# Citizens' Guide to County Finances

for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2020

Pinellas County, Florida





2020

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Citizens of Pinellas County:

It is my pleasure to present the Citizens' Guide to County Finances (Citizens' Guide) for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2020. 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. This report provides you, the citizens, a brief analysis of where county revenues came from and where those dollars were spent during the last fiscal year. It also shows trend information on revenues and expenditures for the last three fiscal years. It is designed to give you an easy-to-read synopsis of the County's financial health.

The Citizens' Guide summarizes the financial activities of the primary government of Pinellas County. The reports included in the Citizens' Guide condense and simplify the format used in our Comprehensive Annual Financial Report as of September 30, 2020, described below. The presentation of the Citizens' Guide does not conform to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) and governmental reporting standards. The report is prepared in this format so that the non-financial reader can easily understand it, and omits information required by GAAP such as Management's Discussion and Analysis, footnotes, and component units. However the financial data that is presented in the Citizens' Guide is derived from the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, which is consistent with GAAP. The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) awarded Pinellas County the Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2019 for its Citizens' Guide for the fourteenth consecutive year.

In addition to the Citizens' Guide, the Finance Division produces the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report which contains more detailed financial information. Pinellas County's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2019, from which the information on pages 5-14 has been drawn, was awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the GFOA. The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition for excellence in state and local government financial reporting. This is the 39th consecutive year that we have achieved this prestigious award.

In order to be awarded a Certificate of Achievement, a government unit must publish an easily readable and efficiently organized Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, whose contents conform to program standards. Such a Comprehensive Annual Financial Report must satisfy both generally accepted accounting principles and applicable legal requirements. A Certificate of Achievement is valid for a period of one year only. We believe that our current Comprehensive Annual Financial Report continues to conform to the Certificate of Achievement Program's requirements, and we are submitting it to the GFOA to determine its eligibility for another Certificate.

The Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, as well as this report, are accessible on the Clerk's website www. mypinellasclerk.org. A copy may also be obtained by contacting the Clerk's Finance Division at (727) 464-8300. If you have any comments or suggestions on how we may improve this report, please contact my office at (727) 464-3341.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Clerk and may you find this Citizens' Guide informative and useful in enhancing your understanding of our county's finances.

Sincerely,

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Ken Burke, CPA
Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller



Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller Pinellas County, Florida

Ken Burke, CPA

Clerk of Board of County
Commissioners
Clerk of Water and Navigation
Control Authority
County Auditor and Treasurer
Clerk to the Value Adjustment
Board

### Pinellas County, Florida



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 Mexico. Pinellas County is the most densely populated of all sixty-seven Florida counties. The County is the second smallest in land mass in Florida; measuring up to thirty-eight miles long and fifteen miles wide. The sparkling water of the Gulf of Mexico, 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 home to the major league baseball team, Tampa Bay Rays (St. Petersburg) as well as the spring training home for the Philadelphia Phillies (Clearwater) and the Toronto Blue Jays (Dunedin). Numerous parks and preserves throughout the county support a variety of recreational activities such as fishing, boating and other outdoor activities.

## A ccolades & Awards:

- ★ St. Pete Beach was ranked #5 for the Top 25 Beaches in the World by TripAdvisor's 2021 Traveler's Choice "Best of the Best".
- ★ Madeira Beach was ranked #9 for the Top 25 Beaches in the United States by TripAdvisor's 2021 Traveler's Choice "Best of the Best" as well.
- ★ The Chihuly Collection located in St. Petersburg is a permanent collection of world renowned artist Dale Chihuly's unique artwork.
- ★ The Clearwater Marine Aquarium is a rescue and rehabilitation center that is home to dolphins Winter and Hope, featured in the Dolphin Tale films.

### Pinellas County Organization & Commission

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.



### 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.



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, 2019

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, 2019. 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.

In order to receive an Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting, a government unit must publish a Popular Annual Financial 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 a period of one year only. We believe our current report continues to conform to the Popular Annual Financial Reporting requirements, and we are submitting it to the GFOA.

- 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.
- 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 programs and maintains
  software for the financial accounting system and
  processes and pre-audits accounts payable, accounts
  receivable and payroll transactions.
- As Custodian of all County Funds, the Clerk receives and records county revenue and invests county funds.
- 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.

### Sources of County Funds: Revenue Descriptions

#### **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, 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 revenues may be used for tourist development, beach re-nourishment, debt service 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.

Communication service tax is comprised of two components: a state communications services tax and a local communication 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.

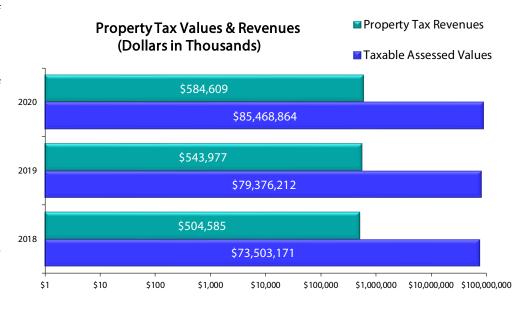
**Interest income** is the revenue earned from investments.

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.).

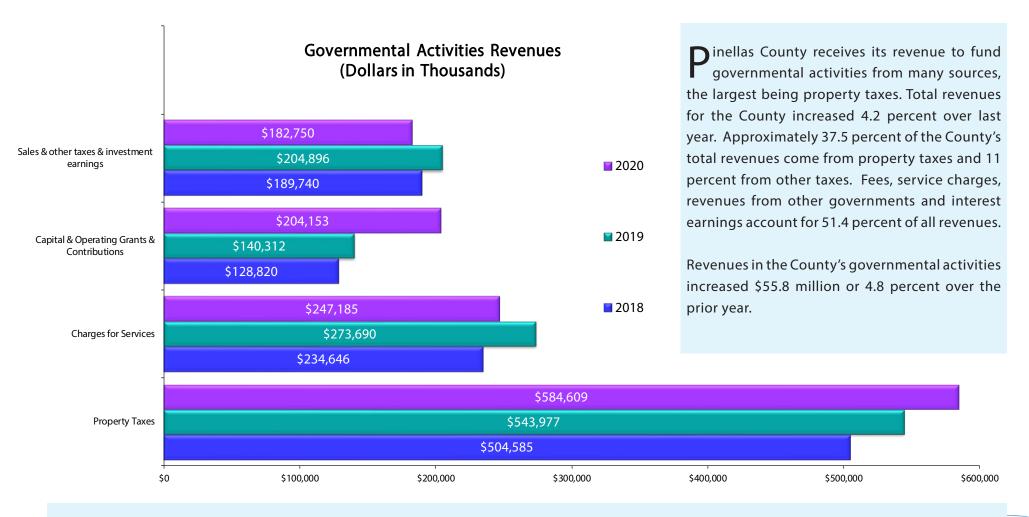
**Operating grants and contributions** include monies received from the federal and state levels to fund the operating expenses of a specific program or project. Operating expenses can include salaries and wages, rent, utilities and more.

**Capital grants and contributions** include monies received from the federal and state levels for the acquisition of capital assets, such as buildings, land or equipment.



Living Shoreline

### Sources of County Funds: Governmental Activities Revenues



**Property tax** revenues increased by \$40.6 million, or 7.5 percent over last year for all governmental activities due to an increase in property tax values of 7.5 percent. The millage rate for all Fire Protection Districts decreased with the exception of High Point, Pinellas Park, Seminole, Tarpon Springs and Tierra Verde. All other countywide millage rates remained unchanged from the previous year.

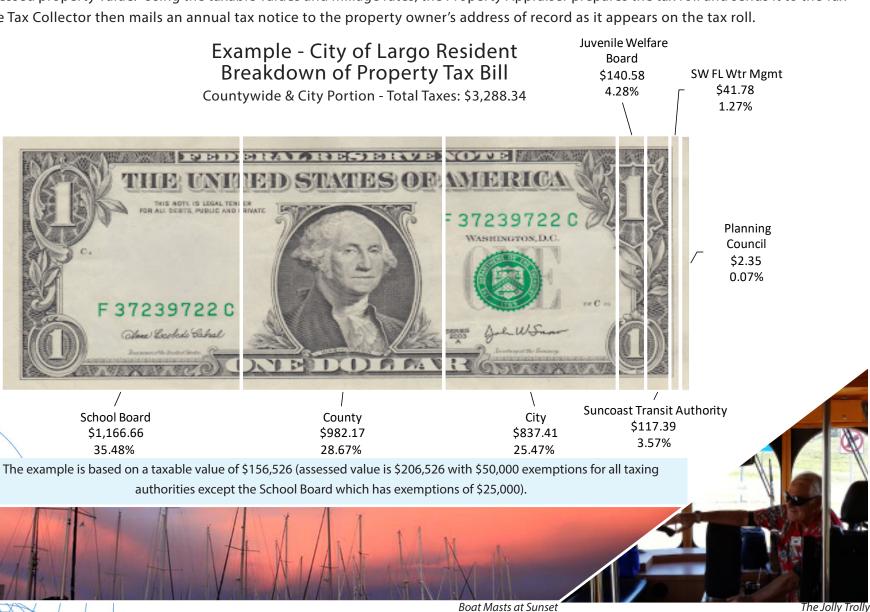
**Charges for services** amounted to \$247.2 million for the current year compared to \$273.7 million realized in the prior year, a decrease of \$26.5 million. The primary contributor to this decrease is prior year revenues received for \$26 million related to mortgage notes for the affordable housing program.

**Capital, Operating Grants & Contributions** increased by \$56.6 million from the prior year, due primarily to 1) an increase in federal funding for the Coronavirus Aid Relief & Economic Security (CARES) Act for supplies, human services assistance and aid to small businesses affected by the coronavirus pandemic.

**Sales, Other Taxes & Investment Earnings** decreased by \$19.4 million; or 11.7 percent, reflecting signs of the economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic.

### 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.



### **Uses of County Funds**

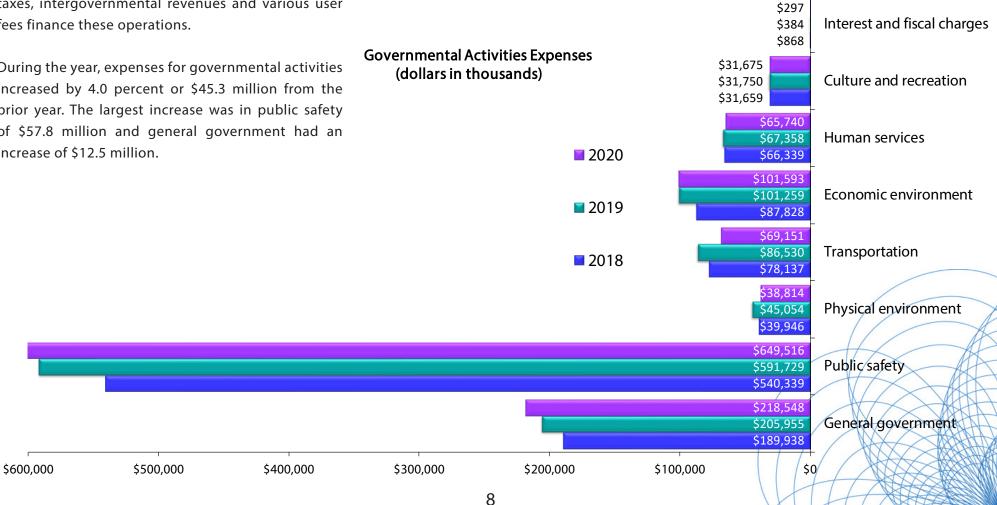
overnmental activities include most of the basic services offered to citizens, including tax assessment and collections, election services, fire and law enforcement protection, judicial services, emergency medical services, civil emergency construction and services, maintenance highways, streets and 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 finance these operations.

During the year, expenses for governmental activities increased by 4.0 percent or \$45.3 million from the prior year. The largest increase was in public safety of \$57.8 million and general government had an increase of \$12.5 million.

Public safety expenses increased \$57.8 million, primarily as a result 1) expenses associated with the Coronavirus Aid Relief & Economic Security (CARES) ACT amount of \$34.4 million.

**General government** expenses increased by \$12.5 million, primarily as a result of additional cost recovery allocations of approximately \$6.1 million for internal information technology which provides infrastructure, application support and project management.

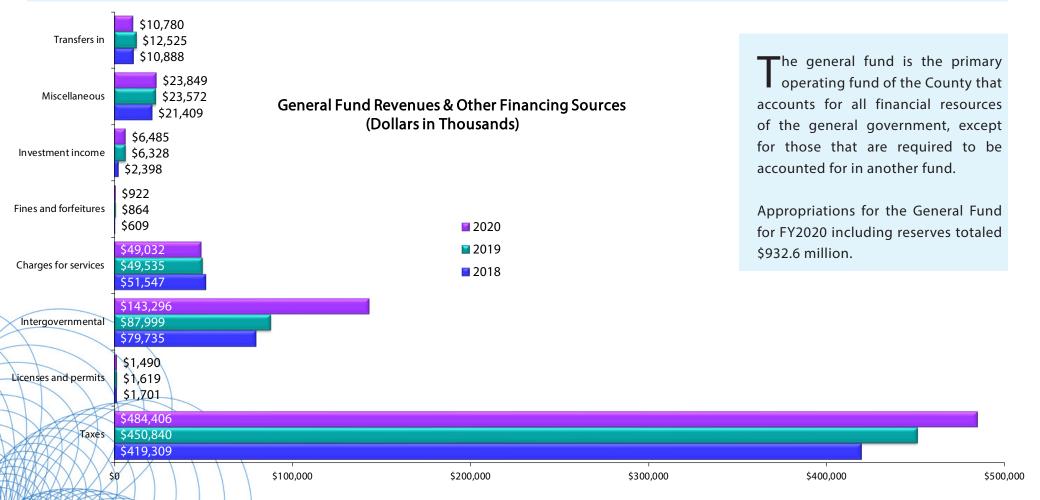
Transportation expenses decreased by \$17.4 million, primarily due to a reduction of payments associated with the Florida Department of Transportation Gateway Express Project and the Gulf Blvd Improvements.



### General Fund Revenues & Other Financing Sources

## Key financial factors for the year were as follows:

- Overall General Fund revenues and other financing sources, which includes transfers in from Constitutional Officers, increased by \$86.9 million or 13.7 percent from last year.
- Tax revenue increased by \$33.6 million, due primarily to the 7.5 percent increase in property tax values.
- Intergovernmental revenues were up by \$55.3 million or 62.8 percent. The increase was primarily due to Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act grant funding due to the pandemic.
- Overall General Fund expenditures and transfers out increased by 11.5 percent or \$69.8 million. Approximately \$34.4 million of the increase is related CARES Act Small Business Grants which provided funding to businesses affected by the pandemic. Other significant increases included \$7.1 million for the additional purchases of supplies in response to COVID-19.



### General Fund Expenditures & Other Financing Uses

#### GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Board of County Commissioners, County Administrator, Public Defender, State Attorney, County Attorney, Technology, Communications, Office of Management and Budget, Developmental Review Services, Purchasing, Engineering and Technical Support, Administrative Office of the Courts, Planning, Law Libraries and Human Resources.

#### **PUBLIC SAFETY**

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

#### 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

#### **T**RANSPORTATION

Transportation Engineering and Design.

#### **ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT**

Tax Increment Financing Program, BP Economic

Settlement Projects, Office of Human Rights, Community Housing Trust Fund, Economic Development, Small Business Development Center and Veteran's Services.

#### **HUMAN SERVICES**

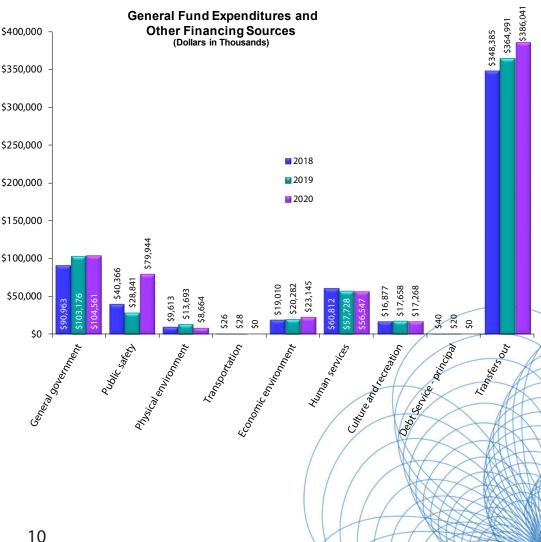
Animal Services, State Mandates-Medicaid and Burials, Administration, Coordination and Quality Assurance, Healthcare Services, Behavioral Health Services, Homeless Prevention and Self-Sufficiency, Eligibility Services and Mosquito Control.

#### **CULTURE AND RECREATION**

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

Appropriated fees to fund Constitutional Officer budgets and other funds. Financial support to other funds.

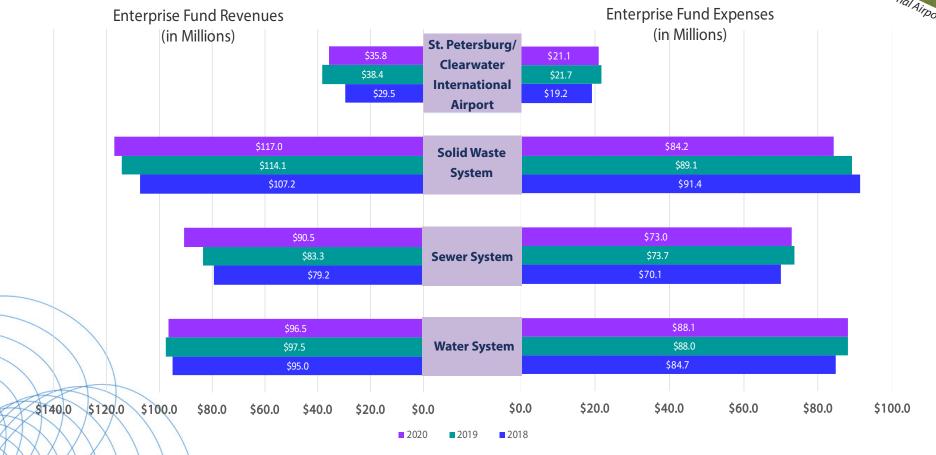
The General Fund is used to pay the general operating and administrative expenditures not accounted for in other funds. General fund expenditures and transfers out increased by \$69.8 million (11.5 percent) in FY2020. From FY2018 to FY2020, general fund expenditures increased \$90.0 million (15.4 percent). The following expenditures for the departments are paid from the General Fund (including transfers of funds).



### **Enterprise Fund Revenues & Expenses**

Interprise fund or business-type activities offer goods and services to the citizens of the county and are intended to be self-supporting. In FY2020, revenues in business-type activities increased 1.9 percent over the prior year by \$6.4 million. Expenses were down by \$5.6 million or 2.0 percent. From FY2018 to FY2020, revenues increased by \$28.9 million (9.3 percent) and expenses increased \$1.0 million (0.4 percent). The following charts reflect the enterprise fund revenues and expenses for the last three years.





### **Enterprise Fund Revenues & Expenses**

### The Business-type activities of the county are:

#### WATER SYSTEM

- Total program revenues for the Water System, including interest revenue, miscellaneous revenue and capital contributions, increased by \$1.0 million (1.1 percent) over the prior year.
- Operating expenses of the Water System decreased by 1.5 percent or \$1.3 million from previous year primarily due to decreased Tampa Bay Water fixed costs of \$1.1 million.

#### **SEWER SYSTEM**

 Total program revenues increased by \$7.3 million or 8.7 percent over the prior year. Charges for services to customers increased by \$6.7 million or 8.5 percent. The largest contributing factor to the increase was increased consumption.

#### SOLID WASTE SYSTEM

 Total program revenues of the system increased by \$2.8 million or 2.4 percent over the prior year. Electrical sales revenue was down by \$2.2 million resulting from a decrease in demand, while charges for electrical capacity resulted in additional revenues of \$3.6 million over the previous fiscal year due to contractual rate increases.

- Revenues for tipping fees were up \$2.5 million due to an increase in waste disposal tonnage processed compared to the prior year.
   Other revenues of the Solid Waste System were relatively consistent between the two years.
- Operating expenses for the system were down by \$4.5 million or 5.1 percent over the prior year due to decreased costs of operating the Waste-to-Energy facility.

#### St. Petersburg/Clearwater International Airport

Total operating revenues for the Airport decreased by \$2.8 million (15.6 percent) over the prior year. The decrease was primarily due to travel restrictions and decreased traffic due to the coronavirus pandemic. The airport continued to receive federal and state grants for capital projects such as, terminal and landside improvements, security system upgrades, in-line baggage system and Customs and Border protection improvements. Operating expenses decreased by \$0.2 million (1.3 percent) due to an decrease in personal services and other operating expenses. Federal funding for the Inline Baggage Handling project decreased by \$4.5 million while the funding for the Runway 18-36 project increased \$6.3 million. State funding for various projects decreased \$1.6 million.

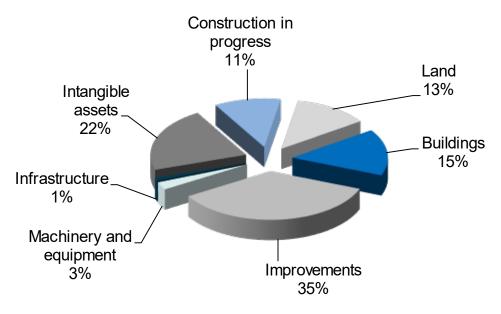


Aerial of Pinellas

### **Capital Assets**

inellas County's investment in capital assets for governmental and business-type activities is \$3.6 billion, net of accumulated depreciation. This includes land, buildings, improvements, equipment, road, bridges, drainage systems, intangible assets and construction in progress. The total increase in capital assets was 1.9 percent over the prior year (1.5 percent increase for governmental activities and a 1.7 percent increase in business-type activities).

### **Capital Assets Governmental** and Business-Type Activities (Dollars in Thousands)





### **Outstanding Bond Issues & Investment Policy**

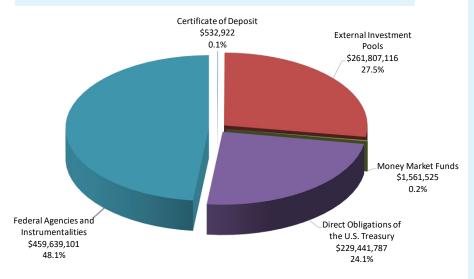
Pinellas County issues bonds in order to fund major capital projects and purchases. A significant liability of the County is the amount of outstanding bonds. In recent years the County has been successful in reducing its debt. The County's total bonds outstanding as of September 30, 2020, was approximately \$113.9 million. In January 2021, the County issued a Taxable Sewer Refunding Revenue Note, Series 2021A, for \$44.4 million. The proceeds were utilized to advance refund the outstanding Sewer Refunding Bonds, Series 2012, for an estimated aggregate savings of \$3.3 million. The County also issued a tax-exempt Sewer Refunding Revenue Note, Series 2021B, for \$5.3 million. These proceeds were utilized to refund the outstanding Sewer Revenue Refunding Bonds, Series 2003, for an aggregate saving of \$1.6 million.

	ISSUE DATE	ORIGINAL ISSUED AMOUNT (in Thousands)	AMOUNT OUTSTANDING AT YEAR END (in Thousands)	CURRENT MATURITIES <sup>1</sup> (in Thousands)
Sewer Revenue Bonds: Series 2003	January 2003	\$86,580	\$5,215	\$ -
Sewer Revenue Notes: Series 2008 A	July 2008	42,005	37,185	-
Sewer Revenue Refunding Notes: Series 2008 B-1	July 2008	32,700	19,430	-
Sewer Revenue Refunding Bonds: Series 2012	July 2012	59,510	44,400	2,850
Sewer Revenue Refunding Note: Series 2016	July 2016	14,733	7,686	-
	Totals:	\$235,528	\$113,916	\$2,850

The County's bonds all have favorable underlying ratings from the following bonds rating agencies: 2003 and 2012 rated by Moody's – Aa2 and Standard and Poors - AA+

<sup>1</sup>Current maturities represent the amount of debt required to be paid during the next fiscal year. A good bond rating gives investors important information about a bond and its issuer and allows investors to make an informed decision when deciding whether or not to buy a bond.

### 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 17-33 adopting investment policies. The investment policy and the ordinance can be found at:

http://www.pinellasclerk.org/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 in March 2021 with the Certification of Excellence for its investment policy for the fourth time.

#### INVESTMENT ORIECTIVES

- 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.

### Accomplishments

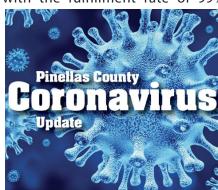


#### **GENERAL GOVERNMENT**

The Census is an important event to County government, happening only once every 10 years. The census count determines political representation and funding for vital programs covering healthcare, education, transportation and more. Pinellas County spearheaded a 23-month campaign to educate residents about the importance of the 2020 Census, resulting in a 67% census self-response rate.

#### **PUBLIC SAFETY**

To address the unprecedented challenge of the COVID-19 pandemic, the County processed 3,600+ requests for personal protective equipment with the fulfillment rate of 99%, including: 2+ million face masks,



370,000 gowns, and 240,000 units of hand sanitizer. With support from the State and the City of St. Petersburg, more than 86,000 COVID-19 tests were conducted at the County's testing sites. The County Information Center answered 9,900+ COVID-19 related calls from concerned Pinellas residents.

#### **ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT**

Pinellas County coordinated with local companies on personal protective equipment donations and manufacturing efforts to support frontline workers, assisted business owners with loan applications totaling



\$1.7 million, and obligated more than \$170 million from the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and address the community's most pressing needs. Also in the works is the Tampa Bay Innovation Center Business Incubator, a two-story, forty-five thousand square-foot facility designed to support local information technology and advanced manufacturing industry growth.

#### **T**RANSPORTATION

In an effort to provide safer access for all users, from pedestrians to motorists, Pinellas County paved the way for smoother travel by repaving over 45 miles of roadway and repairing or replacing over 12,500 linear feet of sidewalk. The St. Pete-Clearwater International

Airport has completed upgrades to its baggage handling system, security system, parking and Customs and Border protection facility. The Airport currently serves fifty-four non-stop destinations. Although the Airport started 2020 out very strong with January and February passenger increases over 2019 of 7%



and 14% respectively, the first flight cancellation due to the pandemic came on March 17th and consequently resulted in a 39% decrease overall. While domestic traffic was down 39%, international traffic

### Accomplishments



was down 52% in 2020. The airport remains diligent to public safety and its COVID-19 Action Plan.

#### PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

With respect to preventing floods and sewer overflows, the County took on several

initiatives. Over \$2.9 million was invested in new infrastructure projects and studies to reduce sanitary sewer overflows. Similarly, over 17,000 linear feet of drainage pipe was lined or replaced to reduce flood risks. Unincorporated communities saved over \$5.5 million on flood insurance premiums due to the maintenance of a rating of five in the National Flood Insurance Program Community Rating System. Pinellas County continued to lead the way in waste management by serving as a state leader in recycling for the past five years and completing a \$242 million revitalization project at the Waste-to-Energy Facility which powers more than forty-five thousand homes per day. The revitalization project extends the facility's life to at least 2035.

The County recycled over 65.5 million pounds of metal, turned 91.1 million pounds of yard waste into mulch and collected 1.6 million pounds of household electronics and chemicals. With the completion of its Solid Waste 30-Year Master Plan, the County will be on track for Zero Waste to Landfill by 2050.

#### **HUMAN SERVICES**

Pinellas County initiated the Penny for Pinellas Affordable Housing program, a new \$80-million fund dedicated to expanding affordable housing over the next decade. The funds will be used to support qualified development and rehabilitation projects.

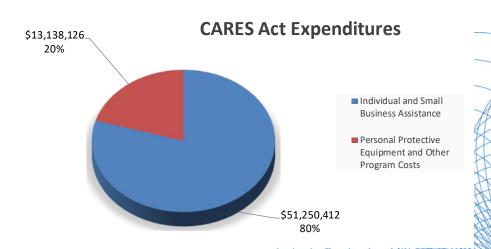
The County also cohosted a five part Homes for Pinellas webinar series with Forward Pinellas on housing affordability. The webinar series reached over 500 local officials, community leaders and developers. In an effort to further support behavioral health, the County invested over \$12 million to close gaps and provide critical services to its most vulnerable population. Additionally, the County hosted an award-winning Facebook live event about emotional support during COVID-19 with Directions for Living (a provider, advocate, FOR PIN and partner to children, adults and families



in need of integrated healthcare, social support, safety, and hope for the future). The effort resulted in a 42% increase in calls to the organization's emotional support hotline.

#### **CARES ACT**

Pinellas County coordinated with local companies on personal protective equipment donations and manufacturing efforts to support frontline workers, assisted business owners with loan applications, and invested more than \$64 million from the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and address the community's most pressing needs.



### Connect With Us



CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT
COURT
AND COMPTROLLER
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(727) 464-3341

"My office always strives for professionalism and the continuous pursuit of excellence."



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

"Marcus has spearheaded rapid changes in this domain from an organizational-wide perspective that considers a cybersecurity framework including technological, physical and human elements."



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

"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."

"In Pinellas County, we believe in delivering the highest level of local government excellence. That's why our vision remains to be the standard for public service in America."

Dave Eggers
BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS, CHAIR
deggers@pinellascounty.org
(727) 464-3276
www.pinellascounty.org

"Mr. Thomas takes pride in the Pinellas County Tax Collector Office's dedication to "customer-focused excellence" and is honored to serve the residents of Pinellas County."



"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.



# Citizens' Guide

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



This Citizens' Guide to County Finances was prepared by the Clerk's Finance Division, Clerk's Print Shop, and the Board of County Commissioners Marketing & Communications Department.

# Ken Burke, CPA

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