

SECOND PUBLIC HEARING - SEPTEMBER 18, 2025

SCRIPT FOR ADOPTION OF FY26 FINAL MILLAGES AND FINAL BUDGETS

6:00 P.M.	ANNOUNCEMENT of Public Hearings on the FY26 Final Millages and Final Budgets.
CHAIRMAN	1) Good Evening. This is the Public Hearing for the adoption of the FY26 Final Millages and Final Budgets. Has any correspondence been received regarding the Final millages and Final budgets to be heard tonight?
CLERK	<i>[Clerk responds to the question]</i>

I.) OPEN PUBLIC HEARING

CHAIRMAN	2) Good evening. Tonight's public hearing is the second and final public millage and budget hearing for the consideration and adoption of the FY26 Final millages and Final budgets. Before we get started, I'll walk through the sequence of events for tonight. 3) 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">▪ the BCC County-wide levy for the Pinellas County General Fund, and the County levy supporting the Health Department Fund,▪ the levies for Dependent Special Districts and "Municipal Service Taxing Units" that, going forward, will be referenced as "MSTUs". 4) Dependent Special Districts include the Emergency Medical Services Authority and Pinellas Planning Council (PPC), and MSTUs include the Unincorporated Area MSTU, Public Library Services District MSTU, Palm Harbor Community Services MSTU, Feather Sound Community Services MSTU, East Lake Library Services MSTU, East Lake Recreation Services MSTU, Greater Seminole Area Special Recreation MSTU, and the Special Fire Protection Districts.
CHAIRMAN	5) If you are here to speak regarding the final millages and final 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. 6) After hearing all public comment, I will ask the Board if they recommend any further changes to the Final Millages and Final Budgets. If so, I will ask the Board for a motion and a vote to adopt any changes. 7) Finally, we will adopt the resolutions setting the Final FY26 millage rates and budgets. These resolutions will be adopted in accordance with Florida Statutes. The final millage will be adopted first, and then the final budget for each of the taxing authorities.

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CHAIRMAN	<p>8) Before we begin this public hearing, if anyone has specific questions or concerns regarding the assessed value of their property, exemptions or classification related to your property, or information on the TRIM notices, tonight we have here with us Kevin Mckeen and Jackie Warr, from the Pinellas County Property Appraiser's Office. If anyone would like to speak with him, please follow him at this time, and he 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>9) 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 single unanimous vote. 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>10) 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?</p>
(Note to Chairman)	<i>Please wait 15 seconds before proceeding and then turn to the Clerk to address those in attendance virtually.</i>
CLERK	<p>11) Mr. Chair, ____ individuals have preregistered to speak by Zoom on the budget. For those of you that have preregistered to speak online, if you are requesting separate discussion or adoption, please press star 9 on your telephone, or raise your hand virtually in the zoom meeting. Do not raise your hand if you have questions or comments about final millages or final budgets at this time.</p>
(Note to Chairman)	<i>Please wait until speakers are finished before proceeding.</i>
(Note to Chairman)	<p><i>If no one requests separate discussion/adoption of tax levy or budget, continue with this script</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p><i><u>Alternate Script for Separate Adoption #1- Citizen's Request (page 1). The Alternate Script was emailed to the Chair, Clerk, and Administrator prior to the meeting</u></i></p>
CHAIRMAN	<p>12) Since we have not heard from anyone requesting separate discussion and separate adoption of the dependent special districts and MSTUs, we will proceed with adoption of the dependent special districts and MSTUs millages and budgets by single unanimous vote.</p> <p>We will now open the second official public hearing on the Final FY26 Millage Rates and Budgets.</p>
CLERK	<p>13) 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 "Notice of Proposed Tax Increase" and the "Summary of Proposed Budget" legal ads, that were published in the September 14, 2025 edition of the Tampa Bay Times. Affidavits stating Proof of Publication are to be received for filing.</p>

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CHAIRMAN	14) Thank you. We, the Board of County Commissioners, as taxing authority for the BCC County-wide, Dependent Special Districts and MSTUs (as previously referenced) will now proceed with the public hearings.
ADMINISTRATOR	15) 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, to fund the FY26 Final Budget is a 2.24% increase over the aggregate rolled-back rate of 6.0265 . The primary purposes for the increases in millages over the rolled-back rates are due to the following:
ADMINISTRATOR	16) 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.
ADMINISTRATOR	17) 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. 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 Area Special Recreation MSTU, 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. 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.

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II.) PUBLIC INPUT FOR EACH TAXING AUTHORITY

CHAIRMAN	18) Thank you, Mr. Administrator. We will now continue this public hearing as taxing authority for the BCC County-wide, Dependent Special Districts and MSTU levies, 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?
	[CHAIRMAN reads names on cards] Public Comment
CLERK	19) If there are any members of the public that preregistered and that wish to comment on the FY26 final millage rates or budgets, please press star 9 if you are joining us by telephone, or raise your hand virtually in the zoom meeting.
CHAIRMAN	20) At this time we will take public comment from those who have preregistered online.
	Public Comment. Clerk calls each person separately.
CHAIRMAN	21) Now that we have heard all public comment from citizens, does any member of the Board recommend any changes to these Final millage rates or Final budgets?
(Note to Chairman)	(If no recommended changes, proceed with script on next page.)

(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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III.) ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS -

CHAIRMAN	<p>22) The Board must now consider the Resolutions to set the Final FY26 millage rates and budgets. As stated earlier, we will adopt the Final millage rates and Final budgets in the following sections:</p> <p>22a) BCC County-wide, to include the General Fund and Health Department, and 22b) Dependent Special Districts and MSTU</p> <p>23) The resolutions adopting the millages and budgets for the Dependent Special Districts and MSTUs require a unanimous vote. If a unanimous vote is not received for the Dependent Special Districts and MSTUs, we will need to adopt each separately.</p> <p>24) I will now ask the County Administrator to proceed with the readings and for Communications to display Schedule A that will be referenced during the readings and votes.</p>
(Note to Communications)	<i>Please display Schedule A on the screen and leave on the screen until both sets of votes are completed.</i>
ADMINISTRATOR	<i>Note to the Administrator: Please wait until the Schedule A is fully displayed before proceeding</i>

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ADMINISTRATOR	25) Thank you, Mr. Chair. I will announce each Resolution separately for the Board's action. Per Florida Statutes, the Board will vote on the Final millage first and then the Final budget for each taxing authority. We will start with the consideration of the BCC County-wide millage rates and budgets, which include the Pinellas County General Fund and the county levy for the Health Department Fund. For the Pinellas County General Fund and the county levy for the Health Department Fund, I recommend adoption of the Final millages as outlined in Schedule A, which is in your handout, being displayed and was previously posted to the County website.
CHAIRMAN	26) May I have a motion to adopt the Final millages? (MOTION & VOTE)
ADMINISTRATOR	27) I recommend adoption of the the BCC County-wide budgets, which include the Pinellas County General Fund and the county levy for the Health Department Fund.
CHAIRMAN	28) May I have a motion to adopt the BCC County-wide Final budget?" (MOTION & VOTE)
ADMINISTRATOR	29) We will now consider the millage rates and budgets of Dependent Special Districts and MSTUs. 29a) I recommend adoption of the Final 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.
CHAIRMAN	30) May I have a motion to adopt the Final millages? (MOTION & VOTE)
ADMINISTRATOR	31) I recommend adoption of the Final budgets.
CHAIRMAN	32) May I have a motion to adopt the Final budgets? (MOTION & VOTE)
(Note to Chairman)	<i>If unanimous vote is not received, go to <u>Alternate Script for Separate Adoption #2 -Unanimous Vote Not Received (page 1)</u>. The Alternate Script was emailed to the Chair, Clerk, and Administrator prior to the meeting.</i>
(Note to Communications)	<i>If unanimous vote is received, please remove Schedule A from the screen.</i>
ADMINISTRATOR	33) I recommend the Board adopt the Resolution Adopting the Final FY26 County Budget, as filed and available for review at Board Records.
CHAIRMAN	34) May I have a motion to adopt the Final FY26 County Budget? (MOTION & VOTE)
CHAIRMAN	[CLOSE OF PUBLIC HEARING] 35) With that, unless the Board members have any further comments, this Final Public Hearing for the FY26 Budget is closed.