

Pinellas County, Florida
Citizens' Guide to County Finances
for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2018



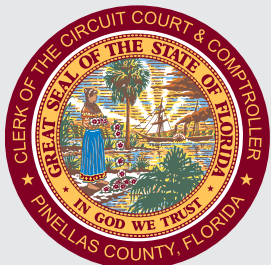
MESSAGE FROM YOUR CLERK



KEN BURKE, CPA

CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
AND COMPTROLLER
PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA

Clerk of Board of County
Commissioners
Clerk of Water and Navigation
Control Authority
County Auditor and Treasurer



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, 2018. 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 (CAFR) as of September 30, 2018 described below. The Citizens' Guide does not conform to generally accepted accounting principles and governmental reporting standards. The report is prepared in this format so that the non-financial reader can easily understand it. 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, 2017 for its Citizens' Guide for the twelfth consecutive year.

In addition to the Citizens' Guide, the Finance Division produces the CAFR which contains more detailed financial information. The GFOA awarded a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to Pinellas County for its CAFR for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2017, the 37th consecutive year that we have achieved this prestigious award.

The CAFR, as well as this report, are accessible on the Clerk's website <https://www.mypinellasclerk.org/Financial-Reports>. 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ken Burke".

Ken Burke, CPA
Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller

ABOUT THIS REPORT

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This Citizens' Guide provides an overview of the areas of responsibility and the operations of Pinellas County's Constitutional Officers as listed below and excludes component units:

- Board of County Commissioners (BCC)
- Property Appraiser
- Sheriff
- Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller
- Supervisor of Elections
- Tax Collector

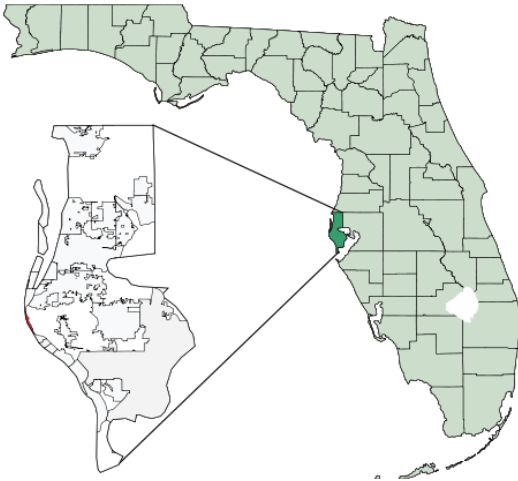
The financial information presented here is summarized and does not substitute for the county's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). The CAFR outlines the county's financial position and operating activities for the year in great detail and in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

This report reflects the Sources and Uses of county funds as well as a summary of the governmental activities and business-type activities. They are distinguished as follows:

- Governmental activities include most of the basic services offered to citizens, including tax assessment and collections, fire and law enforcement protection, judicial services, emergency medical services, civil emergency services, construction and maintenance of highways, streets and other infrastructure, economic development, social and human services, and cultural and recreational services. Property, sales, and use taxes, as well as intergovernmental revenues and various user fees finance these operations.
- Business-type activities include the water, sewer, solid waste and airport systems that are financed by fees charged to customers.

Information on revenues and expenditures of the General Fund for the last three years is shown on pages 10 through 11 of this report. Information on the county's investments, capital assets, and outstanding bond issues are included on pages 14 through 16.

PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA'S PROFILE



Florida Map

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 has an abundance of leisure and recreational activities to offer residents and visitors year round. Baseball is one of the County's favorite attractions as the proud home of the major league baseball team, the Tampa Bay Rays in St. Petersburg. Both the Philadelphia Phillies and the Toronto Blue Jays maintain their spring training quarters in Pinellas County in the cities of Clearwater and Dunedin. Surrounded on three sides by water, opportunities for fishing, boating and outdoor activities are plentiful. The numerous parks and preserves throughout support these recreational activities.

St. Petersburg and Clearwater beaches continually earn accolades for their white soft sand, sparkling blue waters and activities to delight beachgoers of all ages and interest, with both being voted into the Top 10 of TripAdvisor's Traveler's Choice Awards of the Top U. S. Beaches. St. Pete Beach, known for its laid-back appeal and home to the world famous "Pink Palace," The Don CeSar Hotel, was voted number 7 on the list in 2018. Beautiful Clearwater Beach with its brilliant white sands and lots of hubbub came in at number 1 in 2018. These two beaches were ranked number 4 and number 1 respectively in 2016. The readers of USA Today ranked four area beaches, Clearwater Beach, Pass-A-Grille, Fort De Soto Park and Caladesi Island State Park in its Top 10 in Florida in 2015.



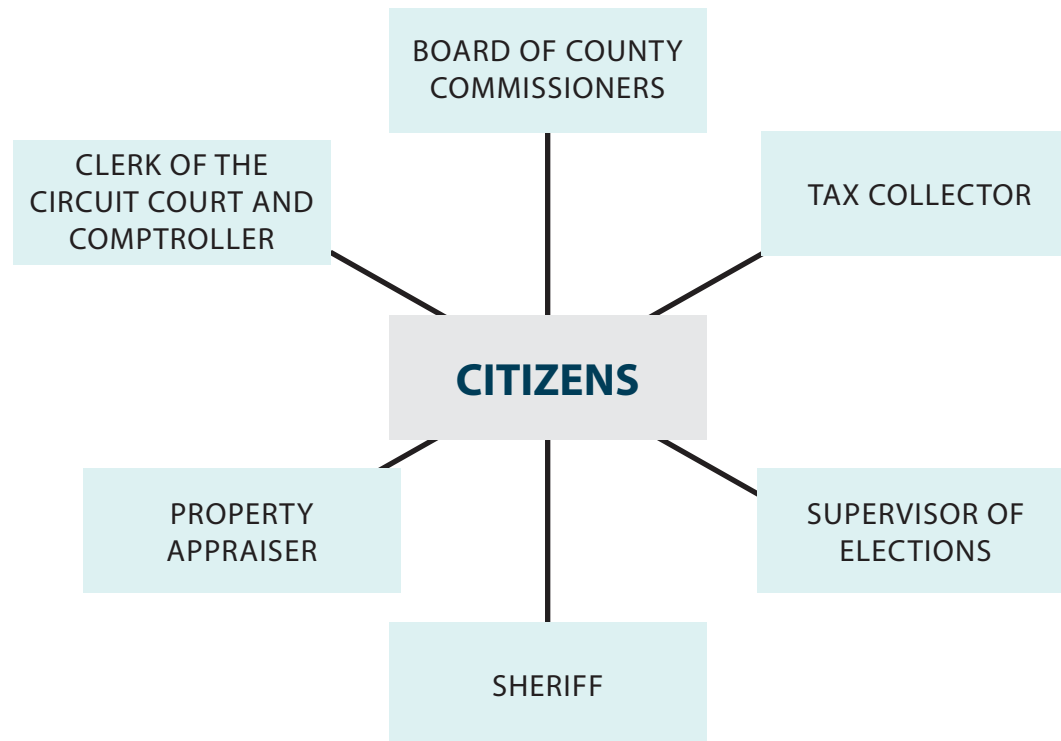
Clearwater Beach

PRINCIPAL EMPLOYERS

EMPLOYER	EMPLOYEES	RANK	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL COUNTY EMPLOYMENT
Pinellas County School District	15,000	1	2.99%
Bay Pines VA Medical Center	4,000	2	0.80%
City of St. Petersburg	3,500	3	0.70%
Raymond James	3,400	4	0.68%
All Children's Hospital	3,100	5	0.62%
Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners	3,000	6	0.60%
Home Shopping Network	3,000	7	0.60%
St. Petersburg College	2,900	8	0.58%
Pinellas County Sheriff	2,700	9	0.54%
Morton Plant Hospital	2,300	10	0.46%

PINELLAS COUNTY GOVERNMENT

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.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Janet C. Long - District 1
janetclong@pinellascounty.org

Pat Gerard, Vice-Chairman- District 2
pgerard@pinellascounty.org

Charlie Justice - District 3
cjustice@pinellascounty.org

Dave Eggers - District 4
deggers@pinellascounty.org

Karen Williams Seel, Chairman - District 5
kseel@pinellascounty.org

Kathleen Peters - District 6
kpeters@pinellascounty.org

Kenneth T. Welch - District 7
ktwelch@pinellascounty.org

CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS

Ken Burke, Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller
www.mypinellasclerk.org

Deborah Clark, Supervisor of Elections
www.votepinellas.com

Charles W. Thomas, Tax Collector
www.taxcollect.com

Mike Twitty, Property Appraiser
www.pcpao.org

Bob Gualtieri, Sheriff
www.pcsoweb.com

DUTIES OF THE CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT AND 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.

AS CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT AND COUNTY COURTS

- maintains custody of court records
- maintains custody of all related pleadings filed
- secures evidence entered in court
- ensures integrity of court files is protected
- collects and disburses court fines and assessments and court ordered child support
- summons prospective jurors

AS RECORDER OF DEEDS

- maintains Official Records of the County and ensures their integrity is protected

AS CLERK AND ACCOUNTANT OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

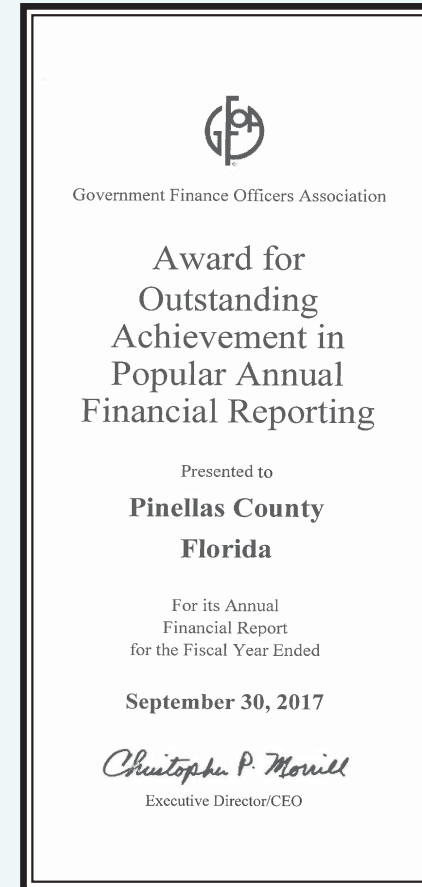
- maintains official records of the Board
- maintains county financial records and prepares financial reports
- provides accounting services to all departments under the Board
- programs and maintains software for the automated financial accounting system
- processes and pre-audits accounts payable, accounts receivable and payroll transactions

AS CUSTODIAN OF ALL COUNTY FUNDS

- receives and records county revenue
- invests county funds

AS COUNTY AUDITOR

- performs comptroller function in pre-audit of invoices before payment
- performs Inspector General audits and investigations of county departments



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, 2017. 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.

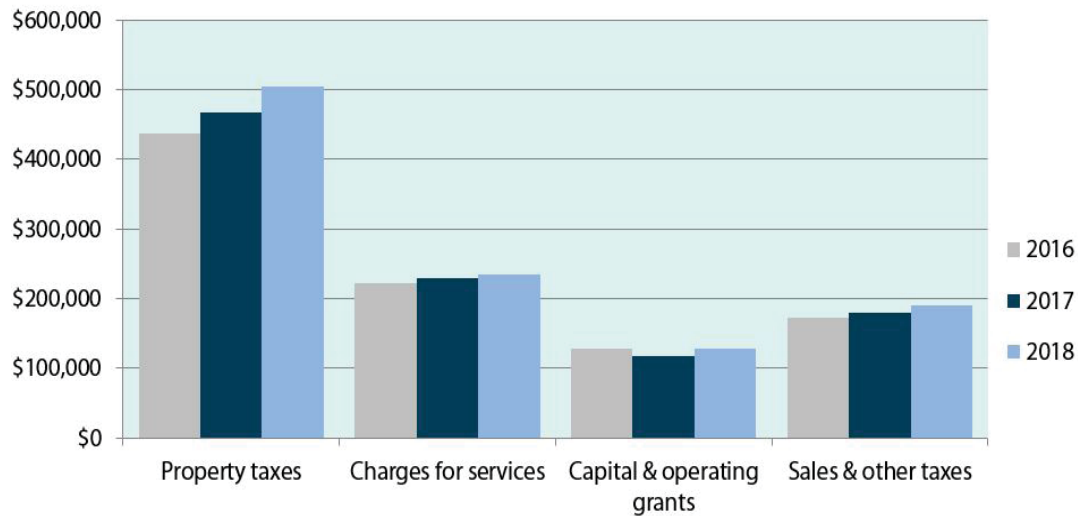
In order to receive an Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting, a government unit must publish a Popular Annual Financial Report, whose contents conform to program standards of creativity, presentation, understandability, and reader appeal.

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.

SOURCES OF COUNTY FUNDS

Pinellas County receives its revenue to fund governmental activities from many sources including property taxes, sales and other taxes, charges for services, fees, fines and assessments, grants, and interest income. Total revenues for the County increased 5.4 percent over last year. Approximately 36.9 percent of the County's total revenues come from property taxes and 13.6 percent from other taxes. Fees, service charges, revenues from other governments and unrestricted interest earnings account for 49.6 percent of all revenues. Total expenses increased 4.8 percent over the prior year.

GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES REVENUES (DOLLARS IN THOUSANDS)



Revenues in the County's governmental activities increased \$63.4 million or 6.4 percent over the prior year. Key factors attributing to these changes are described below.

Property tax revenues increased by \$36.7 million, or 7.8 percent over last year for all governmental activities due to an increase in property tax values of 8 percent. The countywide millage rate remained unchanged from the previous year.

Charges for services amounted to \$234.6 million for the current year compared to \$229 million realized in the prior year, an increase of \$5.6 million. The primary contributors to this increase include additional revenues generated from law enforcement services of \$2.7 million and other governmental services charges of \$2.1 million.

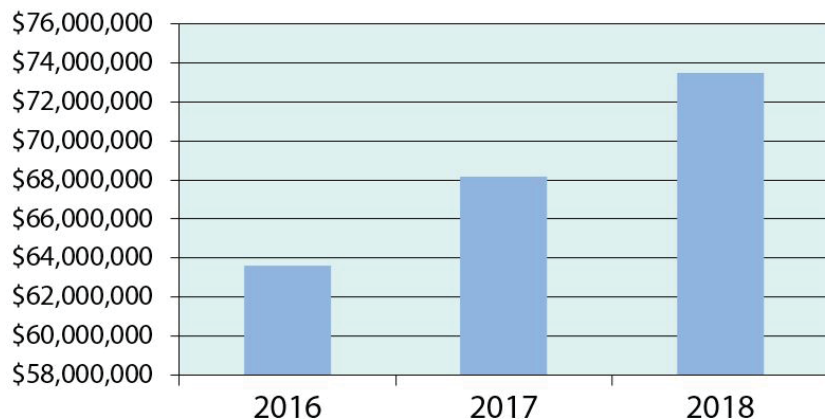
Capital grants and contributions increased by \$5.2 million from the prior year, due primarily to 1) approximately \$3.2 million increase in state funding in support of beach renourishment, 2) grant funding of \$2.0 million in support of the Lealman Community Campus project.

Sales tax revenue increased by \$9.2 million or 6.2 percent, reflecting signs of continued economic improvement in the area.

PROPERTY TAXES

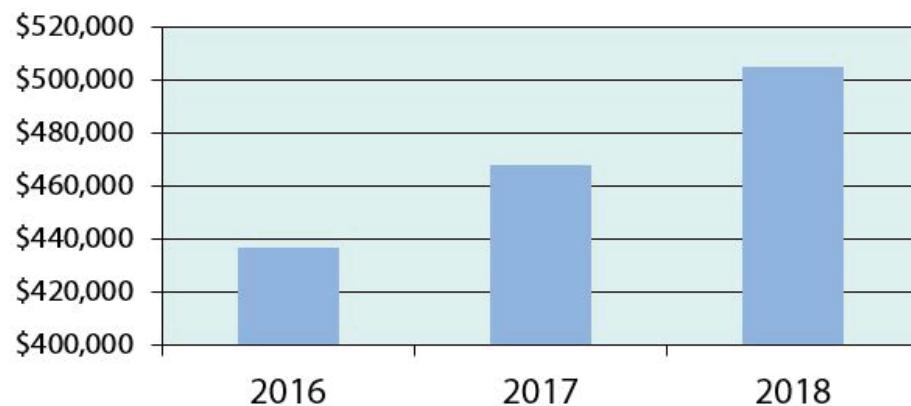
Property taxes help support programs and services that do not have offsetting revenues or pay for themselves. Examples include law enforcement, social services, parks and environmental programs. Other tax rates controlled by the county include Emergency Medical Services and fire districts in unincorporated areas.

TAXABLE ASSESSED VALUES (DOLLARS IN THOUSANDS)



Taxable assessed values increased by \$5.3 million (7.8 percent) countywide for FY2018 and 15.6 percent from FY2016.

PROPERTY TAX REVENUES (DOLLARS IN THOUSANDS)



Property tax revenues increased by \$36.7 million (7.9 percent) for FY2018 and increased by \$68.1 million (15.6 percent) from FY2016.

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 1 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, bridges and trails, flood control, park improvements, preservation of endangered lands, public safety and community vitality. 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 are 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.

Unrestricted interest 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 are 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 are monies received from the federal and state levels for the acquisition of capital assets, such as buildings, land or equipment.

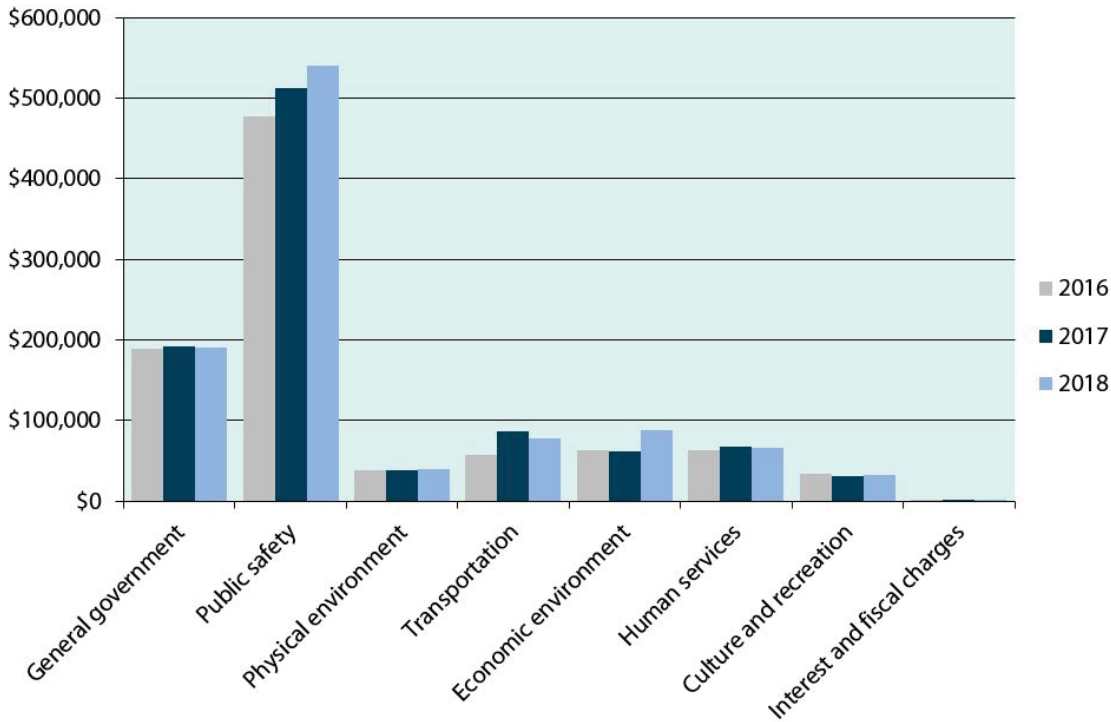


Palm Pavilion at Clearwater Beach

USES OF COUNTY FUNDS

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 finance these operations.

GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES EXPENSES (DOLLARS IN THOUSANDS)



During the year, expenses for governmental activities increased by 4.5 percent or \$44.8 million from the prior year. The largest increase was in public safety of \$27.5 million and transportation had a decrease of \$8.4 million.

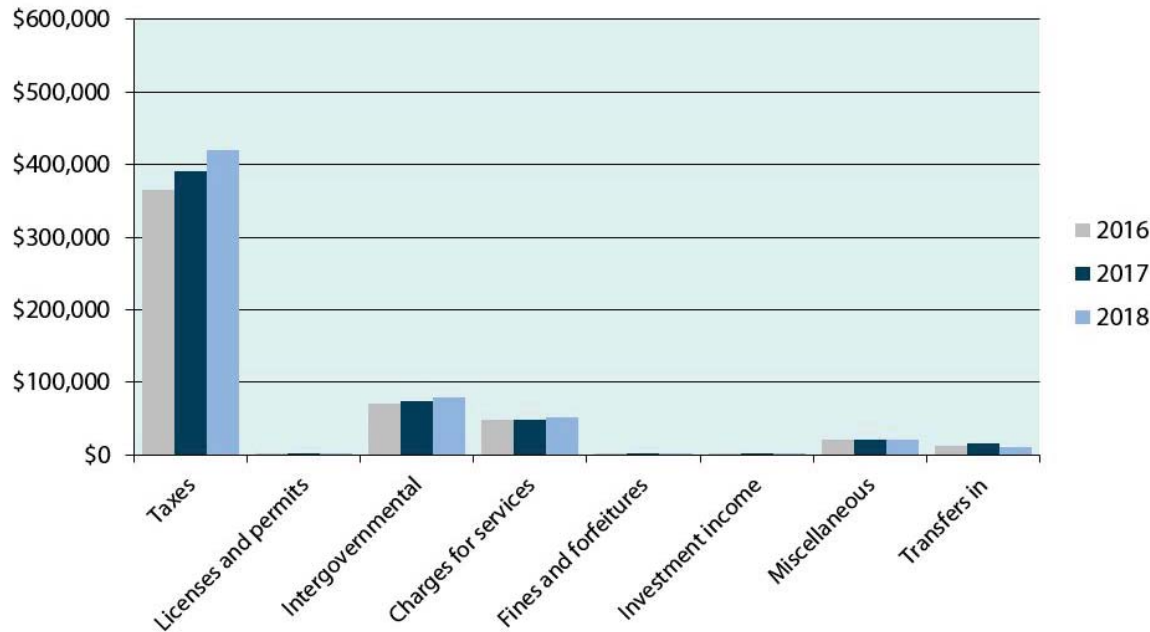
Public safety expenses increased by \$27.5 million, primarily as a result of 1) personal services and operational costs related to Hurricane Irma totaling approximately \$11.8 million, 2) increased personal services costs of \$9.0 million with the OPEB (other post employment benefits) plans, 3) additional funding of \$4.9 million over the prior year provided to local municipalities under the First Responder program, primarily to support the funding of four additional responder units.

Transportation expenses for the fiscal year amounted to \$78.1 million compared to \$86.5 million the prior year, an decrease of \$8.4 million. The majority of the decrease is attributable to the \$12 million reduction in the amount contributed as a portion of the County's share of the Gateway Express project, a jointly funded (County, State, Federal) toll road project in Pinellas County, offset by a \$4 million increase in expenses for road rehabilitation and the advanced transportation management system.

GENERAL FUND REVENUES AND OTHER SOURCES

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 FY2018 including reserves totaled \$691.8 million.

GENERAL FUND REVENUES AND OTHER SOURCES
(DOLLARS IN THOUSANDS)



Key financial factors for the year were as follows:

- Overall General Fund revenues and other financing sources (transfers in from Constitutional Officers and other funds) increased by \$32.7 million or 5.9 percent from last year.
- Tax revenue increased by \$28.1 million, due primarily to the 8 percent increase in taxable property values.
- Intergovernmental revenues were up by \$5.3 million or 7.1 percent. The increase was due mostly to approximately \$1.8 million and \$0.8 million from the local half-cent sales tax and the state revenue’s sharing trust, which is a reflection of continued economic recovery as well as \$2.4 million realized in federal and state funding assistance for various programs and projects.
- Charges for services were up by \$3.3 million, over the prior year, mostly attributable to additional revenues for law enforcement and other governmental services.

GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES AND OTHER USES

The General Fund is used to pay the regular operating and administrative expenditures not accounted for in other funds. General fund expenditures and transfers out increased by \$23.6 million or 4.2 percent in FY2018. From FY2016 to FY2018, general fund expenditures increased by \$58.7 million or 11.1 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 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.

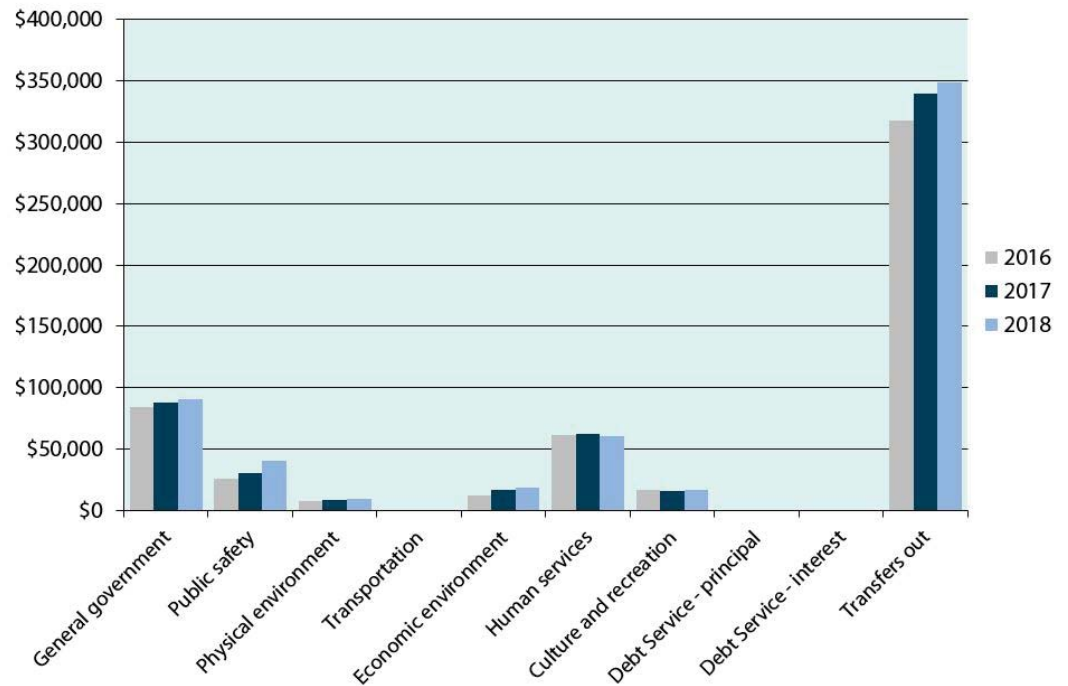
TRANSPORTATION

- 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.

GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES AND OTHER USES (DOLLARS IN THOUSANDS)



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.

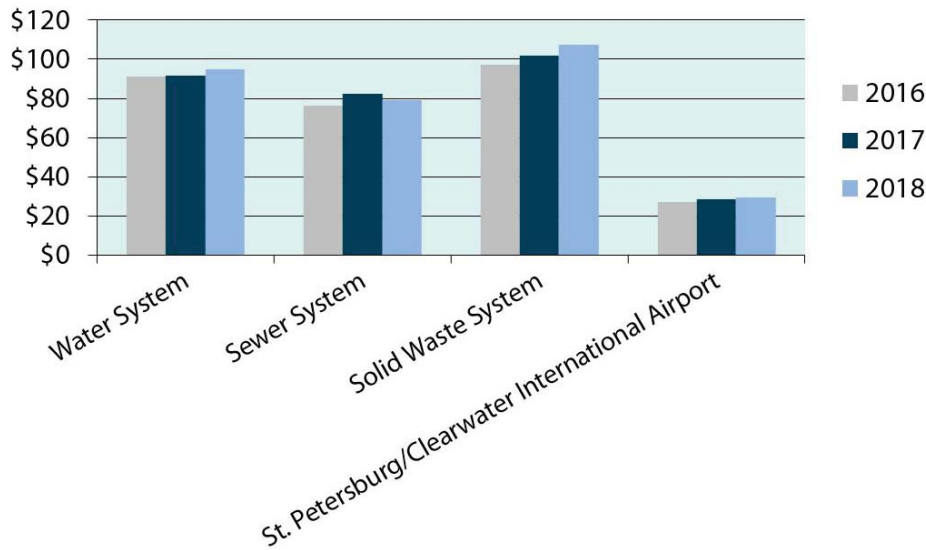
TRANSFERS OUT

- Appropriations to fund Constitutional Officer budgets and other funds.

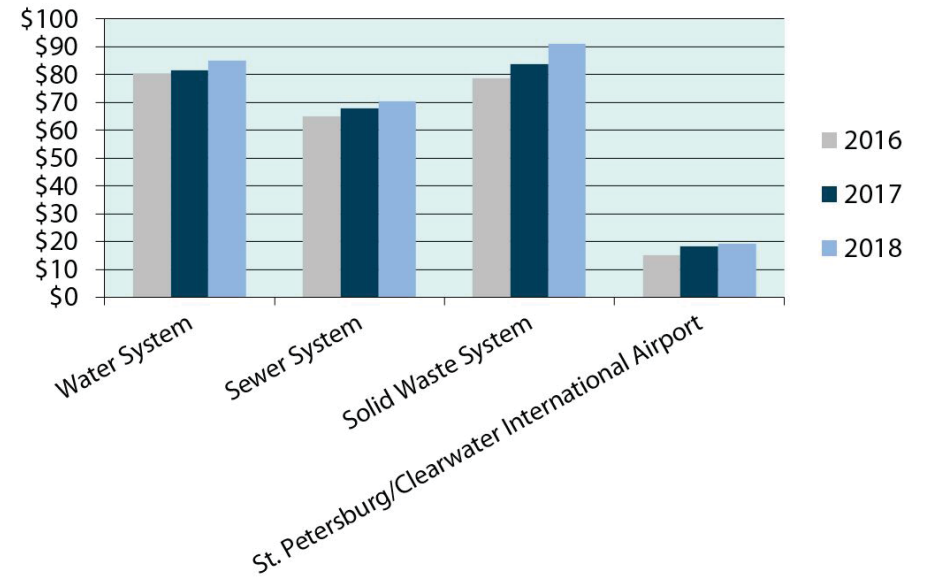
ENTERPRISE FUND REVENUES AND EXPENSES

Enterprise fund or business-type activities offer goods and services to the citizens of the county and are intended to be self-supporting. In FY2018, revenues in business-type activities increased 2.2 percent over the prior year by \$6.8 million. Expenses were up by \$14.4 million or 5.7 percent. From FY2016 to FY2018, revenues increased by \$19.4 million or 6.7 percent and expenses increased \$24.9 million or 10.4 percent. The following charts reflect the enterprise fund revenues and expenses for the last three years.

ENTERPRISE FUND REVENUES



ENTERPRISE FUND EXPENSES



ENTERPRISE FUND REVENUES AND 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 \$3.5 million or 3.7 percent over the prior year.
- Charges for services to retail and wholesale customers were up by \$3.2 million or 3.7 percent. This was due primarily to additional revenues (\$3.1 million) from water sales to retail and wholesale customers resulting from a combination of increases in volume consumed, and marginal increases to base and consumption rates.
- Operating expenses of the Water System increased by 5.2 percent or \$4.2 million from previous year, primarily due to increases as follows: costs under the water purchases contract of \$1.7 million, cost of central services of \$1.1 million, and personal services costs of \$1 million.

SEWER SYSTEM

- Total program revenues decreased by \$3.4 million or 4.1 percent from the prior year. Charges for services to customers decreased by \$1.8 million or 2.3 percent. The largest contributing factor to this decrease was the one-time reallocation of \$4.4 million in late fees from the Water System Fund that was received in the prior year. Revenue from retail sewer charges was up slightly from the prior fiscal year, with \$0.7 million in additional revenue being recognized.
- Annual operating expenses increased \$2.8 million or 4.5 percent due primarily to increases in maintenance and repairs to the sewer system.

SOLID WASTE SYSTEM

- Total program revenues of the system decreased by \$5.4 million or 5.3 percent over the prior year. Electrical sales revenue was up by \$0.7 million resulting from a combination of additional demand and an annual rate increase, while charges for electrical capacity resulted in additional revenues of \$3.2 million over the previous fiscal year due to contractual rate increases. Other revenues of the Solid Waste System were relatively consistent between the two years.
- Operating expenses for the system were up by \$8.4 million or 10.2 percent over the prior year due to increased costs of operating the Waste-to-Energy facility under the new operating agreement.

ST. PETERSBURG/CLEARWATER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

- Total program revenues for the Airport decreased by \$11.3 million or 27.7 percent from the prior year, primarily due to the non-recurring recognition of a gain on the sale of airport land of \$12.5 million during FY2017. Charges for services were up by \$1 million or 5.6 percent over the prior year.
- Operating expenses increased by \$1.1 million or 6 percent due to an increase in contractual services and depreciation expense.



Aerial View of St. Petersburg/Clearwater Airport

INVESTMENT POLICY

INVESTMENT POLICY

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:

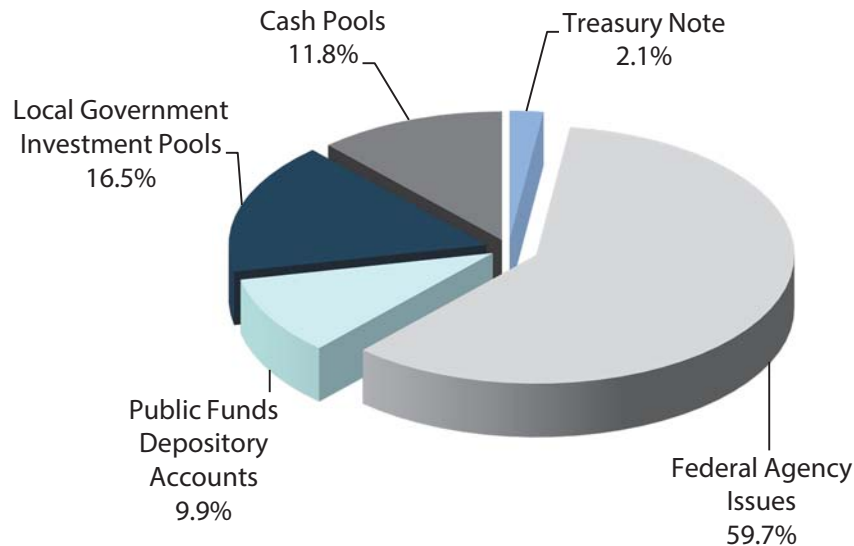
<https://www.mypinellasclerk.org/Financial-Reports>

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 November 2017 with the Certification of Excellence for its investment policy for the third time. This certification should be renewed every three years. Receiving this certification denotes the Board has a sound investment policy founded upon professional standards to assist in ensuring prudent management of public funds.

INVESTMENT OBJECTIVES

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

PINELLAS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO



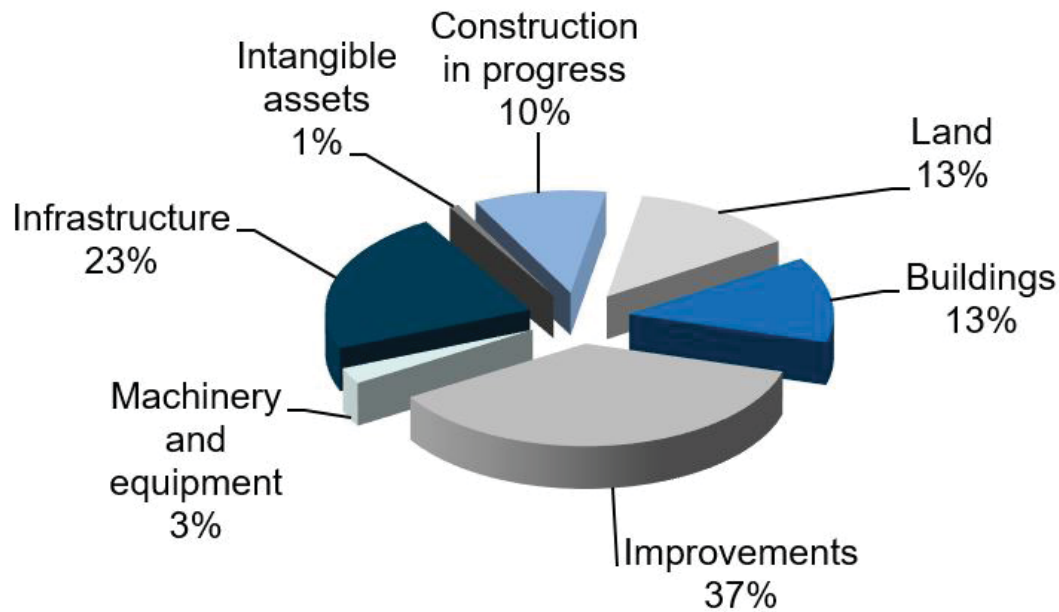
CASH AND INVESTMENTS AT FAIR VALUE (BOARD ONLY)

Treasury Note	\$ 19,867,969
Federal Agency Issues	565,795,315
Public Funds Depository Accounts	94,015,265
Local Government Investment Pools	156,882,445
Cash Pools	111,734,711
TOTAL	\$ 948,295,705

CAPITAL ASSETS

Pinellas County's investment in capital assets for governmental and business-type activities is \$3.5 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 2.8 percent over the prior year (2.5 percent increase for governmental activities and a 3.1 percent increase in business-type activities).

CAPITAL ASSETS GOVERNMENTAL AND BUSINESS-TYPE ACTIVITIES
(DOLLARS IN THOUSANDS)



CAPITAL ASSETS
(DOLLARS IN THOUSANDS)

Land	\$	459,550
Buildings		476,399
Improvements		1,295,644
Machinery and equipment		90,300
Infrastructure		796,910
Intangible assets		26,861
Construction in progress		368,386
TOTAL		\$ 3,514,050

OUTSTANDING BOND ISSUES

Pinellas County issues bonds in order to fund major capital projects or purchases. A major 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, 2018, were approximately \$132.5 million.

ISSUE DATE	DESCRIPTION	ORIGINAL ISSUED AMOUNT (IN THOUSANDS)	AMOUNT OUTSTANDING AT YEAR END (IN THOUSANDS)	CURRENT MATURITIES ¹ (IN THOUSANDS)
January 2003	Sewer Revenue Bonds, Series 2003	\$ 86,580	\$ 5,215	\$ -
July 2008	Sewer Revenue Bonds, Series 2008A	42,005	38,175	-
July 2008	Sewer Revenue Refunding Bonds, Series 2008 B-1	32,700	28,000	-
July 2012	Sewer Revenue Refunding Bonds, Series 2012	59,510	49,775	2,635
July 2016	Sewer Revenue Refunding Note, Series 2016	14,733	11,295	-
TOTAL		\$ 235,528	\$ 132,460	\$ 2,635

The County's bonds all have favorable underlying ratings from the following bond rating agencies:

- 2003 and 2012 rated by Moody's – Aa2 and Standard and Poors-AA+.

¹ Current maturities represent the amount of debt required to be paid during the next fiscal year.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

GENERAL GOVERNMENT



Old Clearwater Courthouse

The Clerk of Circuit Court and Comptroller (Clerk) in collaboration with the Courts made plans to consolidate services and close one branch location: planned for January of 2019. That decision, in mid-2018, is expected to result in significant cost savings by allocating the services of the Tyrone Branch Office among the remaining offices. Traffic court will be consolidated at the Pinellas County Justice Center (PCJC) in Largo. Quality of service for customers is expected to improve with more staff available to serve the public.

PUBLIC SAFETY

In 2018, the County began supporting the Contractor Licensing Department, regulated by the Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board (PCCLB), in order to help ensure proper licensing and training of local contractors to protect consumers. The PCCLB, formerly an independent special district, became a dependent special district of the County during the year. The Building and Development Review Services Department helped over 40,000 customers. Over 6,800 zoning transactions were processed with more than half initiated within 5 minutes of client arrival. Code concerns were handled, on average, within 3 days, down from 12 days in 2016.



Sunstar Critical Care Vehicle

In October of 2018, Hurricane Michael devastated Florida's panhandle. Within days, 64 Pinellas County employees were deployed to help with recovery efforts. Working with partners from other local agencies, staff helped restore services and provide relief to the area's first responders.

ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT



Clearwater Marine Aquarium

Pinellas County Economic Development works to drive economic growth in Pinellas by attracting corporate relocations, expansions, and new business to bring high-wage and targeted industry jobs to Pinellas County. In May of 2018, Pinellas County Economic Development and the City of St. Petersburg were the winners of the Florida Economic Development Council's 2018 Deal of the Year for outstanding achievement in the expansion of a business in the State of Florida.

The Board has approved several major projects to be funded by tourist development dollars. One of the largest being, the Clearwater Marine Aquarium, a marine life rescue center and home to Winter the Dolphin. The Aquarium is slated to receive approximately \$26 million toward a \$66 million expansion of the aquarium's site on Island Estates. The project includes five new dolphin pools, a 376 space parking garage, elevated viewing areas and 102,000 square feet of additional guest space. In 2018, the County fulfilled its long-standing promise by opening the Lealman Exchange for local programs and services. The community center sits on 5.85 acres and acts as a hub for recreation, education, and local programs. It is located in the Lealman Community Redevelopment Area and offers programs such as youth mentoring, after school activities, adult education, workforce training and health and human services programs.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

TRANSPORTATION

In 2018, numerous efforts were made to improve citizen commutes. Over 103,476 sidewalk repairs were made to help eliminate trip and fall hazards, over 100 lane miles of roadway was paved, approximately 1,073 tons of asphalt was used to patch and repair county roadways and almost 24,000 acres of land were mowed to keep right of way clear. Additionally, the Public Works Department oversaw the replacement of two Pinellas Trail bridges allowing for increased bicycle and pedestrian safety in Palm Harbor.

The St. Petersburg/Clearwater International Airport had its sixth consecutive year of double-digit passenger growth, with over 162,000 passengers in 2018. The Airport served 59 non-stop destinations. Currently, non-stop service, in and out of the St. Petersburg/Clearwater International Airport, includes 59 destinations with 56 of those being domestic and three being international flights to Halifax, Toronto, and Winnipeg.



Clearwater Memorial Causeway

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

A new Utilities mobile and online payment site, Bill2Pay, was updated to help simplify the process for customers to make monthly payments. Additionally, a \$242 million project was undertaken at the Pinellas County Waste-to-Energy facility that is anticipated to extend the facility's life by 17 years. The Public Works Department became the 12th in Florida to achieve a prestigious accreditation from the American Public Works Association. The accreditation formally recognized that the Public Works Department complies with national operational and service standards. It also verified that the department is focused on continuous improvement and has conducted an in-depth review of its policies, procedures and practices, consolidating them into a central location.



Ft. Desoto Park

ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Bayside Health Clinic

HUMAN SERVICES

Pinellas County Human Services actively worked with partners in the community to support efforts towards closing the gap for healthcare needs, protecting our most vulnerable citizens through contracted services and housing efforts, connecting veterans to benefits, protecting consumers while reducing harm and loss, and supporting effective justice system operations. Recent efforts, largely supported by over \$15 million in grant awards, have expanded access to critical substance abuse and mental health treatment through medication assisted treatment, integrated case management and targeted interventions, assisted outpatient treatment, and improved information processes.



Mobile Medical Unit



Juvenile Justice Citizens' Academy

FUTURE INITIATIVES

The Fred Marquis Pinellas Trail in Palm Harbor will be celebrated in 2019. After a successful final inspection, the County will reopen the pedestrian bridges over Alternate U.S. 19 and Orange Street. Walkers, runners, bicyclists and other users will no longer have to detour around the location. The busy section has been closed since 2017 for replacement of the bridges. The Fred Marquis Pinellas Trail extends from downtown St. Petersburg to Tarpon Springs as a unique connector of our communities. It has won numerous awards and was inducted into the National Rails to Trails Hall of Fame. Eventually, it will be part of the Pinellas Trail Loop, a 75-mile regional trail network that will circle the county and provide regional connections to Hillsborough and Pasco County trail networks and link to the Florida Coast-to-Coast Connector Trail.



Pinellas Trail Overpass

Efforts are being made to make sure that Pinellas County is fully counted in the United States Census for 2020 by establishing a Complete Count Committee. Meetings are planned where U.S. Census Bureau representatives will explain how our community can work together to ensure all our residents are counted in the 2020 Census. The data is important as it impacts House seats, federal funding for communities, and local planning decisions. Invited to attend the committee will be city officials, civic organizations, faith-based groups, business leaders, nonprofit organizations and neighborhood associations.



South Cross Bayou Water Reclamation Facility

Pinellas County Utilities (PCU) is undergoing a comprehensive water and sewer rate study. The study will provide numerous recommendations to address the challenges that influence PCU sustainability and financial performance over the next decade. Revenue sufficiency will be a major focal point of the study. The study will provide an evaluation of the sufficiency of the water, sewer, and reclaimed water rates over a multi-year projection period. If necessary, a plan will be developed for annual water, sewer, and reclaimed water rate adjustments so that sufficient revenue will be available to satisfy the financial requirements for PCU operations and maintenance costs, capital improvement program costs, existing and any new debt service costs along with required coverage ratios and adequate reserves.

The Small Business Enterprise (SBE) program, a joint program between the Economic Development and Purchasing Departments, will be expanded to increase access to procurement opportunities. The SBE Program creates a sheltered market for local businesses for all purchases between \$5,000 and \$100,000, providing qualified firms the first opportunity to quote for purchases falling within this monetary range. In addition, the SBE Program has been further expanded to contain capital improvement projects (CIP) and consultant contracts sourced through the Consultant Competitive Negotiation Act (CCNA). Prime contractors competitively bidding on County CIP contracts will be asked to meet a goal specific to each project. Purchases and firm eligibility will be monitored utilizing B2GNow software. This electronic compliance monitoring product is utilized by more than one hundred government entities nationally.



HOW TO CONTACT PINELLAS COUNTY



Paddleboarding Off Clearwater Beach

CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT AND COMPTROLLER

315 Court Street
Clearwater, FL 33756
(727) 464-3341
www.mypinellasclerk.org

SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS

Elections Service Center
Starkey Lakes Corporate Center
13001 Starkey Road
Largo, FL 33773
(727) 464-6108
www.voteinellas.com

PROPERTY APPRAISER

County Courthouse
315 Court Street
Clearwater, FL 33756
(727) 464-3207
www.pcpao.org

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

315 Court Street
Clearwater, FL 33756
(727) 464-3377
www.pinellascounty.org

TAX COLLECTOR

Main Office
315 Court Street
Clearwater, FL 33756
(727) 562-3262
www.taxcollect.com

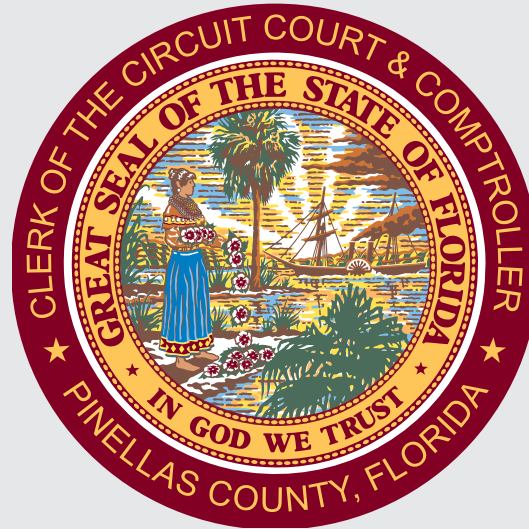
SHERIFF

10750 Ulmerton Road
Largo, FL 33778
(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 and throughout this guide are courtesy of the Pinellas County Marketing & Communications Department, VisitStPeteClearwater.com, and Wikipedia.



This Citizens' Guide to County Finances was prepared by the Clerk's Finance Division, Clerk's Administration, and the Board of County Commissioners 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.ORG



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