



Pinellas County, Florida

Citizens' Guide to County Finances
for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2016



MESSAGE FROM YOUR CLERK

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, 2016. 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, 2016 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, 2015 for its Citizens' Guide for the tenth 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, 2015, the 35th consecutive year that we have achieved this prestigious award.

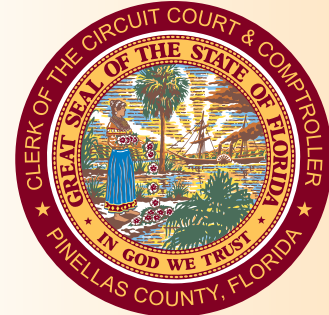
The CAFR as well as this report are accessible at the Clerk's website at www.mypinellasclerk.org or a copy may be obtained by contacting the Clerk's Finance Division at 727-464-8300. If you have any comments or suggestions on how we may improve this report, please contact my office at (727) 464-3341.

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

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ABOUT THIS REPORT

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 and sales and use taxes, 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 and investments are included on pages 14 through 16.

PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA'S PROFILE

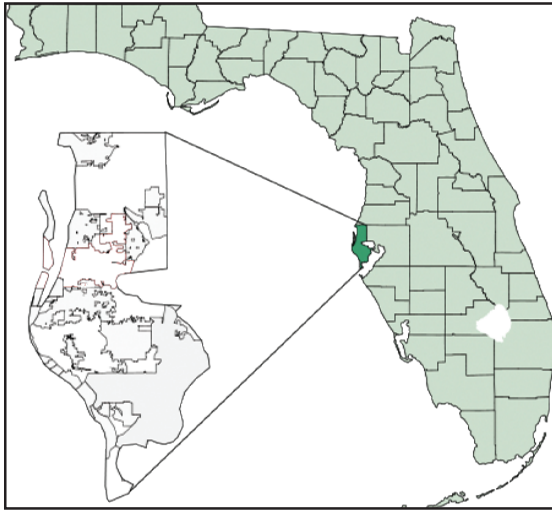


Photo courtesy of Wikipedia

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 for 2017. St. Pete Beach, known for its laid-back appeal, home to the world famous "Pink Palace," The Don CeSar Hotel was voted number 3 on the list. Beautiful Clearwater Beach with its brilliant white sands and lots of hubbub came in at number 4. 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 2016.

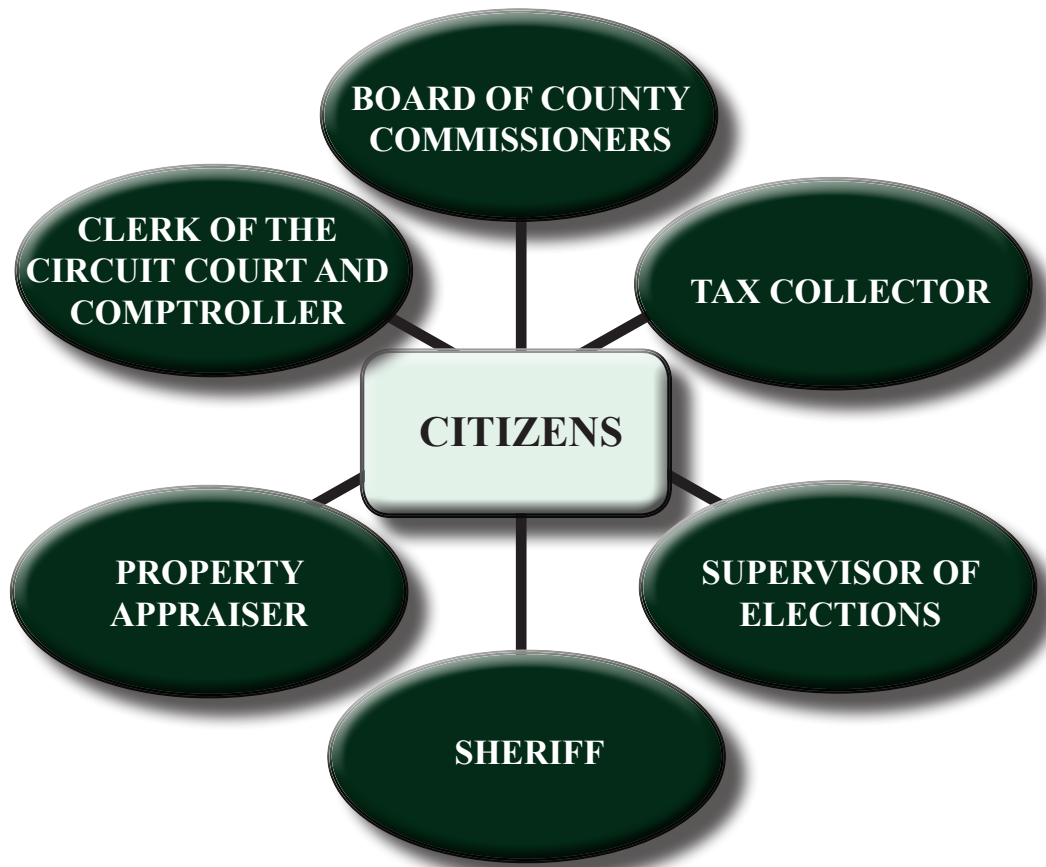


Treasure Island Beach photo courtesy of Visit St. Petersburg/Clearwater

PRINCIPAL EMPLOYERS

Employer	Employees	Rank	Percentage of Total County Employment
Pinellas County School District	10,713	1	2.30%
Bay Pines VA Medical Center	4,568	2	0.98%
City of St. Petersburg	3,372	3	0.72%
All Children's Hospital	3,250	4	0.70%
Raymond James	2,800	5	0.60%
Pinellas County Sheriff	2,684	6	0.58%
Morton Plant Hospital	2,625	7	0.56%
St. Petersburg College	2,367	8	0.51%
Mease Hospital	2,150	9	0.46%
Home Shopping Network	2,150	10	0.46%

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, Chairman - District 1
janetlong@pinellascounty.org

Pat Gerard - District 2
pgerard@pinellascounty.org

Charlie Justice, Chairman - District 3
cjustice@pinellascounty.org

Dave Eggers - District 4
deggers@pinellascounty.org

Karen Williams Seel - District 5
kseel@pinellascounty.org

John Morroni - District 6
jmorroni@pinellascounty.org

Kenneth T. Welch - Vice-Chairman - 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.pscoweb.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 considered to be 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 Pinellas County and ensures their integrity is protected

AS CLERK AND ACCOUNTANT OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

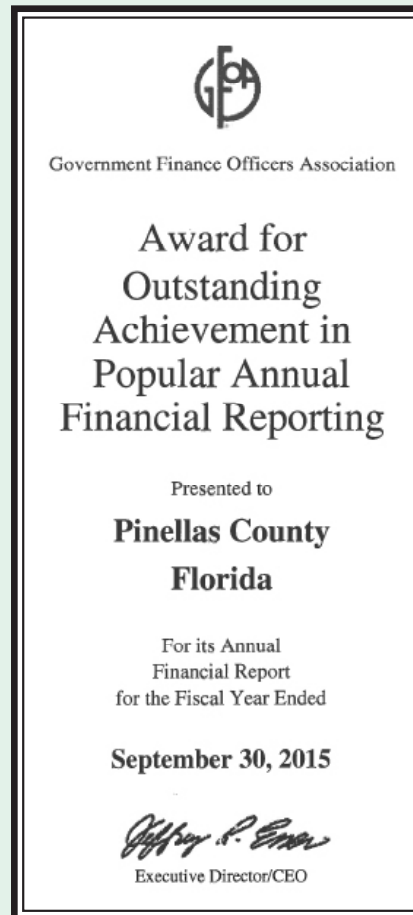
- maintains official records of the Board
- maintains county financial records and prepares financial reports
- provides accounting services to all departments under the Board
- programs and maintains software for the automated financial accounting system
- processes accounts payable, accounts receivable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

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 internal audits 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, 2015. 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.

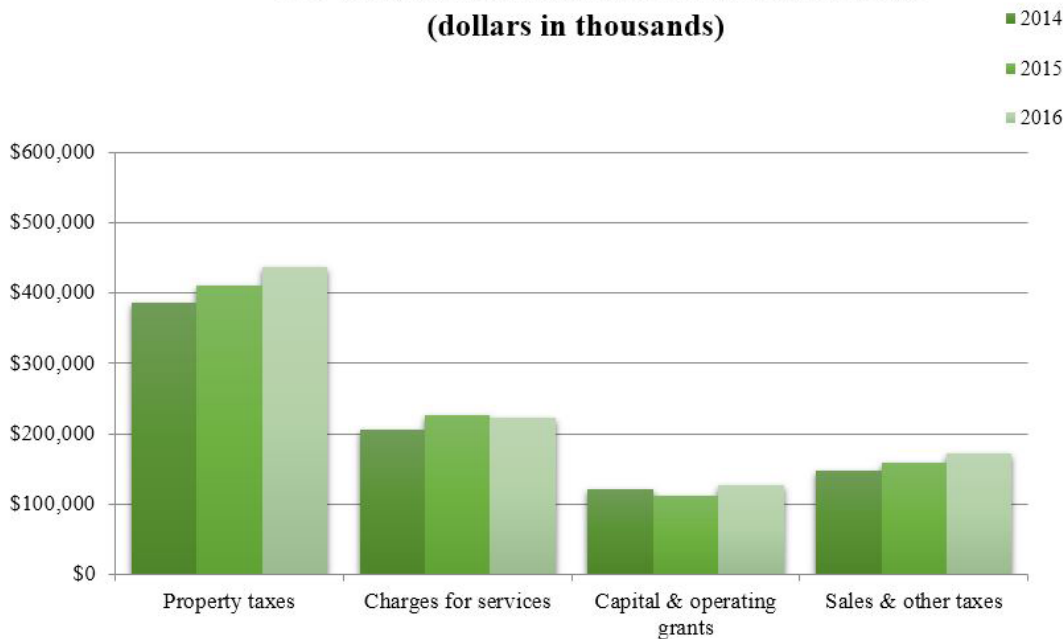
In order to receive an Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting, a government unit must publish a Popular Annual Financial Report, whose contents conform to program standards of creativity, presentation, understandability, and reader appeal.

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 5.8 percent over last year. Approximately 45.5 percent of the County's total revenues come from property taxes and 17.7 percent from other taxes. Fees, service charges, revenues from other governments and unrestricted interest earnings account for 36.8 percent of overall revenues. Total expenses increased 9.3 percent over the prior year.

GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES REVENUES
(dollars in thousands)



Revenues in the County's governmental activities increased \$52.4 million or 5.8 percent over the prior year. Key factors attributing to these changes are described below.

Property tax revenues increased by \$26.2 million, or 6.4 percent over last year for all governmental activities due to an increase in property tax values of 6.4 percent. The countywide millage rate remained unchanged from the previous year.

Charges for services decreased slightly by \$2.8 million or 1.3 percent. Primary factors contributing to decreased revenues included non-recurring proceeds of \$3.2 million received in 2015 from local hospitals in support of indigent health care and a nonrecurring receipt of \$9.6 million associated with the Deepwater Horizon oil spill settlement.

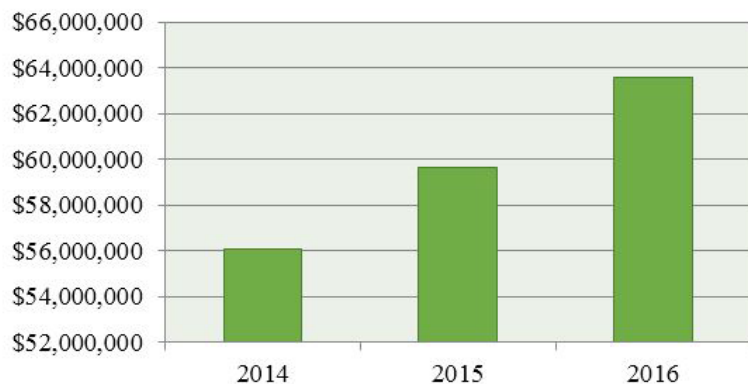
Capital grants and contributions increased by \$13.7 million from the prior year due primarily to 1) additional federal and state funding of \$4.0 million in support of road and highway construction, and advanced traffic monitoring systems projects, 2) state funds of \$8.3 million received during fiscal year 2015-2016 related to beach renourishment projects, and 3) increased funding of \$1.5 million to support various water-related initiatives.

Sales tax revenue increased by \$13.6 million; or 10.6 percent, reflecting signs of continued economic improvement in the area.

PROPERTY TAXES

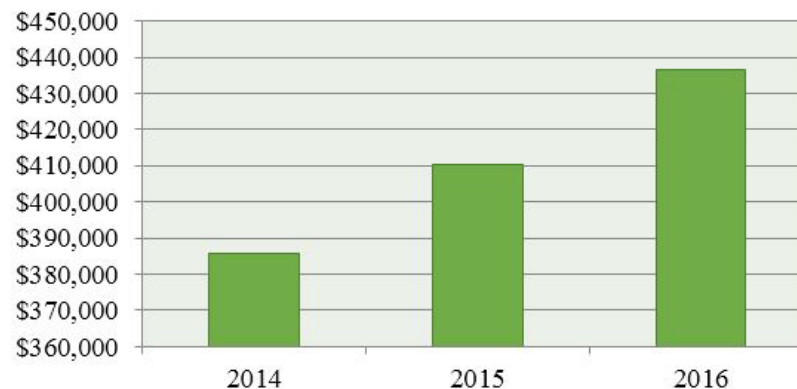
Property taxes help support programs and services that do not have offsetting revenues or pay for themselves. Examples include law enforcement, social services, parks and environmental programs. Other tax rates controlled by the county include Emergency Medical Services and fire districts in unincorporated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

TAXABLE ASSESSED VALUES (dollars in thousands)



Taxable assessed values increased by 6.4 percent countywide for FY2016 and 13.4 percent from FY2014.

PROPERTY TAX REVENUES (dollars in thousands)



Property tax revenues increased by \$26.2 million (6.4 percent) for FY2016, and increased by \$50.8 million (13.2 percent) from FY2014.

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, flood control, park improvements, preservation of endangered lands and public safety. The Penny for Pinellas is paid by all who spend money in the county, including tourists and visitors.

The 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 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 for the acquisition of capital assets, such as buildings, land or equipment.



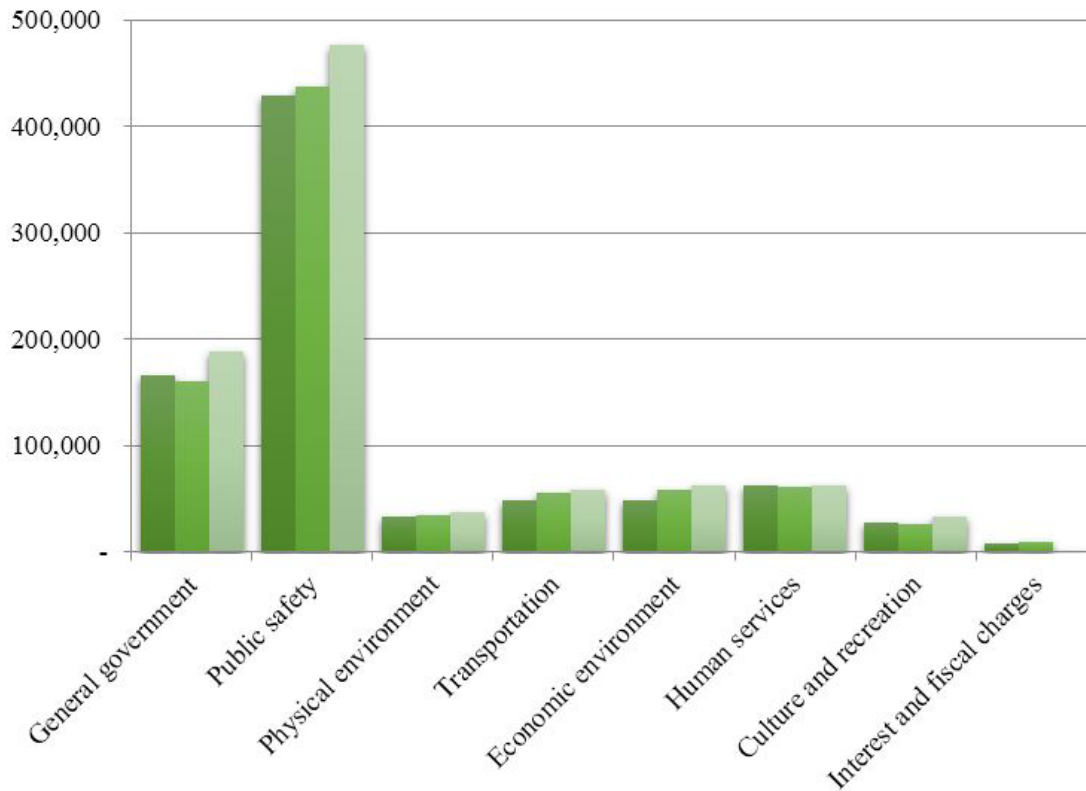
*Clearwater Dolphin Trail photo courtesy of
Visit St. Petersburg/Clearwater*

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)

■ 2014
■ 2015
■ 2016



During the year, expenses for governmental activities increased by 9.3 percent or \$78.7 million from the prior year. The largest increases were in general government of \$28.2 million and public safety of \$39.2 million.

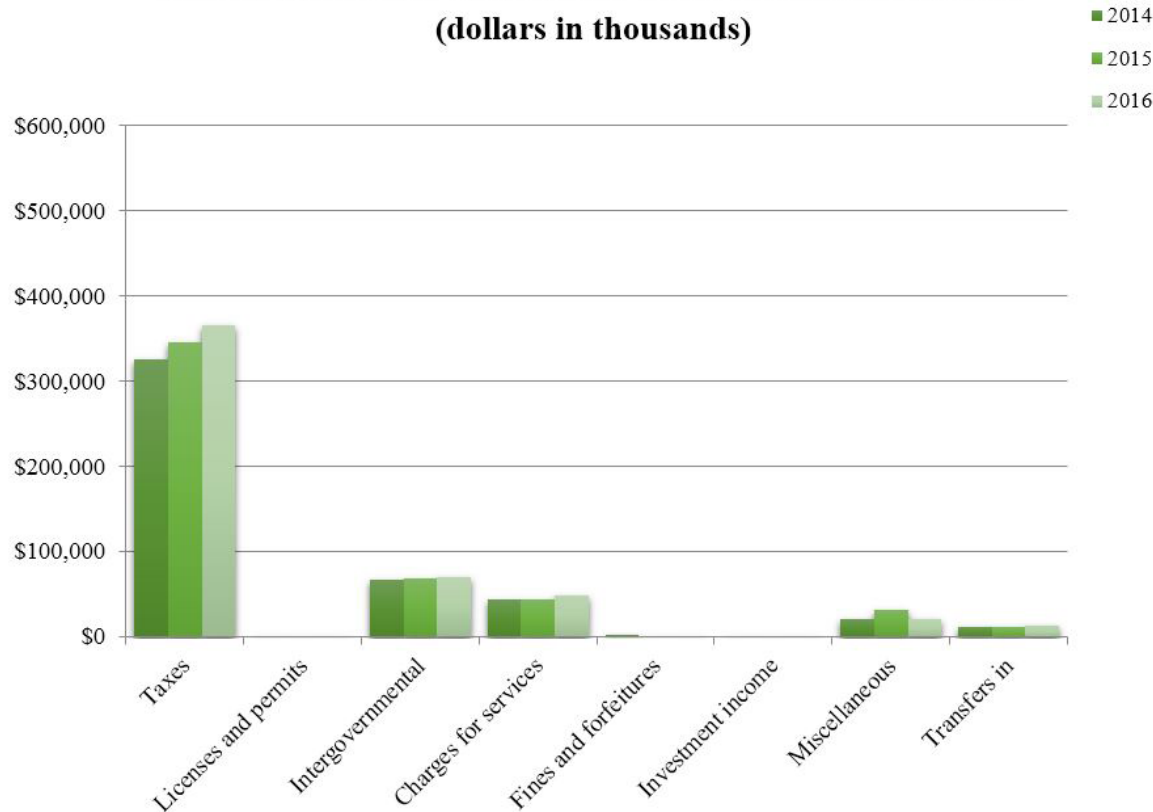
General government expenses were up by \$28.2 million, primarily as a result of increases in personal services costs pertaining to the pension-related liabilities (\$16.1 million), increased obligations for compensated absences (\$1.4 million) and a cost of living increase for all employees during fiscal year 2015-2016 along with increased fringe benefit costs (retirement contributions, taxes, health insurance) accounting for an additional \$4.8 million.

Public safety expenses increased by \$39.2 million, due in large part to the combined effect of fiscal year changes in the other postemployment healthcare costs (OPEB) obligation, which increased by \$8.4 million, and the net pension liability, which saw a \$28.1 million increase from the previous fiscal year. Other public safety expenses remained relatively flat overall.

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 FY2016 including reserves totaled \$641.0 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 increased by \$18.6 million or 3.7 percent from last year.
- Tax revenue increased by \$20.9 million, due primarily to increased taxable property values.
- Intergovernmental revenues were up by \$1.7 million or 2.5 percent. The increase was due mostly to additional funding recognized during fiscal year 2015-2016 from the local half-cent sales tax, a reflection of continued economic recovery.
- Charges for services were up by \$4.8 million, attributable mostly to a \$3.6 million increase in intergovernmental charges for providing support services that benefit multiple functions across the County and approximately \$1 million increase over the prior year in revenues for law enforcement 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 rose by \$32.0 million (6.5 percent) in FY2016. From FY2014 to FY2016, general fund expenditures increased \$60.2 million (12.9 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, Court Related Programs, Information Services, Communications, Office of Management and Budget, Real Estate and Facility Management, Law Libraries, Telecommunications, Planning, Developmental Review Services, Purchasing, Building Design Division

PUBLIC SAFETY

- Medical Examiner, Emergency Communications (911), Fire Operations, Justice and Consumer Services

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

- County Extension, Conservation & Resource Management, Environmental Management, Air Quality, Coastal and Navigation Management

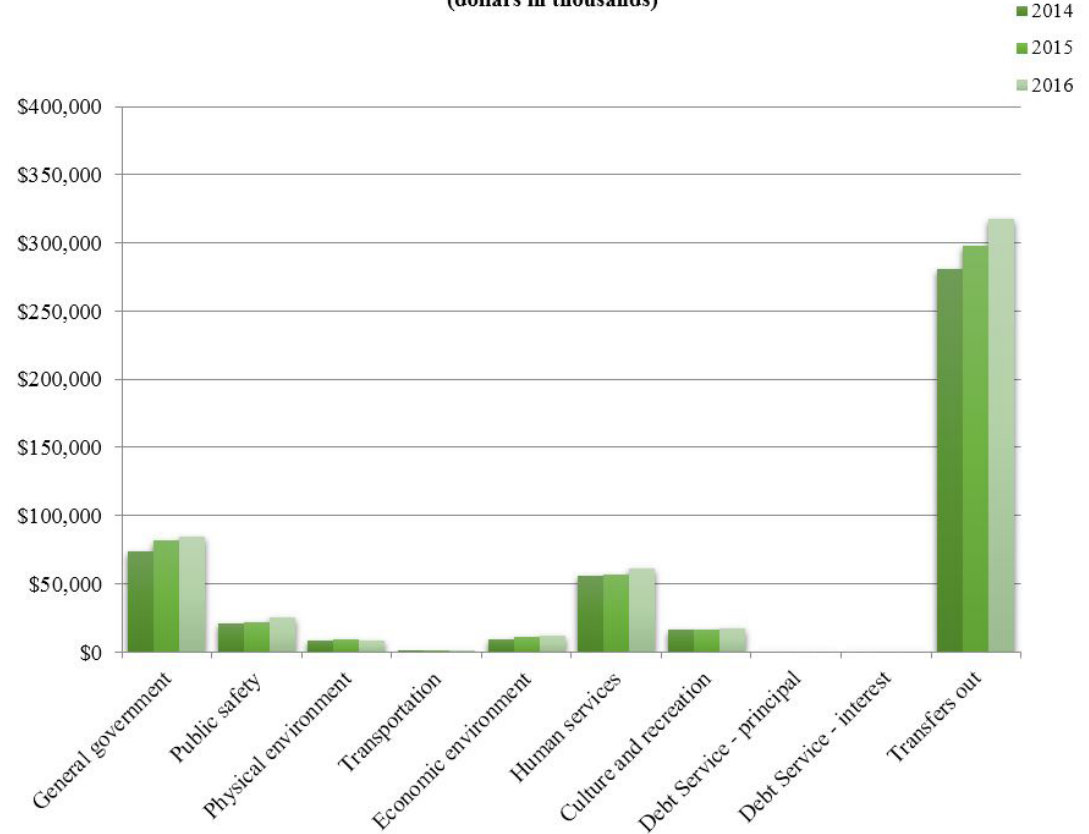
TRANSPORTATION

- Public Works, Engineering, Transportation Planning, Structures Division, Civil Site Division, Surface Water Management, Construction Administration and Inspection and Survey Division

ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

- Veteran's Services, Community Development Programs, Community Housing Trust Fund, Neighborhood Programs, Economic Development and Human Rights

GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES AND OTHER USES (dollars in thousands)



HUMAN SERVICES

- Social Services, Animal Services, State Mandates-Medicaid, Community Funded Programs, Social Work and Support Units, Outreach Units and Mosquito Control

CULTURE AND RECREATION

- Parks and Recreation, Libraries, Museums, Cultural Affairs, Horticultural Operations and the Florida Botanical Gardens

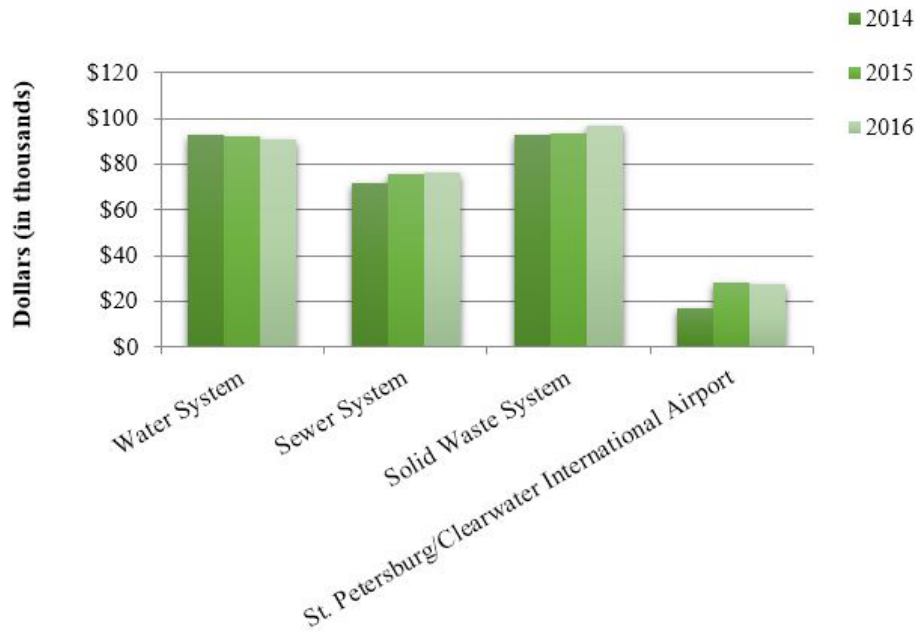
TRANSFERS OUT

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

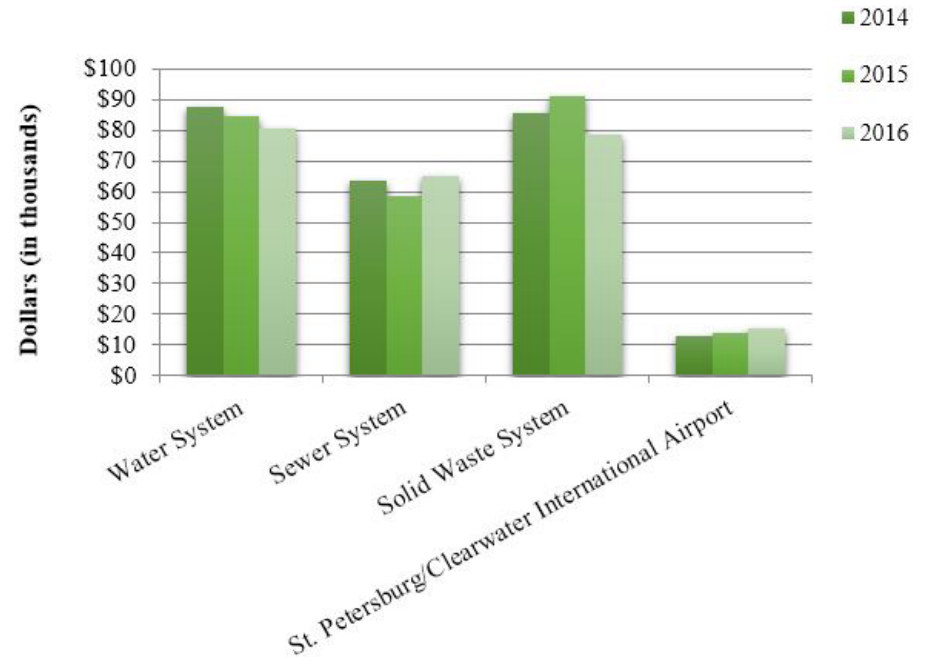
ENTERPRISE FUND REVENUES AND EXPENSES

Enterprise fund or business-type activities offer goods and services to the citizens of the county and are intended to be self-supporting. In FY2016, revenues in business-type activities increased \$1.6 million or 0.5 percent and expenses were down by \$15.6 million or 6.1 percent. From FY2014 to FY2016, revenues increased by \$16.9 million (6.2 percent) and expenses decreased \$8.7 million (8.7 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, decreased by \$1.0 million (1.1 percent).
- Charges for services to retail and wholesale customers were down by \$0.7 million or 0.9 percent due primarily to a reduction in revenue of approximately \$1.8 million and \$2.8 million as a result of the City of Clearwater and Tarpon Springs, respectively, developing their own water resources, offset in part by additional revenue of \$3.4 million stemming marginal increases in base and consumption rates for retail water sales.
- Operating expenses of the Water System decreased by \$4.1 million (4.8 percent) from the previous year primarily due to a \$2.9 million decrease in the purchase of water from Tampa Bay Water.

SEWER SYSTEM

- Total program revenues increased by \$0.4 million or 0.5 percent over the prior year. Charges for services to customers increased by \$0.5 million or 0.7 percent. Other revenue sources were also relatively flat in relation to the previous fiscal year, with interest revenue increasing approximately \$0.09 million as a result of slightly higher yields generated from investments, miscellaneous revenues increasing slightly, from \$0.7 million to \$0.9 million, and revenue from capital contributions declining to \$0.9 million during fiscal year 2015-2016 from \$1.3 million realized the previous fiscal year.
- Annual operating expenses increased \$0.5 million or 0.9 percent due to increases in maintenance and repairs to the sewer system.



*South Cross Bayou Water Reclamation Facility
photo courtesy of Pinellas County Marketing and
Communications Department*

SOLID WASTE SYSTEM

- Total program revenues of the system increased by \$3.2 million or 3.4 percent over the prior year. Charges for services increased by a net amount of \$2.7 million or 2.9 percent. Tipping fees increased by \$2.1 million due to additional tonnage processed over the prior year. Electrical sales revenue was up by \$1.6 million resulting from an annual rate increase, offset by a \$0.6 million decrease in revenue generated from scrap sales of metal recovered from ash at the regeneration facility. Interest revenue increased by \$0.3 million due to higher yields on invested funds.
- Operating expenses for the system were down by \$13.1 million or 14.3 percent from the prior year. The County experienced a \$12.1 million savings for the fiscal year as a result of changing the contractor managing the Waste-to-Energy Facility along with reductions in other operating expenses.

ST. PETERSBURG/CLEARWATER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

- Total program revenues for the Airport decreased by \$0.9 million (3.2 percent) over the prior year.
- Charges for services were up by \$0.9 million (7.1 percent) over the prior year.
- Capital contributions were down by \$1.9 million (12.7 percent) due to a decrease in federal and state grants.
- Operating expenses increased by \$1.2 million (8.2 percent) due to an increase in contractual services and depreciation expense.

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 10-2 adopting investment policies. The investment policy and the ordinance can be found at:

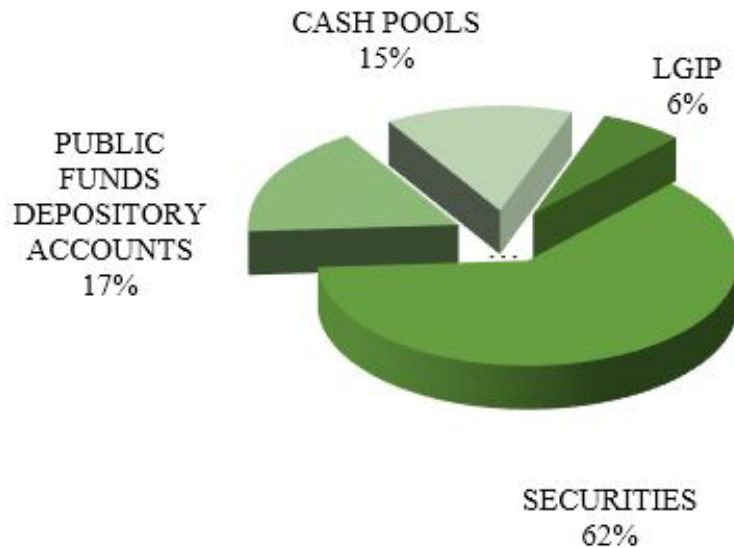
<http://www.pinellasclerk.org/aspInclude2/ASPInclude.asp?pageName=investmentreports.htm>

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 July 2013 with the Certification of Excellence for its investment policy for the second 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.

PINELLAS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO



INVESTMENTS At Market Value

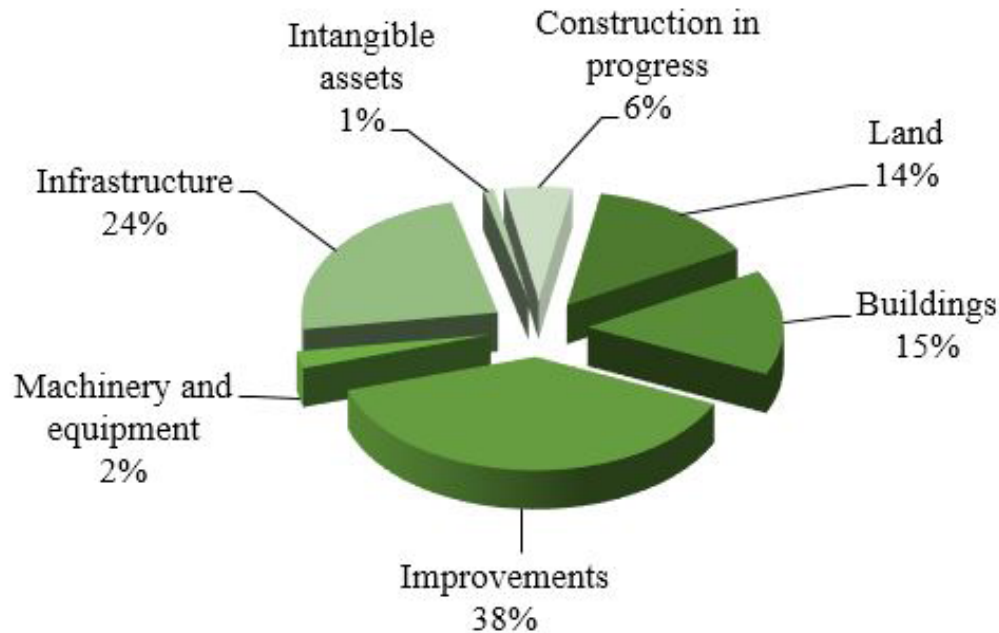
Unrestricted	
Treasury Note	\$ 80,591,880
Federal Agency Issues	510,814,272
Public Funds Depository Accounts	162,862,134
Local Government Investment Pools	60,451,028
Cash Pools	137,189,398

TOTAL CASH AND INVESTMENTS \$ 951,908,712

CAPITAL ASSETS

Pinellas County's investment in capital assets for governmental and business-type activities is \$3.3 billion, net of accumulated depreciation. This includes land, buildings, improvements, equipment, road, bridges, drainage systems, intangible assets and construction in progress. The total increase in capital assets was 1.1 percent over the prior year (0.2 percent increase governmental activities and 2.5 percent increase in business-type activities).

CAPITAL ASSETS GOVERNMENTAL AND BUSINESS-TYPE ACTIVITIES



CAPITAL ASSETS (dollars in thousands)

Land	\$	461,551
Buildings		494,035
Improvements		1,265,761
Machinery and equipment		79,678
Infrastructure		777,276
Intangible assets		30,450
Construction in progress		184,365
TOTAL	\$	3,293,116

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, 2016, were approximately \$281.6 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	\$ -
November 2006	Sewer Revenue Refunding Bonds, Series 2006	25,205	1,495	1,495
July 2008	Sewer Revenue Bonds, Series 2008A	42,005	39,085	-
July 2008	Sewer Revenue Refunding Bonds, Series 2008 B-1	32,700	32,110	-
July 2011	Sewer Revenue Refunding Bonds, Series 2011	20,870	3,545	-
July 2012	Sewer Revenue Refunding Bonds, Series 2012	59,510	54,770	2,460
July 2016	Sewer Revenue Refunding Note, Series 2016	14,733	14,733	-
TOTAL		\$ 281,603	\$ 150,953	\$ 3,955

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

- 2003 and 2012 rated by Moody's – Aa2 and Standard and Poors-AA+.
- 2006 rated by Standard and Poors – AA+
- 2006 and 2012 rated by Fitch-AA

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

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Pinellas County's – "Doing Things for You" mobile app gained top honors for innovation in 2015 from the Public Technology Institute (PTI) (www.pti.org). The new app was recognized with the 2015 PTI Solutions Award. This app allows citizens to report issues in the community on their mobile device with the swipe of a finger, a simple solution that helps the county quickly receive and respond to service requests, allowing the county, municipalities and the Florida Department of Transportation to identify and address everything from potholes to flooding.



The County was awarded with the Tech Savvy designation in 2016 for the third year in a row. Designation as a PTI Tech Savvy Government has two main themes: 1) To recognize governments who meet the criterion developed by PTI that represent a "culture" of excellence through technology governance and practices across the enterprise. 2) To highlight enterprise-wide technology policy and program achievements of PTI member jurisdictions to others, including associated professionals and other associations. This culture of excellence through enterprise technology governance is demonstrated by high level officials communicating and collaborating to identify and implement innovative technology solutions such as the following:

- Justice Consolidated Case Management System that replaced the former mainframe system
- Oracle enterprise resource planning system
- Expansion on Business Intelligence reporting
- Board of County Commissioners agenda automation
- Human Resources automated job application improvements
- Utilities pipeline robotics



PUBLIC SAFETY

In the prior year, the County established new five-year agreements for paramedic first responder services with all municipalities and fire districts, maintaining previous levels of service in a financially sustainable fashion. In 2016, the County negotiated a new five-year service contract, continuing a relationship with the same provider operating the Sunstar ambulance system. Pinellas is on the leading edge of emergency medical care, and has become a model for emergency medical service (EMS) providers throughout Florida and around the world.



Public Safety photo courtesy of Pinellas County Marketing and Communications Department

Emergency Medical Services was one of four EMS systems in Florida to be awarded a 2015 Mission: Lifeline EMS Gold Level Recognition Award from the American Heart Association. The award recognizes the EMS team for implementing quality improvement measures to rapidly identify, treat and transport heart attack patients.

The Emergency Management Department developed the Storm Surge Protector web application to allow citizens to easily visualize the deadly effects of storm surge. The app was developed to drive home the message that the greatest danger to people during a hurricane is not wind, but the onrushing waters of storm surge, reinforcing the need to evacuate when an order is given. The app won the Governor's Hurricane Conference 2015 Innovation Award.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

The Tampa Bay area continues to lead the state in job creation. Economic Development partnered with Tampa-Hillsborough Economic Development Corporation to create a strong regional approach for local businesses seeking to export their products and services and create new jobs called the Tampa Bay Export Alliance. The alliance was awarded a silver excellence in economic development award by the International Economic Development Council in 2016. Partnering with the Tampa Bay Export Alliance, Pinellas led a major trade mission to Costa Rica, resulting in a projected \$12 million in sales for companies in the Tampa Bay area.



Garden Trail Apartments photo courtesy of Pinellas County Communications Department

The Board established the Lealman Community Redevelopment Area (CRA) as the first redevelopment area in unincorporated Pinellas County. In a collaborative effort for community reinvestment, the process of developing the CRA Plan has begun, which will include community analysis, advisory committee workshops, public meetings, and a variety of community engagement opportunities. The plan will serve as a comprehensive framework to pursue a series of long-term, redevelopment and revitalization strategies while preserving Lealman's history.

In the prior year, the Board established a land assembly program administered by the Housing Finance Authority to stimulate redevelopment and increase affordable housing construction. Using Penny for Pinellas funds, in 2016 the Board provided \$7 million for the acquisition and construction of quality affordable multifamily and single family housing units throughout the county such as D&D Missionary Homes, Garden Trail Apartments, Palms of Pinellas and properties adjacent to Lealman Heights.

The Board adopted an updated countywide plan to better support economic development, redevelopment and other key objectives, connecting land use and transportation. Being almost built out, most of our development activity is actually redevelopment. Each new project provides an opportunity to improve our communities. New approaches are being considered to guide the development process in ways that will enhance the condition of the County's natural and built environments, promote economic opportunity and help us achieve a more sustainable future.

TRANSPORTATION



2016 was a record breaking year for St. Petersburg-Clearwater International Airport (Airport) with 1.8 million passengers, a 12 percent increase in passenger volume from 2015. This was the Airport's second consecutive year breaking the all-time passenger record and our fourth consecutive year of double-digit increases. Allegiant, the Airport's largest airline offers non-stop flights to over fifty three destinations.

After a four-year effort to unify countywide land use and transportation planning efforts under a single umbrella, the Pinellas Planning Council (PPC) and the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), two legally separate entities, unified their governing boards (same membership on both boards) to create a more streamlined and integrated process to address transportation and land use issues. The employees of the two organizations were combined under the PPC during the last fiscal year. The organization adopted a new branding, "Forward Pinellas" in 2016 to best reflect a sense of unified countywide progress and momentum to move Pinellas County forward into a brighter future.



ACCOMPLISHMENTS

With the goal in mind of continuing to improve traffic flow in the County, one of the citizens' top priorities, the County continues to install automated messaging systems to make drivers aware of traffic conditions, allowing them to adjust traffic patterns as needed.



Photo courtesy of Pinellas County Marketing and Communications Department

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

The County continues to demonstrate superior environmental stewardship by supporting waste reduction and recycling efforts. Pinellas was recognized by the state of Florida for having a recycling rate of 89 percent, the highest recycling rate in the state. This was achieved through collaboration with our municipal partners, private recyclers and citizens. Through strategic management of the landfill incorporating a revamped design and waste recovery initiatives, the projected life of the landfill has been extended to the year 2100.



Photo of the Waste-to-Energy Plant courtesy of Pinellas County Marketing and Communications Department

The County was awarded the Earle B. Phelps Award by the Florida Water Environment Association for the South Cross Bayou Water Reclamation Facility in 2016 for advanced wastewater treatment. The County was one of three entities to win the award out of hundreds of facilities throughout the state.

HUMAN SERVICES

The new Bayside Health Clinic was opened in Clearwater, next to one of the County's largest homeless shelters, allowing more homeless citizens easier access to healthcare. Since opening, the Clinic has provided health and dental services to an estimated 1,000 citizens through a partnership with the Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County, the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services, the Sheriff's Office and local primary care agencies.



Bayside Health Clinic photo courtesy of Pinellas County Marketing and Communications Department

ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT



The “Penny for Pinellas” (Penny) one cent local option sales tax expires on December 31, 2019. The Penny became effective February 1, 1990 for an initial period of ten years and has been extended by referendums for two additional ten-year periods. The Penny has supported investments in infrastructure including, roads, bridges, parks, emergency systems, stormwater and flood control systems, public safety facilities, etc., improving the quality of life for citizens throughout the county. This is a countywide initiative, with all local governments participating and benefiting. The one cent sales tax is paid by everyone who spends money in the county, resident or tourist. The Board plans to propose a referendum in November 2017 to consider renewal of the Penny for another ten-year period.

The County’s partnership with the Florida Department of Transportation is anticipated to yield important new and improved transit options, including the Gateway\118th Avenue Expressway project scheduled to commence this fiscal year. This project will ultimately connect I-275 to U.S. Highway 19 and I-275 to the Bayside Bridge via an elevated tolled expressway.



118th Avenue North Aerial View - St. Petersburg photo courtesy of Pinellas County Marketing and Communications Department

“Doing Things TV”, a recent County marketing tool, is a monthly video series featuring how County departments and their partners are putting Board priorities into action and bringing citizens tangible results. The videos are shown during Board meetings, shared on YouTube, posted to the county website and promoted on social media.

The County continues to focus efforts on implementing an enterprise asset management system through a commercial-off-the-shelf software solution in order to promote data sharing, reduce operations and maintenance costs and enable long-term sustainability. The system will be used by major departments such as Utilities, Public Works, Real Estate Management, Fleet Management and Parks and Conservation Resources.

In December 2016, after careful deliberation and much community input, the Board approved a list of projects and associated funding totaling \$7.1 million allocating the proceeds from the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill. County staff will be working with partners to develop agreements to complete the approved projects. Under the guidelines for funding, the approved projects should be planned or funded by December 31, 2017, used for one-time only expenditures that have a substantial and visible community impact and will support Pinellas’ economic and environmental sustainability and/or create a sense of place. One of the approved projects included funding in partnership with the City of St. Petersburg, City of Tampa and Hillsborough County for a six month pilot ferry program between St. Petersburg and downtown Tampa.



Weedon Island Preserve photo courtesy of Pinellas County Marketing and Communications Department

In anticipation of receipt of funds through the Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund under the Federal Restore Act, the County has requested and received ideas and proposals for projects within the County and/or its adjacent bay, coastal and Gulf waters that will benefit the Gulf of Mexico ecosystem. The federal funding stems from Clean Water Act civil fines and penalties related to the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill. This funding allocation, known as the Direct Component fund, will be used to restore the environment and economy of the Gulf Coasts above and beyond the environmental and economic impacts associated with the oil spill. As of December 31, 2016, Pinellas County was awarded \$1,548,317 in U. S. Department of Treasury administered direct component grant funding.

HOW TO CONTACT PINELLAS COUNTY



Gulfport Grand Prix photo courtesy of Visit St. Petersburg/ Clearwater

CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT AND COMPTROLLER

315 Court Street
Clearwater, FL 33756
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www.mypinellasclerk.org

SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS

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

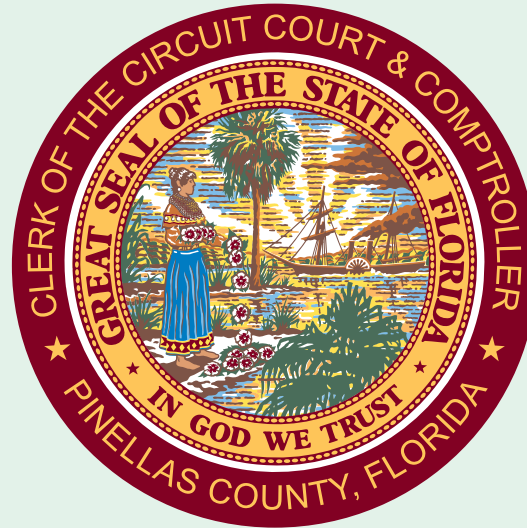
SHERIFF

10750 Ulmerton Road
Largo, FL 33778
(727) 582-6200
www.pscoweb.com

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

CITIZENS' GUIDE

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



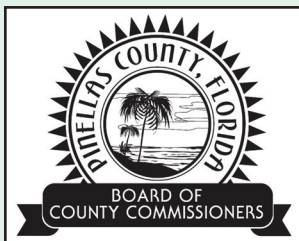
*This Citizens' Guide to County
Finances was prepared by the Finance
Division, the Clerk's Communications
Coordinator and the Board of County
Commissioners Marketing and
Communications Department.*

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