



**Pinellas
County**

Citizens' Guide to County Finances 2023

For the fiscal year ended September 30, 2023



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Citizens of Pinellas County:

I am pleased to present the Citizens' Guide to County Finances (Citizens' Guide) for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2023. 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 previous three fiscal years. The report gives 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 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report, 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 presented in the Citizens' Guide is derived from the Annual Comprehensive 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, 2022, for its Citizens' Guide for the seventeenth consecutive year.

In addition to the Citizens' Guide, the Finance Division produces the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report, which contains more detailed financial information. Pinellas County's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2022, 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 42nd consecutive year that we have achieved this prestigious award.

To receive a Certificate of Achievement, a government must publish an easily readable and efficiently organized annual comprehensive financial report, whose contents conform to program standards. Such a 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 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2023 conforms to the Certificate of Achievement Program's requirements, and we are submitting it to the GFOA to determine its eligibility for another certificate.

Financial reports are available on the Clerk's website www.mypinellasclerk.gov. Copies 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,



Ken Burke, CPA
Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller



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

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



Pinellas is an urban county, on a peninsula on the western coast of Florida, bounded on the east by Tampa Bay and on the west by the Gulf of Mexico. Pinellas County is the most densely populated of all sixty-seven Florida counties. The County is the second smallest in landmass in Florida; measuring up to thirty-eight miles long and fifteen miles wide. The sparkling water of the Gulf of 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.

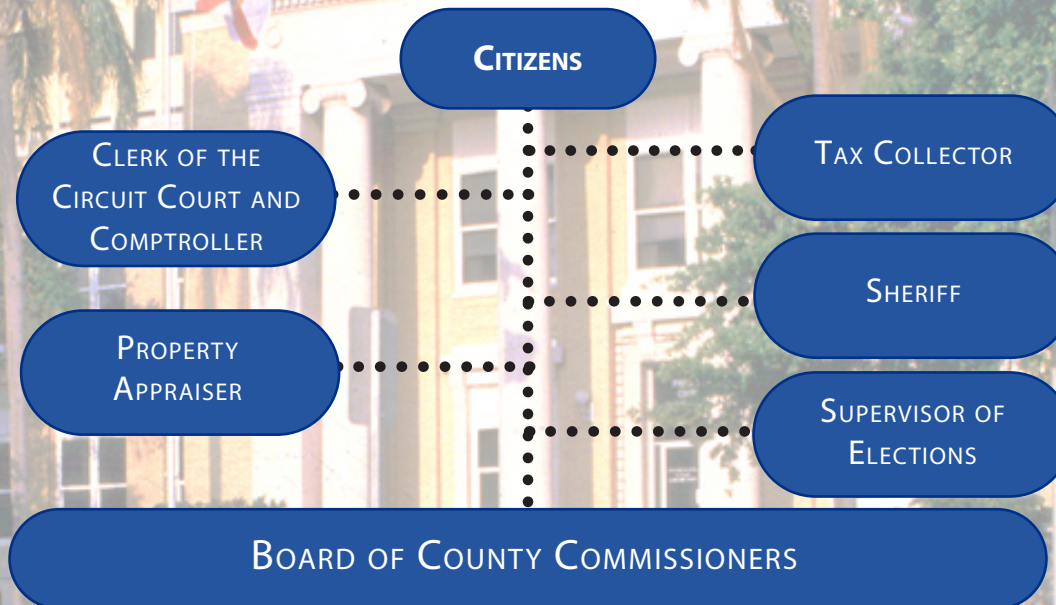
Accolades & Awards:

- ★ Caladesi Island State Park in Dunedin was named #2 Beach in the U.S. by esteemed coastal geologist Stephen Leatherman (a.k.a. "Dr. Beach").
- ★ Clearwater Beach was named the #1 Beach in the South by USA Today.
- ★ The Dali Museum on St. Petersburg's downtown waterfront boasts an unparalleled collection of Salvador Dali's innovative and influential works of art.

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.



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

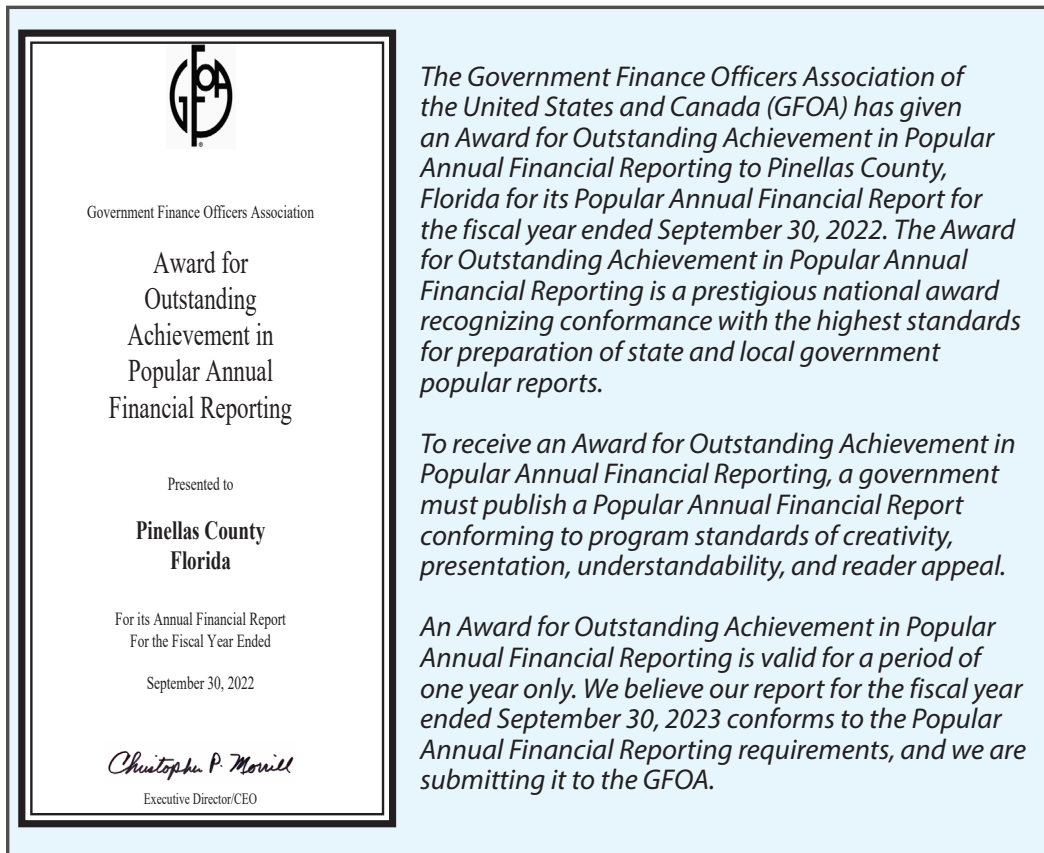


René Flowers
District 7

Duties of the Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller

The Clerk of the Circuit Court was established as a public trustee by the Florida Constitution in 1838. Today, the Florida Statutes assign more than 1,000 tasks to the Clerk of the Circuit Court. The Clerk serves as the Clerk of the Circuit and County Courts, Recorder of Deeds, Clerk and Accountant to the Board of County Commissioners, custodian of all county funds and as the County Auditor.

The Clerk's role as an elected public trustee is one of the most important aspects of the position because he serves at the will of the people. It is the Clerk's responsibility to serve as a "watchdog" for the citizens of Pinellas County to ensure funds expended are only for a public purpose and for the benefit of the public as a whole.



1 **AS CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT AND COUNTY COURTS**, the Clerk maintains custody of court records and all related pleadings filed, secures evidence entered in court, and ensures the integrity of court files is protected. The Clerk also collects and disburses court fines and assessments and court ordered child support and summons prospective jurors.

2 **AS RECORDER OF DEEDS**, the Clerk maintains Official Records of the County and ensures their integrity is protected.

3 **AS CLERK AND ACCOUNTANT OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**, the Clerk maintains official records of the Board. The Clerk also maintains county financial records and prepares financial reports, in addition to providing accounting services to all departments under the Board. The Clerk programs and maintains software for the financial accounting system and processes and pre-audits accounts payable, accounts receivable and payroll transactions.

4 **AS CUSTODIAN OF ALL COUNTY FUNDS**, the Clerk receives and records county revenue and invests county funds.

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

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, affordable housing, preservation of endangered lands and public safety. The *Penny for Pinellas* is paid by all who spend money in the county, including tourists and visitors.

Tourist development tax is a local tax imposed on most rentals or leases, which have been contracted for periods of six (6) months or less, or living accommodations in hotels, motels, apartment houses, rooming houses, and mobile home parks. The 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.

Communications services tax is comprised of two components: a state communications services tax and a local communications services tax. The tax is imposed on retail sales of communications services which

originate and terminate in the state, or originate or terminate in the state and are billed to an address within the state. Tax proceeds are transferred to the county. Communications services are defined as voice, data, audio, video or any other information or signals, including cable services.

Interest income is the revenue earned from investments.

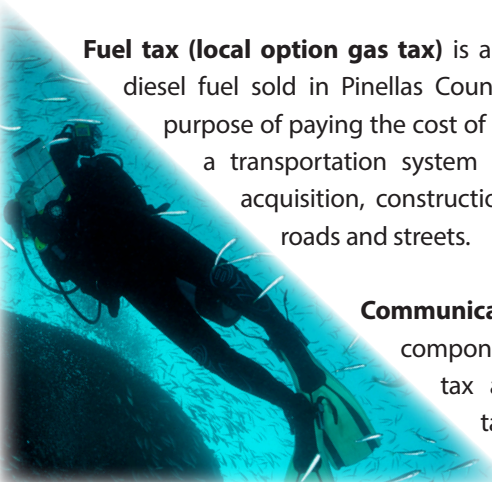
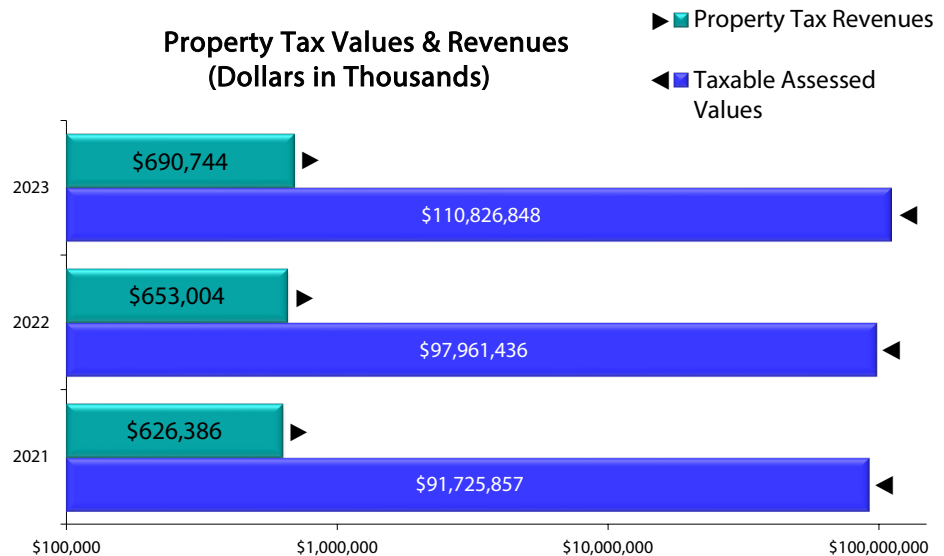
PROGRAM REVENUES

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 and construction of capital assets, such as buildings, infrastructure, land or equipment.

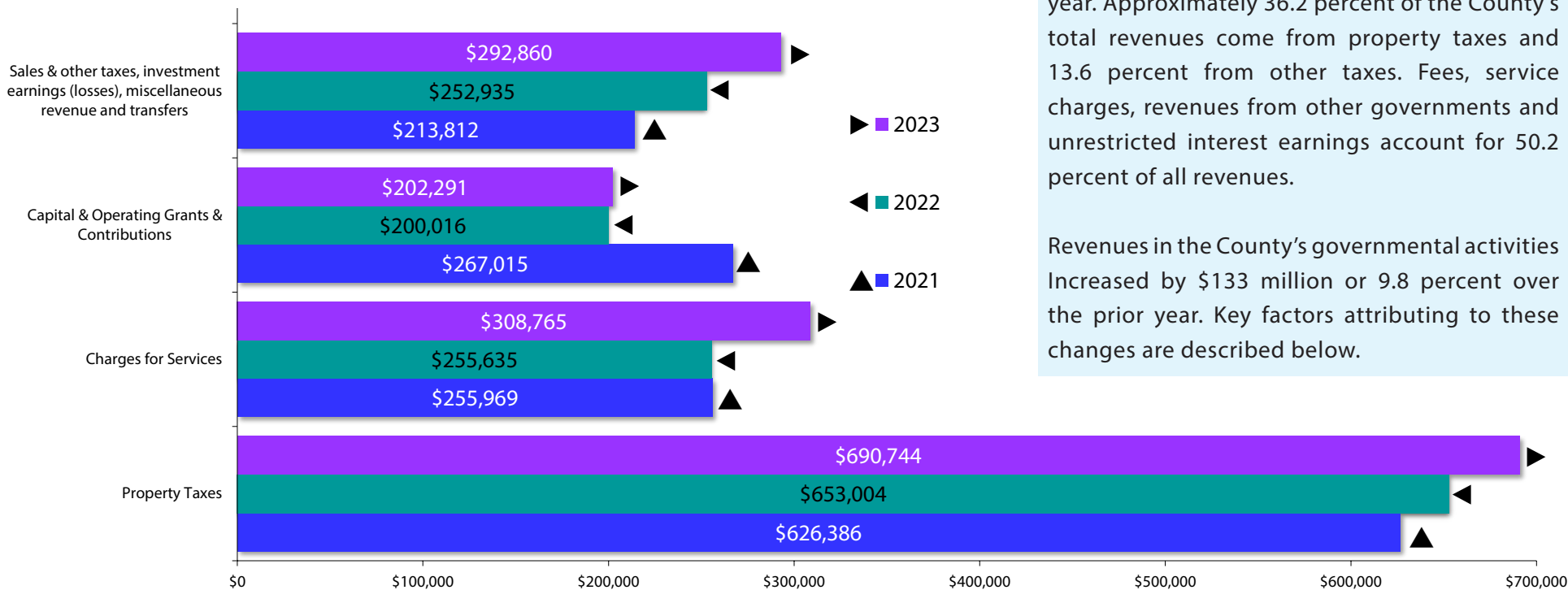
Property Tax Values & Revenues
(Dollars in Thousands)



Scuba diving adventure

Pinellas County's natural beauty

**Governmental Activities Revenues
(Dollars in Thousands)**



Pinellas County receives its revenue from many sources, the largest being property taxes, to fund governmental activities. Total revenues for the County increased 10.5 percent over last year. Approximately 36.2 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 50.2 percent of all revenues.

Revenues in the County's governmental activities increased by \$133 million or 9.8 percent over the prior year. Key factors attributing to these changes are described below.

Property tax revenues increased by \$37.7 million, or 5.8 percent over last year, for all governmental activities due to an increase in property tax values of 13.6 percent. The millage rate decreased by 0.3904 mills in FY2023 from the prior year.

Charges for services increased by \$53.1 million, or 20.8 percent over last year. Public safety charges were up \$23.9 million primarily due to increased ambulance transport volume and rates. Investment income increased by \$35.2 million, and an additional \$1.7 million was collected by the County for rabies license fees, boat ramp parking fees, enforcement of civil penalties, zoning fees, parking fees, and other such fees.

Capital and Operating Grants & Contributions increased by \$2.3 million, or 1.1 percent over last year. Operating grants decreased by \$4.5 million primarily due to decreased federal funding with the end of the COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance Program grant. Capital Grants increased \$6.7 million primarily due to the completion of grant funded capital projects.

Sales, Other Taxes & Investment Income increased by \$39.9 million, or 15.8 percent primarily due to \$35.2 million and \$5.0 million; or 2.2 percent increases in investment income and sales taxes, respectively, due to market conditions and inflationary cost increases to consumer goods.

Sources of County Funds: Property Taxes

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

Example - City of Belleair Bluffs Resident Breakdown of Property Tax Bill

Countywide & City Portion - Total Taxes: \$2,343.44

Juvenile Welfare Board
\$96.62
4.12%

SW Florida Water Management
\$23.93
1.02%

Planning Council
\$2.46
0.10%



School Board
\$843.92
36.02%

County
\$662.07
28.25%

City
\$626.60
26.74%

Suncoast Transit Authority
\$87.84
3.75%

The example is based on a taxable value of \$117,121 (assessed value is \$167,121 with \$50,000 exemptions for all taxing authorities except the School Board which has exemptions of \$25,000).



Learn about our rich history

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.

During the year, expenses for governmental activities increased by 12.2 percent or \$137.2 million from the prior year. Key factors attributing to these changes are described to the right.

General government expenses increased by \$23.0 million, primarily due to costs incurred for renovations to the Medical Examiner and Forensics facility, upgrades to Pinellas County Justice Center, increased insurance premiums, and technology updates.

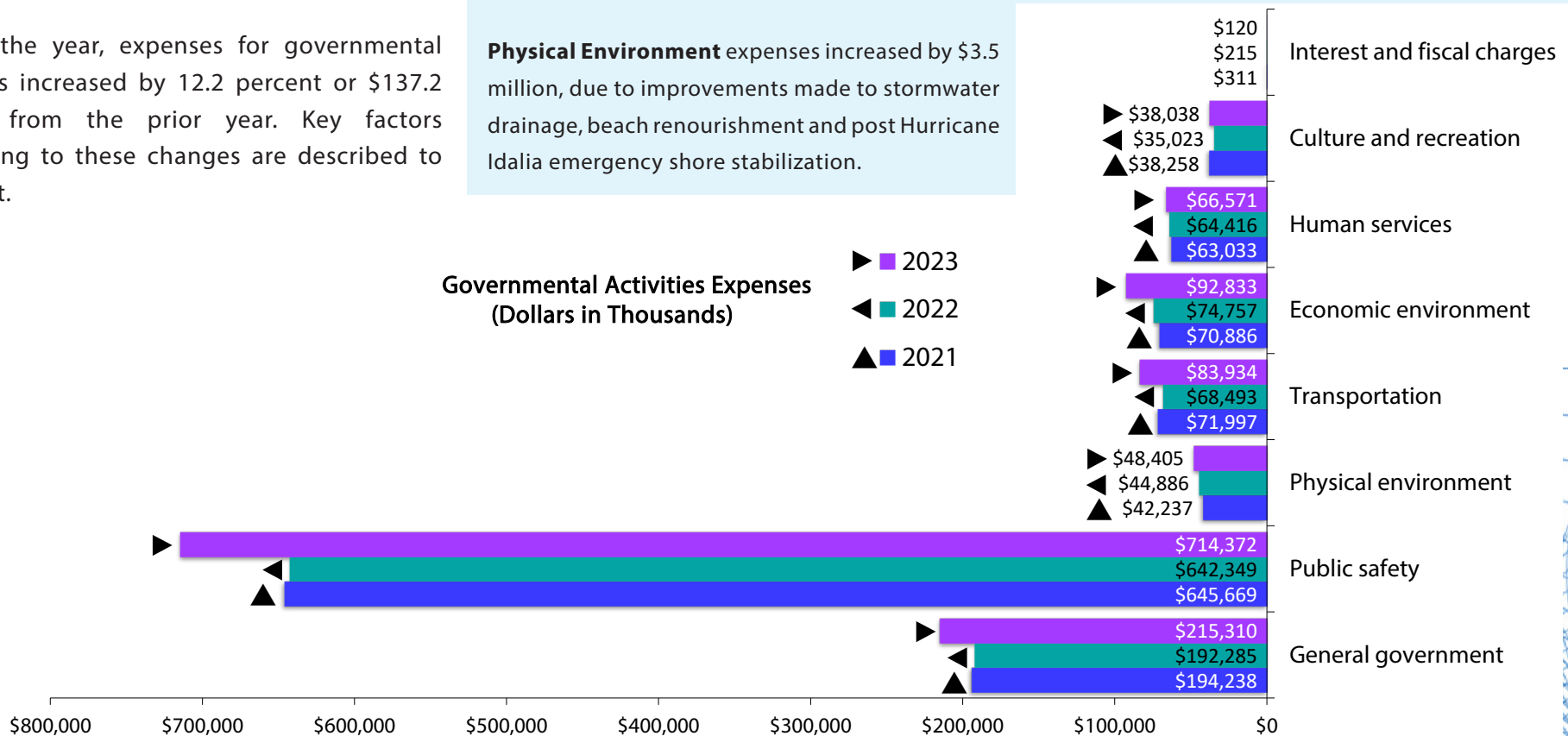
Public Safety expenses increased by \$72.1 million, primarily due to the purchase of multiple emergency vehicles, medical equipment, higher rates and volume for ambulance transports, and the Sheriff's contributions to the employee retirement plan which increased by \$6.4 million over last year.

Physical Environment expenses increased by \$3.5 million, due to improvements made to stormwater drainage, beach renourishment and post Hurricane Idalia emergency shore stabilization.

Economic Environment expenses increased by \$18.1 million, primarily due to the Tampa Bay Innovation Center Incubator and aid to local government agencies.

Transportation expenses increased by \$15.4 million primarily due to increased machinery and equipment expenses.

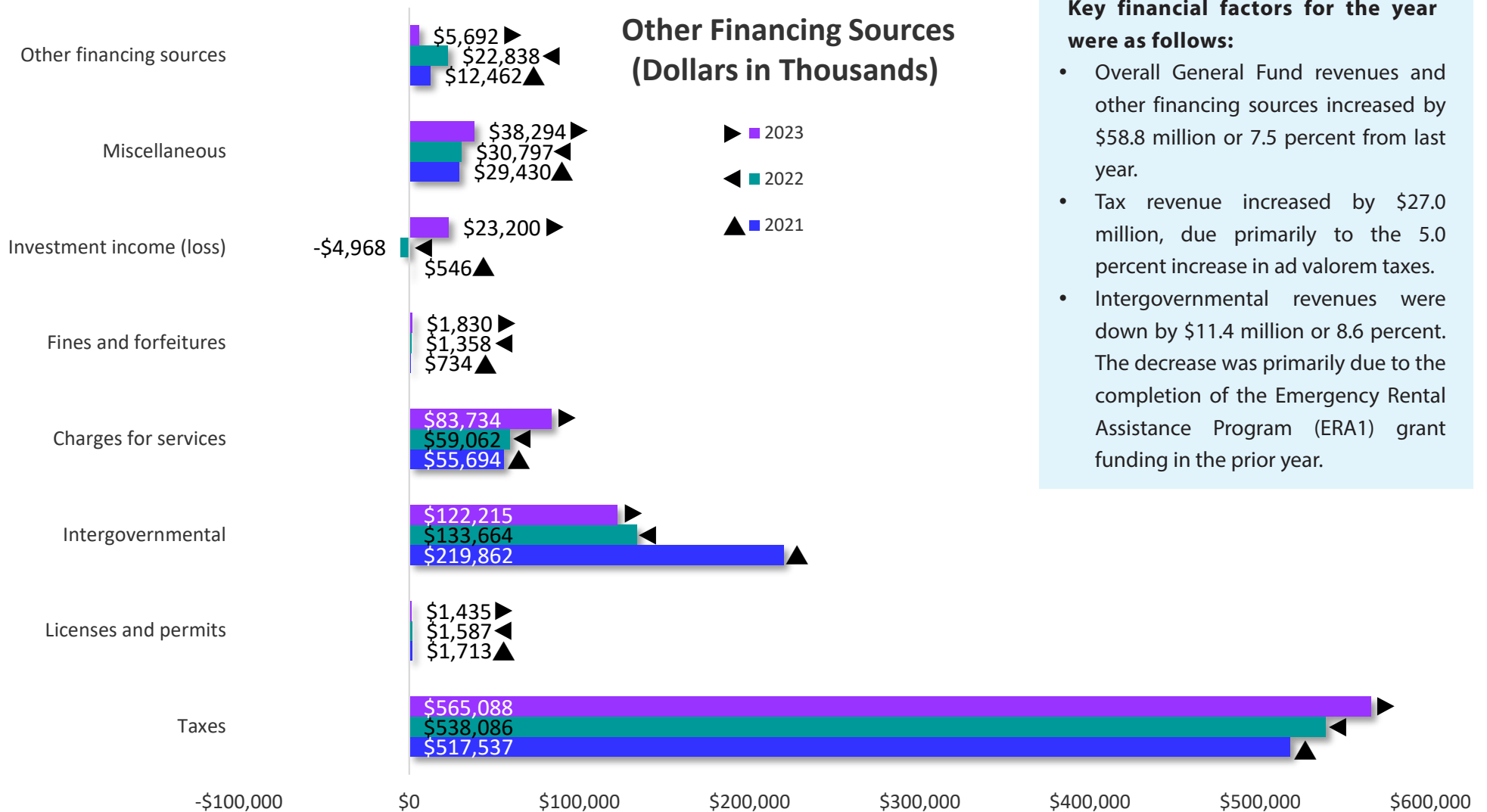
Culture and Recreation expenses increased by \$3.0 million primarily due to increased funding for the public library system, accessibility updates to park walkways, the Brooker Creek Boardwalk Rehabilitation and Ft. De Soto Bay Pier Replacement.



General Fund Revenues & Other Financing 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. Beginning in fiscal year 2023, all Constitutional Officers Board-funded funds are reported in the General Fund. Appropriations for the General Fund for FY2023 including reserves totaled \$979.3 million.

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



Key financial factors for the year were as follows:

- Overall General Fund revenues and other financing sources increased by \$58.8 million or 7.5 percent from last year.
- Tax revenue increased by \$27.0 million, due primarily to the 5.0 percent increase in ad valorem taxes.
- Intergovernmental revenues were down by \$11.4 million or 8.6 percent. The decrease was primarily due to the completion of the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERA1) grant funding in the prior year.

General Fund Expenditures & Other Financing Uses

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

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

PUBLIC SAFETY

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

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

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

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation Engineering and Design.

ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

Tax Increment Financing Program, 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.

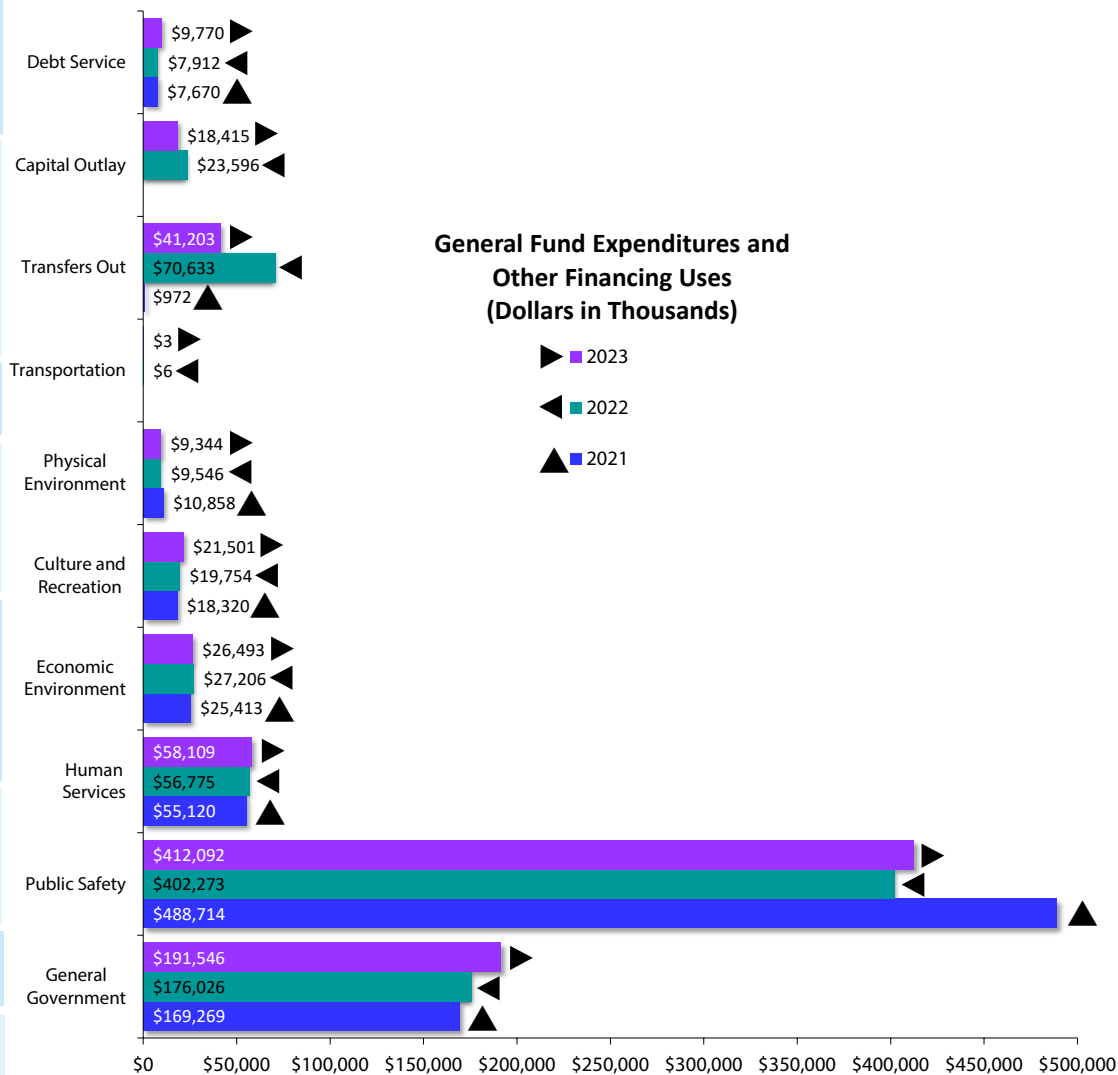
TRANSFERS OUT

Financial support to other funds.

CAPITAL OUTLAY

Expenditures for the construction, purchase, or improvement of capital assets that meet the capitalization threshold.

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 decreased by \$5.3 million (0.7 percent) in FY2023. From FY21 to FY23, general fund expenditures increased \$12.1 million (1.5 percent). The following expenditures for the departments are paid from the General Fund (including transfers of funds)).



Enterprise Fund Revenues & Expenses

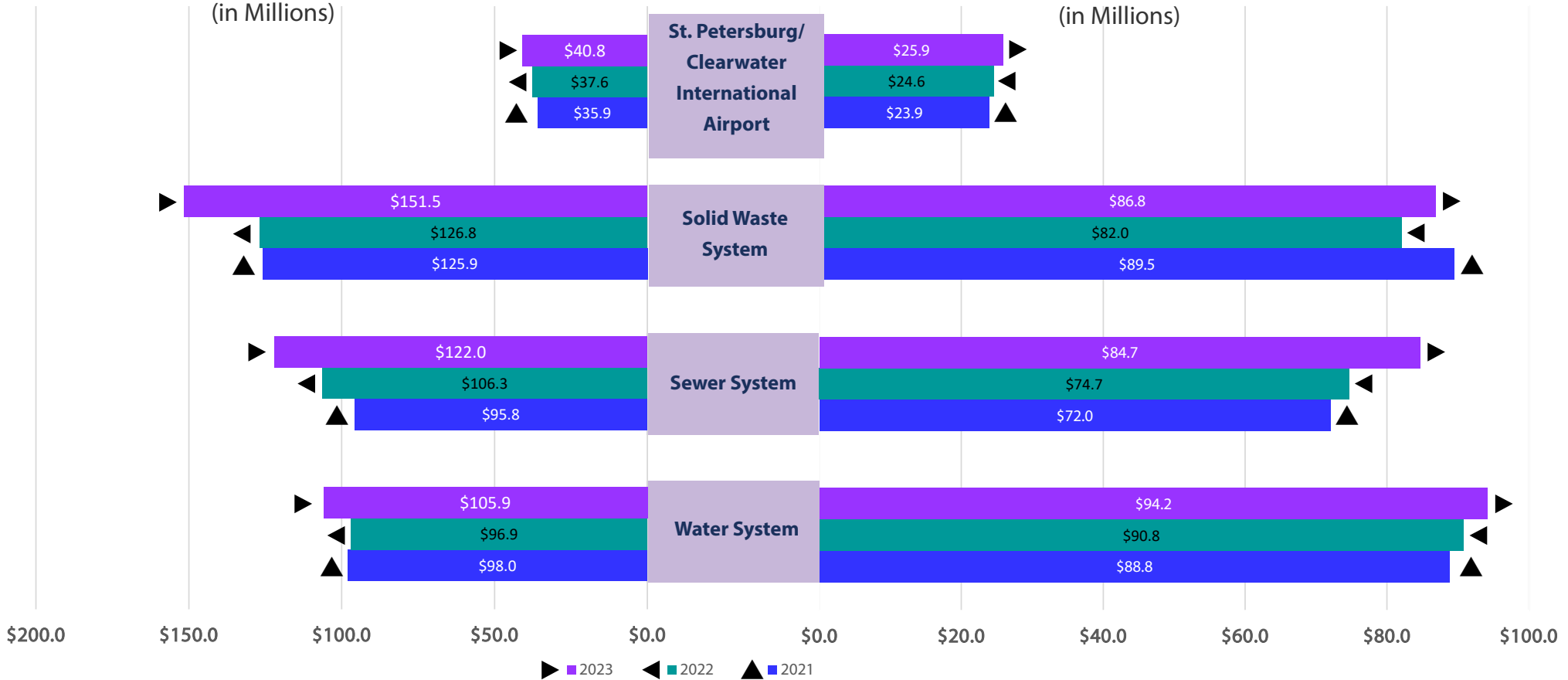
Enterprise fund or business-type activities offer goods and services to the citizens of the county and are intended to be self-supporting. In FY2023, revenues in business-type activities increased 13.2 percent over the prior year by \$48.5 million. Expenses increased by \$17.1 million or 6.3 percent. From FY2021 to FY2023, revenues increased by \$27.8 million (8.2 percent) and expenses increased \$5.7 million (2.1 percent). The following charts reflect the enterprise fund revenues and expenses for the last three years.



Fort DeSoto Beach

Enterprise Fund Revenues
(in Millions)

Enterprise Fund Expenses
(in Millions)



Enterprise Fund Revenues & Expenses

The Business-type activities of the county are:

WATER SYSTEM

- Net position of the Water System increased \$11.7 million during the year compared to an increase of \$6.1 million in the prior year.
- Total program revenues for the Water System, including charges for services, investment income, miscellaneous revenue and capital contributions, increased by \$8.8 million or 9.1 percent from the prior year. However, this was offset by an increase in expenses by \$3.0 million or 3.3 percent.

SEWER SYSTEM

- Net position of the Sewer System increased \$37.3 million during the year compared to an increase of \$31.6 million in the prior year.
- Total program revenues increased by \$14.2 million or 13.4 percent over the prior year. Charges for services to customers increased by \$9.5 million or 9.0 percent. The largest contributing factor was retail rate increases.

SOLID WASTE SYSTEM

- Net position of the Solid Waste System increased by \$64.7 million during the year compared to an increase of \$45.2 million in the prior year.

- Total program revenues of the system increased by \$24.7 million or 19.4 percent over the prior year. Electrical sales revenue increased by \$4.4 million over the previous fiscal year due to contractual rate increases. Revenues for tipping fees were up \$3.3 million due to an increase in tipping fee rates and waste disposal tonnage processed compared to prior year.
- Operating expenses for the system were up by \$5.3 million or 6.5 percent over the prior year due to increased costs of operating the waste-to-energy facility.

ST. PETERSBURG/CLEARWATER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

- Net position of the Airport increased \$14.9 million during the year compared to an increase of \$13.0 million in the prior year.
- Total Airport revenues increased by \$4.3 million (14.9 percent) over the prior year. The Airport welcomed a record number of travelers during the year, leading to increased vehicle rentals, parking fees, rent collections and passenger facility charges of \$0.6 million. Funding for ongoing capital projects from Federal and State sources decreased by \$1.4 million during the year. Total Airport expenses increased by \$1.3 million (5.2 percent) due in part to airport terminal improvements and parking updates. Payroll and benefit expenses increased \$0.5 million.



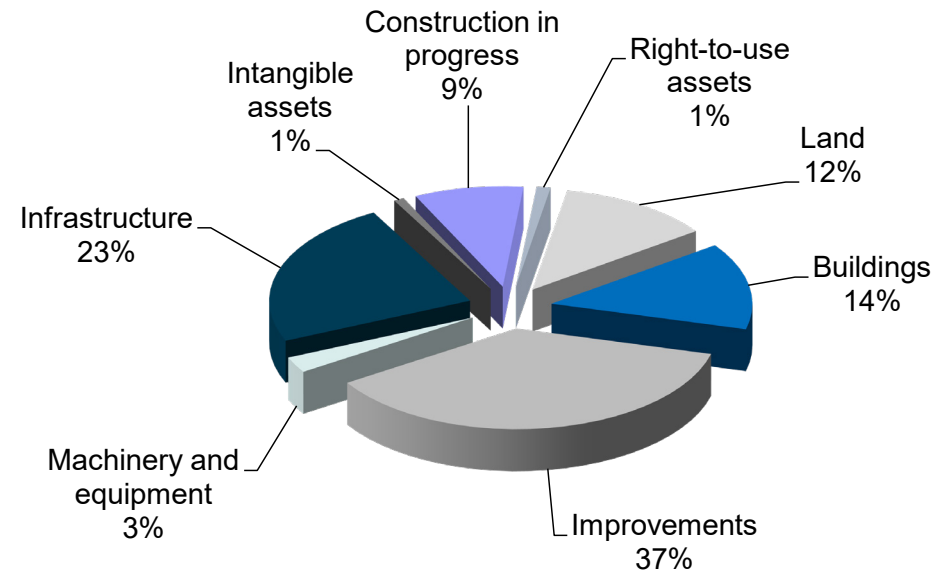
Wolf Lake Park

Capital Assets

Pinellas County's investment in capital assets for governmental and business-type activities is \$3.8 billion, net of accumulated depreciation. This includes land, buildings, improvements, equipment, roads, bridges, drainage systems, intangible assets, construction in progress and right to use (leased) assets. The total increase in capital assets was 0.3 percent over the prior year (1.1 percent increase for governmental activities and a 0.8 percent decrease in business-type activities).

The County implemented GASB Statement No. 96, Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangements (SBITA) for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2023. The County records the value of the right-to-use SBITA assets in accordance with GASB 96. The right-to-use subscription IT assets are amortized each year over the subscription term, which represents the period that the County has a noncancellable right to use the underlying IT assets.

Capital Assets Governmental and Business-Type Activities



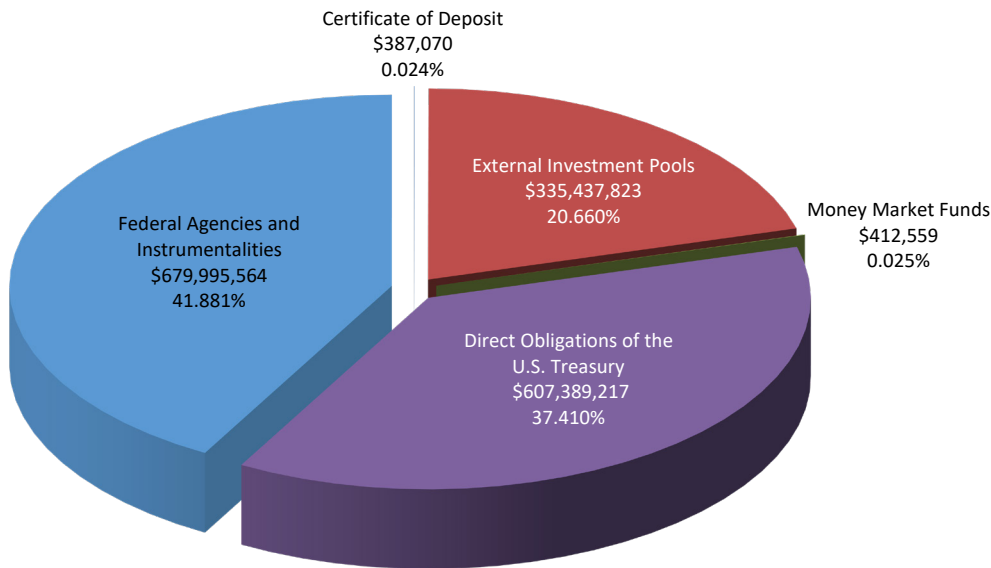
LED Street Light Installation

Outstanding Debt Issues & Investment Policy

In recent years the County has been successful in reducing its debt; as a result, there were no outstanding public bonds as of September 30, 2023.

	ISSUE DATE	ORIGINAL ISSUED AMOUNT (in Thousands)	AMOUNT OUTSTANDING AT YEAR END (in Thousands)
Sewer Revenue Note 1 Series 2008 A	July 2008	\$ 42,005	\$ 35,530
Sewer Revenue Refunding Note: Series 2008 B-1	July 2008	32,700	5,165
Sewer Revenue Refunding Note: Series 2016	July 2016	14,733	1,985
Sewer Revenue Refunding Note: Series 2021 B	January 2021	5,292	5,276
Sewer Revenue Refunding Note: Series 2022	July 2022	40,862	33,155
Totals:		\$ 135,592	\$ 81,111

Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners Investment Portfolio



The Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller, through the Finance Division, conducts all investment activity of the Board of County Commissioners in accordance with Section 218.415, Florida Statutes, Local Government Investment Policies, as well as the investment ordinance adopted by the Board (Pinellas County Code, Investment of Surplus Public Funds, Section 2-144) and Board Resolution 2023-70 adopting investment policies. The investment policy and the ordinance can be found at: <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 January 2022 with the Certification of Excellence for its investment policy for the fifth time. This certification should be renewed every three years. Receiving this certification denotes the county has a sound investment policy founded upon professional standards to assist in ensuring prudent management of public funds.

INVESTMENT OBJECTIVES

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

Accomplishments

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

The County laid the groundwork for new County offices by purchasing land to be developed into a more convenient and efficient County services headquarters in Largo. The initiative will also create redevelopment opportunities for the current facilities in Clearwater. The County has put extensive work into helping save residents on flood insurance. Ratings improved from a CRS Class 3 to a Class 2. This rating is the highest CRS rating a Florida community has ever achieved and is in the top 1 % nationwide.



The Pinellas Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller implemented a new jury system. One critical aspect of the new system includes providing text and email communications to prospective jurors on crucial information related to their jury service. The Clerk also implemented a program to send text reminders to customers of all case types of upcoming critical dates, court hearings, and upcoming payment due dates.

ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

Thanks to its visitor-funded tourist development tax, the County announced a prospective partnership between itself, the City of St. Petersburg, and the Tampa Bay Rays to keep the baseball team in Pinellas County. The County expects this initiative will help create additional affordable housing, jobs, tourism, and new revenues. Some say the project may be the most significant economic development initiative in the history of Pinellas County.



Pinellas' economy is rising with record-breaking and new, cutting-edge businesses coming. Thirty-four new businesses opened their doors and created 427 jobs. The County also provided over 3,000 hours of consultation services to businesses and facilitated over \$2.7 million in loans and grants. The construction of a new regional incubator, the ARK Innovation

Center, was completed. The center will catalyze future startups and technology companies in the region.

The County experienced record-setting tourism with more than \$98 million in hotel bed tax collections, visitors occupying 6 million hotel nights in 2023 and generating nearly \$1.1 billion in local hotel revenue.

PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY

During Hurricane Idalia, the County answered more than 6,500 resident calls and live chat inquiries, distributed over 160,000 sandbags, opened 10 community shelters to house nearly 2,000 residents and their pets and assessed more than 2,600 residences impacted by the storms. The County also supported opening two Disaster Recovery Centers and a Business Recovery Center.

The regional 911 center answered over 875,000 calls, nearly 95% answered quicker than the state's 10-second standard. Additionally, nearly 600 messages were sent to residents and partners through the Alert Pinellas emergency notification service.

To ensure Pinellas County remains a safe place for residents and visitors, the Sheriff provided police services to all of unincorporated Pinellas County and 13 of the County's 24 municipalities. Over the last 12 years, overall crime is down by over 50% in the Sheriff's service area. The Sheriff continues to serve as the primary provider of marine safety and enforcement along the Pinellas coast and is the sole provider of aviation support to law enforcement to all Pinellas County policing agencies. School safety is a priority for the Sheriff's office; active assailant response training has been expanded to private schools throughout the County.



TRANSPORTATION

The County-operated airport, St. Pete-Clearwater International Airport (PIE), served a record breaking 2.5 million passengers in 2023, with July being the busiest month in PIE history with nearly 280,000

Accomplishments

passengers. The airport served over 60 non-stop destinations with one of the lowest average domestic airfares of the top 100 busiest airports in the United States.

The County put significant effort into improving its roadways by resurfacing more than 160 lanemiles as part of the Pavement Preservation Program and repairing or replacing nearly 50,000 feet of linear sidewalk. Pinellas also fixed 100% of its reported potholes within three days of being reported and responded to over 1,300 emergency service requests within 24 hours.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

After Hurricane Idalia destroyed many of Pinellas' sand dunes, County Commissioners allocated tourist development tax funds to fast track an emergency shoreline restoration project. The County trucked in over 100 tons of sand and planted thousands of new sea oats to protect its homes and businesses from future storms.

The County completed the Fort De Soto Bay Pier with new fishing stations and a new dock for the Egmont Key ferry.



The Solid Waste team recycled over 52 million pounds of metal, turned nearly 77 million pounds of yard waste into mulch, and diverted 314 thousand pounds of chemicals from the municipal solid waste stream. Nearly 435 thousand renewable energy credits were generated by selling power produced by the Waste-to-Energy Facility. The credits are then sold to multiple entities to balance their organizational carbon footprint.

The County Water and Sewer Utility provided more than 18 billion gallons of safe drinking water to its utility customers. Over 7,000 drinking water samples were collected, and over 57 thousand drinking water quality tests were performed. The Utility received reaccreditation from the state after a biennial audit of the water quality laboratory. Water conservation efforts continue to be supported by continued efforts to implement the Advanced Metering Infrastructure project to upgrade over 7,500 potable water and 1,900 reclaimed meters to digital meters, allowing for more precise readings. The County adopted a new consumption-based rate structure, encouraging

water conservation by reducing water bills for customers using a lower water volume. Wastewater Management treated over 10.3 billion gallons of wastewater, and over 6.9 billion gallons of reclaimed water were produced. Additionally, the Utility lined or replaced over 36,000 feet of sewer pipe and provided over \$163,000 in private sewer lateral rebates to enhance the wastewater collection system and reduce sanitary sewer overflow.

Human Services

In collaboration with its municipalities, the County launched the Housing Action Plan to set goals for the next 10 years for creating and preserving attainable homes. It also hosted over 100 elected officials, nonprofit leaders, businesses and housing advocates for a Homes for Pinellas Summit to work together toward potential housing solutions.



Housing affordability is a top priority, over the past year, Pinellas County hit the following milestones:

- More than 1,000 affordable and workforce housing units are planned or under construction.
- The down payment assistance program was expanded with increased support of up to \$75,000 in zero-interest loans.
- Celebrated the 800th home developed by Habitat for Humanity of Pinellas and West Pasco and groundbreaking and grand openings for four other County-supported affordable housing developments.

Economic Outlook

While the odds of a recession have increased, the Clerk & Comptroller continues to monitor the economic impact on revenue sources, including state-shared revenues, tourist taxes, sales taxes, gas taxes, investment income, and other revenues impacted by economic conditions. This may influence the investment approach and the duration of new investments. The County's portfolio maintains financial flexibility to prudently manage the County's funds through rising and declining interest rate cycles and, more recently, during the ongoing risk of the US economy tipping toward recession in 2023.

Connect With Us



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

KEN BURKE
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
AND COMPTROLLER
kburke@mypinellasclerk.gov
(727) 464-3341
www.mypinellasclerk.gov



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

JULIE MARCUS
SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS
jmarcus@votepinellas.gov
(727) 464-5710
www.votepinellas.gov



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

MIKE TWITTY
PROPERTY APPRAISER
mtwitty@pcpao.gov
(727) 464-3207
www.pcpao.gov

Commissioner Peters believes in prioritizing the core functions of local government—public safety, water quality and environmental protection, and sound infrastructure.



KATHLEEN PETERS
BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS, CHAIR
kpeters@pinellas.gov
(727) 464-3363
www.pinellas.gov

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.



CHARLES W. THOMAS
TAX COLLECTOR
charlesthomas@pinellastaxcollector.gov
(727) 562-3262
www.pinellastaxcollector.gov

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



BOB GUALTIERI
SHERIFF
bgualtieri@pcsonet.com
(727) 582-6200
www.pcsoweb.com

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



Citizens' Guide

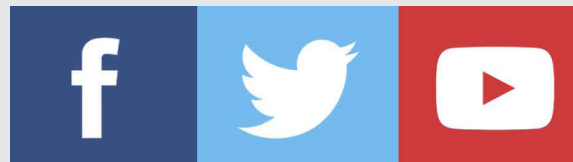
*Photo on the front cover
courtesy of the Pinellas County
Communications Department*



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

Ken Burke, CPA

Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller
Pinellas County, Florida

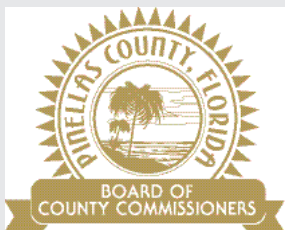


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