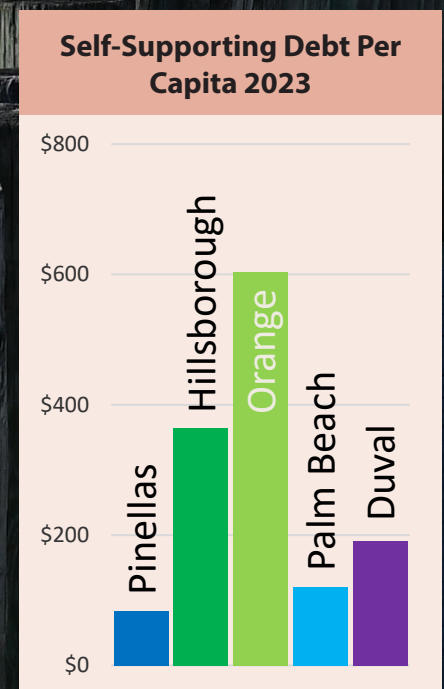
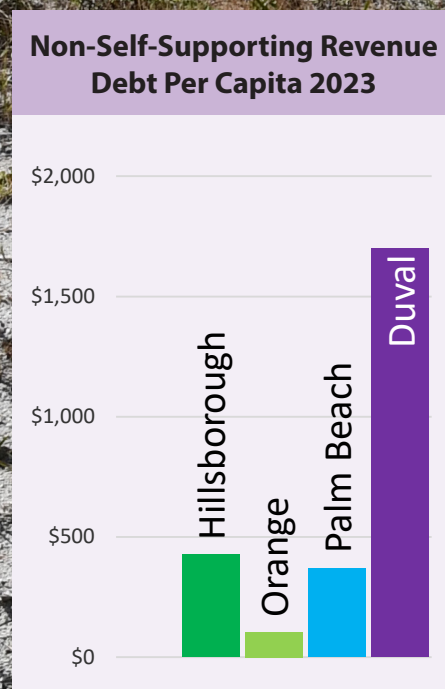
## DEBT RATIOS WITH OTHER FLORIDA COUNTIES AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2023 (MOST CURRENT DATA AVAILABLE)<sup>(1)</sup>

	PINELLAS	HILLSBOROUGH	ORANGE	PALM BEACH	DUVAL
Population <sup>(2)</sup>	974,689	1,541,531	1,492,951	1,532,718	1,051,278
Taxable Assessed Property Value <sup>(3)</sup>	\$ 110,826,848	\$ 140,797,000	\$ 160,843,962	\$ 294,340,558	\$ 82,067,377
General Obligation Debt	\$ -	\$ 100,490,000	\$ -	\$ 26,250,000	\$ -
General Obligation Debt Per Capita	\$ -	\$ 65.19	\$ -	\$ 17.13	\$ -
General Obligation Debt as % of Taxable Assessed Value	0.00%	0.07%	0.00%	0.01%	0.00%
Non-Self-Supporting Revenue Debt	\$ -	\$ 657,387,000	\$ 155,740,000	\$ 567,156,640	\$ 1,787,487,000
Non-Self-Supporting Revenue Debt per Capita	\$ -	\$ 426.45	\$ 104.32	\$ 370.03	\$ 1,700.30
Non-Self-Supporting Revenue Debt as % of Taxable Assessed Value	0.00%	0.47%	0.10%	0.19%	2.18%
Self-Supporting Debt	\$ 81,111,000	\$ 561,020,000	\$ 900,935,000	\$ 184,390,000	\$ 201,151,000
Self-Supporting Debt per Capita	\$ 83.22	\$ 363.94	\$ 603.46	\$ 120.30	\$ 191.34
Self-Supporting Debt as % of Taxable Assessed Value	0.07%	0.40%	0.56%	0.06%	0.25%

<sup>1</sup> The debt and taxable assessed property value amounts for Pinellas County were obtained from the September 30, 2023 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report. The September 30, 2022 Annual Comprehensive Financial Reports were utilized for the remaining counties.

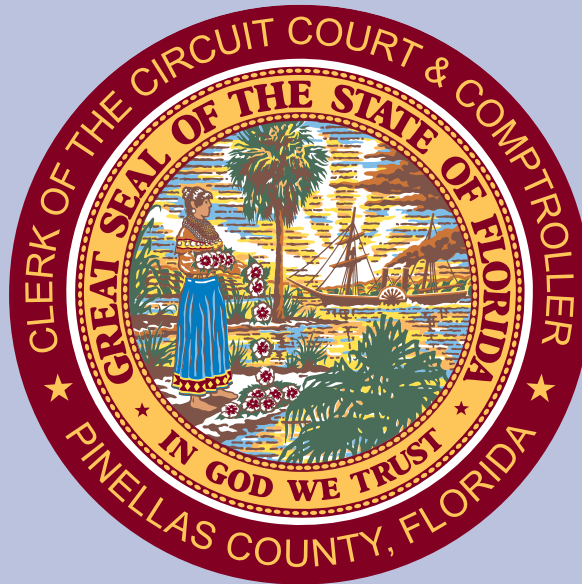
<sup>2</sup> Population information was obtained from the Office of Economic & Demographic Research website (April 1, 2023).

<sup>3</sup> Dollars in thousands.





# Debt Report



*Photo on the front cover  
courtesy of the Pinellas  
County Marketing  
& Communications  
Department*

**Ken Burke, CPA**

Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller  
Pinellas County, Florida

315 Court St.

Clearwater, FL 33756

(727) 464-7000

[www.mypinellasclerk.gov](http://www.mypinellasclerk.gov)

*This Debt Report was prepared by the Clerk's Finance Division and Clerk's Administration.  
The Pinellas County Communications Department prepared the cover.*