

Cheryl Morales  
Executive Director  
1330 Cleveland Street  
Clearwater, FL 33755  
(727) 441-8408

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To: Chris Rose and Veronica Ettel, Pinellas County OMB

From: Cheryl Morales *CM*

Date: April 2, 2026

Re: FY'27 funding request

#### Department Description

The Pinellas Public Library Cooperative (PPLC) is a non-profit organization that facilitates cooperation, collaboration, and sharing of resources, programs, services, and expertise among its member libraries. PPLC was the first Library Cooperative formed in the state of Florida and was founded in 1989 through an Interlocal Agreement between the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) and Municipalities with Public Libraries that are members of the PPLC. The purpose of forming the cooperative was to extend public library services to the unincorporated areas of Pinellas County and to municipalities that do not have library services. PPLC receives and disburses funds, maintains a shared library automation system, maintains a shared materials delivery system, and facilitates collective purchasing for cost savings.

In 1992, PPLC established the Pinellas Talking Book Library (TBL) to provide library services to the blind and physically handicapped. The Deaf Literacy Center (DLC) was incorporated into the cooperative in 2001, to serve the emerging deaf community. PPLC facilitates community partnerships, builds relationships, markets library services, and advocates for local, state, and federal financial support of library services to improve the lives of Pinellas County residents.

**Vision:** PPLC connects communities.

**Mission:** PPLC facilitates a common library experience across the county while preserving the unique attributes of individual libraries.

**Then:** PPLC was created to mirror a countywide library system so residents of unincorporated Pinellas County could easily obtain a library card at any PPLC Member Library. Municipalities continued to bear the fiscal responsibility of administering each public library. Additionally, the creation of PPLC was needed so the county would be eligible for State Aid funding for public libraries.

**Now:** PPLC connects municipalities across Pinellas. PPLC connects communities by providing centralized services and programs available to every Pinellas County resident. The majority of funds to build, maintain, and staff the 25 libraries in Pinellas County is still provided by the municipalities, with support from the PPLC .

## Projected FY'27 Revenue and Expense

### **Revenue**

1. <b>Pinellas County:</b> Operational support by millage levy in a portion of the unincorporated areas of the county (0.5 mills)	\$9,558,970
2. <b>State Aid for Public Libraries:</b>	\$540,000
3. <b>Donations:</b> to the Talking Book Library and Deaf Literacy Center	\$40,000
4. <b>Sarasota County:</b> contractual support for Talking Book Library services	\$35,000
5. <b>Interest:</b> Investments in Trust for the Talking Book Library	<u>\$30,000</u>
	<b>\$10,203,970</b>

### **Expense**

1. Dispersal of funds to Member Libraries	\$8,000,000
2. PPLC personnel and operational (including DLC and TBL)	\$1,300,000
3. Services to Member Libraries including shared online platforms and daily transfer of physical items from one location to another	<u>\$903,970</u>
	<b>\$10,203,970</b>

## FY'27 Budget Request

### **With projected increase:**

The projected 2% increase (\$187,490) in tax revenue would be allocated directly to the online products available to every resident of Pinellas County.

### **Without projected increase:**

If the County revenue remains flat, less funds will be available for countywide digital materials.

PPLC respectfully requests FY'27 funding remain at the 0.5 mills rate.

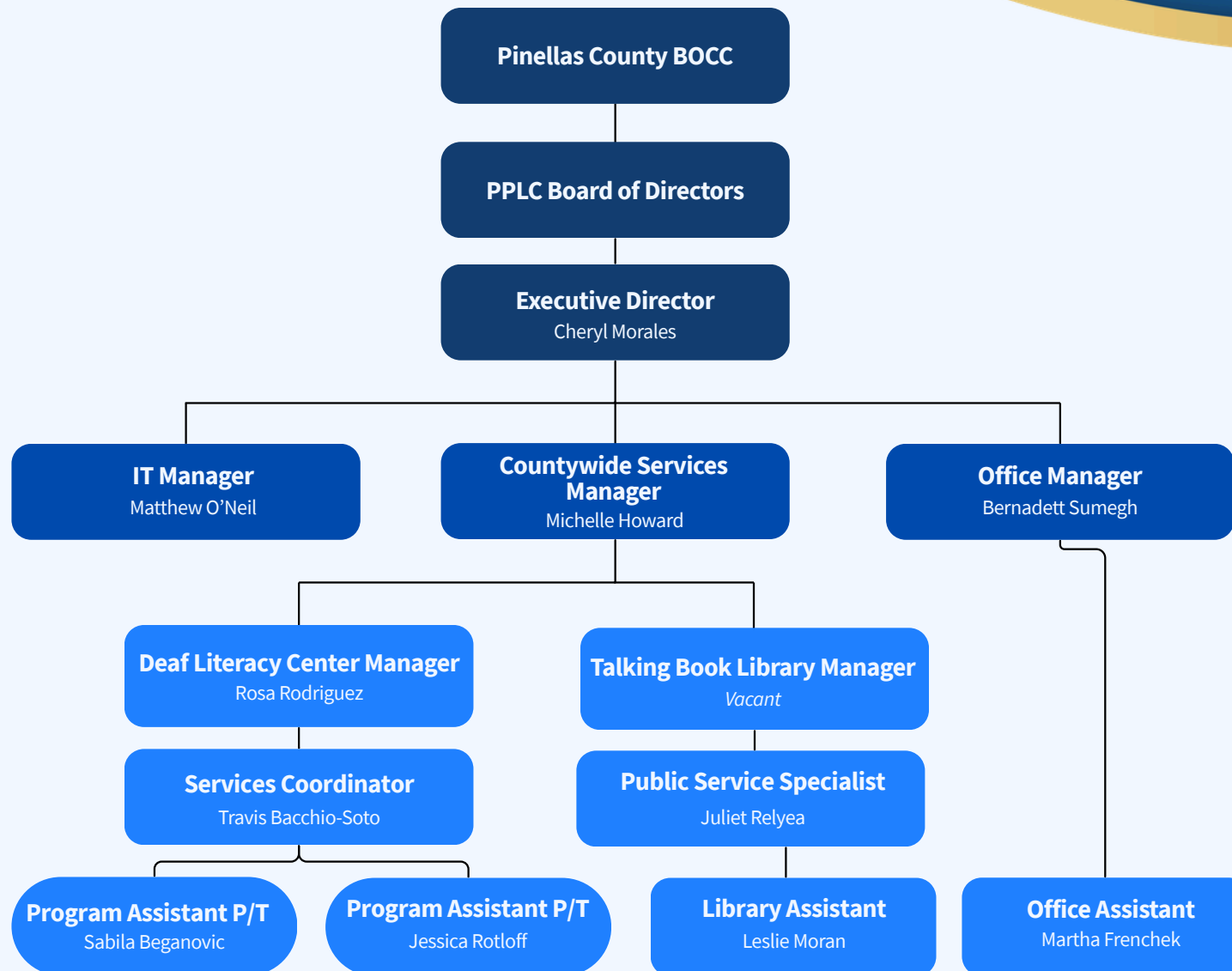
## Attached:

### **Current data:**

PPLC Org. Chart, 2026  
PPLC Funding Sources, 2026  
PPLC Library Cardholders, 2026  
Florida Library System comparative data, 2024  
Pinellas County Map with Library locations, 2026

### **Founding data:**

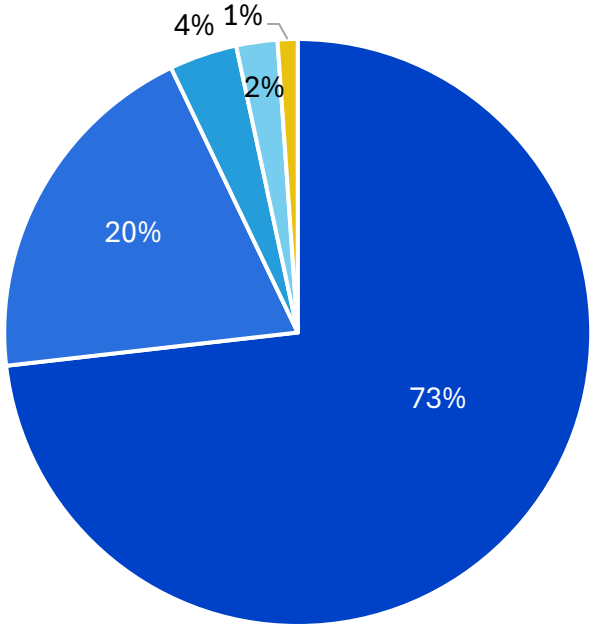
Ordinance 89-5, 1989  
Ordinance 89-5, adopted, 1989  
Articles of Incorporation, 1989  
Library Cooperative "Fact Sheet," 1989



# PPLC FY 26 Funding Sources

PPLC Funding Sources

Funding Source	Amount
Member Municipalities 73%	\$ 34,809,970
PPLC MSTU 20%	\$ 9,371,480
Palm Harbor 4%	\$ 1,777,470
East Lake 2%	\$ 1,078,000
State 1%	\$ 523,913



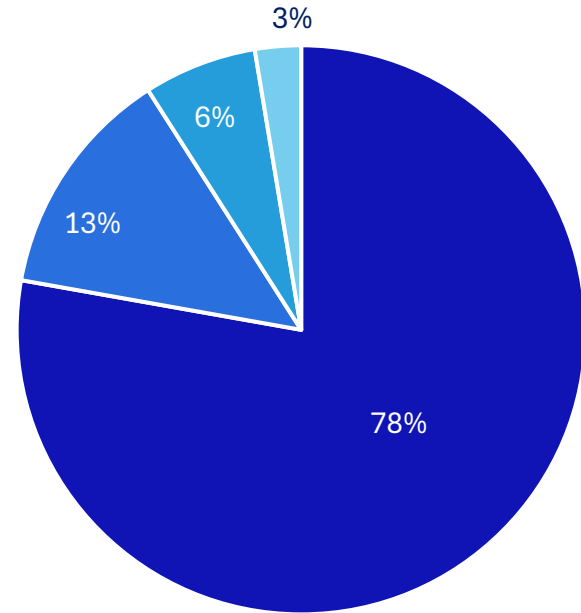
\*Not included: Belleair, Belleair Beach, Belleair Bluffs, Belleair Shores, Indian Rocks Beach, Indian Shores, Kenneth City, or South Pasadena

- Member Municipalities 73%
- PPLC MSTU 20%
- Palm Harbor 4%
- East Lake 2%
- State 1%

## Pinellas County FY 26 Library Card Holder Status

Service Area	With Cards	Without Cards	Total Population*
PPLC library card holders*	458,670	308,356	<b>767,026</b>
Member Municipalities 78%	366,413	157,741	<b>524,154</b>
Unincorporated (Not EL or PH) 13%	61,965	119,318	<b>181,283</b>
Palm Harbor 6%	30,292	31,297	<b>61,589</b>
East Lake 3%	12,329	21,300	<b>33,629</b>

PPLC Library Cardholders



- Member Municipalities 78%
- Unincorporated (Not EL or PH) 13%
- Palm Harbor 6%
- East Lake 3%

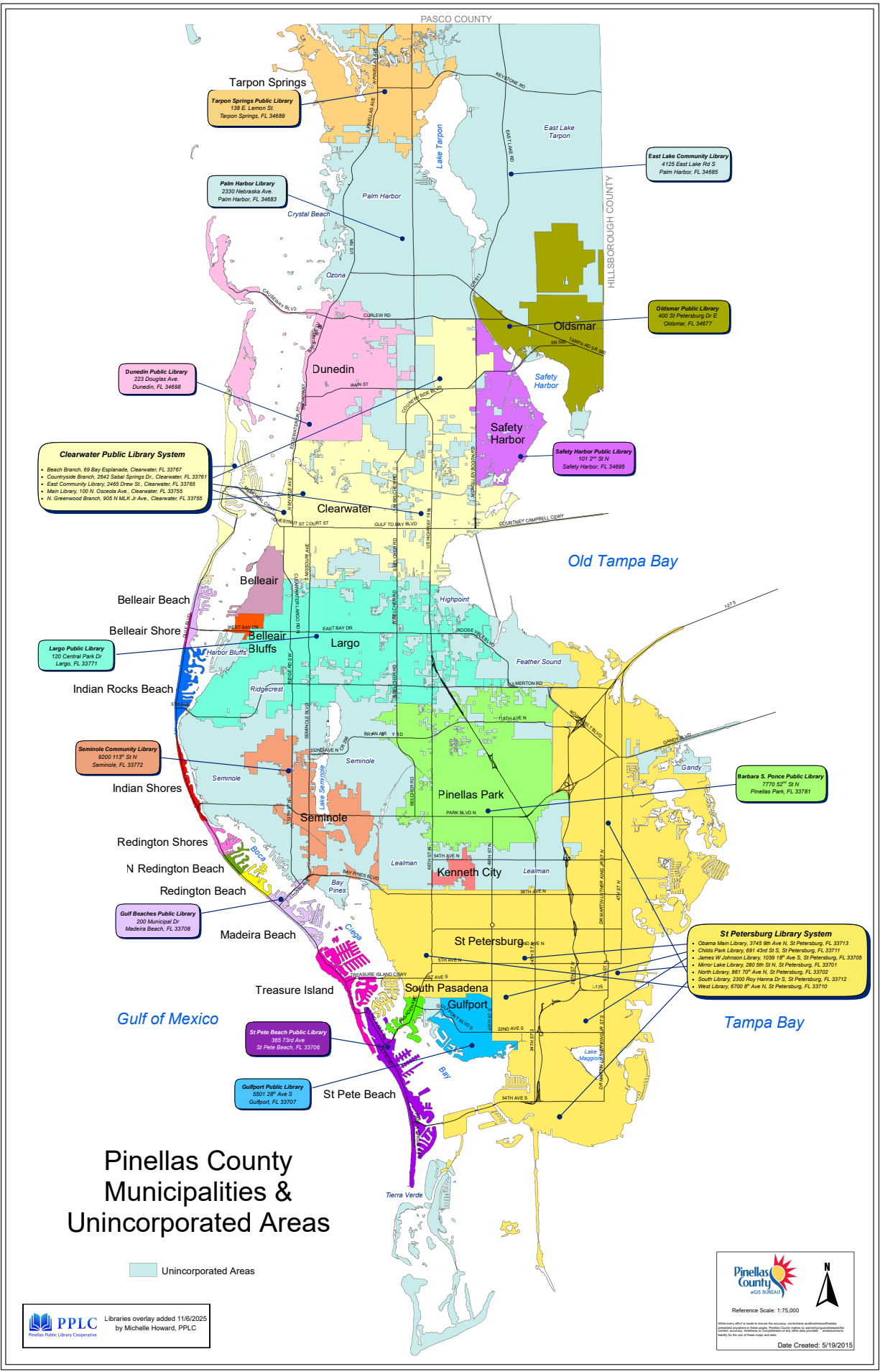
\*Not included: Belleair, Belleair Beach, Belleair Bluffs, Belleair Shores, Indian Rocks Beach, Indian Shores, Kenneth City, or South Pasadena

**Florida County  
Library Systems**

2024 data

	<b>County -Financial</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>County Revenue</b>	<b>Municipal Revenue</b>	<b>State Revenue</b>	<b>Other Operating Revenue</b>	<b>Total Operating Income</b>	<b>Fine Free</b>
1	Miami-Dade Public Library System	2,406,299	\$103,380,124	\$0	\$1,195,327	\$2,640,424	<b>\$107,225,875</b>	Y
2	Broward County Libraries Division	1,776,271	\$76,296,445	\$307,817	\$864,292	\$494,172	<b>\$78,353,261</b>	Y
3	Hillsborough County Public Library System	1,559,678	\$80,720,364	\$1,668,310	\$799,295	\$247,498	<b>\$83,788,117</b>	Y
4	Orange County Library System	1,457,330	\$70,613,215	\$7,500	\$629,183	\$3,646,320	<b>\$75,206,951</b>	Y
5	Jacksonville Public Library	1,062,145	\$41,190,037	\$0	\$570,628	\$658,917	<b>\$42,419,582</b>	Y
6	Palm Beach County Library System	1,007,170	\$80,869,618	\$0	\$752,807	\$6,753,878	<b>\$88,377,077</b>	Y
7	Pinellas Public Library Cooperative	946,776	\$7,952,630	\$33,306,621	\$641,320	\$736,981	<b>\$42,637,552</b>	Y
8	Polk County Library Cooperative	822,769	\$6,574,051	\$8,639,491	\$199,608	\$95,182	<b>\$15,508,332</b>	N
9	Lee County Library System	779,221	\$51,034,520	\$0	\$487,218	\$2,184,242	<b>\$53,705,980</b>	N

	<b>County -Services</b>	<b>Branches</b>	<b>Mobile Outlets</b>	<b>Borrowers</b>	<b>Library Visits</b>	<b>FTE Staff</b>	<b>Volunteer Hours</b>
1	Miami-Dade Public Library System	50	3	1,619,192	3,663,708	671	<b>17,643</b>
2	Broward County Libraries Division	37	0	1,621,210	5,375,329	641	<b>61,619</b>
3	Hillsborough County Public Library System	28	2	786,971	2,520,476	416	<b>27,186</b>
4	Orange County Library System	15	0	356,440	2,224,870	407	<b>13,943</b>
5	Jacksonville Public Library	21	0	354,374	2,218,418	319	<b>13,456</b>
6	Palm Beach County Library System	19	1	329,082	2,599,600	591	<b>42,264</b>
7	Pinellas Public Library Cooperative, Inc.	24	2	474,589	2,371,595	399	<b>68,744</b>
8	Polk County Library Cooperative	18	1	data not available	1,555,747	147	<b>13,057</b>
9	Lee County Library System	14	0	289,240	1,426,515	239	<b>8,819</b>



**PPLC** Libraries overlay added 11/6/2025 by Michelle Howard, PPLC

Reference Scale: 1:75,000

Date Created: 5/19/2015

No. 44  
B.C.C.  
Grant

2-7-89  
6:32 P.M.

*Ordinance 89-5*  
*Library (Doc)*  
*Carles*  
*Elections (Doc)*

#35 ORDINANCE NO. 89-5 ADOPTED, AS AMENDED, ESTABLISHING A MUNICIPAL SERVICE TAXING UNIT FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING COOPERATIVE LIBRARY SERVICES AND FACILITIES, AND CALLING FOR A REFERENDUM TO BE HELD MARCH 28, 1989

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Pursuant to legal notice published in the January 19, 1989 issue of the St. Petersburg Times as evidenced by publisher's affidavit filed with the Clerk, public hearing was held on a proposed ordinance establishing a Municipal Service Taxing Unit for the purpose of providing cooperative library services and facilities, and calling for a referendum to be held March 28, 1989. Deputy Clerk G. K. West reported that no letters relative to the proposed ordinance have been received; and that the matter is properly before the Board to be heard.

County Administrator Fred E. Marquis stated that staff recommends approval of the proposed ordinance. He recalled that there had been some concern about the exact wording of the ballot question; and indicated that there still appears to be some confusion regarding the impact of the City of Clearwater's nonparticipation in the library cooperative; that the County Attorney's office has attempted to clarify the language of the ballot question; and that a revised question has been prepared as follows:

Shall the residents of the unincorporated area of Pinellas County (all except the Palm Harbor Community Services District) tax themselves up to one-half (0.5) mill annually with the funds to be used pursuant to County Ordinance for the purpose of forming a library cooperative through which existing municipal libraries, except for Clearwater, would become available for use free of charge by the residents of said unincorporated area?

Mr. Marquis explained that the word "expansion" in the previously approved question might be misinterpreted to mean "building something new in the unincorporated area," while the actual intention is to utilize existing library facilities; and suggested that the Board may wish to amend the proposed ordinance to substitute a revised question.

Upon query by Commissioner Greer, Mr. Marquis affirmed that for the purpose of the ordinance, the Palm Harbor Library will be considered a municipal library.

Commissioner Rainey suggested that the exceptions relating to the Palm Harbor Community Services District and the Clearwater Libraries be placed at the end of the paragraph so that voters will read the question about taxing themselves without an intervening exception; and Commissioner Chesnut indicated that he agrees with this suggestion.

Mr. Marquis pointed out that since the Palm Harbor exception relates to "who votes" and the Clearwater exception relates to "who provides the services," the exceptions cannot be put in the same place. Upon question by Commissioner Chesnut, he affirmed that Palm Harbor residents will not vote in the referendum inasmuch as they have already imposed a tax on themselves for library services; and in response to comment by Commissioner Rainey, he explained that the Clearwater Libraries will not be included in the system since the Clearwater City Council has chosen not to participate in the countywide cooperative.

In the ensuing discussion, County Attorney Susan H. Churuti pointed out that it must be made clear to the people who will be voting that the voters in the subject referendum will consist of residents of the unincorporated area with the exception of the Palm Harbor Community Services District, and that although this District will be included in the cooperative, it will not be included in the proposed Municipal Service Taxing Unit. She explained in response to query by Commissioner Greer, that the question can consist of only one sentence.

After discussion, Mr. Marquis suggested that the question might be revised by placing the exception "(all except the Palm Harbor Community Services District)" after "Shall the residents of the unincorporated area of Pinellas County tax themselves up to one-half (0.5) mill annually"; and Commissioner Rainey expressed agreement with this revision.

Commissioner Greer submitted that the question might be amended by removing the Palm Harbor exception and placing the following at the end of the question: "and for the purposes hereof, the Palm Harbor Community Services District shall be excluded from this taxing district"; whereupon Commissioner Todd pointed out that

(Resub 11)

citizens might then think that Palm Harbor residents will not participate in the cooperative.

Commissioner Greer offered the following change in the phraseology suggested to be placed at the end of the question: "and for the purposes hereof, the Palm Harbor Community Services District shall be considered an existing library facility"; and Attorney Churuti advised that the latter wording does not address the question of whether or not Palm Harbor residents can vote on the question.

Thereupon, Commissioner Rainey moved, seconded by Commissioner Greer, that the question be amended to read as follows:

Shall the residents of the unincorporated area of Pinellas County tax themselves up to one-half (0.5) mill annually (all except the Palm Harbor Community Services District) for the purpose of making free library services available to themselves by funding the expansion of existing facilities (with the current exception of Clearwater's Libraries) into a cooperative which would administer the funds and render such services pursuant to Pinellas County Ordinance No. \_\_\_\_\_?

In response to the Chairman's call, Mrs. Joan Friedman, 6050 - 62nd Avenue North, appeared and stated that she represents The Pinellas County Friends of the Library, a large citizens' group in the unincorporated area; and that the group has obtained "thousands and thousands of names" on petitions requesting library service for the unincorporated area.

Emily Rogers Coeyman appeared and in response to her inquiry, Mr. Marquis affirmed that the proposed tax will not be imposed on residents of the City of St. Petersburg, but on residents of the unincorporated area only; and indicated that as far as renters are concerned, the proposed one-half mill levy will be paid by the owners of the rented property. Mrs. Coeyman advocated provision of a mobile library unit in the unincorporated area for residents in retirement facilities as well as "neighborhood folks."

In response to further inquiry by Mrs. Coeyman concerning a possible increase in the proposed millage after a period of two or three years, Attorney Churuti assured her that another referendum would be necessary to change the millage cap of 0.5 mill.

(9.1.11)

No one else appeared in response to the Chairman's call for persons wishing to be heard.

Upon call for the vote, the motion to amend the ballot question carried unanimously.

Thereupon, Commissioner Rainey moved, seconded by Commissioner Greer, that the ordinance entitled as follows be adopted as amended:

PINELLAS COUNTY ORDINANCE NO. 89-5

AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO MUNICIPAL SERVICE TAXING UNITS; ESTABLISHING A MUNICIPAL SERVICE TAXING UNIT FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING COOPERATIVE LIBRARY SERVICES AND FACILITIES; DEFINING THAT THE MUNICIPAL SERVICE TAXING UNIT SHALL CONSIST OF ALL OF THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF PINELLAS COUNTY EXCEPT FOR THE PALM HARBOR COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT; DESIGNATING THE GOVERNING BODY OF SAID UNIT; PROVIDING FOR AN ADMINISTRATIVE AND ADVISORY BODY; PROVIDING FOR THE SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS FOR AVAILABLE FEDERAL; STATE OR OTHER GRANTS FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING COOPERATIVE LIBRARY SERVICES AND FACILITIES; PROVIDING FOR THE FUNDING OF THE MUNICIPAL SERVICE TAXING UNIT BY LEVY OF AN AD VALOREM TAX NOT TO EXCEED ONE-HALF (0.5) MILL; CALLING FOR A REFERENDUM; PROVIDING FOR A BALLOT QUESTION; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Upon roll call, the vote was:

Ayes: Tyndall, Rainey, Chesnut, Todd and Greer.

Nays: None.

Absent and not voting: None.

2/15

B.O. to Duwayne Marquis ✓

" " Sara Harrison ✓

" " Supervisor of Elections ✓

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION  
OF  
PINELLAS PUBLIC LIBRARY COOPERATIVE, INCORPORATED

FILED  
NOV 15 1955  
COUNTY CLERK  
PINELLAS COUNTY  
FLORIDA

Under Section 617.013 of Florida Statutes

The Undersigned, being natural persons competent to contract, residents of the State of Florida and citizens of the United States, for the purpose of forming a not-for-profit corporation pursuant to Chapter 617 of Florida Statutes, do hereby certify:

1. Name. The name of the Corporation is Pinellas Public Library Cooperative, Incorporated.

2. Not-for-Profit Operation. The Corporation is a corporation as defined in Section 617.01 of the Florida Statutes and is not organized for pecuniary profit or financial gain, and no part of its assets, income, or profits shall be distributable to or inure to the benefit of its directors or officers.

3. Purposes. The purposes for which the Corporation is organized are exclusively religious, charitable, scientific, literary, or educational within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue law.

Establish and operate the Cooperative to extend library services to the unincorporated areas of Pinellas County and the municipalities that do not have such services, and to improve library services to residents of municipalities and library tax districts.

Further, to provide for the establishment of and participation in a cooperative public library service for participating units in and for Pinellas County, Florida. To do any and all things toward enhancing the quality and performance of those participating units in making the most effective use of their respective powers. To cooperate with other units, within the area, such that the library services envisioned will be made available to the public in the most fair and administratively successful fashion possible. To facilitate, engender and promote contributions from any and all public agencies, the State of Florida, appropriate Federal agencies and appropriate private individuals or agencies that may be available in finding support for its program. To undertake, assist, create and provide direction in the acquisition of funds that are available. To provide leadership and direction in the determination of an equitable formula, as appropriate, with reference to the distribution of funds that are available, from any and all sources wheresoever obtained. To do any and all things pertinent and incidental to the foregoing objectives.

In addition to the foregoing and not intended to be limited thereby to do any and all things provided for and consistent with Chapter 617 of the Florida Statutes relating to not-for-profit corporations and Chapter 257 F.S., relating to public libraries and state archives.

4. Powers. In order to achieve the purposes of the Corporation as herein set forth, the Corporation shall have all the powers, privileges, rights and immunities necessary or convenient for carrying out the purposes for which the Corporation is formed and the directors hereby claim for the Corporation all the benefits, privileges, rights and powers created, given, extended or conferred by the provisions of all applicable laws of the State of Florida, pertaining to corporations not for profit and any additions or amendments thereto.

Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, this organization shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on by an organization exempt from Federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue law.

5. Non-Stock Corporation. The Corporation is organized on a non-stock basis only. There shall be no shareholders and the Corporation shall be deemed to be performing essential public functions.

6. Members. The initial members of the Cooperative shall be the participating Governmental Units which signed the Interlocal Agreement dated January 10, 1989. Additional members may be added in the manner provided for in the by-laws. The Directors of the Corporation shall be persons appointed to the Corporation Board in the manner specified in said Interlocal Agreement.

7. Amendment. These Articles of Incorporation may be altered, amended or repealed by majority vote of the Directors of the Corporation as provided by law.

8. By-Laws. The business and conduct of affairs of the Corporation shall be regulated by By-Laws adopted by the Board of Directors, which shall not be inconsistent with these Articles of Incorporation and which shall only be amended as provided in the By-Laws.

9. Assets at Dissolution. In the event of dissolution, the residual assets of the organization will be turned over to one or more organizations which themselves are exempt as organizations described in Sections 501(c)(3) and 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 or corresponding sections of any prior or future Internal Revenue Code, or to the Federal, State, or local government for exclusive public purpose.

10. Subscribers/Incorporators. The names of the subscribers/incorporators hereto and the addresses of their residences are as follows:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>
Edwin I. Ford	1305 Pine Vista Drive Largo, FL 34641
Elizabeth B. Mann	1326 Riverside Avenue Tarpon Springs, FL 34689
Larry Lyons	1514 70th Street North St. Petersburg, FL 33710

11. Officers. The affairs of the Corporation are to be managed by a President, a Vice President and a Secretary/Treasurer, all of whom shall be Directors of the Corporation, and by such other officers as the Board of Directors shall determine. Officers shall be elected by the Board of Directors at the annual meeting of the Board of Directors, date and time to be established by the by-laws. The officers of the Corporation, until the election of officers at the first annual meeting of the Board of Directors, shall be as follows:

President:	Edwin I. Ford
Vice President:	Elizabeth B. Mann
Secretary/Treasurer:	Larry Lyons

12. Directors. Initial Directors are same as Subscribers/Incorporators and Officers. The final number of directors shall be seven (7). Their terms of service shall be 3 years and shall be staggered. The manner of their appointment and termination shall be as set forth in the Library Interlocal Agreement dated January 10, 1988 and in the Corporation by-laws.

13. Location of Office. Resident Agent. The office of the Corporation shall be located at the following address:

315 Court Street  
Clearwater, Florida 34616

The resident agent of the Corporation is as follows:

Dora H. Harrison

14. Term. The term for which the Corporation is to exist shall be perpetual.

In Witness Whereof, we have subscribed our names this 13th day  
of December, 1989.

Edwin I. Ford  
Edwin I. Ford

Elizabeth B. Mann  
Elizabeth B. Mann

Larry Lyons  
Larry Lyons

STATE OF FLORIDA

COUNTY OF PINELLAS

BEFORE ME, the undersigned officer, duly authorized in the state and county aforementioned to take acknowledgments under oath, this day personally appeared EDWIN I. FORD, one of the incorporators named above to the foregoing Articles of Incorporation, who, after being duly sworn by me, stated that he/she signed the foregoing voluntarily, for the uses and purposes expressed therein.

WITNESS MY HAND AND OFFICIAL SEAL in the state and county aforementioned this 13th day of DECEMBER, A.D. 1989.

Carol R. Carlisle  
NOTARY PUBLIC

CA#0659m

NOTARY PUBLIC STATE OF FLORIDA AT LARGE  
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES MAR. 05, 1993  
BONDED THROUGH AGENT'S NOTARY BROKERAGE

LIBRARY COOPERATIVE FOR PINELLAS COUNTY  
FACT SHEET

ON MARCH 14, 1989 RESIDENTS OF THE UNINCORPORATED AREA OF PINELLAS COUNTY (EXCEPT TAX DISTRICT OF PALM HARBOR) WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY <sup>OF DETERMINING</sup> THE FUTURE OF LIBRARY SERVICE FOR PINELLAS COUNTY. THE QUESTION ON THE BALLOT WILL BE:

"SHALL THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA, BE AUTHORIZED TO LEVY UP TO 1/2 (0.5) MIL AD VALOREM TAXES ANNUALLY PURSUANT TO PINELLAS COUNTY ORDINANCE NO. 88 FOR THE PURPOSE OF EXPANDING LIBRARY SERVICES TO THE CITIZENS IN THE UNINCORPORATED AREA OF PINELLAS COUNTY AND TO PARTICIPATE IN A LIBRARY COOPERATIVE TO ADMINISTER SAID FUNDS"

YOUR SUPPORT IN FAVOR OF THIS ISSUE IS REQUESTED - PLEASE VOTE YES

The following FACTS support a YES VOTE:

- The amount taxed is equitable.

The operating budgets of all participating libraries divided by the number of residents served determines the per capita cost for giving library service in Pinellas County, an amount multiplied by the number of people in the unincorporated area to determine the mileage requirements. The average cost is approximately \$10.75.

- Library participation is voluntary, but to date the following municipalities with libraries have given official willingness to sign an interlocal agreement with the county to form a library cooperative if the voters in the unincorporated area give permission to the county commission to participate: DUNEDIN, GULF BEACHES, GHULFPPO LARGO, OLDSMAR, PINELLAS PARK, SAFETY HARBOR, SAINT PETERSBURG, ST. PETERSBURG BEA TARPON SPRINGS. If the Cooperative is approved you will be able to use any one or all of these libraries and its materials will be accessible to you through interlibrary loan.

- Continuance of the present subsidy of free library service by municipal tax paye (can not continue without change:)

For example, in Largo, it has been necessary to reduce services such as <sup>taking</sup> reserves, (the same time that the facts were determined:)

- 46% of the patrons asking for informational assistance indicated that they were Largo residents;

- 70% of the 144 special student programs were given for schools outside of Largo.

- 88% of the 58 groups using the library's rooms have members outside of Largo; 7 groups could be identified as predominately Largo based.

- Nonresidents presently have free access to any library building, to book, periodical and government document collections, to reference assistance and adult children's programs ; a fee is presently only required to take materials home.

- The Cooperative is based on concepts successfully used to give quality library service in New York, Illinois, California. A Cooperative combines local control (service & collection directly responsive to local conditions and local ownership the building) with the benefits that can be realized by an increase in size (increased book discounts, elimination of unnecessary duplication, shared planning

- The interlocal agreement on which the cooperative is based has been 5 years in t planning and has been scrutinized by librarians, politicians, lawyers, and governm management staff for "equity" - so its benefits ~~are~~ equally shared.

will be

# WHY IS THE LIBRARY COOPERATIVE IMPORTANT TO THE COUNTY AS A WHOLE?

Pinellas County is the only metropolitan area in the southern United States without countywide library service. This should not be viewed with pride.

Pinellas needs to improve its educational and cultural services in order to:

- increase its tax base with high tech businesses and well paid educated employees
- develop an information network needed by business and individuals today.

## The Library Cooperative would:

- allow Pinellas to obtain state and federal funding available to almost every other county in Florida;
- insure a Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped available to county with probably the highest number of potential users in the U.S.;
- insure the continuance of "free access" to information, collections, buildings as well as ability to take out materials;
- promote a unilateral county-wide fight against illiteracy which is promoting increased costs to taxpayers in terms of crime and welfare.

## SYNOPSIS

WHEN: MARCH 14, 1989 REFERENDUM

WHERE:

WHO WILL VOTE: residents of the unincorporated areas of Pinellas County excluding Palm Harbor where residents are already supporting library service with taxes.

## WHY VOTE YES?

- to obtain a library card good in any Cooperative library
- to eliminate the service fee to use one library by paying a tax to have access to all participating libraries;
- to be able to go to the most convenient library, whether <sup>from</sup> at work or <sup>from</sup> at home, to borrow materials and obtain information;
- to gain access from any service point to a book collection totaling                     , with large print books; a video collection totaling                     ; an audio collection totaling                      as well as government documents, picture files, vertical files, music files, back issues of periodicals and newspapers through a daily delivery service; use of facsimile machines.
- to immediately increase the quality of library service through cooperative adult children's program sharing and sharing of material and professional strengths,
- to provide for a means of future development of services presently unavailable based on ~~the issue of~~ cost effectiveness: bookmobiles, a regional library for the blind and physically handicapped, automation, mail service for home bound and library buildings where they are needed to meet service demands.
- A YES vote is a positive vote for education. Remember that if you do not support literacy, your taxes will be increased to pay for prisons, policemen, and welfare.

## QUESTIONS ANSWERED

How much will I have to pay?

- up to one half mil, the maximum allowable means that only people with homes value over \$130,000 will be paying the current cost of a single library card or \$30.00

Will St. Petersburg continue to give free service if the referendum fails?

No, because the taxpayers will have indicated that they did not want the service.

If the issue does not pass when will change of current system be likely?

- The library issue has come up every 10 years for the past 30 years; if it does not pass this time it is unlikely that anything will surface until after the year 2,000

Will Clearwater's current decision not to participate be detrimental?

- ~~Although~~ the Cooperative would benefit from Clearwater's <sup>library's</sup> participation <sup>of the</sup> ~~its~~ success will be based on the spirit and determination of its participants to cooperate, and <sup>the</sup> government officials could not support Clearwater's request for funds matching the \$26.00 per capita that Clearwater residents are paying for library service.

*A and Clearwater ~~citizens~~ would benefit from the cooperative,*