



2024

# Citizens' Guide to County Finances


For the fiscal year ended September 30, 2024

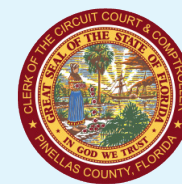
Pinellas County, Florida





# Table of Contents

		Citizens of Pinellas County,
Pinellas County, Florida	2	I'm proud to present the Citizens' Guide to County Finances (Citizens' Guide) for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2024. As your elected Clerk and Comptroller, I am honored to serve as the Chief Financial Officer for the Board of County Commissioners, sharing the critical responsibility of safeguarding county funds. This guide offers you an accessible and concise analysis of where our county's revenues originated and how these funds were utilized throughout the fiscal year. It also highlights trends in revenues and expenditures over the past three fiscal years, providing you with a clear and comprehensive picture of Pinellas County's financial health.
Pinellas County Organization & Commission	3	
Duties of the Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller	4	The Citizens' Guide distills the financial activities of Pinellas County's primary government, making the complex simple and approachable for every resident. While the presentation does not adhere to the technical requirements of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) or governmental reporting standards, it is intentionally designed to be clear and reader-friendly for non-financial audiences. Despite the simplified format, rest assured that all financial data in the Citizens' Guide is derived from the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report, which meets the rigorous standards of GAAP.
Sources of County Funds	5-7	
Uses of County Funds	8	We are proud to announce that the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) recognized Pinellas County's commitment to excellence by awarding us the Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2023, marking an incredible seventeen consecutive years of receiving this distinction.
General Fund Revenues & Other Financing Sources	9	
General Fund Expenditures & Other Financing Uses	10	Additionally, Pinellas County has been awarded the prestigious Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2023—an honor we've achieved for an extraordinary 43 consecutive years. This accolade reflects our unwavering commitment to transparency, accuracy, and professionalism in financial reporting, and we have every confidence that our 2024 report will meet the same high standards as we pursue its eligibility for yet another certificate.
Enterprise Fund Revenues & Expenses	11-12	For those who wish to dive deeper, the full Annual Comprehensive Financial Report is available for your review, offering detailed insights into the county's fiscal activities. You can access this report on the Clerk's website at <a href="http://www.mypinellasclerk.gov">www.mypinellasclerk.gov</a> or request a physical copy by contacting the Clerk's Finance Division at (727) 464-8300. Your feedback is always valued—please don't hesitate to share your comments or suggestions for improvement by reaching out to my office directly at (727) 464-3341.
Capital Assets	13	
Outstanding Debt Issues & Investment Policy	14	It is an honor to serve as your Clerk and Comptroller, and I trust that this Citizens' Guide will provide you with valuable insights into our county's financial standing. Thank you for your continued trust and engagement as we work together to ensure a thriving and fiscally responsible Pinellas County.
Accomplishments	15-16	
Connect With Us	17	
		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  
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 America. 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 America, 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 a premier destination for professional baseball enthusiasts. Home to the spring training facilities of both the Philadelphia Phillies in Clearwater and the Toronto Blue Jays in Dunedin, the County plays a vital role in the spring training and development of major league talent. Numerous parks and preserves throughout the county support a variety of recreational activities such as fishing, boating, and other outdoor activities.

## **A**ccolades & Awards:

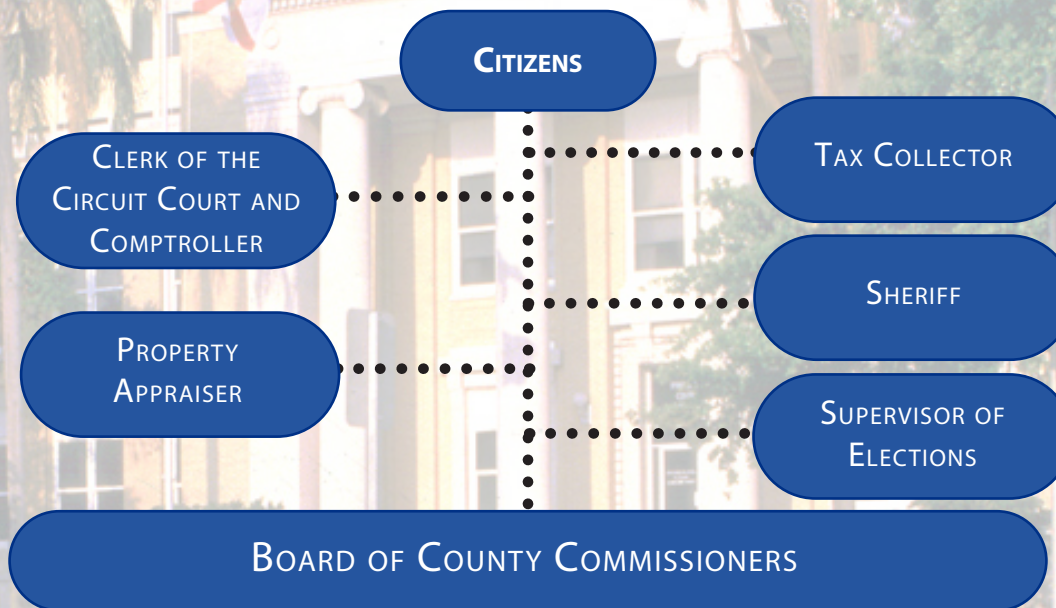
- ★ Clearwater Beach was ranked among the "15 Best White-sand Beaches Around the World" (#12) by Travel + Leisure.
- ★ MovieMaker Magazine recognized the area as one of the Best Places to Live and Work as a MovieMaker for the fourth consecutive year.
- ★ Tripadvisor ranked St. Pete #2 among "Traveler's Choice: Best of the Best Destinations".



# Pinellas County Organization & Commission

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.



Chris Scherer  
District 1



Brian Scott  
District 2  
Chair



Vince Nowicki  
District 3



Dave Eggers  
District 4  
Vice Chair



Chris Latvala  
District 5



Kathleen Peters  
District 6



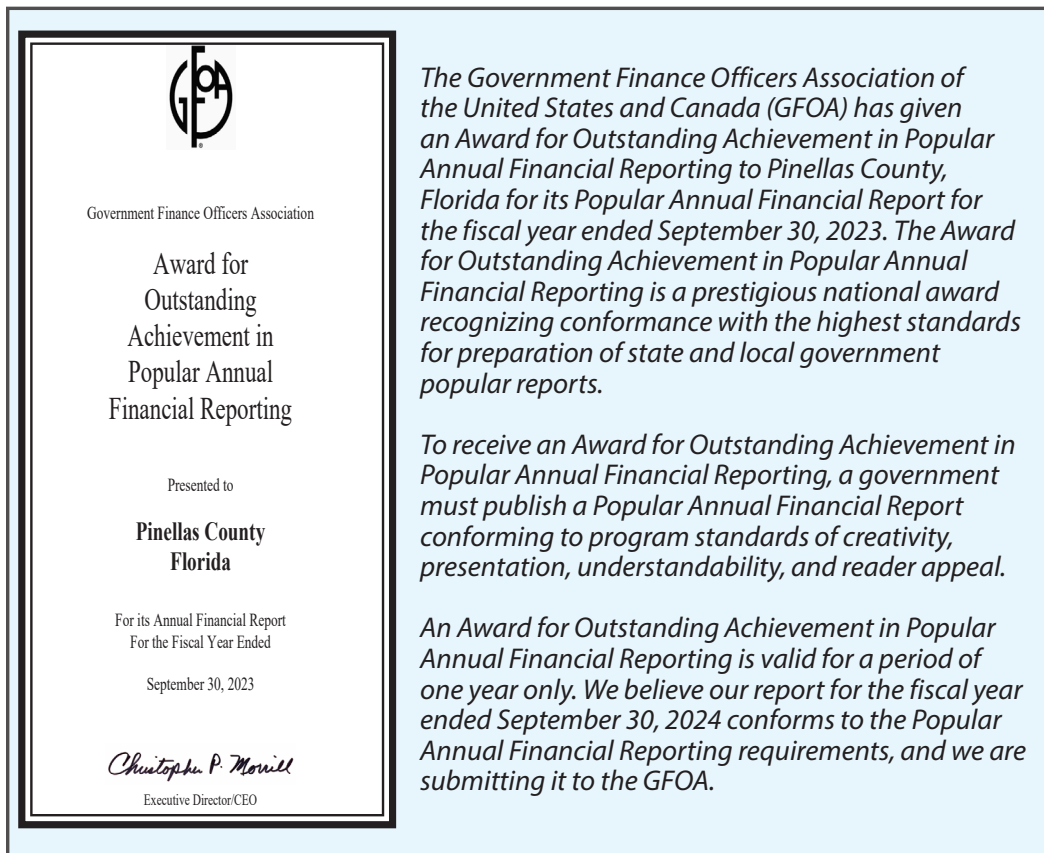
René Flowers  
District 7



# 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, affordable housing, 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 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.

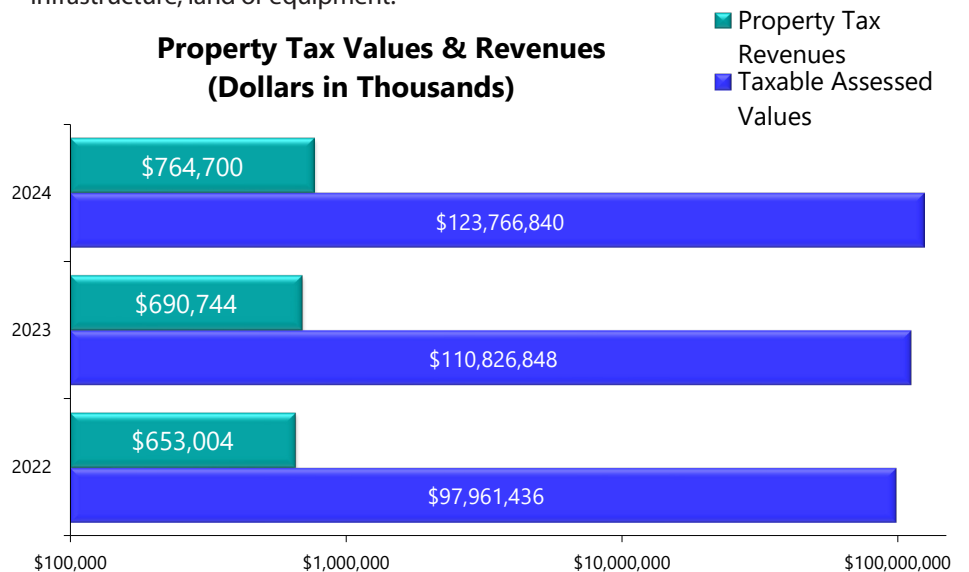
## PROGRAM REVENUES

**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 and construction of capital assets, such as buildings, infrastructure, land or equipment.

## Property Tax Values & Revenues (Dollars in Thousands)



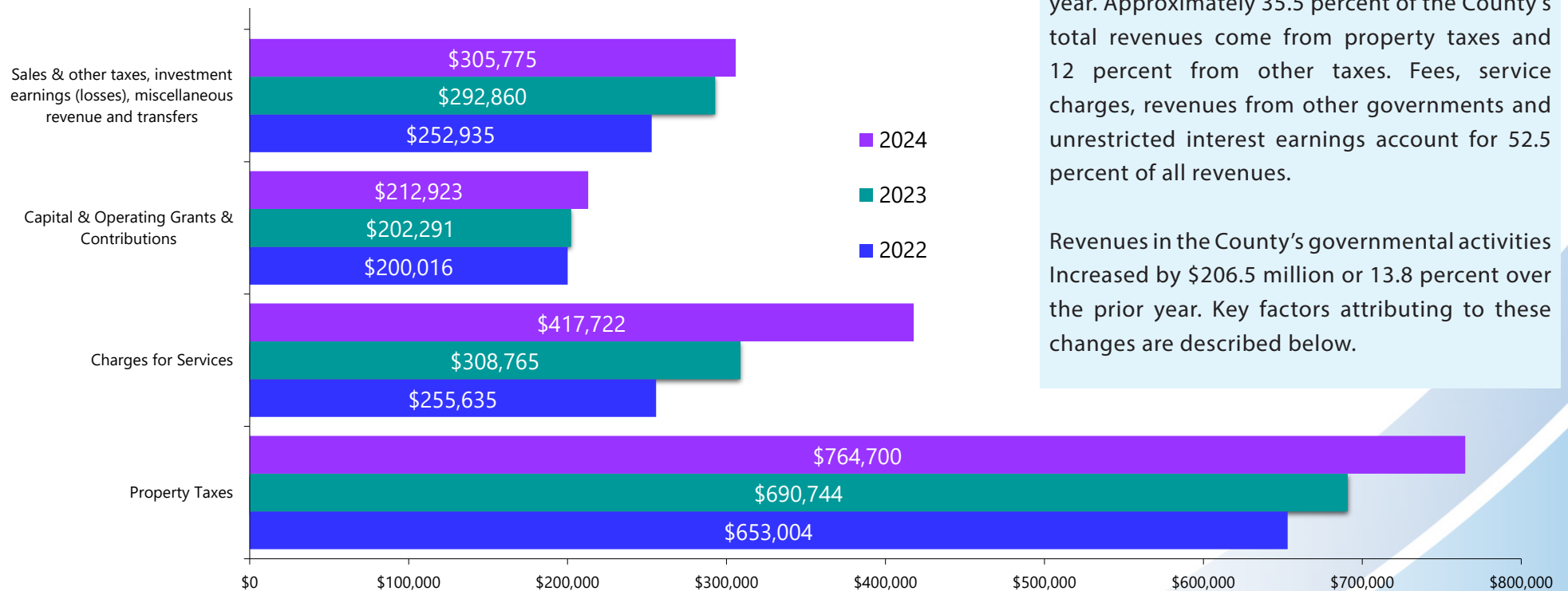
Sawgrass Lake Bridge

Storm Infrastructure



# Sources of County Funds: Governmental Activities Revenues

## Governmental Activities Revenues (Dollars in Thousands)



Pinellas County receives its revenue from many sources, the largest being property taxes, to fund governmental activities. Total revenues for the County increased 12.9 percent over last year. Approximately 35.5 percent of the County's total revenues come from property taxes and 12 percent from other taxes. Fees, service charges, revenues from other governments and unrestricted interest earnings account for 52.5 percent of all revenues.

Revenues in the County's governmental activities increased by \$206.5 million or 13.8 percent over the prior year. Key factors attributing to these changes are described below.

**Property tax** revenues increased by \$74.0 million, or 10.7 percent over last year for all governmental activities due to an increase in property tax values of 11.9 percent. The millage rate of 4.7398 mills remained unchanged in FY2024 from the prior year.

**Charges for services** increased by \$109.0 million, or 35.3 percent over last year. Human Services revenues increased by \$108.8 million due to increased special assessments related to the new Hospital Directed Payment Program Local Provider Participation fund which imposes, levies, collects and enforces the program.

**Capital and Operating Grants & Contributions** increased by \$10.6 million from the prior year, due primarily to an increase in federal funding expenditures from the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) program authorized by the American Rescue Plan Act.

**Sales, Other Taxes & Investment Income** decreased by \$0.9 million; or 0.4 percent due to a decline in economic activity and tourism due to concern about inflation.



# 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: \$ 5,356.49

Juvenile Welfare  
Board  
\$240.00  
4.48%

SW Florida  
Water  
Management  
\$55.53  
1.04%

Planning Council  
\$5.82  
0.11%



School Board  
\$1,693.66  
31.61%



County  
\$1,591.55  
29.71%



City  
\$1,556.35  
29.06%



Suncoast Transit Authority  
\$213.58  
3.99%

The example is based on a taxable value of \$290,906.



Palm Harbor Shelter



# 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 increased by 8.7 percent or \$109.3 million from the prior year. Key factors attributing to these changes are described to the right.

**General government** expenses increased by \$3.9 million, primarily due to employee wage increases and overall inflation.

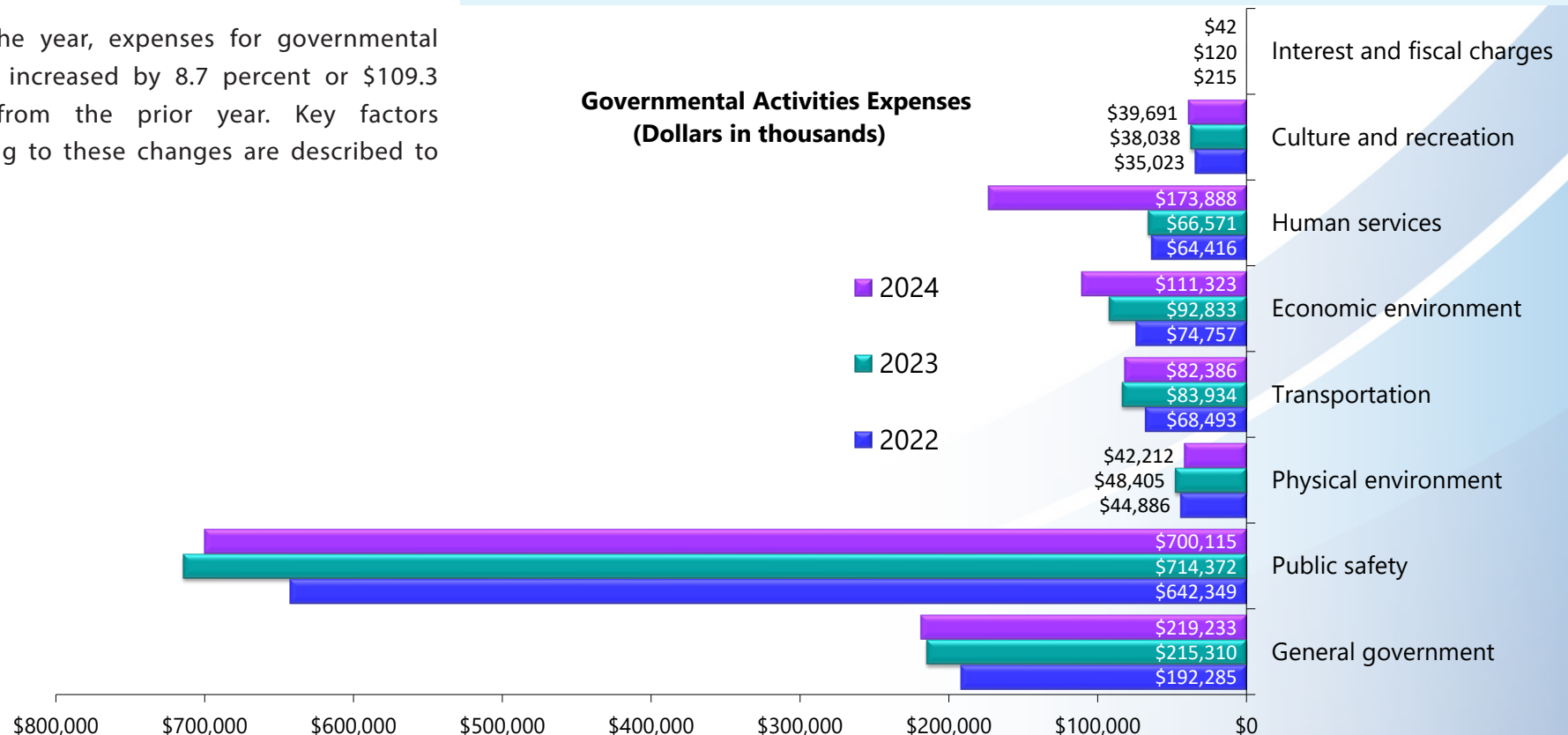
**Public Safety** expenses decreased by \$14.3 million due to a reduction in pension contributions. The decline in pension contributions resulted from updated actuarial valuations.

**Physical Environment** expenses decreased by \$6.2 million, primarily due to beach renourishment and Hurricane Idalia emergency shore stabilization made in the prior year.

**Economic Environment** expenses increased by \$18.5 million, primarily due to aid to private organizations mostly for affordable apartment construction.

**Culture and Recreation** expenses increased by \$1.7 million primarily due to the increased funding for the public library system and the Palm Harbor Recreation and Library District project.

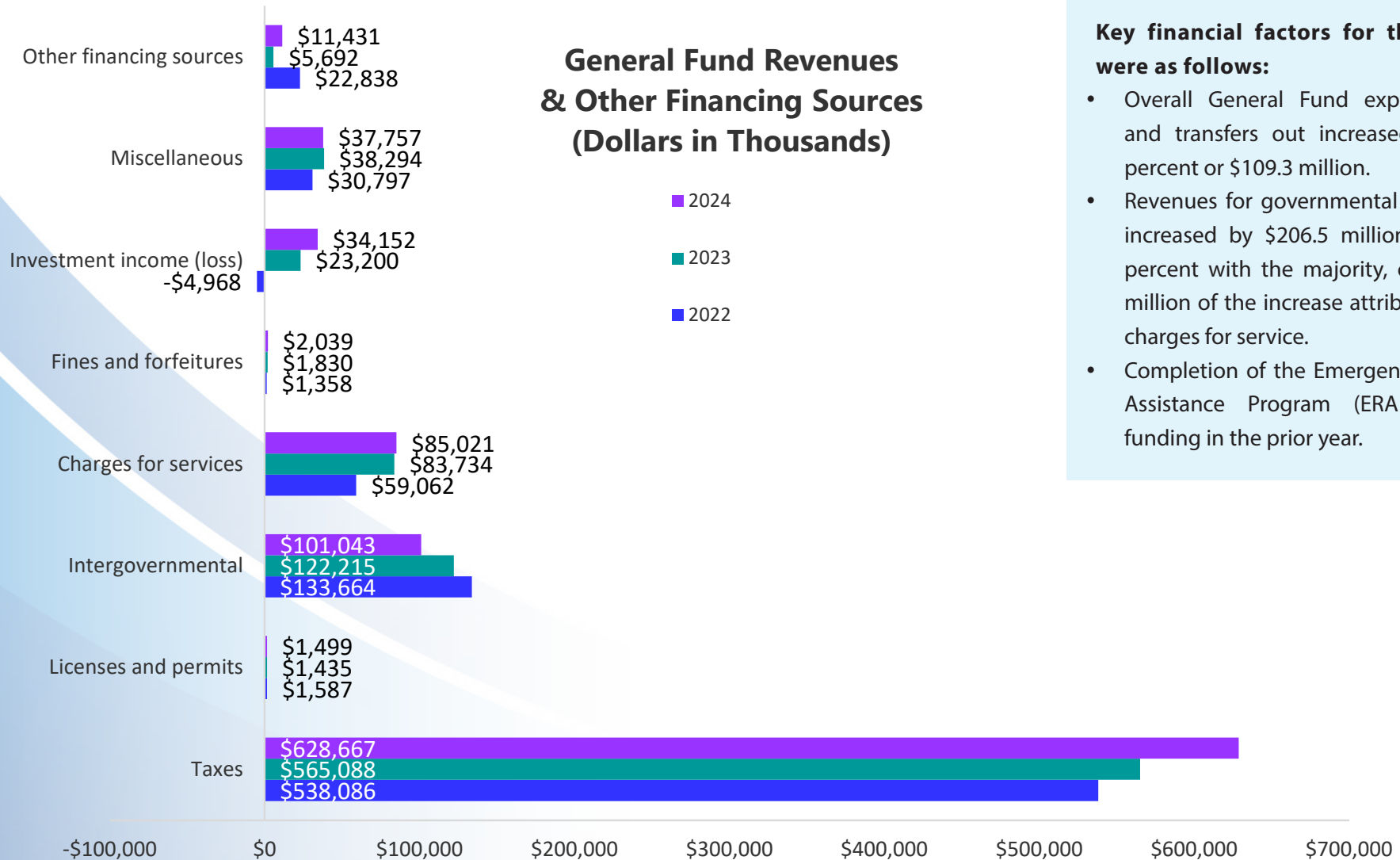
**Human Services** expenses increased \$104.2 million due to the to the new Hospital Directed Payment Program Local Provider Participation fund which imposes, levies, collects and enforces the program.





# General Fund Revenues & Other Financing 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 the fiscal year totaled \$1.0 billion.



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

- Overall General Fund expenditures and transfers out increased by 8.7 percent or \$109.3 million.
- Revenues for governmental activities increased by \$206.5 million or 13.8 percent with the majority, or \$109.0 million of the increase attributable to charges for service.
- Completion of the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERA1) grant funding in the prior year.

# 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, Human Resources, Clerk to the Board, Tax Collector, Supervisor of Elections, and Property Appraiser.

## PUBLIC SAFETY

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

## 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, 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.

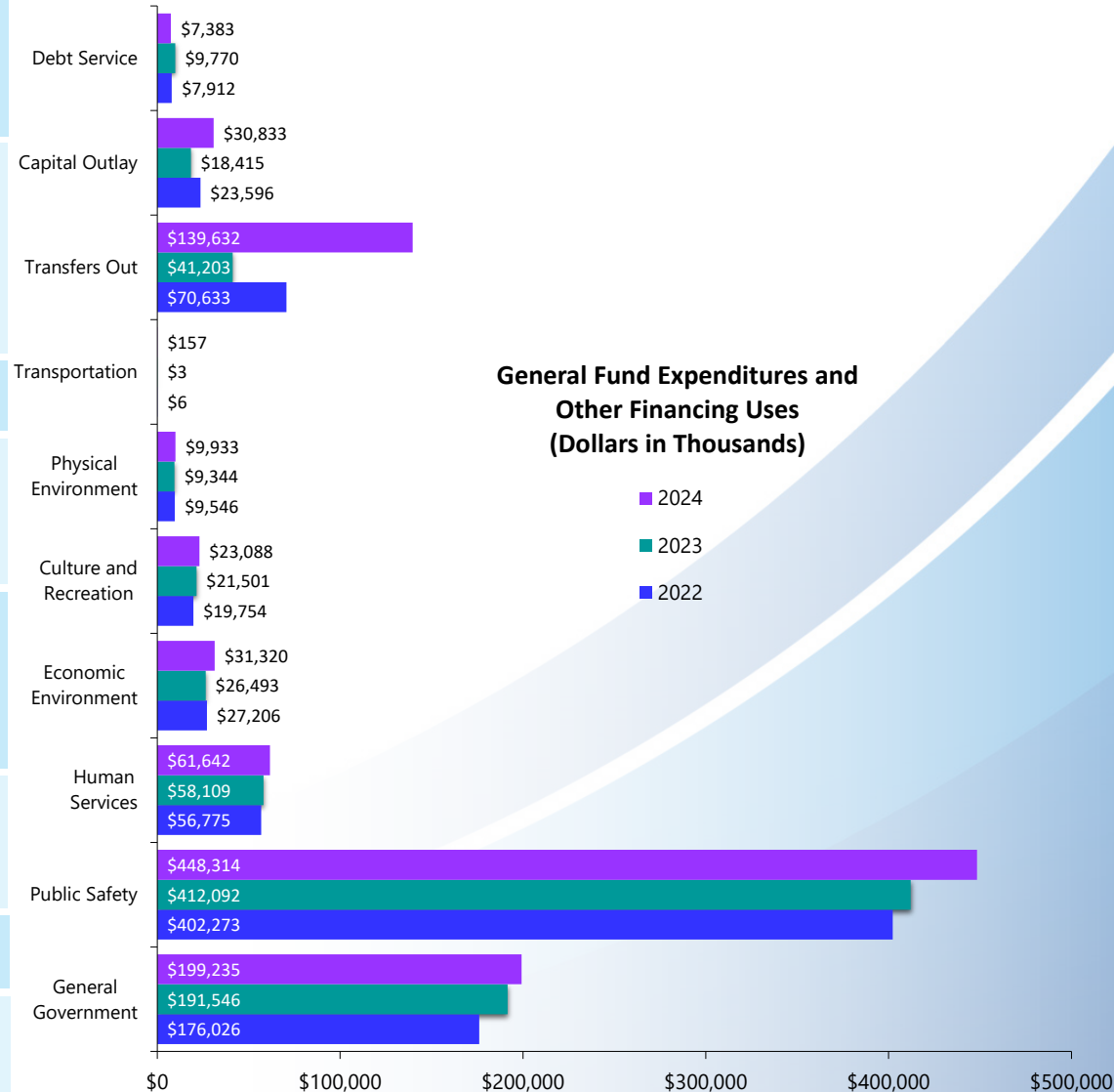
## TRANSFERS OUT

Financial support to other funds.

## CAPITAL OUTLAY

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

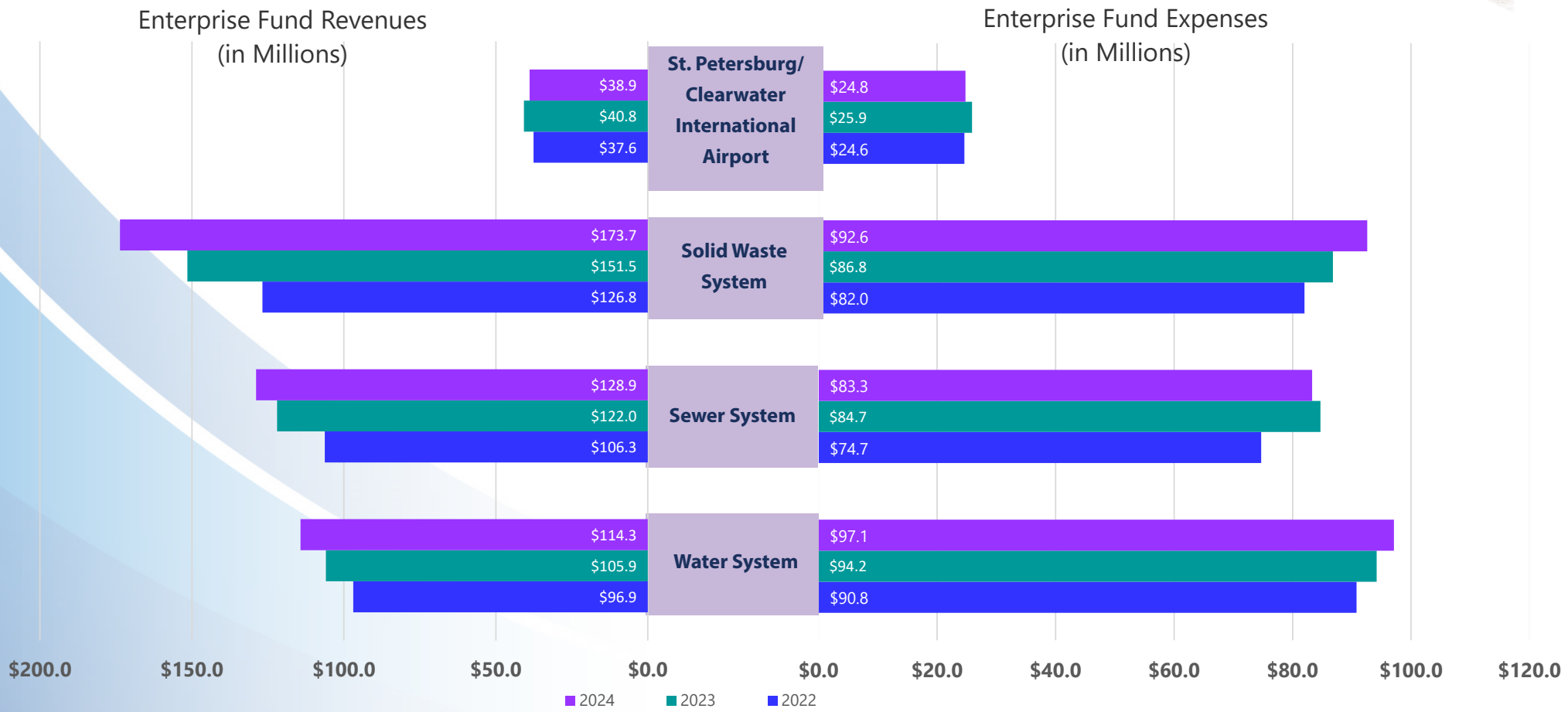
The General Fund is used to pay the general operating and administrative expenditures not accounted for in other funds. General fund expenditures and transfers out decreased by \$163.1 million (20.7 percent) in FY2024. From FY22 to FY24, general fund expenditures increased \$157.8 million (20.0 percent). 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 FY2024, revenues in business-type activities increased 9.5 percent over the prior year by \$39.6 million. Expenses increased by \$11.9 million or 4.1 percent. From FY2022 to FY2024, revenues increased by \$88.1 million (24.0 percent) and expenses increased \$29.0 million (10.6 percent). The following charts reflect the enterprise fund revenues and expenses for the last three years



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

### **WATER SYSTEM**

- Net position of the Water System increased \$17.2 million during the year compared to an increase of \$11.7 million in the prior year.
- Total program revenues for the Water System, including charges for services, investment income, miscellaneous revenue and capital contributions, increased by \$8.6 million or 8.2 percent from the prior year. This was primarily due to an increase in the water base rate. However, this was offset by an increase in expenses by \$3.1 million or 3.3 percent primarily due to inflation and salary increases.

### **SEWER SYSTEM**

- Net position of the Sewer System increased \$45.6 million during the year compared to an increase of \$37.3 million in the prior year.
- Total program revenues increased by \$8.5 million or 7.0 percent over the prior year. Charges for services to customers increased by \$3.6 million or 3.1 percent. The largest contributing factor was retail rate increases.

### **SOLID WASTE SYSTEM**

- Net position of the Solid Waste System increased by \$81.1 million during the year compared to an increase of \$64.7 million in the prior year.
- Total program revenues of the system increased by \$22.2 million or 14.7 percent over the prior year. Charges for electrical capacity resulted in additional revenues of \$4.4 million over the previous fiscal year due to contractual rate increases. Revenues for tipping fees were up \$3.3 million due to an increase in tipping fee rates and waste disposal tonnage processed compared to prior year. Investment income increased by \$16.4 million due to higher interest rates and larger investment balances.
- Operating expenses for the system increased by \$6.2 million or 7.2 percent over the prior year due to increased costs of operating the waste-to-energy facility.

### **ST. PETERSBURG/CLEARWATER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

- Net position of the Airport increased \$14.1 million during the year compared to an increase of \$14.9 million in the prior year.
- Total Airport revenues decreased by \$1.9 million or 4.6 percent over the prior year. The Airport welcomed a record number of travelers during the year, leading to increased vehicle rentals, parking fees, rent collections and passenger facility charges of \$0.4 million. Grants and contributions decreased by \$5.1 million or 89.5 percent. Funding for ongoing capital projects from Federal and State sources increased by \$3.5 million during the year. Payroll and benefit expenses decreased \$1.4 million.

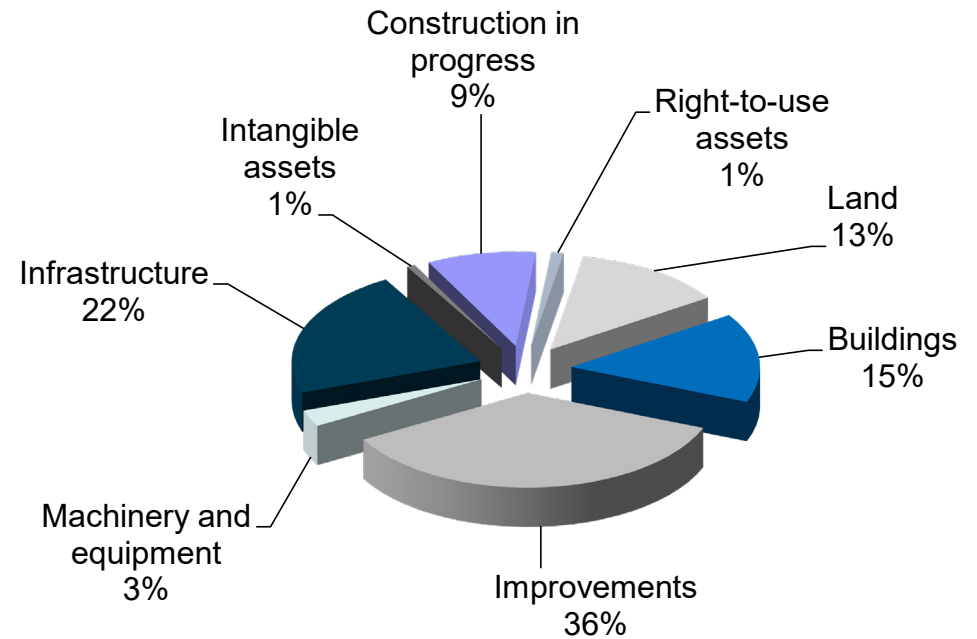


*Walkable St. Pete*



Pinellas County's investment in capital assets for governmental and business-type activities is \$3.9 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 and subscription based information technology arrangements) assets. The total increase in capital assets was 3.6 percent over the prior year (5.0 percent increase for governmental activities and a 1.6 percent decrease in business-type activities).

Capital Assets Governmental and Business-Type Activities



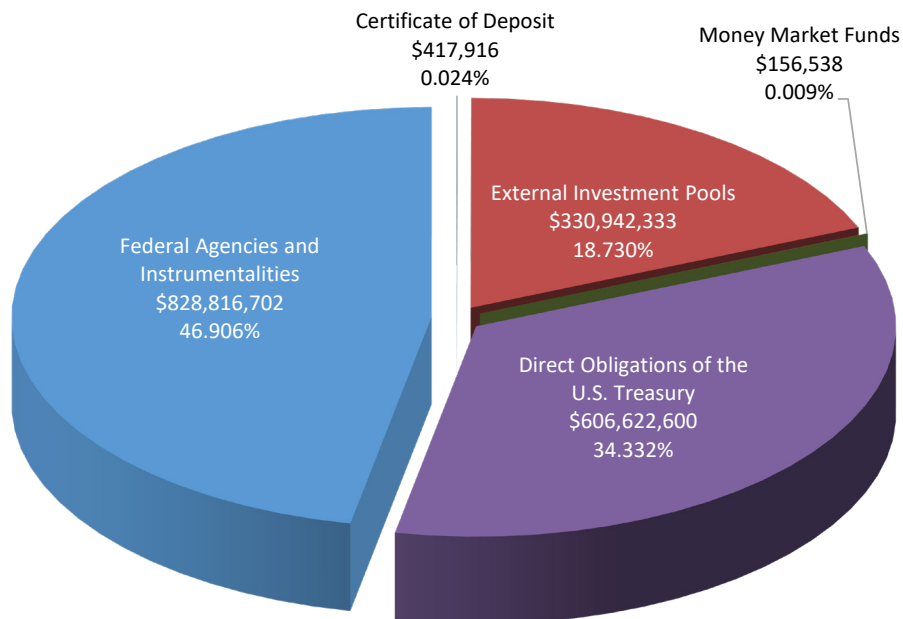
Utilities

# 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, 2024.

	ISSUE DATE	ORIGINAL ISSUED AMOUNT (in Thousands)	AMOUNT OUTSTANDING AT YEAR END (in Thousands)
Sewer Revenue Note 1 Series 2008A	July 2008	\$ 42,005	\$ 34,935
Sewer Revenue Refunding Note: Series 2021B	January 2021	5,292	5,270
Sewer Revenue Refunding Note: Series 2022	July 2022	40,862	29,214
	<b>Totals:</b>	<b>\$ 88,159</b>	<b>\$ 69,419</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 2023-70 adopting investment policies. The investment policy and the ordinance can be found at: <https://www.mypinellasclerk.gov/Home/Finance#127691-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. This certification is renewed every five 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.



# Accomplishments

## GENERAL GOVERNMENT

The Board of County Commissioners reduced the Countywide General Fund property tax millage rate for Fiscal Year 2025, marking the third reduction in four years while ensuring the continuation of high service levels for residents. Funding priorities for key initiatives include beach renourishment, affordable housing, health and safety, and the maintenance of transportation infrastructure such as roads and bridges. The County also proudly hosted three Honor Flights, transporting military veterans from St. Petersburg/Clearwater International Airport to Washington, D.C., where they visited war memorials and were honored for their service and sacrifice.



The Clerk's office recently hosted a Passport Day, offering convenient access for residents to apply for passports at three different locations. During the event, over 445 U.S. passport applications were processed, and 350 U.S. passport photos were taken. Additionally, the Clerk organized the annual group wedding ceremony at the Florida Botanical Gardens, a community event that showcased the beauty of the venue. This no-cost ceremony allowed couples to marry or renew their vows in a memorable and picturesque setting.

## ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

Sixteen new businesses chose Pinellas County as their home, generating 80 new positions and driving \$159 million in capital investments through targeted business assistance and expansion efforts. The County also played a key role in facilitating the future relocation of Foot Locker Inc.'s

global headquarters to St. Petersburg, a move expected to bring 175 new jobs and significantly enhance the company's corporate presence in the region.

International business relations were further strengthened through Global Tampa Bay



missions, which hosted 40 meetings with foreign companies, resulting in valuable leads for future investment opportunities. Additionally, seven employment site projects were launched, creating 1,085 jobs with an average annual wage of approximately \$58,000. The County also facilitated a \$251 million private investment to redevelop 1.6 million square feet of office and industrial space, fostering the creation of more high-quality employment opportunities.

To support corporate innovation and entrepreneurship, the County opened the ARK Innovation Center at STAR-TEC, an incubator designed to promote business growth. Furthermore, the County relaunched the Palm Harbor Main Street program to stimulate economic development in the downtown area. Through more than \$1.3 million in grants for development and workforce training, the County is ensuring its local workforce is prepared for the evolving job market of today and tomorrow.

## PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY

The County's Emergency Operations Center was active for more than 100 days to coordinate response and recovery operations for Hurricanes Debby, Helene and Milton. Staff worked more than 320,000 consecutive storm hours and answered over 90,000 storm-related resident inquiries. The County hosted 96 outreach events reaching nearly 8,000 people, and provided targeted campaigns for at-risk populations, including assembling and distributing 1,100 hurricane and hygiene kits.

Substantial damage inspections were conducted for over 7,600 homes and non-residential structures in unincorporated Pinellas County, and, an additional 4,200 structures in numerous communities. This effort assisted property owners navigate the rebuilding process after the storms.

Public Works boosted mosquito control efforts by treating over 361,000 acres—a 50% increase from the prior year. The effort helped protect residents and visitors from mosquito-borne threats.



# Accomplishments

## TRANSPORTATION

St. Pete/Clearwater Airport achieved record-breaking performance, serving nearly 2.5 million passengers, adding four new destinations, and experiencing its busiest month on record in July.

The County made significant investments in transportation infrastructure, resurfacing over 200 lane miles of roads and replacing more than 22,500 linear feet of sidewalk, thereby enhancing both accessibility and the overall travel experience for residents and visitors.

## PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

The County successfully completed the Pass-a-Grille Beach nourishment project, placing approximately 150,000 cubic yards of sand to restore and widen the shoreline. This initiative enhances coastal resilience and bolsters the local tourism industry. In an effort to improve green spaces, reduce rain runoff, and enhance air quality, the County planted 250 trees across Pinellas County. Additionally, over 400 trees were distributed to residents in celebration of Florida and National Arbor Day. The County continued its commitment to advanced energy solutions by sourcing over 50% of its electricity from renewable energy through Duke Energy Florida's Clean Energy Connection Program. A project was initiated to convert lighting to LED, which is projected to save nearly 600,000 kilowatt-hours and \$35,000 annually. Furthermore, the County implemented a countywide ordinance prohibiting smoking and vaping in public parks and beaches, including Fort De Soto, Sand Key, and Fred Howard Park. These efforts aim to reduce litter and protect marine life.



## Human Services

The County introduced the "Care About Me Initiative," a streamlined platform designed to connect residents with essential behavioral healthcare services. Thanks to grant funding, the Baycare Health Clinic was expanded to provide enhanced services for individuals experiencing homelessness. Over 2,200 homeless individuals across the County received comprehensive healthcare services, while approximately 7,000 local veterans and their families gained access to vital benefits and support services. Additionally, Pinellas County facilitated 1,800 impactful interactions, significantly increasing access to lifesaving medications for individuals battling opioid use disorders through

the expanded Pinellas Matters Program. The County also demonstrated its continued commitment to affordable housing by celebrating the groundbreaking of five new private-sector housing developments.

## Economic Outlook

The U.S. economy concluded 2024 on a relatively strong note, driven by resilient consumer spending and favorable, though moderating, labor market conditions. The Federal Reserve initiated a rate-cutting cycle in 2024, reducing the Target Funds Rate from 5.25%–5.50% to its current range of 4.25%–4.50%. While inflation rates have eased, they remain above the Federal Reserve's target of 2%. The labor market is moderating, with supply and demand for labor moving toward a more balanced state, and unemployment remains relatively low.

The Clerk & Comptroller closely monitors the economic impacts on various revenue sources, including state-shared revenues, tourist taxes, sales taxes, gas taxes, investment income, and other revenue streams sensitive to economic fluctuations, alongside the County's operating and capital cash flow needs. These factors may influence investment strategies and the duration of new investments. The County's portfolio is structured to maintain financial flexibility, enabling prudent management of funds through both rising and falling interest rate cycles.



Arbor Day Tree Give Away



## 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.*

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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 Scott is fiscally conservative leader focused on transparency in government, keeping Pinellas County affordable, and preserving our County's unique charm.*



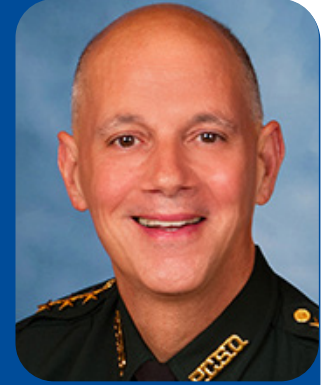
BRIAN SCOTT  
BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS, CHAIR  
brscott@pinellas.gov  
(727) 464-3360  
www.pinellas.gov

*Adam is proud to carry on the great tradition of providing excellent customer service to constituents and employing a team dedicated to the level of excellence this constitutional office has offered Pinellas County for decades.*



ADAM ROSS  
TAX COLLECTOR  
adamross@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.*

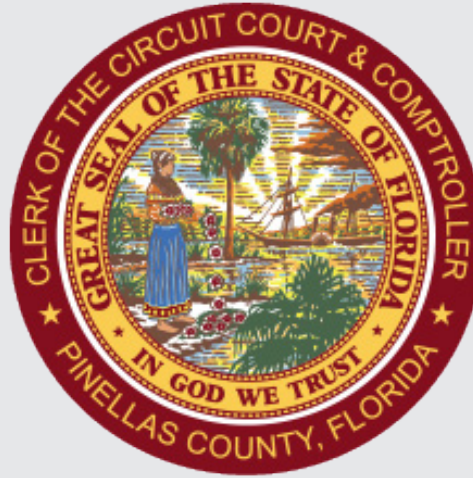






# Citizens' Guide

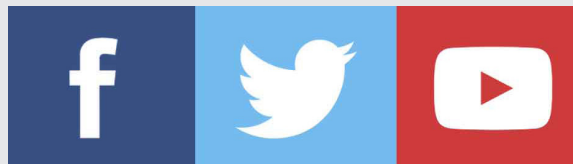
*Photo on the front cover  
courtesy of the Pinellas County  
Communications Department*



*This Citizens' Guide to County Finances  
was prepared by the Clerk's Finance  
Division and the Clerk's Print Shop.*

**Ken Burke, CPA**

Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller  
Pinellas County, Florida

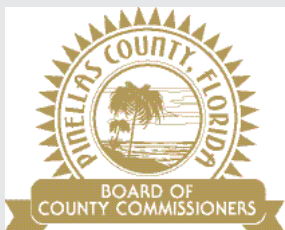


315 Court St.

Clearwater, FL 33756

(727) 464-7000

[www.mypinellasclerk.gov](http://www.mypinellasclerk.gov)



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