

**FIRST PUBLIC HEARING - SEPTEMBER 4, 2025**  
**SCRIPT FOR ADOPTION OF**  
**FY26 TENTATIVE MILLAGES AND TENTATIVE BUDGETS**

<b><u>6:00 P.M.</u></b>	<b>1.) ANNOUNCEMENT of Public Hearings on the FY26 Tentative Millages and Tentative Budgets.</b>
<b>CHAIRMAN</b>	<b>2.)</b> Has any correspondence been received regarding the tentative millages and tentative budget?
<b>CLERK</b>	<b>3.)</b> <i>(X) letters have been received regarding the tentative budget.</i>

**I.) OPEN PUBLIC HEARING**

<b>CHAIRMAN</b>	<b>4.)</b> Good evening. Tonight's public hearing is the first of two public hearings for the consideration and adoption of the FY26 millages and budgets. Before we get started, I'll walk through the sequence of events for tonight.
	<b>5)</b> The County Administrator will present changes to the Proposed Budget since it was originally presented to the Board on July 22nd.
	<b>6)</b> The County Administrator will provide a Budget Overview presentation that incorporates these changes.
	<b>7)</b> We will accept public comment on the following property tax levies and budgets by the following taxing authority classification: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the <b>BCC County-wide levy</b> for the <b>Pinellas County General Fund</b>, and the County levy supporting the <b>Health Department Fund</b>,</li> <li>•the levies for <b>Dependent Special Districts and Unincorporated Area "Municipal Services Taxing Units"</b> that, going forward, will be referenced as <b>"MSTUs"</b>.</li> </ul>
	<b>7a.) Dependent Special Districts</b> include the Emergency Medical Services Authority and Pinellas Planning Council, and MSTUs include the Unincorporated Area Municipal Services Taxing Unit, Public Library Services District, Palm Harbor Community Services District, Feather Sound Community Services District, East Lake Library Services District, East Lake Recreation Services District, Greater Seminole Recreation District, and the Special Fire Protection Districts.
	<b>8)</b> If you wish to speak regarding the Tentative millages and Tentative budgets, you should have filled out a blue card. If you have not yet filled out a card and wish to speak, please see the staff seated by the entry door and they will assist you. For all the preregistered online participants, you will be instructed at the proper time to raise your hand in the virtual meeting.
	<b>9)</b> After hearing all public comment, I will ask the Board if they recommend any further changes to the Tentative millages or Tentative budgets. If so, I will ask the Board for a motion and a vote to adopt any changes.
	<b>10)</b> Finally, we will adopt the resolutions for the FY26 Tentative millage rates and Tentative budgets, which will be the basis for the final budget public hearing that will be held on Thursday, <b>September 18th at 6:00 p.m.</b> In accordance with Florida Statutes, the Tentative millage rates will be adopted first and then the Tentative budget will be adopted for each taxing authority.

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<b>CHAIRMAN</b>	<p><b>11)</b> Before we begin this public hearing, if anyone has specific questions or concerns regarding the <b>assessed value of their property, exemptions or classification related to your property, or information on the TRIM notices</b>, tonight we have Kevin McKeon here with us from the Pinellas County Property Appraiser's Office. If anyone would like to speak with them, please follow them at this time, and they will answer your questions. For those attending virtually, please contact the Pinellas County Property Appraiser's office at 727-464-3207 Monday through Friday 8AM to 5PM or email mike@pcpao.org.</p> <p><b>12)</b> Florida Statutes also provide that a taxing authority may adopt the tax levies and budgets of all its dependent special taxing districts and MSTUs by a <b>single unanimous vote</b>. However, if a member of the general public requests that the tax levy or budget of a dependent special tax district or MSTU be separately discussed and separately adopted, we will then discuss and adopt that District's tax levy and budget separately.</p> <p><b>12a.) At this time, does any member of the general public attending the meeting in-person request separate discussion or separate adoption of a tax levy or budget of any dependent special district or MSTU?</b></p>
(Note to Chairman)	<b>12b.) Please wait 15 seconds before proceeding and then turn to the Clerk to address those in attendance virtually.</b>
(Note to CHAIRMAN)	<b>12c.)</b> <i>(If no one requests separate discussion/adoption of tax levy or budget, continue with this script; OR if request is made for separate adoption, go to <u>Alternate Script - Adoption by Separate Resolutions</u>. The Alternate Script was emailed to the <u>Chair, Clerk, County Attorney, and Administrator</u> prior to the meeting.</i>
<b>CHAIRMAN</b>	<p><b>13)</b> Since we have not heard from anyone requesting separate discussion and separate adoption of any dependent special districts or MSTUs, we will proceed with adoption of the Tentative millages and Tentative budgets for the BCC County-wide levy for the Pinellas County General Fund, and the County levy supporting the Health Department Fund and then for the dependent special districts and MSTUs by <b>single unanimous vote</b>.</p> <p><b>14) We will now open the first official public hearing on the FY26 Tentative Millage Rates and Budgets.</b></p>
<b>CLERK</b>	<b>15)</b> This public hearing is being held in accordance with Chapters 129 and 200 of the Florida Statutes. The meeting has been duly noticed by the Property Appraiser's mailing of the <b>TRIM Notice</b> .
<b>CHAIRMAN</b>	<b>16)</b> Thank you. We, the Board of County Commissioners, as taxing authority for the <b>BCC County-wide, Dependent Special Districts and MSTUs (as previously referenced)</b> will now proceed with the public hearings.
<b>ADMINISTRATOR</b>	<b>17)</b> In accordance with Florida Statutes, I want to publicly note that the percentage increase in the millage rate for all budgets over the rolled-back rate, based upon the maximum rates on the TRIM Notice and subsequent decreases to such rates, to fund the FY26 Tentative Budget is a <b>2.5%</b> increase over the aggregate rolled-back rate of <b>6.0265</b> . The primary purposes for the increases in millages over the rolled-back rates are due to the following:

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<b>ADMINISTRATOR</b>	<p><b>18)</b> In the General Fund, including Unincorporated Area MSTU, and in the Emergency Medical Services Authority, revenue increases, over the roll-back rate, are required to support personnel and operating expenditure levels that are driven by inflationary factors and Board priorities.</p> <p>In the Pinellas Planning Council (PPC), sufficient revenues will exist with a decreased millage to support personnel and operating expenditure levels, as per the request of Forward Pinellas.</p> <p><b>19)</b> In the Public Library Services District MSTU, the Palm Harbor Community Services MSTU, the Feather Sound Community Services MSTU, the East Lake Library Services MSTU, East Lake Recreation Services MSTU, Greater Seminole Recreation Area, and seven Special Fire Protection Districts, Belleair Bluffs Fire District, Dunedin Fire District, High Point Fire District, Pinellas Park Fire District, Seminole Fire District, Tarpon Springs Fire District, and Tierra Verde Fire District, revenue increases are needed to support increased expenditures by the agencies providing services for those districts.</p> <p>In the other five Special Fire Protection Districts, Clearwater Fire District, Gandy Fire District, Largo Fire District, Safety Harbor Fire District, and South Pasadena Fire District, sufficient revenues will exist with a decreased millage to support personnel and operating expenditure levels and Board priorities.</p> <p><b>20)</b> CHAIRMAN, before we begin the FY26 Budget presentation, I want to note that a schedule of changes to the Proposed Budget was distributed to the Board on August 22 and attached to the agenda packet available online.</p> <p><b>The proposed changes include adjusted budgeted amounts for the General Fund, Airport Fund, STAR Center Fund, Sewer Fund, Fleet Management Fund, Risk Financing Fund, and Employee Health Benefits Fund.</b></p> <p><b>The General Fund from \$1,116,490,850 to \$1,111,584,480.</b>  <b>The Airport Fund from \$217,011,930 to \$151,725,980.</b>  <b>The STAR Center fund from \$11,136,990 to \$13,084,410.</b>  <b>The Sewer Fund from \$311,416,210 to \$307,871,210.</b>  <b>The Fleet Management Fund from \$41,066,160 to \$40,066,160.</b>  <b>The Risk Financing Fund from \$55,037,390 to \$52,867,670.</b>  <b>The Employee Health Benefits Fund from \$204,150,540 to \$201,150,540.</b>  <b>The Transportation Trust Fund from \$111,315,130 to \$111,315,140.</b></p> <p>Modifications include both changes discussed at BCC meetings or work sessions and technical adjustments related to accounting presentation, updated information, corrections, and other minor changes. We will now continue with the FY26 TENTATIVE BUDGET OVERVIEW PRESENTATION</p>
<b>II.) BUDGET PRESENTATION</b>	

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	<i>[Barry Burton or Chris Rose gives Presentation]</i>
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**III.) PUBLIC INPUT FOR EACH TAXING AUTHORITY**

<b>CHAIRMAN</b>	<b>21)</b> Thank you. Are there any questions from the Board on the presentation?
	<i>[Discuss and answer questions if needed, then proceed with script]</i>
	<b>22)</b> We will now continue this public hearing as taxing authority for the BCC County-wide, Dependent Special Districts and MSTU levies (as previously referenced), by taking public comment from citizens who wish to be heard regarding our FY26 Budget. Do I have all the blue cards for Public Comment?
	<b>[CHAIRMAN reads names on cards]</b> <i>Public Comment</i>
<b>CHAIRMAN</b>	<b>23)</b> At this time we will take public comment from those who have preregistered online.
<b>CLERK</b>	<b>24)</b> Mr. Chair, there are [no or X# of] individuals who have preregistered to speak on the tentative FY26 millage rates and budgets.
	<i>Public Comment. Clerk calls each person separately.</i>
<b>CHAIRMAN</b>	<b>25)</b> Now that we have heard all public comment from citizens, does any member of the Board recommend any changes to these Tentative millage rates or Tentative budgets?

**(OPTIONAL IF NEEDED)**

- 1) Board Discussion of any changes*
- 2) Motion and Vote for any changes*
- 3) Break for Recalculation of Millage Rates and Budgets*

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**IV.) ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS -  
TENTATIVE MILLAGE RATES AND TENTATIVE BUDGETS**

<b>CHAIRMAN</b>	<p><b>26)</b> Now that we have received all public comment, the Board must now consider the Resolutions to set the Tentative millage rates and Tentative budgets. As stated earlier, we will <b>adopt the Tentative millage rates and Tentative budgets</b> in the following sections:</p> <p>(1) BCC County-wide, and</p> <p>(2) Dependent Special Districts and MSTUs</p> <p><b>27)</b> The resolutions adopting the millages and budgets for the Dependent Special Districts and MSTUs require a <b>unanimous vote</b>. If a unanimous vote is <b>not</b> received for the Dependent Special Districts and MSTUs, we will need to adopt each <b>separately</b>.</p>
	<p><b>28)</b> I will now ask Communications to display Schedule A that will be referenced during the readings and votes and ask the County Administrator to proceed with the readings.</p>
	<p><b>29)</b> The resolutions adopting the millages and budgets for the Dependent Special Districts and MSTUs require a <b>unanimous vote</b>. If a unanimous vote is <b>not</b> received for the Dependent Special Districts and MSTUs, we will need to adopt each <b>separately</b>.</p>
(Note to Communications)	<p><b>30)</b> Please display Schedule A on the screen and leave on the screen until both sets of votes are completed.</p>
<b>CHAIRMAN</b>	<p><b>31)</b> The resolutions adopting the millages and budgets for the Dependent Special Districts and MSTUs require a <b>unanimous vote</b>. If a unanimous vote is <b>not</b> received for the Dependent Special Districts and MSTUs, we will need to adopt each <b>separately</b>.</p>
<b>ADMINISTRATOR</b>	<p><i>Note to the Administrator: Please wait until the Schedule A is fully displayed before proceeding</i></p> <p><b>32)</b> Thank you, CHAIRMAN. I will announce each Resolution separately for the Board's action. Per Florida Statutes, the Board will vote on the Tentative millage first and then the Tentative budget for each taxing authority. We will start with the consideration of the <b>BCC County-wide millage rates and budgets</b>, which include the Pinellas County <b>General Fund</b> with a Tentative millage levy of <b>4.5580</b>, and the county levy for <b>Health Department Fund</b>, with a Tentative millage levy of <b>0.0713</b>. For the Pinellas County General Fund and the county levy for the Health Department Fund, I recommend adoption of the tentative millages as outlined in Schedule A, which is in your handout, being displayed and was previously posted to the County website.</p>
<b>CHAIRMAN</b>	<p><b>33)</b> May I have a motion to adopt the Tentative millages?</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>(MOTION &amp; VOTE)</b></p>
<b>ADMINISTRATOR</b>	<p><b>34)</b> I recommend adoption of the Tentative budgets.</p>
<b>CHAIRMAN</b>	<p><b>35)</b> May I have a motion to adopt the Tentative budgets?</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>(MOTION &amp; VOTE)</b></p>

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<b>ADMINISTRATOR</b>	<p><b>36)</b> We will now consider the Tentative millage rates and Tentative budgets of <b>Dependent Special Districts and MSTUs.</b></p> <p><b>37)</b> I recommend adoption of the Tentative millage rates for the Dependent Special Districts and MSTUs, as detailed in Schedule A, which is in your paper handout, being displayed, and was previously posted to the County website.</p>
<b>CHAIRMAN</b>	<p><b>38)</b> May I have a motion to adopt the Tentative millages?</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>(MOTION &amp; VOTE)</b></p>
<b>ADMINISTRATOR</b>	<p><b>39)</b> I recommend adoption of the Tentative budgets.</p>
<b>CHAIRMAN</b>	<p><b>40)</b> May I have a motion to adopt the Tentative budgets?</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>(MOTION &amp; VOTE)</b></p>
<i>(Note to Communications)</i>	<p><b>41)</b> Please remove Schedule A from the screen.</p>

<b>CHAIRMAN</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>[CLOSE OF PUBLIC HEARING]</b></p> <p><b>42)</b> With that, unless the Board members have any further comments, this First Public Hearing for the FY26 Budget is closed.</p>
<b>ADMINISTRATOR</b>	<p><b>43)</b> Commissioners, please note that the County will advertise the Budget Summary and Notice of Tax Increase in advance of the second public hearing in accordance with Florida Statutes. This notice will be published in the Tampa Bay Times on September 14th. The second and final Budget public hearing will be on Thursday, September 18th at 6:00 p.m.</p>

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