

# Citizens' Guide to County Finances



# 2022

**For the fiscal year ended  
September 30, 2022**

Pinellas County, Florida



# Table of Contents

Citizens of Pinellas County:

I am pleased to present the Citizens' Guide to County Finances (Citizens' Guide) for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2022. 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, 2021, for its Citizens' Guide for the sixteenth 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, 2021, 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 41st 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 current Annual Comprehensive Financial Report 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](http://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  
Clerk of Water and Navigation  
Control Authority  
County Auditor and Treasurer  
Clerk to the Value Adjustment  
Board



**P**inellas 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.

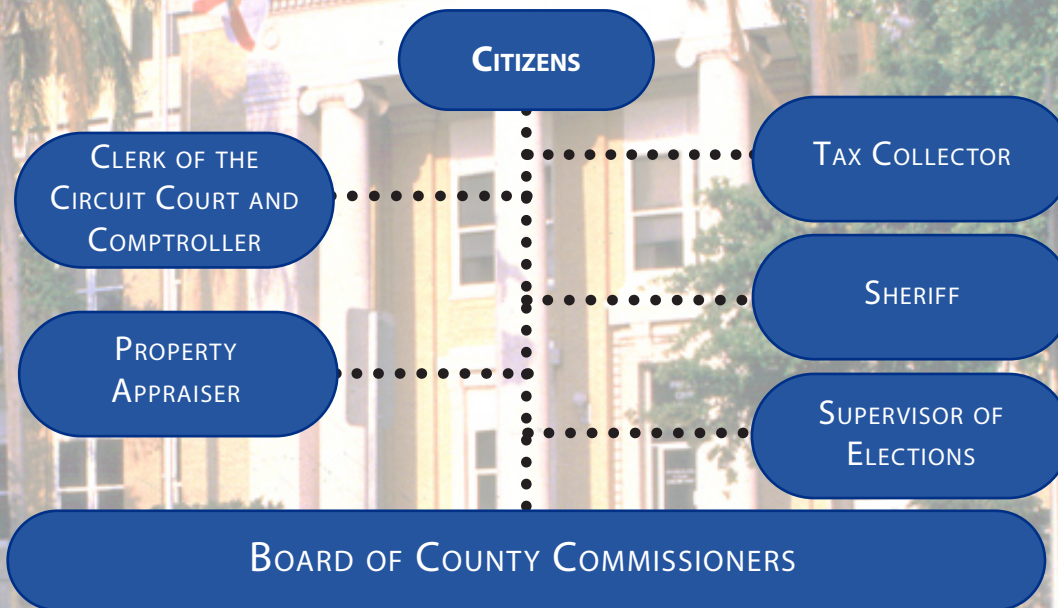
## **A**ccolades & Awards:

- ★ The St. Pete Pier was selected as the winner of Urban Land Institute's 2022 Global Awards for Excellence.
- ★ The City of Dunedin, one of the oldest towns on the West Coast of Florida, is the home of Honeymoon Island, the #4 state park in Florida.
- ★ The Chihuly Collection is a permanent collection of world renowned artist Dale Chihuly's unique artwork including the *Ruby Red Icicle Chandelier*.

# Pinellas County Organization & Commission

**P**inellas 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  
Chair



Brian Scott  
District 2



Charlie Justice  
District 3



Dave Eggers  
District 4



Chris Latvala  
District 5



Kathleen Peters  
District 6  
Vice 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.

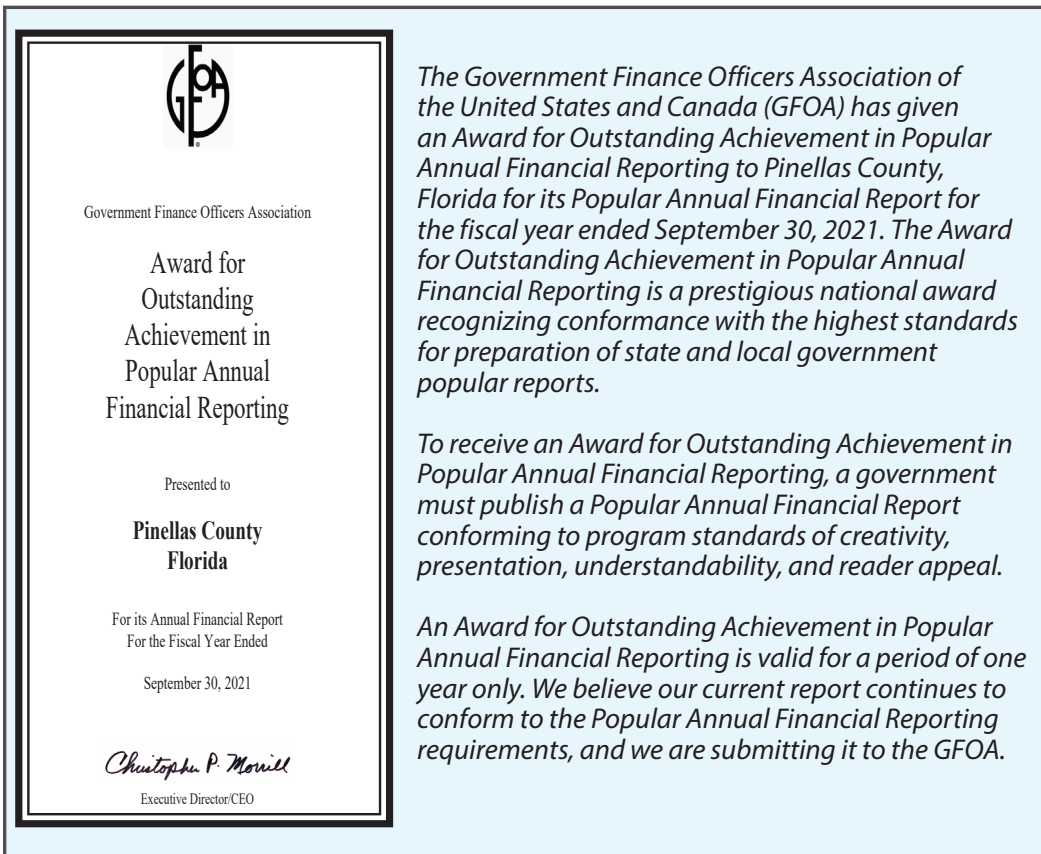
**1 AS CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT AND COUNTY COURTS**, the Clerk maintains custody of court records and all related pleadings filed, secures evidence entered in court, and ensures the integrity of court files is protected. The Clerk also collects and disburses court fines and assessments and court ordered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



Dog friendly Pinellas

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.

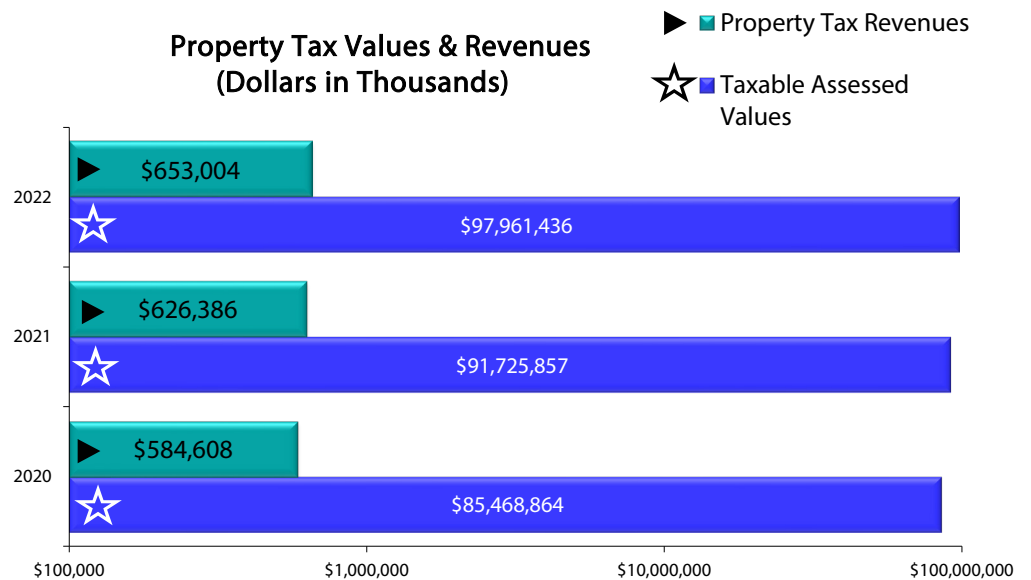
## PROGRAM REVENUES

**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.

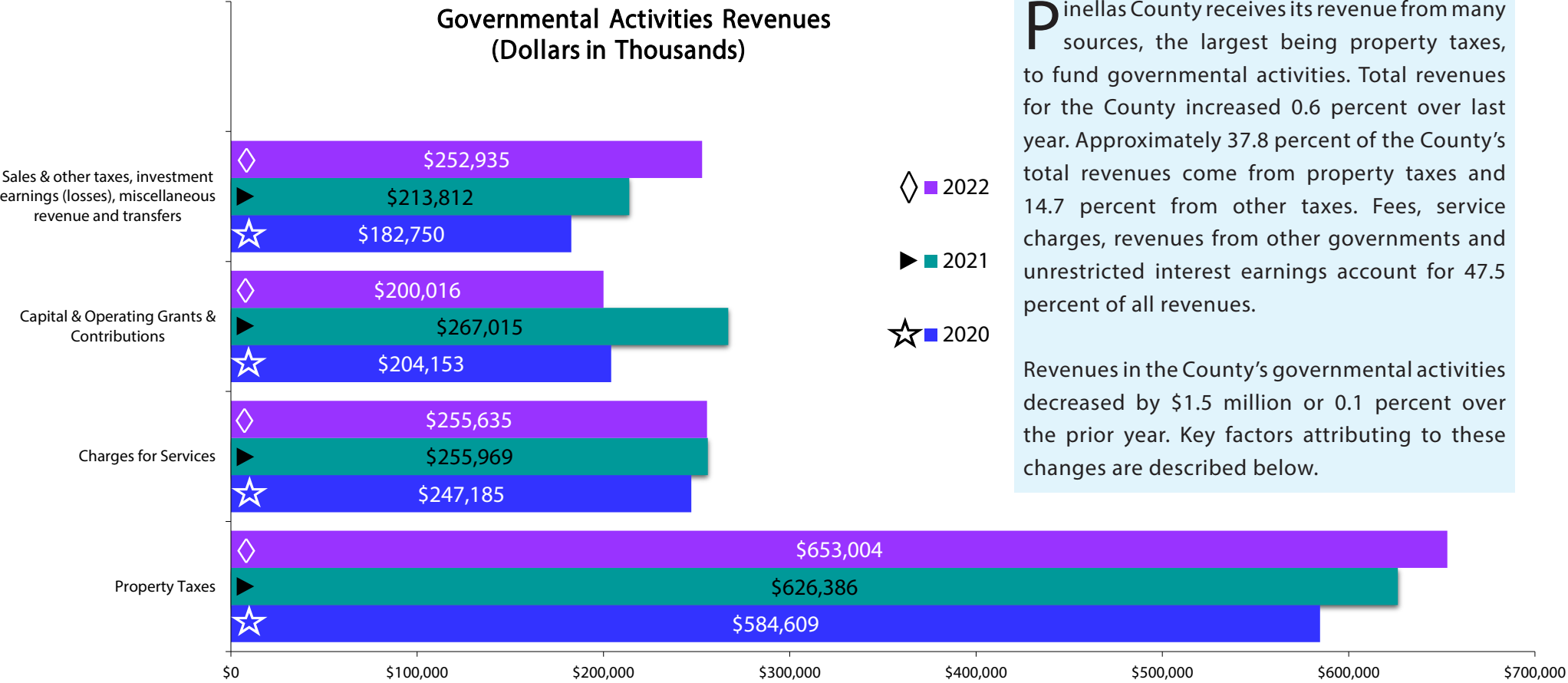
**Capital grants and contributions** include monies received from the federal and state levels for the acquisition of capital assets, such as buildings, land or equipment.

Property Tax Values & Revenues  
(Dollars in Thousands)



Waves on our beautiful beaches

# Sources of County Funds: Governmental Activities Revenues



Pinellas County receives its revenue from many sources, the largest being property taxes, to fund governmental activities. Total revenues for the County increased 0.6 percent over last year. Approximately 37.8 percent of the County's total revenues come from property taxes and 14.7 percent from other taxes. Fees, service charges, revenues from other governments and unrestricted interest earnings account for 47.5 percent of all revenues.

Revenues in the County's governmental activities decreased by \$1.5 million or 0.1 percent over the prior year. Key factors attributing to these changes are described below.

**Property tax** revenues increased by \$26.6 million, or 4.2 percent over last year for all governmental activities due to an increase in property tax values of 6.8 percent. The millage rate decreased 0.146 mills in FY2022 from the prior year.

**Charges for services** amounted to \$255.6 million for the current year compared to \$256.0 million in the prior year, a slight decrease. Public safety charges were up \$20.4 million primarily due to increased ambulance transport volume and rates. All other activities saw an overall decrease in charges.

**Capital and Operating Grants & Contributions** decreased by \$67.0 million from the prior year, due primarily to a decrease in federal funding from the prior year due to the end of the Coronavirus Aid Relief & Economic Security (CARES) Act.

**Sales, Other Taxes & Investment Losses** increased by \$39.2 million; or 18.3 percent due to continued recovery from the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic, 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: \$2,265.84

Juvenile Welfare Board  
\$95.50  
4.21%

SW Florida Water Management  
\$25.37  
1.12%



Planning Council  
\$2.36  
0.10%

School Board  
\$818.44  
36.13%

County  
\$639.43  
28.22%

City  
\$600.55  
26.50%

Suncoast Transit Authority  
\$84.19  
3.72%

The example is based on a taxable value of \$112,253 (assessed value is \$162,253 with \$50,000 exemptions for all taxing authorities except the School Board which has exemptions of \$25,000).



Sand Key



# 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.

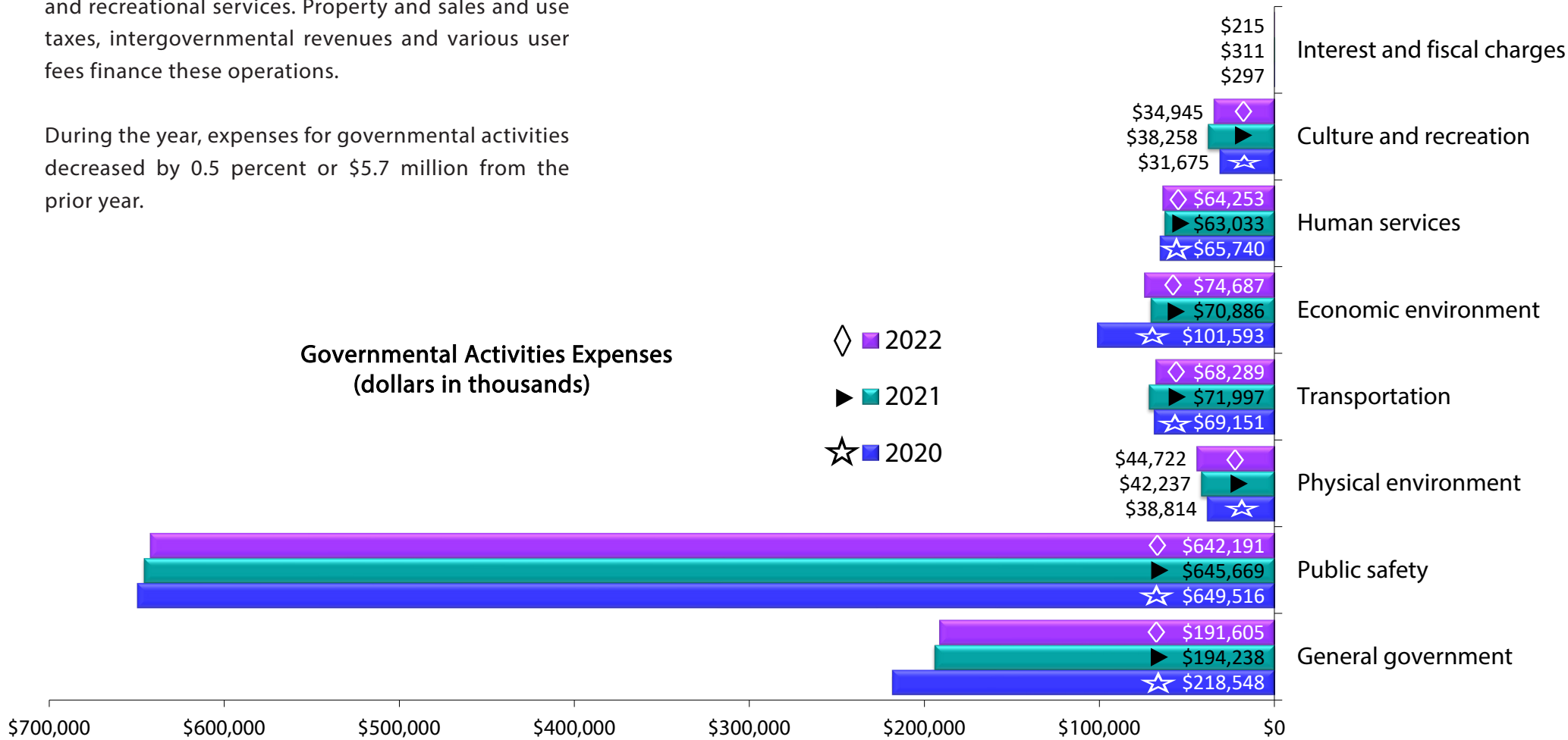
During the year, expenses for governmental activities decreased by 0.5 percent or \$5.7 million from the prior year.

**General government** expenses decreased by \$2.6 million, primarily as a result of additional cost recovery allocations of approximately \$6.1 million for internal information technology, which provides various infrastructure, application support, and project management.

**Economic Environment** expenses increased by \$3.8 million, primarily due to the Tampa Bay Innovation Center Incubator and aid to local government agencies.

**Transportation** expenses decreased by \$3.7 million due to prior year aid to government agencies for utility relocation costs for the Gulf Boulevard Improvement Plan project.

Governmental Activities Expenses  
(dollars in thousands)



# General Fund Revenues & Other Financing Sources

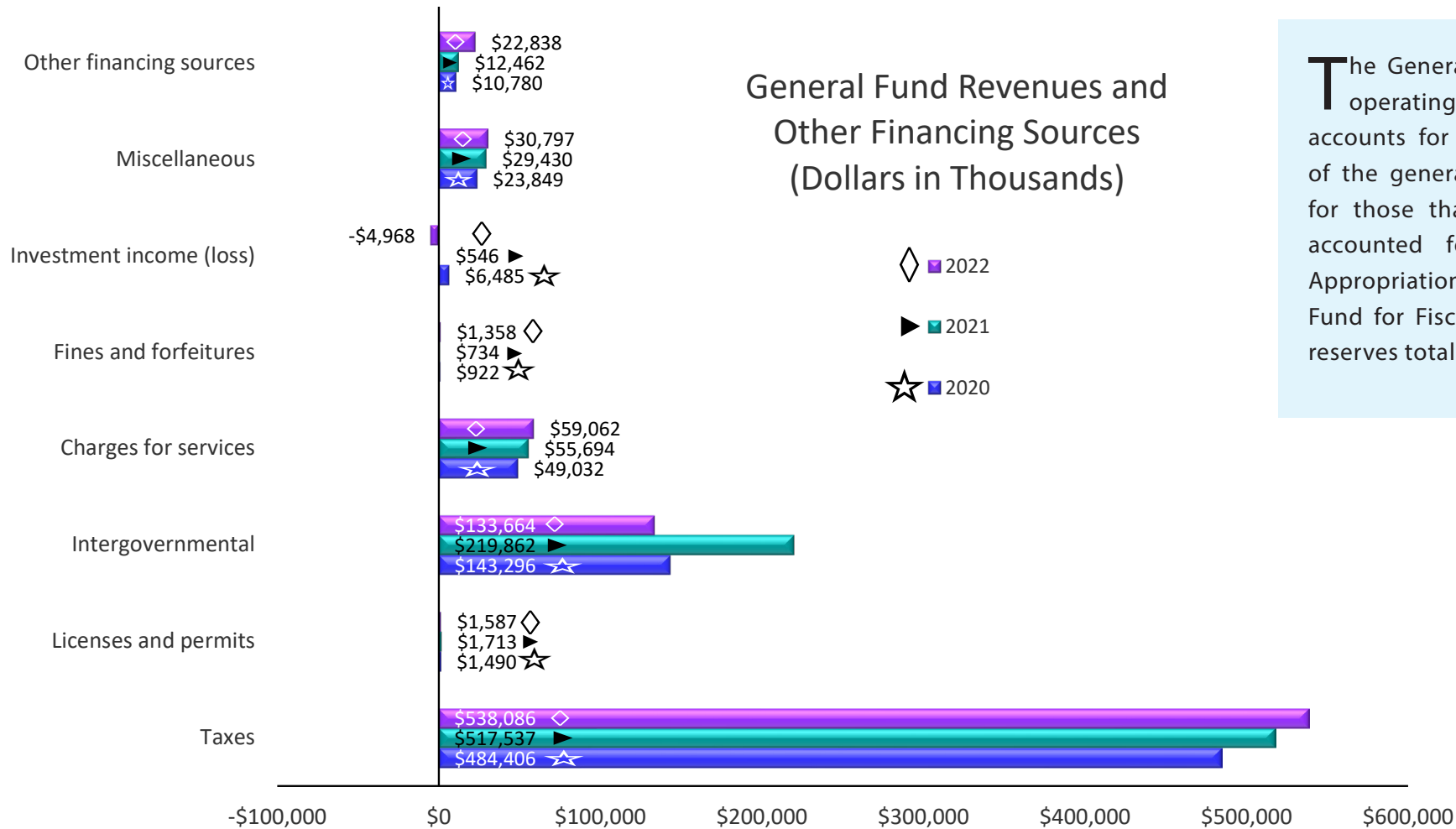
## Key financial factors for the year were as follows:

- Overall General Fund revenues and other financing sources decreased by \$55.6 million or 6.6 percent from last year.
- Tax revenue increased by \$20.5 million, due primarily to the 4.0 percent increase in ad valorem taxes.
- Intergovernmental revenues were down by \$86.2 million or 39.2 percent. The decrease was primarily

due to the completion of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act grant funding in the prior year.

- The investment loss in fiscal year 2022 is due to a decrease in fair market value of investments caused by rapidly rising interest rates. Pinellas County generally holds investments until maturity.
- Overall General Fund expenditures and transfers out increased by 2.2 percent or \$17.4 million.

- Transfers out increased \$104 million. \$98.3 million of this increase was due to higher transfer out activity to the Capital Projects, County Transportation Trust and Sheriff Operations funds.
- Public safety expenses decreased \$96.4 million in Fiscal Year 2022. This decrease was due to reduced pandemic related expenses including aid to other government agencies and private organizations totaling \$88.5 million.



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 Fiscal Year 2022 including reserves totaled \$970.4 million.

# 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 and Human Resources.

## PUBLIC SAFETY

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

## PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

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

## TRANSPORTATION

Transportation Engineering and Design.

## ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

Tax Increment Financing Program, BP Economic Settlement Projects, Office of Human Rights, Community Housing Trust Fund, Economic Development, Small Business Development Center and Veteran's Services.

## 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.

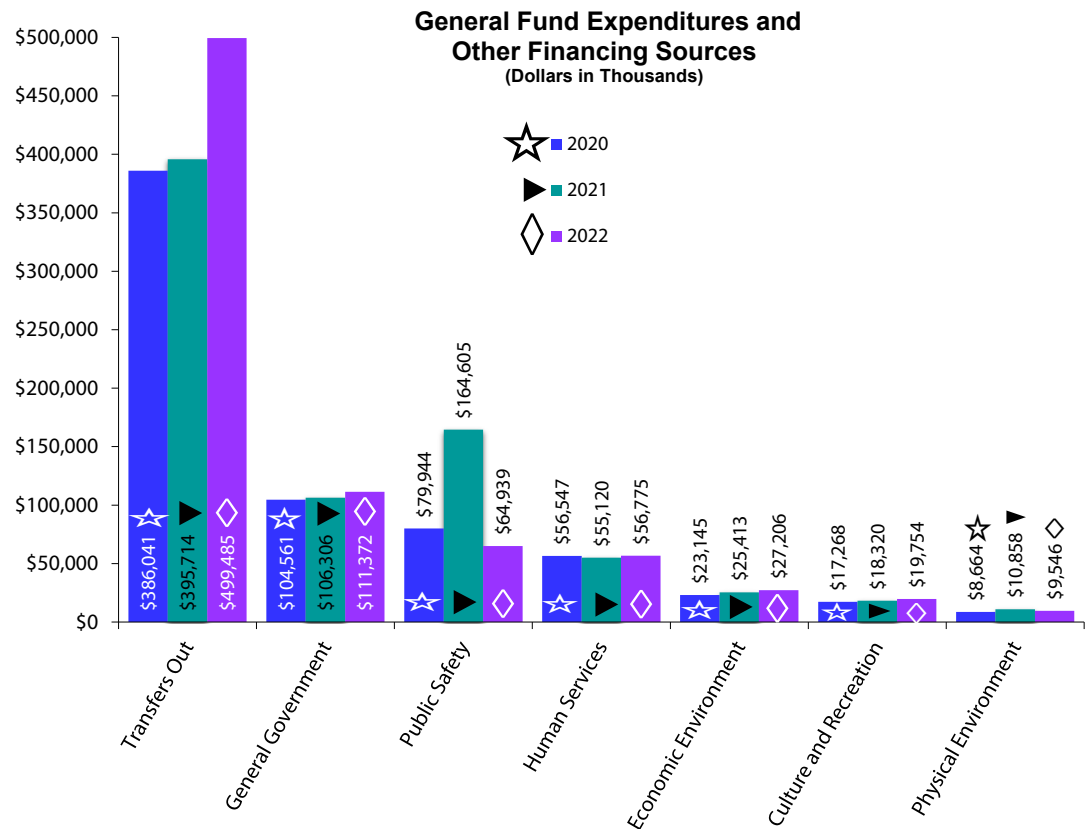
## TRANSFERS OUT

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

## CAPITAL OUTLAY

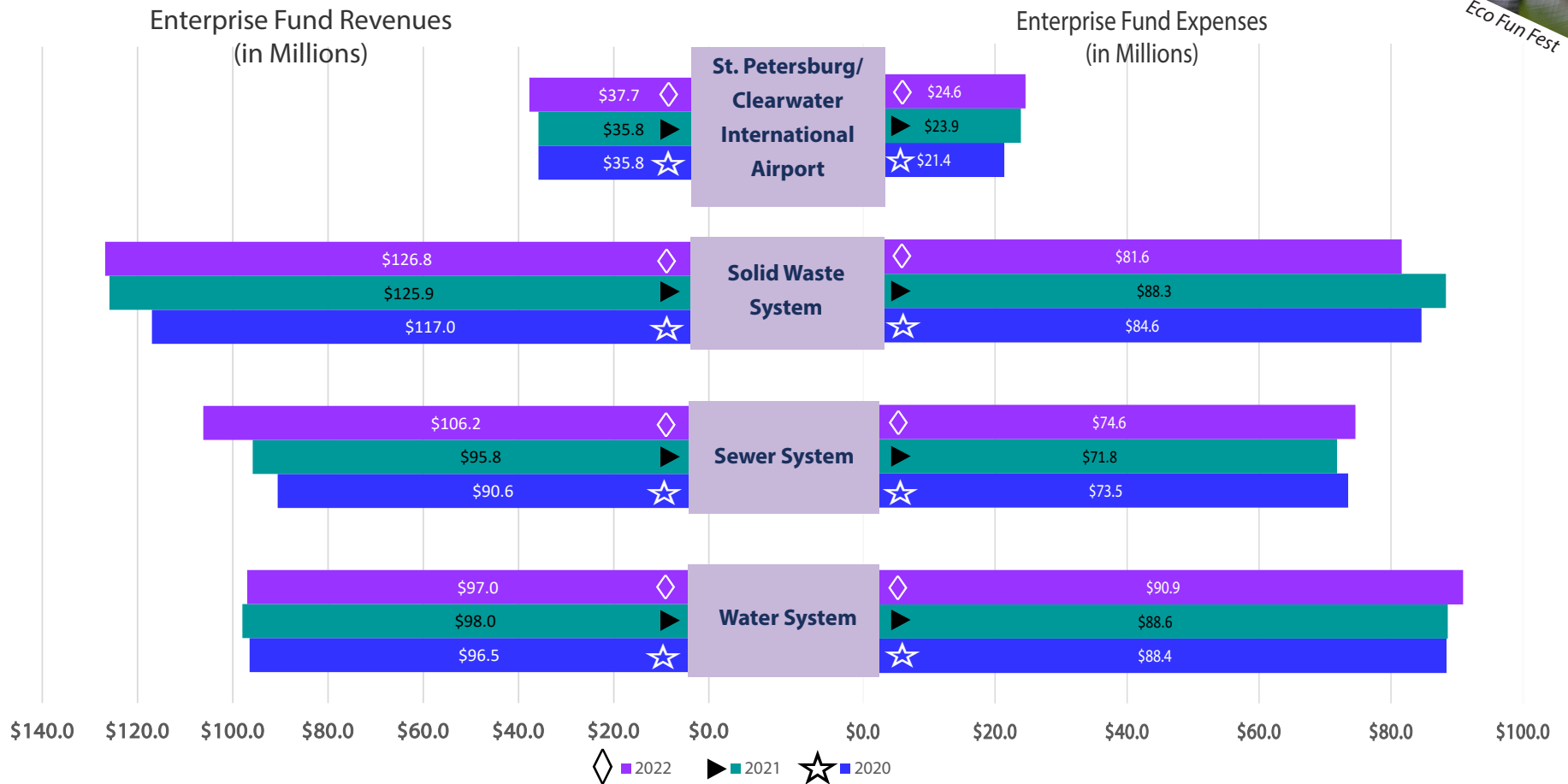
Expenditures for the construction, purchase, or improvement of capital assets that meet the capitalization threshold.

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 increased by \$17.4 million (2.2 percent) in FY2022. From FY2020 to FY2022, general fund expenditures increased \$117.6 million (15.1 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 FY2022, revenues in business-type activities increased 3.4 percent over the prior year by \$12.2 million. Expenses were down by \$0.9 million or 0.3 percent. From FY2020 to FY2022, revenues increased by \$27.8 million (8.2 percent) and expenses increased \$3.8 million (1.4 percent). The following charts reflect the enterprise fund revenues and expenses for the last three years.



# Enterprise Fund Revenues & Expenses

**T**he Business-type activities of the county are:

## WATER SYSTEM

- Net position of the Water System increased \$6.1 million during the year compared to an increase of \$9.4 million in the prior year.
- Total program revenues for the Water System, including charges for services, investment income, miscellaneous revenue and capital contributions, decreased by \$1.0 million or 1.0 percent from the prior year. However, this was offset by a decrease in expenses by \$2.3 million or 2.6 percent.

## SEWER SYSTEM

- Net position of the Sewer System increased \$31.6 million during the year compared to an increase of \$24.0 million in the prior year.
- Total program revenues increased by \$10.4 million or 10.9 percent over the prior year. Charges for services to customers increased by \$11.0 million or 11.6 percent. The largest contributing factor was retail rate increases.

## SOLID WASTE SYSTEM

- Net position of the Solid Waste System increased by \$45.2 million during the year compared to an increase of \$37.6 million in the prior year.
- Total program revenues of the system increased by \$0.9 million or

0.7 percent over the prior year. Electrical sales revenue increased by \$1.1 million resulting from an increase in demand, while charges for electrical capacity resulted in additional revenues of \$4.1 million over the previous fiscal year due to contractual rate increases. Revenues for tipping fees were up \$2.2 million due to an increase in tipping fee rates and waste disposal tonnage processed compared to prior year.

- Operating expenses for the system were down by \$6.7 million or 7.6 percent over the prior year due to decreased costs of operating the waste-to-energy facility.

## ST. PETERSBURG/CLEARWATER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

- Net position of the Airport increased \$13.0 million during the year compared to an increase of \$11.9 million in the prior year.
- Total Airport revenues increased by \$1.9 million (5.3 percent) over the prior year. The continued lifting of travel restrictions resulted in a record number of travelers during the year. This led to increased vehicle rentals, parking fees, rent collections and passenger facility charges of \$5.5 million. Funding for ongoing capital projects from Federal and State sources decreased by \$5.0 million during the year. Federal grants for continued operations increased by \$0.9 million. Total Airport expenses increased by \$0.7 million (2.8 percent). During the year the Airport recognized \$1.3 million in expenses related to a settlement. Payroll and benefit expenses decreased \$0.5 million.

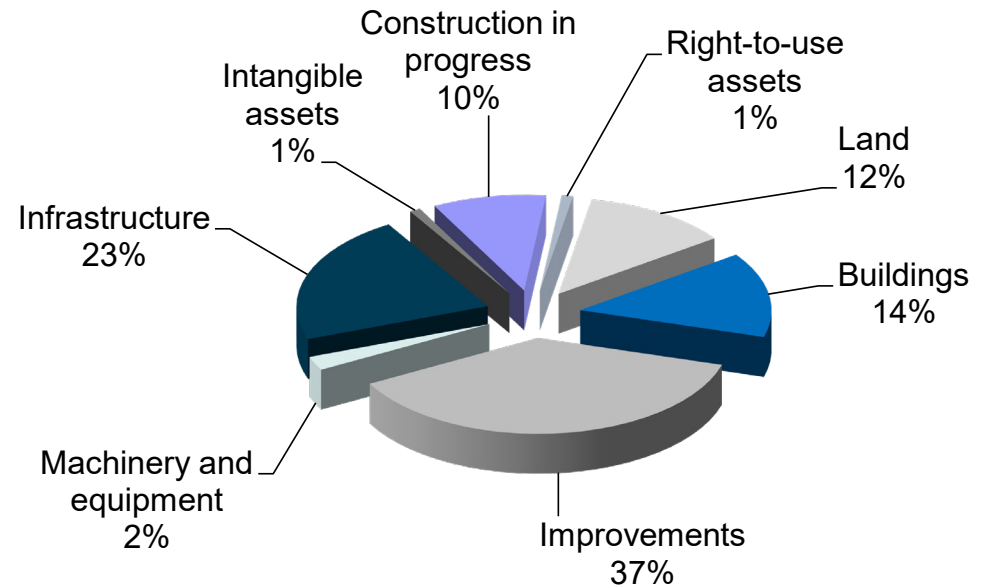


Eco Fun Fest Staff

Pinellas County's investment in capital assets for governmental and business-type activities is \$3.7 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 1.4 percent over the prior year (1.5 percent increase for governmental activities and a 1.0 percent decrease in business-type activities). Projects completed during fiscal year 2022 include Countywide Transportation Improvements (\$19.7 million), St. Petersburg Courts Consolidation (\$13.5 million) and Solid Waste Plant Improvements (\$10.1 million).

The County implemented GASB Statement No. 87, Leases, for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2022. The County is a lessee for noncancellable leases of land, buildings, and equipment. The County recognizes a lease obligation and a right to use capital asset in the government-wide financial statements for governmental activities.

### Capital Assets Governmental and Business-Type Activities



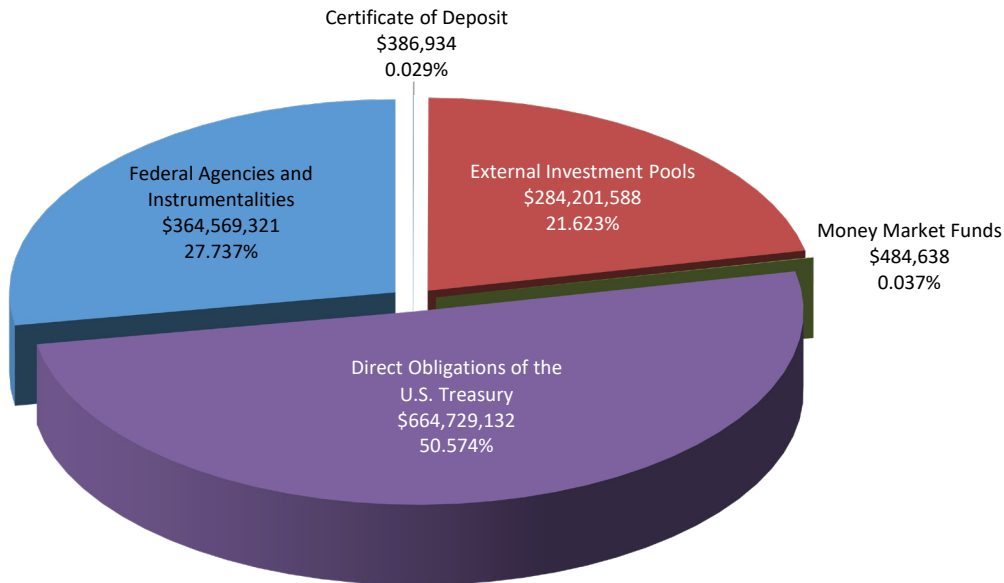
Rofer at a construction site

# 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, 2022. On July 5, 2022 Pinellas County issued \$40.8 million tax-exempt Series 2022 Sewer Revenue Refunding Note in exchange and replacement of the \$40,862,000 taxable Series 2021A Sewer Revenue Refunding Note. As a result, the Sewer Revenue Refunding Note, Series 2021A is considered defeased and the liability is not shown on the Statement of Net Position. The exchange and reduction in interest rate will generate \$535,943 in debt service savings.

	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	\$ 36,105
Sewer Revenue Refunding Note: Series 2008 B-1	July 2008	32,700	10,120
Sewer Revenue Refunding Note: Series 2016	July 2016	14,733	3,926
Sewer Revenue Refunding Note: Series 2021 B	January 2021	5,292	5,282
Sewer Revenue Refunding Note: Series 2022	July 2022	40,862	37,035
<b>Totals:</b>		<b>\$ 135,592</b>	<b>\$ 92,468</b>

## 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 17-33 adopting investment policies. The investment policy and the ordinance can be found at: <https://www.mypinellasclerk.gov/Home/Finance#60691-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. 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 voluntarily decreased the general fund millage rate for the second year in a row, putting the Countywide property tax at its lowest rate in more than 30 years. The County rating with FEMA provides homeowners a 35% discount on flood insurance.



## ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

The County supported the community by improving infrastructure and investing in neighborhoods to grow new businesses and draw increased visitors. Pinellas County achieved an unemployment rate below 3% and awarded over \$28.3 million in contracts to 705 Small Business Enterprises. The County-operated Young-Rainey Science Technology and Research (STAR) Center provided a worksite for 1,760+ private sector jobs contributing \$160.8 million in wages to Pinellas residents. Opening Brooker Creek South, the County provided a 130,000-square-foot space supporting three employers in high-wage target industries.



More than 15.7 million visitors from around the globe came to Pinellas to enjoy the beauty, art and culture the area offered, creating a total impact of more than \$10 billion on the local economy.

## PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY

The County expanded the Quick Response Team Model to include Law Enforcement and Fire for rapid deployment of engagement teams into opioid treatment, and expanded opioid mitigation efforts to respond to the ongoing substance abuse crisis. The County implemented *Closest Unit Dispatch* for EMS to assist in quicker response times for needed services.



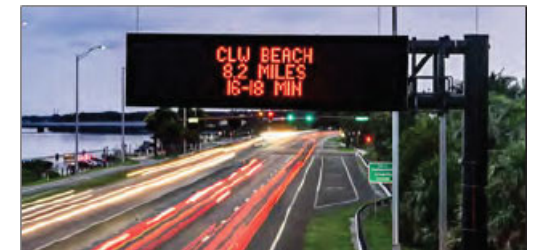
The County also made significant investments to assist with the opioid crisis through expanded Quick Response Team model changes, expanded mitigation efforts, and implemented the *Pinellas Matters* pilot program.

During the historic Hurricane Ian, the County continued its extensive partnership with local communities working to prepare the residents. The County distributed 138,000 *All Hazards Preparedness Guides* and 1,000 hurricane kits to residents in at-risk communities. Pinellas County protected more than 5,200 residents and pets inside the safety of its 25 community shelters. The County Information Center answered over 17,000 calls and live chats.

## TRANSPORTATION

The County-operated airport, St. Pete-Clearwater International Airport (PIE) offered 65 non-stop destinations through three carriers. Passengers traveling through PIE exceeded 2.4 million, the most in PIE history.

To improve its roadways, the County secured a \$4.6 million grant for smart transportation technologies to advance mobility and safety. Additionally, over 90 lane-miles of roadways were resurfaced, nearly 100% of reported potholes were fixed within three days of being reported, 841 emergency maintenance service requests were responded to within 24 hours and 27,000 linear feet of sidewalk was replaced or repaired.



## PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

The County is designated as a *Bee City USA* affiliate to recognize its commitment to the promotion and protection of pollinators. The County continued to secure and protect its land and water resources by receiving grants and investing in various renewable and recyclable/sustainable energy and environment programs. A \$17 million Community Development Block Grant improved the



# Accomplishments



resiliency, floodplain capacity and water quality through Joe's Creek Greenway Restoration Project. The County continued participation in Duke Energy's Connection Program, offsetting 5,508 kilowatts per year of County energy with solar energy power. This allowed the County to build toward its goal of 100% renewable, zero-emission clean energy consumption by 2050.

The County also performed nearly 50,000 water laboratory tests to provide over 18 billion gallons of safe drinking water to the community. Impressively, over 9.9 billion gallons of wastewater were treated creating 6.6 billion gallons of reclaimed water. To maintain the utility systems and reduce overflows, over 18,000 feet of pipe was lined and replaced.

To clean up the community, the County swept over 22,000 miles of county streets to remove hazards and debris and protect local waterways. The County treated approximately 277,000 acres of land reducing mosquito populations by 3% compared to the last eight year average and continued to maintain vegetation in 713 permitted stormwater facilities, 261 stormwater ponds, 27 miles of ditches, and 190 miles of rights of way. These efforts contributed to improved drainage, reduced flooding and prevention of mosquito breeding.

Waste management activities included recycling 47 million pounds of metal, turning 81 million pounds of yard waste into mulch and collecting 1.3 million pounds of household electronics and chemicals.

## HUMAN SERVICES

The County championed many housing solutions for the residents by adopting the Advantage Pinellas Housing Compact along with many of its city partners. These efforts were aimed at establishing a unified approach



to addressing housing issues. To build on this unified approach, the County also passed a *Tenants Bill of Rights* to protect renters. Through a partnership with the City of St. Petersburg and with \$45.7 million of Federal Emergency Rental Assistance Program funds, the County assisted 5,443 households with rent and utility payments.

## ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

While the year began amidst mounting optimism of the darkest days of the COVID-19 crisis having passed, 2022 turned out to be yet another challenging year with the highest inflation in 40 years. Improved public health enabled pandemic-weary Pinellas communities to migrate back toward normal activities. However, prolonged supply chain disruptions, lingering effects of fiscal stimulus, continued federal rate hikes, elevated inflation, housing challenges and waning consumer savings were present.

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 Long is dedicated to advancing and strengthening Pinellas County Government and the Tampa Bay region's commitment to resiliency and sustainability to preserve and improve quality of life for our citizens now and for future generations.*



JANET LONG  
BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS, CHAIR  
JanetCLong@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."*



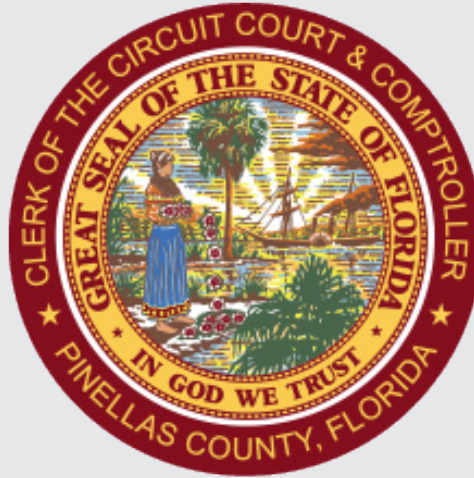
BOB GUALTIERI  
SHERIFF  
bgualtieri@pcsonet.com  
(727) 582-6200  
www.pcsoweb.com

*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

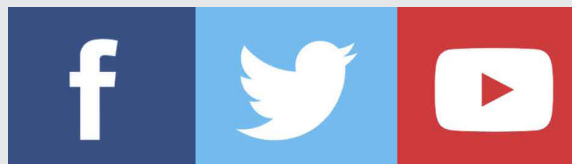
*Photo on the front cover courtesy of the Pinellas County Marketing & Communications Department*



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

**Ken Burke, CPA**

Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller  
Pinellas County, Florida

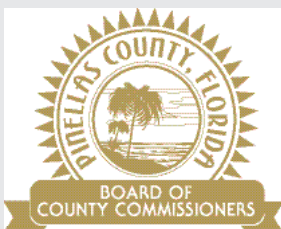


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