

Cut along the outer border and affix this label to your sealed proposal envelope to identify it as a “Sealed Proposal”. Be sure to include the name of the company submitting the proposal where requested.

SEALED PROPOSAL • DO NOT OPEN

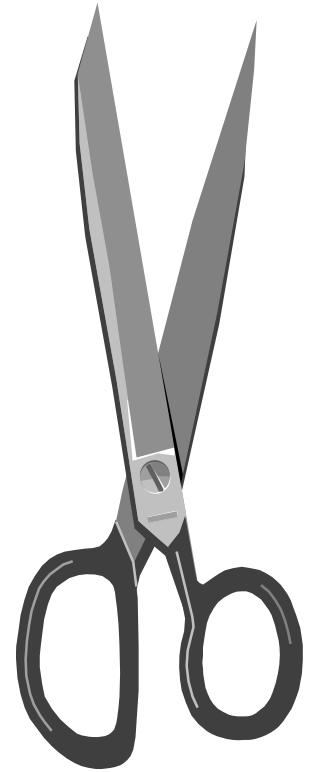
SEALED PROPOSAL NO.: 178-0174-P (SS)

BID TITLE: State Governmental Relations
Services

DUE DATE/TIME: @ 3:00 p.m.

SUBMITTED BY: _____
(Name of Company)

DELIVER TO: PURCHASING DEPARTMENT
Board of County Commissioners
Annex Building –6th Floor
400 South Fort Harrison Avenue
Clearwater, FL 33756




Please Note:

From time to time, addenda may be issued to this proposal. Any such addenda will be posted on the same Web site, www.pinellascounty.org/purchase/Current_Bids1.htm, from which you obtained this proposal. Before submitting your proposal you should check the Web site to download any addenda that may have been issued. Please remember to sign and return Addenda Acknowledgement Form with completed proposal package if applicable.

Please provide Names of Evaluators (no more than two from requesting dept.)

1. *Brian Lowack*
2. *Jake Stowers*
3. *Veronica Ettel*
4. *Mike Meidel*
5. *Kelli Levy*

Please make sure to complete attached question sheet

SUBMIT TO: PINELLAS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS 400 S. FT. HARRISON AVENUE ANNEX BUILDING – 6 TH FLOOR CLEARWATER, FL 33756	 <h1 style="text-align: center;">REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL</h1>	
ISSUE DATE:	PROPOSAL SUBMITTALS RECEIVED AFTER SUBMITTAL DATE & TIME WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED	
TITLE: State Governmental Relations Services		RFP NUMBER: 178-0174-P (SS)
SUBMITTAL DUE: @ 3:00 P.M. AND MAY NOT BE WITHDRAWN FOR 120 DAYS FROM DATE LISTED ABOVE.		PRE-PROPOSAL DATE & LOCATION: NOT APPLICABLE
DEADLINE FOR WRITTEN QUESTIONS: BY 3:00 P.M. SUBMIT QUESTIONS TO: SUE STEELE, CPPB AT ssteele@pinellascounty.org Phone: 727-464-4776 Fax: 727/464-3925		
<p style="text-align: center;">THE MISSION OF PINELLAS COUNTY</p> <p>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.</p>		<p style="text-align: center;">JOSEPH LAURO, CPPO/CPPB Director of Purchasing</p>

PROPOSER MUST COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING

NO CHANGES REQUESTED BY A PROPOSER WILL BE CONSIDERED AFTER THE RFP OPENING DATE AS ADVERTISED. BY SIGNING THIS PROPOSAL FORM YOU ARE ATTESTING TO YOUR AWARENESS OF THIS POLICY AND ARE AGREEING TO ALL OTHER PROPOSAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS, INCLUDING ALL INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS.

PROPOSER (COMPANY NAME): _____ **D/B/A** _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____ **CITY / STATE / ZIP** _____

COMPANY EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

***REMIT TO NAME:** _____

(As Shown On Company Invoice)

FEIN# _____

Proper Corporate Identity is needed when you submit your proposal, specifically how your firm is registered with the Florida Division of Corporations. Please visit www.sunbiz.org for this information.

PHN: () _____ **FAX:** () _____

CONTACT NAME: _____

PRINT NAME: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

I HEREBY AGREE TO ABIDE BY ALL TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THIS RFP, INCLUDING ALL INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS & CERTIFY I AM AUTHORIZED TO SIGN THIS RFP FOR THE PROPOSER.

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE: _____

PRINT NAME/TITLE: _____

THIS FORM MUST BE RETURNED WITH YOUR RESPONSE

SECTION A – GENERAL CONDITIONS**1. SUBMISSION OF PROPOSAL:**

- (a) Proposals will be opened immediately after the proposal submittal date and time (3:00 PM) by the Pinellas County Purchasing Department, 400 South Fort Harrison Avenue, Annex Building, 6th Floor, Clearwater, FL 33756. The public may attend the proposal opening, but may not immediately review any proposals submitted. The names of respondents only will be read aloud at the time of opening. Pursuant to Florida Statute, Section 119.071(1)(b)2, all proposals submitted shall be subject to review as public records 30 days from opening, or earlier if an intended decision is reached before the 30-day period expires. Late proposals will not be accepted.
- (b) Proposals and changes thereto shall be enclosed in sealed envelopes or packages, addressed to the Purchasing Department, Pinellas County. The name and address of the firms, the date and hour of the proposal submittal, and the title shall be placed on the outside of the envelope.
- (c) Proposer is advised that exceptions to any terms and conditions contained in this RFP or the Services Agreement must be stated with specificity in its response to the RFP as provided herein and in Section A, paragraph 21. Proposer is deemed to have accepted and to be bound by the RFP and Services Agreement terms and conditions that Proposer does not take exception to in its response. The County reserves the right to modify or add terms and conditions based upon the exceptions stated by the Proposer, or to declare any terms and conditions non-negotiable, as determined by the County in its sole discretion.

2. WRITTEN REQUESTS FOR INTERPRETATIONS/CLARIFICATIONS:

No oral interpretations will be made to any firms as to the meaning of specifications, the Services Agreement, or any other contract documents. All questions pertaining to the terms and conditions or scope of work of this proposal must be sent in writing (email or fax) to the Purchasing Department and received no later than the deadline specified in RFP. Responses to questions may be handled as an addendum if the response would provide clarification to requirements of the proposal. All such addenda shall become part of the RFP documents. The County will not be responsible for any other explanation or interpretation of the proposed RFP. The Purchasing Department will be unable to respond to questions received after the specified deadline.

3. DESCRIPTION OF SUPPLIES/SERVICES:

Any manufacturer's names, trade names, brand name, or catalog numbers used in specifications are for the purpose of describing and establishing general quality levels. SUCH REFERENCES ARE NOT INTENDED TO BE RESTRICTIVE. Proposals will be considered for all brands that meet the quality of the specifications listed for any items.

4. ALTERNATES:

Unless otherwise provided in this Request for Proposal, ALTERNATES may be included in the plans, specifications, and/or proposals. When included, the Proposer shall indicate on the proposal the cost of said alternate and sum to be deducted or added to the Proposal. Such alternates may or may not be accepted by the County. If approved, it is at the County's discretion to accept said alternate(s) in any sequence or combination therein.

5. RIGHTS OF PINELLAS COUNTY IN REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL PROCESS:

In addition to all other rights of the County under Florida law, the County specifically reserves the following:

- a) the right to rank firms and negotiate with the most qualified firm.
- b) the right to select the proposal that it believes will serve the best interest of Pinellas County.
- c) the right to reject any or all responses, or parts thereof, to disqualify any and all responses, and/or determine any response to be non-responsive.
- d) the right to cancel the entire Request for Proposal.
- e) the right to remedy or waive technical or immaterial errors in the Request for Proposal or in proposals submitted.
- f) the right to request any necessary clarifications or proposal data without changing the terms of the proposal.
- g) the right to require the Proposer to perform the services required on the basis of the original proposals without negotiation.

SECTION A – GENERAL CONDITIONS

6. EVALUATION CRITERIA:

The evaluation criteria define the factors that will be used by the Evaluation Committee to evaluate and score responsive, responsible and qualified proposals. Proposers shall include sufficient information to allow the Evaluation Committee to thoroughly evaluate and score their proposals. Each proposal submitted shall be evaluated and ranked by an evaluation committee. The contract will be awarded to the most qualified proposer, per the evaluation criteria listed in Section E of the RFP.

7. COSTS INCURRED BY PROPOSERS:

All expenses involved with the preparation and submission of proposals to the County and any oral presentations, or any work performed in connection therewith, shall be borne solely by the Proposer(s). No payment will be made for any responses received, or for any other effort required of, or made by, the Proposer(s) prior to contract commencement unless otherwise specified in Section E of this RFP.

8. ORAL PRESENTATION:

An oral presentation may be requested of any firm, at the Evaluation Committee's discretion. If an oral presentation is requested the written evaluation process shall be utilized to short list proposals. If required as part of the evaluation process, the oral presentation shall be scored as specified in Section E of the RFP. The most qualified firm as determined by evaluation process shall proceed with the contracting process.

9. CONFLICT OF INTEREST:

- a) The Proposer represents that it presently has no interest and shall acquire no interest, either direct or indirect, which would conflict in any manner with the performance of services required hereunder. The Proposer further represents that no person having any such interest shall be employed by Proposer during the agreement term and any extensions. In addition, the Proposer shall not offer gifts or gratuities to County Employees as County Employees are not permitted to accept gifts or gratuities. By signing this proposal document, the Proposer acknowledges that no gifts or gratuities have been offered to County Employees or anyone else involved in this competitive proposal process.
- b) The Proposer shall promptly notify the County's representative, in writing, by certified mail, of all potential conflicts of interest for any prospective business association, interest, or other circumstance, which may influence or appear to influence the Contractor's judgment or quality of services being provided hereunder. Such written notification shall identify the prospective business association, interest or circumstance, the nature of work that the Proposer may undertake and request an opinion of the County as to whether the association, interest or circumstance would, in the opinion of the County, constitute a conflict of interest if entered into by the Proposer. The County agrees to notify the Proposer of its opinion, by certified mail, within thirty days of receipt of notification from the Proposer.
- c) It is essential to government procurement that the process be open, equitable and ethical. To this end, if potential unethical practices including but not limited to collusion, receipt or solicitation of gifts and conflicts of interest (direct/indirect) etc. are observed or perceived, please report such activity to:

Pinellas County Clerk of Circuit Court – Division of Inspector General

Phone – **(727) 45FRAUD** (453-7283)
Fax – 727-464-8386

10. WITHDRAWAL OF PROPOSAL:

A proposal may be withdrawn prior to the time set for the proposal submittal, based on a written request from an authorized representative of the firm; however, a proposal may not be withdrawn after the time set for the proposal submittal for a period of time as specified on page one (1) of this RFP.

11. LATE PROPOSAL OR MODIFICATIONS:

Proposals and modifications received after the time set for the proposal submittal will not be considered; however, modifications in writing received prior to the time set for the proposal submittal will be accepted. **Late proposals will not be accepted and shall be rejected. The time clock stamp located in Pinellas County Purchasing Department shall be the official time stamp.**

SECTION A – GENERAL CONDITIONS

12. PROPOSALS FROM RELATED PARTIES / MULTIPLE PROPOSALS RECEIVED FROM ONE VENDOR:

Where two (2) or more related parties each submit a proposal or multiple proposals are received from one (1) vendor, for any contract, such proposals shall be judged non-responsive. Related parties mean proposers or the principles thereof, which have a direct or indirect ownership interest in another proposer for the same contract or in which a parent company or the principles thereof of one (1) proposer have a direct or indirect ownership interest in another bidder or proposer for the same contract.

13. JOINT VENTURES:

All proposers intending to submit a proposal as a Joint Venture are required to have filed proper documents with the Florida Department of State, the Division of Professions, Construction Industry Licensing Board and any other state or local licensing Agency prior to submitting the proposal (see Section 489.119 Florida Statutes).

Joint Venture Firms must provide an affidavit attesting to the formulation of a joint venture and provide either proof of incorporation as a joint venture or a copy of the formal joint venture Agreement between all joint venture parties, indicating their respective roles, responsibilities and levels of participation for the project.

14. PROVISION FOR OTHER AGENCIES:

Unless otherwise stipulated by the proposer, the proposer agrees to make available to all Government agencies, departments, and municipalities the proposal prices submitted in accordance with said proposal terms and conditions therein, should any said governmental entity desire to buy under this proposal. Eligible Users shall mean all state of Florida agencies, the legislative and judicial branches, political subdivisions (counties, local district school boards, community colleges, municipalities, special districts, or other public agencies or authorities), which may desire to purchase under the terms and conditions of the contract.

15. COLLUSION:

The proposer, by signing this proposal, agrees to the following: "Proposer certifies that its proposal is made without previous understanding, agreement, or connection with any person, firm or corporation making a proposal for the same item(s) and is in all respects fair, without outside control, collusion, fraud, or otherwise illegal action".

16. PUBLIC ENTITY CRIME AND SCRUTINIZED COMPANIES:

Contractor is directed to the Florida Public Entity Crime Act, Fla. Stat. 287.133, and Fla. Stat. 287.135 regarding Scrutinized Companies, and Contractor agrees that its bid and, if awarded, its performance of the agreement will comply with all applicable laws including those referenced herein. Contractor represents and certifies that Contractor is and will at all times remain eligible to bid for and perform the services subject to the requirements of these, and other applicable, laws. Contractor agrees that any contract awarded to Contractor will be subject to termination by the County if Contractor fails to comply or to maintain such compliance.

17. VARIANCE FROM STANDARD TERMS & CONDITIONS:

All standard terms and conditions stated in Section A apply to this RFP and may be incorporated into the Services Agreement as deemed necessary by the County, except as specifically stated in the subsequent sections of the document, which take precedence over Section A.

18. ADA REQUIREMENT FOR PUBLIC NOTICES:

Persons with disabilities requiring reasonable accommodation to participate in any proceeding or event related to this RFP, should call 727/464-4062 (voice/tdd) fax 727/464-4157, not later than seven days prior to the proceeding or event.

19. PROCUREMENT POLICY FOR RECYCLED MATERIALS:

Pinellas County wishes to encourage its proposer to use recycled products in fulfilling contractual obligations to the County and that such a policy will serve as a model for other public entities and private sector companies.

When awarding a purchase of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) or less, or recommending a purchase in excess of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for products, materials, or services, the Director of Purchasing may allow a preference to a responsive proposer who certifies that their product or material contains the greatest percentage of postconsumer material. If they are submitting a proposal on paper products they must certify that their materials and/or products contain at least the content recommended by the EPA guidelines.

On all proposals over fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000), or as required by law, the Director of Purchasing shall require vendors to specify which products have recycled materials, what percentage or amount is postconsumer material, and to provide certification of the percentages of recycled materials used in the manufacture of goods and commodities procured by the County.

SECTION A – GENERAL CONDITIONS

Price preference is not the preferred practice the County wishes to employ in meeting the goals of this resolution. If a price preference is deemed to serve the best interest of the County and further supports the purchase of recycled materials, the Director of Purchasing will make a recommendation that a price preference be allowed up to an amount not to exceed 10% above the lowest complying proposal received.

DEFINITIONS:

Recovered Materials: Materials that have recycling potential, can be recycled, and have been diverted or removed from the solid waste stream for sale, use or reuse, by separation, collection, or processing.

Recycled Materials: Materials that contain recovered materials. This term may include internally generated scrap that is commonly used in industrial or manufacturing processes, waste or scrap purchased from another manufacturer and used in the same or a closely related product.

Postconsumer Materials: Materials which have been used by a business or a consumer and have served their intended end use, and have been separated or diverted from the solid waste stream for the purpose of recycling, such as; newspaper, aluminum, glass containers, plastic containers, office paper, corrugated boxes, pallets or other items which can be used in the remanufacturing process.

20. **ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS:**

The County reserves the right to request additional services from the Contractor if provided in the Services Agreement.

21. **SERVICES AGREEMENT:**

In addition to being subject to all terms and conditions in this RFP, all responses are subject to the terms and conditions in the Services Agreement attached to the RFP. Additional or modified terms and conditions in the Services Agreement may be necessary depending on the responses to the RFP, including any exceptions stated by the Proposer as required by Section A, paragraph 1(c) of this RFP. However, the County objects to and shall not be bound by any additional or modified terms and conditions that are in conflict with the terms and conditions in the Services Agreement, or are not acceptable to, or have been declared to be non-negotiable by the County, as determined in its sole discretion.

22. **INTEGRITY OF REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) DOCUMENTS:**

Proposers shall use the original RFP Form(s) provided by the Purchasing Department and enter information only in the spaces where a response is requested. Proposers may use an attachment as an *addendum* to the RFP Form(s) if sufficient space is not available on the original form for the proposer to enter a complete response. **Any modifications or alterations to the original RFP documents by the proposer, whether intentional or otherwise, will constitute grounds for rejection of a RFP.** Any such modifications or alterations a proposer wishes to propose must be clearly stated in the proposer's RFP response and presented in the form of an addendum to the original RFP documents.

23. **PUBLIC RECORDS/TRADE SECRETS:**

Pinellas County Government is subject to the Florida Public Records law (Chapter 119, Florida Statutes), and all documents, materials, and data submitted to any solicitation as part of the response are governed by the disclosure, exemption and confidentiality provisions relating to public records in Florida Statutes. Except for materials that are "trade secrets" or "confidential" as defined by applicable Florida law, ownership of all documents, materials, and data submitted in response to the solicitation shall belong exclusively to the County.

To the extent that Proposer desires to maintain the confidentiality of materials that constitute trade secrets pursuant to Florida law, trade secret material submitted must be identified by some distinct method that the materials that constitute a trade secret, and Proposer shall provide an additional copy of the proposal that redacts all designated trade secrets. By submitting materials that are designated as trade secrets and signature of the Proposer on its Proposal, Proposer acknowledges and agrees:

- (i) that after notice from the County that a public records request has been made for the materials designated as a trade secret, the Proposer shall be solely responsible for defending its determination that submitted material is a trade secret that is not subject to disclosure at its sole cost, which action shall be taken immediately, but no later than 10 calendar days from the date of notification or Proposer will be deemed to have waived the trade secret designation of the materials;

SECTION A – GENERAL CONDITIONS

- (ii) that to the extent that the proposal with trade secret materials is evaluated, the County and its officials, employees, agents, and representatives in any way involved in processing, evaluating, negotiating contract terms, approving any contract based on the proposal, or engaging in any other activity relating to the competitive selection process are hereby granted full rights to access, view, consider, and discuss the materials designated as trade secrets through the final contract award;
- (iii) to indemnify and hold the County, and its officials, employees, agents and representatives harmless from any actions, damages (including attorney's fees and costs), or claims arising from or related to the designation of trade secrets by the Proposer, including actions or claims arising from the County's non-disclosure of the trade secret materials.
- (iv) that information and data it manages as part of the services may be public record in accordance with Chapter 119, Florida Statutes and Pinellas County public record policies. Proposer agrees, prior to providing goods/services, it will implement policies and procedures, which are subject to approval by the County, to maintain, produce, secure and retain public records in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, and County Policies including but not limited to Section 119.0701, Florida Statutes.

Notwithstanding any other provision in the solicitation, the classification as trade secret of the entire proposal document, line item and/or total proposal prices, the work, services, project, goods, and/or products to be provided by Proposer, or any information, data, or materials that may be part of or incorporated into a contract between the County and the Proposer is not acceptable to the County and will result in a determination that the proposal is nonresponsive; the classification as trade secret of any other portion of a proposal document may result in a determination that the proposal is non-responsive.

24. LOBBYING:

Lobbying shall be prohibited on all county competitive selection processes, and contract awards pursuant to this division, including but not limited to requests for proposals, requests for quotations, requests for qualifications, bids or the award of purchasing contracts of any type. The purpose of this prohibition is to protect the integrity of the procurement process by shielding it from undue influences prior to the contract award or the competitive selection process is otherwise concluded. However, nothing herein shall prohibit a prospective bidder/proposer/protestor from contacting the purchasing department or the county attorney's office to address situations such as clarification and/or questions related to the procurement process.

Lobbying of evaluation committee members, county government employees, or elected/appointed officials, or advisory board members regarding request for proposals, requests for quotations, requests for qualifications, bids, or purchasing contracts, by the bidder/proposer any member of the bidder's/proposer's staff, any agent or representative of the bidder/proposer, or any person employed by any legal entity affiliated with or representing a bidder/proposer/protestor, is strictly prohibited from the date of the advertisement, or on a date otherwise established by the board of county commissioners, until either an award is final or the competitive selection process is otherwise concluded. Any lobbying activities in violation of this section or on behalf of a bidder/proposer shall result in the disqualification or rejection of the proposal, quotation, statement of qualification, bid or contract.

For purposes of this provision, lobbying shall mean influencing or attempting to influence action or non-action, and/or attempting to obtain the goodwill of persons specified herein relating to the selection, ranking, or contract award in connection with any request for proposal, request for quotation, requests for qualification, bid or purchasing contract through direct or indirect oral or written communication. The final award of a purchasing contract shall be the effective date of the purchasing contract.

Any evaluation committee member, county government employee or elected/appointed official, or advisory board member who has been lobbied shall immediately report the lobbying activity to the director of purchasing.

SECTION A – GENERAL CONDITIONS

25. PROTEST PROCEDURE:

As per Section 2-162 of County Code:

(a) *Right to protest.* Any prospective bidder or proposer who is aggrieved by the contents of the bid or proposal package, or any bidder or proposer who is aggrieved in connection with the recommended award on a bid or proposal solicitation, may file a written protest to the director of purchasing as provided herein. This right to protest is strictly limited to those procurements of goods or services solicited through invitations to bid or requests for proposals, including solicitations pursuant to § 287.055, Florida Statutes, the "Consultants' Competitive Negotiation Act." No other actions or recommendations in connection with a solicitation can be protested, including: (i) requests for quotations or requests for qualifications; (ii) rejection of some, all or parts of bids or proposals; (iii) disqualification of bidders or proposers as non-responsive or non-responsible; or (iv) recommended awards less than the mandatory bid or proposal amount. Protests failing to comply with the provisions of this section 2-162 shall not be reviewed.

(b) *Posting.* The purchasing department shall post the recommended award on the departmental website no less than five (5) full business days after the decision to recommend the award is made.

(c) *Requirements to protest.*

(1) If the protest relates to the content of the bid/proposal package, a formal written protest must be filed no later than 5:00 p.m. on the fifth full business day after issuance of the bid/proposal package.

(2) If the protest relates to the recommended award of a bid or proposal, a formal written protest must be filed no later than 5:00 p.m., on the fifth full business day after posting of the award recommendation.

(3) The formal written protest shall identify the protesting party and the solicitation involved; include a statement of the grounds on which the protest is based; refer to the statutes, laws, ordinances or other legal authorities which the protesting party deems applicable to such grounds; and specifically request the relief to which the protesting party deems itself entitled by application of such authorities to such grounds.

(4) A formal written protest is considered filed with the county when the purchasing department receives it. Accordingly, a protest is not timely filed unless it is received within the time specified above by the purchasing department. Failure to file a formal written protest within the time period specified shall constitute a waiver of the right to protest and result in relinquishment of all rights to protest by the bidder/proposer.

(d) *Rights of interested parties.* Bidders or proposers, other than the protestor, which would be directly affected by the favorable resolution of a protest relating to a recommended award, shall have the right to provide written documentation related to the protested solicitation. Said interested parties shall be solely responsible for determining whether a protest has been filed. Any documentation submitted by an interested party must be filed with the director of purchasing no later than 5:00 p.m. on the fifth full business day after the purchasing department posts notification that a protest has been filed. Any interested party submitting documentation shall bear all costs, including legal representation, relating to the submission.

(e) *Sole remedy.* These procedures shall be the sole remedy for challenging the content of the bid or proposal package or the recommended award.

(f) *Lobbying.* Protestors, and interested parties as defined subsection (d), and anyone acting on their behalf, are prohibited from attempts to influence, persuade, or promote a bid or proposal protest through any other channels or means, and contacting any Pinellas County official, employee, advisory board member, or representative to discuss any matter relating in any way to the solicitation being protested, other than the purchasing department's or county attorney's office employees. The prohibitions provided for herein shall begin with the filing of the protest and end upon the final disposition of the protest; provided however, at all times protestors shall be subject to the procurement lobbying prohibitions in section 2-189 of this code. Failure to adhere to the prohibitions herein shall result in the rejection of the protest without further consideration.

(g) *Time limits.* The time limits in which protests must be filed as specified herein may be altered by specific provisions in the bid/request for proposal.

(h) *Authority to resolve.* The director of purchasing shall resolve the protest in accordance with the documentation and applicable legal authorities and shall issue a written decision to the protestor no later than 5:00 p.m. on the tenth full business day after the filing thereof.

SECTION A – GENERAL CONDITIONS(i) *Review of purchasing director's decision.*

(1) The protesting party may request a review of the purchasing director's decision to the county administrator by delivering written request for review of the decision to the director of purchasing by 5:00 p.m. on the fifth full business day after the date of the written decision. The written notice shall include any materials, statements, and arguments which the bidder/proposer deems relevant to the issues raised in the request to review the decision of the purchasing director.

(2) The county administrator shall issue a decision in writing stating the reason for the action with a copy furnished to the protesting party no later than 5:00 p.m., on the seventh full business day after receipt of the request for review. The decision shall be final and conclusive as to the county unless a party commences action in a court of competent jurisdiction.

(j) *Stay of procurement during protests.* There shall be no stay of procurement during protests.

26. PUBLIC RECORDS – CONTRACTOR'S DUTY

If the Contractor has questions regarding the application of Chapter 119, Florida Statutes, to the Contractor's duty to provide public records relating to this contract, contact the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners, Purchasing Department, Operations Manager custodian of public records at 727-464-3311, purchase@pinellascounty.org, Pinellas County Government, Purchasing Department, Operations Manager, 400 S. Ft. Harrison Ave, 6th Floor, Clearwater, FL 33756.

SECTION B – SPECIAL CONDITIONS**Proposal Title: State Governmental Relations Services****Proposal Number: 178-0174-P (SS)****1. INTENT:**

It is the intent of this Request for Proposal (RFP) to receive proposals from qualified firms to perform State Governmental representation and related support services to advance Pinellas County's approved legislative plan.

2. PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS:

Each proposal shall at a minimum address and/or include the following information and documentation in sufficient detail for the County to evaluate the Proposer's qualifications, as well as the methods, manner, proposed completion schedule if applicable, and the cost to complete the Section E Scope of Work:

- a) A separate statement describing the Proposer's qualifications and experience in providing the same or similar services as outlined in the RFP Scope of Work. This description should include the names of the person(s) who will provide the services, including any subcontractors, their qualifications, and the years of experience in performing this type of work/services. Also include the reference information requested in Section D.
- b) A separate written narrative describing the methods and/or manner in which the Proposer proposes to satisfy the requirements of the Scope of Work set out in Section E.
- c) A separate proposed Statement of Work (Proposer's Statement of Work) that enumerates and defines the work/services that Proposer will provide to the County to complete the Scope of Work in this RFP, including each task, deliverable, and/or goods or products comprising the services Proposer will provide, as well as a proposed completion schedule for each task or deliverable, if applicable. The Proposer's Statement of Work shall be in a form that can be incorporated into the Services Agreement as an Exhibit at the County's option.
- d) The proposed compensation to be paid by the County for the services identified in the Proposer's Statement of Work required in subsection 2(c) above, including the methodology for determining the compensation. Proposer shall specify the total not-to-exceed compensation based on: a lump sum not-to-exceed amount and all-inclusive hourly rate.
- e) Any exceptions to any section of this RFP.

3. TERM OF SERVICES AGREEMENT:

Duration of the contract shall be for the period of twenty-four (24) months from the date of execution of the agreement unless otherwise indicated.

4. TERM EXTENSION(S) OF CONTRACT

The contract may be extended subject to written notice of agreement from the County and the successful bidder(s) for an additional thirty-six (36) month period beyond the primary contract period. Term extensions will allow for price adjustments (Decrease/Increase) in an amount not to exceed the average of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for all Urban Consumers, Series Id: CUUR0000SA0, Not Seasonally Adjusted, Area: U.S. city average, Item: All items, Base Period: 1982-84=100 for the twenty-four (24) months prior to extension. The extension shall be exercised only if all terms and conditions remain the same and the County Administrator or Director of Purchasing grants approval.

It is the vendor's responsibility to request any pricing adjustment under this provision. For any adjustment to commence on the first day of any exercised extension period, the vendor's request for adjustment should be submitted at time of the extension request from the County. The vendor adjustment request should not be in excess of the relevant pricing index change. If no adjustment request is received from the vendor, the County will assume the vendor has agreed that the extension term may be exercised without pricing adjustment. Any adjustment request received after the commencement of a new extension period may not be considered.

SECTION B – SPECIAL CONDITIONS

5. **FEES AND EXPENSES:**

The Proposer will provide a monthly fee for services in an all-inclusive hourly rate format. Fees should be submitted in the same or similar form as Attachment A. The agreed to hourly compensation will include all standard day-to-day administrative, overhead and internal expenses; including, but not limited to:

- costs of bonds and insurance premiums as required by this RFP
- support
- office supplies
- safety equipment
- consumables
- other consulting services
- special presentations
- regular and certified postage
- computer/software
- equipment and usage
- telephone charges
- emails
- electronic data transmission fees
- standard copier usage
- fax charges
- travel, per diem and lodging charges, unless otherwise agreed to by the County in the Services Agreement

Travel and lodging expenses will be included in the lump sum proposal and will be paid in accordance with Florida Statute 112.061, and/or County Travel Policy, as approved by the County.

6. **TIME LINE:**

Following is a listing of actions and anticipated dates; the County reserves the right to change the dates, if necessary.

Date	
Mar 2018	Advertising & Publishing RFP
N/A	Pre-proposal Conference
Mar 2018	Deadline for Questions/Clarifications
Mar 2018	Proposals due in Purchasing by 3:00 p.m. Public bid opening to follow immediately.
Apr 2018	Evaluation of the RFP
Apr 2018	Recommendation due to Purchasing from Department
May 2018	Submit recommendation to Board for Award of Contract

7. **PROPOSAL SUBMITTAL COPIES:**

Proposals shall be submitted in one (1) original paper document and six (6) electronic media copies CDs/DVDs or Travel Drives in PDF format. The preferred method is PDF conversion from the Proposer's source files (to minimize file size and maximize quality and accessibility) rather than scanning so that the County can open, print, read and save the pdf file you have created. To ensure consistency, the electronic copy should be ONE file document and in the same order as the paper original. If this is not possible, the electronic copy files should be in the same order as the paper copy, with a directory listing of the files.

Please note the evaluation committee will use the electronic media copies to review your submittal. Failure to include all information in the electronic media copies may have an impact on your evaluation scores.

Instructions for Providing Files in PDF Format to Pinellas County Government

Why does Pinellas County Government want all the documents as PDF files?

Answer- It's much more efficient to go paperless, and PDF is a universal file format that fits perfectly into government workflow processes.

How do I convert my files to PDF format?

Answer- If you have a program such as Adobe Acrobat, creating a PDF of any file is a simple print function. Rather than printing to a traditional printer, the file converts to a PDF format copy of your original. Any program (such as Word, PowerPoint, Excel, etc.) can be converted this way by simply selecting the print command and choosing PDF as the printer.

SECTION B – SPECIAL CONDITIONS**Should I scan everything and save as PDF?**

Answer- Not unless you are scanning with OCR (optical character recognition). Scanning will create unnecessarily large files because a scan is just a picture of a page rather than actual page text. Furthermore, the result of scanning is that your pages will not look nearly as “clean” or professional as simply using the print to PDF method from the program from which the file originates. Additionally, since scan pages are pictures of text, not really text, they may not be considered accessible* under Federal ADA guidelines (*unless the scans are OCR.)

SECTION C – LIMITATION ON LIABILITY, INDEMNIFICATION, AND INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

1. **LIMITATIONS ON LIABILITY.** By submitting a Proposal, the Proposer acknowledges and agrees that the services will be provided without any limitation on Proposer's liability. The County objects to and shall not be bound by any term or provision that purports to limit the Proposer's liability to any specified amount in the performance of the services. Proposer shall state any exceptions to this provision in its response, including specifying the proposed limits of liability in the stated exception to be included in the Services Agreement. Proposer is deemed to have accepted and agreed to provide the services without any limitation on Proposer's liability that Proposer does not take exception to in its response. Notwithstanding any exceptions by Proposer, the County reserves the right to declare its prohibition on any limitation on Proposer's liability as non-negotiable, to disqualify any Proposal that includes exceptions to this prohibition on any limitation on Proposer's liability, and to proceed with another responsive, responsible proposal, as determined by the County in its sole discretion.
2. **INDEMNIFICATION.** By submitting a Proposal, the Proposer acknowledges and agrees to be bound by and subject to the County's indemnification provisions as set out in the Services Agreement. The County objects to and shall not be bound by any term or provision that purports to modify or amend the Proposer's indemnification obligations in the Services Agreement, or requires the County to indemnify and/or hold the Proposer harmless in any way related to the services. Proposer shall state any exceptions to this provision in the response, including specifying the proposed revisions to the Services Agreement indemnification provisions, or the proposed indemnification from the County to the Proposer to be included in the Services Agreement. Proposer is deemed to have accepted and agreed to provide the services subject to the Services Agreement indemnification provisions that Proposer does not take exception to in its response. Notwithstanding any exceptions by Proposer, the County reserves the right to declare its indemnification requirements as non-negotiable, to disqualify any Proposal that includes exceptions to this paragraph, and to proceed with another responsive, responsible proposal, as determined by the County in its sole discretion.
3. **INSURANCE:**
 - a) Proposal submittals should include, the Proposers current Certificate(s) of Insurance in accordance with the insurance requirements listed below. If Proposer does not currently meet insurance requirements, proposer/bidder/quoter shall also include verification from their broker or agent that any required insurance not provided at that time of submittal will be in place within 10 days after award recommendation.
 - b) Within 10 days of **contract award** and prior to commencement of work, Proposer shall email certificate that is compliant with the insurance requirements to InsuranceCerts@Pinellascounty.org. If certificate received with proposal was a compliant certificate no further action may be necessary. It is imperative that proposer include the unique identifier, which will be supplied by the County's Purchasing Department. The Certificate(s) of Insurance shall be signed by authorized representatives of the insurance companies shown on the Certificate(s). **A copy of the endorsement(s) referenced in paragraph 3.(d) for Additional Insured shall be attached to the certificate(s) referenced in this paragraph.**
 - c) No work shall commence at any project site unless and until the required Certificate(s) of Insurance are received and approved by the County. Approval by the County of any Certificate(s) of Insurance does not constitute verification by the County that the insurance requirements have been satisfied or that the insurance policy shown on the Certificate(s) of Insurance is in compliance with the requirements of the Agreement. County reserves the right to require a certified copy of the entire insurance policy, including endorsement(s), at any time during the RFP and/or contract period.
 - d) All policies providing liability coverage(s), other than professional liability and workers compensation policies, obtained by the Proposer and any subcontractors to meet the requirements of the Agreement shall be endorsed to include Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners as an Additional Insured.
 - e) If any insurance provided pursuant to the Agreement expires prior to the completion of the Work, renewal Certificate(s) of Insurance and endorsement(s) shall be furnished by the Proposer to the County at least thirty (30) days prior to the expiration date.

SECTION C – LIMITATION ON LIABILITY, INDEMNIFICATION, AND INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

- (1) Proposer shall also notify County within twenty-four (24) hours after receipt, of any notices of expiration, cancellation, nonrenewal or adverse material change in coverage received by said Proposer from its insurer. Notice shall be given by certified mail to: **Pinellas County Risk Management 400 South Fort Harrison Ave Clearwater FL 33756**; be sure to include your organization's unique identifier, which will be provided upon notice of award. Nothing contained herein shall absolve Proposer of this requirement to provide notice.
 - (2) Should the Proposer, at any time, not maintain the insurance coverages required herein, the County may terminate the Agreement, or at its sole discretion may purchase such coverages necessary for the protection of the County and charge the Proposer for such purchase or offset the cost against amounts due to proposer for services completed. The County shall be under no obligation to purchase such insurance, nor shall it be responsible for the coverages purchased or the insurance company or companies used. The decision of the County to purchase such insurance shall in no way be construed to be a waiver of any of its rights under the Agreement.
- f) The County reserves the right, but not the duty, to review and request a copy of the Contractor's most recent annual report or audited financial statement when a self-insured retention (SIR) or deductible exceeds \$50,000.
- g) If subcontracting is allowed under this RFP, the Prime Proposer shall obtain and maintain, at all times during its performance of the Agreement, insurance of the types and in the amounts set forth; and require any subcontractors to obtain and maintain, at all times during its performance of the Agreement, insurance limits as it may apply to the portion of the Work performed by the subcontractor; *but in no event will the insurance limits be less than \$500,000 for Workers' Compensation/Employers' Liability, and \$1,000,000 for General Liability and Auto Liability if required below.*
- (1) All subcontracts between Proposer and its subcontractors shall be in writing and may be subject to the County's prior written approval. Further, all subcontracts shall (1) require each subcontractor to be bound to Proposer to the same extent Proposer is bound to the County by the terms of the Contract Documents, as those terms may apply to the portion of the Work to be performed by the subcontractor; (2) provide for the assignment of the subcontracts from Proposer to the County at the election of Owner upon termination of the Contract; (3) provide that County will be an additional indemnified party of the subcontract; (4) provide that the County will be an additional insured on all insurance policies required to be provided by the subcontractor except workers compensation and professional liability; (5) provide waiver of subrogation in favor of the County and other insurance terms and/or conditions as outlined below; (6) assign all warranties directly to the County; and (7) identify the County as an intended third-party beneficiary of the subcontract. Proposer shall make available to each proposed subcontractor, prior to the execution of the subcontract, copies of the Contract Documents to which the subcontractor will be bound by this Section C and identify to the subcontractor any terms and conditions of the proposed subcontract which may be at variance with the Contract Documents.
- h) Each insurance policy and/or certificate shall include the following terms and/or conditions:
- (1) The Named Insured on the Certificate of Insurance and insurance policy must match the entity's name that responded to the solicitation and/or is signing the agreement with the County. If Proposer is a Joint Venture per Section A. titled Joint Venture of this RFP, Certificate of Insurance and Named Insured must show Joint Venture Legal Entity name and the Joint Venture must comply with the requirements of Section C with regard to limits, terms and conditions, including completed operations coverage.
 - (2) Companies issuing the insurance policy, or policies, shall have no recourse against County for payment of premiums or assessments for any deductibles which all are at the sole responsibility and risk of Contractor.
 - (3) The term "County" or "Pinellas County" shall include all Authorities, Boards, Bureaus, Commissions, Divisions, Departments and Constitutional offices of County and individual members, employees thereof in their official capacities, and/or while acting on behalf of Pinellas County.
 - (4) The policy clause "Other Insurance" shall not apply to any insurance coverage currently held by County or any such future coverage, or to County's Self-Insured Retentions of whatever nature.
 - (5) All policies shall be written on a primary, non-contributory basis.

SECTION C – LIMITATION ON LIABILITY, INDEMNIFICATION, AND INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

- (6) Any Certificate(s) of Insurance evidencing coverage provided by a leasing company for either workers compensation or commercial general liability shall have a list of covered employees certified by the leasing company attached to the Certificate(s) of Insurance. The County shall have the right, but not the obligation to determine that the Proposer is only using employees named on such list to perform work for the County. Should employees not named be utilized by Proposer, the County, at its option may stop work without penalty to the County until proof of coverage or removal of the employee by the contractor occurs, or alternatively find the Proposer to be in default and take such other protective measures as necessary.
- (7) Insurance policies, other than Professional Liability, shall include waivers of subrogation in favor of Pinellas County from both the Proposer and subcontractor(s).
- i) The minimum insurance requirements and limits for this Agreement, which shall remain in effect throughout its duration and for two (2) years beyond final acceptance for projects with a Completed Operations exposure, are as follows:

(1) Workers' Compensation Insurance

Limit	Florida Statutory
Employers' Liability Limits	
Per Employee	\$ 500,000
Per Employee Disease	\$ 500,000
Policy Limit Disease	\$ 500,000

- (2) Commercial General Liability Insurance including, but not limited to, Independent Contractor, Contractual Liability Premises/Operations, Products/Completed Operations, and Personal Injury. Hired and non-owned auto coverage under general liability can be substituted if firm does not own any vehicles.

Limits

Combined Single Limit Per Occurrence	\$ 1,000,000
Products/Completed Operations Aggregate	\$ 2,000,000
Personal Injury and Advertising Injury	\$ 1,000,000
General Aggregate	\$ 2,000,000

- (3) Business Automobile or Trucker's/Garage Liability Insurance covering owned, hired, and non-owned vehicles. If the Proposer does not own any vehicles, then evidence of Hired and Non-owned coverage is sufficient. Coverage shall be on an "occurrence" basis, such insurance to include coverage for loading and unloading hazards, unless Proposer can show that this coverage exists under the Commercial General Liability policy.

Limit

Combined Single Limit Per Accident	\$ 1,000,000
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- (4) Property Insurance Proposer will be responsible for all damage to its own property, equipment and/or materials.

SECTION D – VENDOR REFERENCES

Proposal Title: State Governmental Relations Services

Proposal Number: 178-0174-P (SS)

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS REQUIRED IN ORDER THAT YOUR PROPOSAL MAY BE REVIEWED AND PROPERLY EVALUATED.

COMPANY NAME: _____

LENGTH OF TIME COMPANY HAS BEEN IN BUSINESS: _____

BUSINESS ADDRESS: _____

HOW LONG IN PRESENT LOCATION: _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____

FAX NUMBER: _____

TOTAL NUMBER OF CURRENT EMPLOYEES: _____ FULL TIME _____ PART TIME

NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES YOU PLAN TO USE TO SERVICE THIS CONTRACT: _____

All references will be contacted by a County Designee via email, fax, mail or phone call to obtain answers to questions, as applicable before an evaluation decision is made.

Proposers must have experience in work of the same or similar nature, and must provide references that will satisfy the County. Proposer must furnish a reference list of at least four (4) customers for whom they have performed similar services.

LOCAL COMMERCIAL AND/OR GOVERNMENTAL REFERENCES THAT YOU HAVE PREVIOUSLY PERFORMED SIMILAR CONTRACT SERVICES FOR:

<p>1. COMPANY: _____</p> <p>ADDRESS: _____</p> <p>TELEPHONE/FAX: _____</p> <p>CONTACT: _____</p> <p>CONTACT EMAIL: _____</p> <p>COMPANY EMAIL ADDRESS: _____</p>	<p>2. COMPANY: _____</p> <p>ADDRESS: _____</p> <p>TELEPHONE/FAX: _____</p> <p>CONTACT: _____</p> <p>CONTACT EMAIL: _____</p> <p>COMPANY EMAIL ADDRESS: _____</p>
<p>3. COMPANY: _____</p> <p>ADDRESS: _____</p> <p>TELEPHONE/FAX: _____</p> <p>CONTACT: _____</p> <p>CONTACT EMAIL: _____</p> <p>COMPANY EMAIL ADDRESS: _____</p>	<p>4. COMPANY: _____</p> <p>ADDRESS: _____</p> <p>TELEPHONE/FAX: _____</p> <p>CONTACT: _____</p> <p>CONTACT EMAIL: _____</p> <p>COMPANY EMAIL ADDRESS: _____</p>

SECTION E – SCOPE OF WORK

Proposal Title: State Governmental Relations Services

Proposal Number: 178-0174-P (SS)

A. OBJECTIVE:

To hire a firm(s) to represent the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners (Board), at the State level providing governmental relations services.

B. SCOPE OF WORK:

The proposing firms are expected to demonstrate their ability to effectively represent the Board at the State level as per the requirements listed below.

The proposers shall provide a full scope of state governmental relations services including, but not limited to, the following:

- a. Develop an overall strategy with the Board and staff to ensure issues of concern to Pinellas County Government are addressed to the Board's satisfaction and demonstrate a keen understanding of the Board's priorities.
- b. Develop and implement a strategy for the support, opposition, or amendment of pending legislation that may impact Pinellas County Government.
- c. Work with members of the Legislature, especially members of the Pinellas County Delegation, to ensure their understanding and support of matters of importance to Pinellas County Government.
- d. Work with current and future House and Senate Leadership to ensure their understanding of matters of importance to Pinellas County Government.
- e. Coordinate efforts with partners and associations including, but not limited to, Florida Association of Counties, Pinellas County School Board, Pinellas municipalities, and special districts when their priorities align with the Board's.
- f. Acquire sponsors and supporters for bills, requests for appropriations, amendments, and other legislation that is in line with the Board's priorities.
- g. Advocate before the Legislature, Governor, and other State agencies as necessary on behalf of the Pinellas County Government. Such efforts are to take place during the annual legislative session, special session(s), committee meetings, and Pinellas County Legislative Delegation meetings throughout the year.
- h. Upon request, attend meetings/appointments between the Board or Pinellas County Government staff, state legislators, and agency officials.
- i. Provide weekly written status reports when the Legislature is in session, and bi-weekly written status reports during committee weeks.
- j. Present an annual report to the Board at a scheduled Board meeting.
- k. Proposer is not aware of any clients of the firm that currently present any direct conflict of interest with the Board's priorities. If a potential conflict of interest arises, proposer will promptly notify the County and shall assign an alternative staff member to represent the Board on said issue.

SECTION E – SCOPE OF WORK**C. EVALUATION CRITERIA:**

Listed below is the criteria that will be used by the County to evaluate and score responsive proposals. Proposers shall include sufficient information to allow the County to thoroughly evaluate and score their proposals. Each proposal submitted shall be evaluated and ranked by an evaluation committee with a total of 1,000 possible criteria points. Proposals should be submitted using a “TAB” format with responses correlating to the tabbed evaluation criteria shown below. The contract will be awarded to the most qualified proposer, per the following evaluation criteria:

1. Qualifications (300 Points)***TAB 1:***

A separate statement describing the Proposer's qualifications and experience in providing the same or similar services as outlined in the RFP Scope of Work. Proposer's familiarity and ties with Tampa Bay region, and relationship with Tampa Bay Legislative Delegation. This description should include resumes of the names of the person(s) who will provide the services, including any subcontractors, their qualifications, years of experience in performing this type of work/services. Also include the reference information requested in Section D.

2. Approach (275 Points)***TAB 2:***

A separate written narrative describing the methods and/or manner in which the Proposer proposes to satisfy the requirements of the Scope of Work. Provide the following but not limited to:

- I. a. Proposer is not aware of any clients of the firm that currently present any direct conflict of interest with the Board's priorities. If a potential conflict of interest arises, proposer will promptly notify the County and shall assign an alternative staff member to represent the Board on said issue.

SECTION E – SCOPE OF WORK

- a. Developing an overall strategy with the Board and staff to ensure issues of concern to Pinellas County Government are addressed to the Board's satisfaction and demonstrate a keen understanding of the Board's priorities.
- b. Working with members of the Legislature, especially members of the Pinellas County Delegation, to ensure their understanding and support of matters of importance to Pinellas County Government.
- c. Working with current and future House and Senate Leadership to ensure their understanding of matters of importance to Pinellas County Government.
- d. Coordinating efforts with partners and associations including, but not limited to, Florida Association of Counties, Pinellas County School Board, Pinellas municipalities, and special districts when their priorities align with the Board's.
- e. Acquiring sponsors and supporters for bills, amendments, and other legislation that is in line with the Board's priorities.
- f. Advocating before the Legislature, Governor, and other State agencies as necessary on behalf of the Pinellas County Government. Such efforts are to take place during the annual legislative session, special session(s), committee meetings, and Pinellas County Legislative Delegation meetings throughout the year.

SECTION E – SCOPE OF WORK

3. Statement of Work (225 Points)

TAB 3

A separate proposed Statement of Work that enumerates and defines the work/services that the Proposer will provide to the County to complete the Scope of Work in this RFP, including each task, deliverable, and/or goods or products comprising the services Proposer will provide, as well as a proposed completion schedule for each task or deliverable, if applicable. The Proposer's Statement of Work shall be in a form that can be incorporated into the Services Agreement at the County's option. Provide the following but not limited to:

- a. Developing and implementing a strategy for the support, opposition, or amendment of pending legislation that may impact Pinellas County Government.
- b. Scheduling related to request to attend meetings and appointments between the Board or Pinellas County Government staff, state legislators, and agency officials.
- c. Providing weekly written status reports when the Legislature is in session, and bi-weekly written status reports during committee weeks.
- d. Presenting an annual report to the Board at a Board meeting.

4. Compensation (150 Points)

TAB 4

The proposed compensation to be paid by the County for the services identified in the Statement of Work, including the methodology for determining the compensation. Proposer shall specify the total not-to-exceed lump sum amount for each twelve (12) month period. In addition, please provide an all-inclusive hourly rate. Monthly invoices shall be submitted by Proposer based upon hourly rates for hours worked.

5. No Exceptions to RFP (50 Points)

TAB 5

Proposer is advised that exceptions to any terms and conditions contained in this RFP or the Services Agreement must be stated with specificity in its response to the RFP. The points available under this criterion may be deducted if the Proposer takes exception to any language to this RFP package.

6. ITEMS TO BE RETURNED WITH PROPOSAL:

Proposal Organization: Proposers are expected to organize their proposals in such a manner as to facilitate the evaluation process. Proposals should be keyed or indexed to correspond with this Request for Proposal. Responses should be correlated to the specific submittal, Criterion, section or paragraph number of the request for proposal being addressed. Evaluators will make a reasonable effort to locate information in the proposals; however failure to follow this suggested format may make location of critical submittal information difficult, possibly resulting in a loss of appropriate point credit.

a)	Page 1	Proposal Signature Page
b)	Section B	Item 2 Proposal Requirements
c)	Section B	Proposal Submittal Copies
d)	Section D	Vendor References
e)	Section E	Proposal Submittal
f)	Section F	ePayables Form
g)	Section F	W-9 Form
h)	Section G	Addendum Acknowledgement Form (If Applicable)
i)	Section H	Statement of No Submittal (If Applicable)
j)	Attachment A	Fees and Expenses

SECTION F ELECTRONIC PAYMENT**Electronic Payment (ePayables)**

The Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners (County) offers a credit card payment process (ePayables) through Bank of America. Pinellas County does not charge vendors to participate in the program; however, there may be a charge by the company that processes your credit card transactions. For more information please visit Pinellas County purchasing website at www.pinellascounty.org/purchase.

Would your company accept to participate in the ePayables credit card program?

☐ Yes☐ No

Company Name

Authorized Signature (for payment acceptance)

Printed Signature/Title/Department

Phone Number

W-9 REQUEST FOR TAXPAYER ID NUMBER AND CERTIFICATION

Form **W-9**
(Rev. August 2013)
Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

**Request for Taxpayer
Identification Number and Certification**

**Give Form to the
requester. Do not
send to the IRS.**

Print or type See Specific Instructions on page 2.	Name (as shown on your income tax return)	
	Business name/disregarded entity name, if different from above	
	Check appropriate box for federal tax classification: <input type="checkbox"/> Individual/sole proprietor <input type="checkbox"/> C Corporation <input type="checkbox"/> S Corporation <input type="checkbox"/> Partnership <input type="checkbox"/> Trust/estate <input type="checkbox"/> Limited liability company. Enter the tax classification (C=C corporation, S=S corporation, P=partnership) ▶ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Other (see instructions) ▶ _____	Exemptions (see instructions): Exempt payee code (if any) _____ Exemption from FATCA reporting code (if any) _____
	Address (number, street, and apt. or suite no.)	Requester's name and address (optional)
	City, state, and ZIP code	
List account number(s) here (optional)		

Part I Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN)

Enter your TIN in the appropriate box. The TIN provided must match the name given on the "Name" line to avoid backup withholding. For individuals, this is your social security number (SSN). However, for a resident alien, sole proprietor, or disregarded entity, see the Part I instructions on page 3. For other entities, it is your employer identification number (EIN). If you do not have a number, see *How to get a TIN* on page 3.

Note. If the account is in more than one name, see the chart on page 4 for guidelines on whose number to enter.

Social security number								
				-				

Employer identification number								
			-					

Part II Certification

Under penalties of perjury, I certify that:

- The number shown on this form is my correct taxpayer identification number (or I am waiting for a number to be issued to me), and
- I am not subject to backup withholding because: (a) I am exempt from backup withholding, or (b) I have not been notified by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) that I am subject to backup withholding as a result of a failure to report all interest or dividends, or (c) the IRS has notified me that I am no longer subject to backup withholding, and
- I am a U.S. citizen or other U.S. person (defined below), and
- The FATCA code(s) entered on this form (if any) indicating that I am exempt from FATCA reporting is correct.

Certification instructions. You must cross out item 2 above if you have been notified by the IRS that you are currently subject to backup withholding because you have failed to report all interest and dividends on your tax return. For real estate transactions, item 2 does not apply. For mortgage interest paid, acquisition or abandonment of secured property, cancellation of debt, contributions to an individual retirement arrangement (IRA), and generally, payments other than interest and dividends, you are not required to sign the certification, but you must provide your correct TIN. See the instructions on page 3.

Sign Here	Signature of U.S. person ▶	Date ▶
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General Instructions

Section references are to the Internal Revenue Code unless otherwise noted.

Future developments. The IRS has created a page on www.irs.gov/w9 for information about Form W-9, at www.irs.gov/w9. Information about any future developments affecting Form W-9 (such as legislation enacted after we release it) will be posted on that page.

Purpose of Form

A person who is required to file an information return with the IRS must obtain your correct taxpayer identification number (TIN) to report, for example, income paid to you, payments made to you in settlement of payment card and third party network transactions, real estate transactions, mortgage interest you paid, acquisition or abandonment of secured property, cancellation of debt, or contributions you made to an IRA.

Use Form W-9 only if you are a U.S. person (including a resident alien), to provide your correct TIN to the person requesting it (the requester) and, when applicable, to:

- Certify that the TIN you are giving is correct (or you are waiting for a number to be issued),
- Certify that you are not subject to backup withholding, or
- Claim exemption from backup withholding if you are a U.S. exempt payee. If applicable, you are also certifying that as a U.S. person, your allocable share of any partnership income from a U.S. trade or business is not subject to the

withholding tax on foreign partners' share of effectively connected income, and

- Certify that FATCA code(s) entered on this form (if any) indicating that you are exempt from the FATCA reporting, is correct.

Note. If you are a U.S. person and a requester gives you a form other than Form W-9 to request your TIN, you must use the requester's form if it is substantially similar to this Form W-9.

Definition of a U.S. person. For federal tax purposes, you are considered a U.S. person if you are:

- An individual who is a U.S. citizen or U.S. resident alien,
- A partnership, corporation, company, or association created or organized in the United States or under the laws of the United States,
- An estate (other than a foreign estate), or
- A domestic trust (as defined in Regulations section 301.7701-7).

Special rules for partnerships. Partnerships that conduct a trade or business in the United States are generally required to pay a withholding tax under section 1446 on any foreign partners' share of effectively connected taxable income from such business. Further, in certain cases where a Form W-9 has not been received, the rules under section 1446 require a partnership to presume that a partner is a foreign person, and pay the section 1446 withholding tax. Therefore, if you are a U.S. person that is a partner in a partnership conducting a trade or business in the United States, provide Form W-9 to the partnership to establish your U.S. status and avoid section 1446 withholding on your share of partnership income.

SECTION G – ADDENDA ACKNOWLEDGMENT FORM**Proposal Title: State Governmental Relations Services****Proposal No: 178-0174-P (SS)****PLEASE ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF ADDENDA FOR THIS RFP BY SIGNING AND DATING BELOW:****ADDENDA NO.****SIGNATURE/PRINTED NAME****DATE RECEIVED**

Note: Prior to submitting the response to this solicitation, it is the responsibility of the firm submitting a response to confirm if any addenda have been issued. If such document(s) has been issued, acknowledge receipt by signature and date in section above and return Addenda Acknowledgement Form with RFP. Failure to do so may result in being considered non-responsive.

Information regarding Addenda issued is available on the Purchasing Department section of the County's website at, www.pinellascounty.org/purchase/Current_Bids1.htm, listed under category 'Current Bids'.

SECTION H – NO BID STATEMENT

NOTE: If you do not intend to submit a proposal on this requirement, please return this form immediately. ***Thank you.***

Pinellas County Purchasing Department
400 South Fort Harrison Avenue, 6th Floor
Clearwater, Florida 33756

We, the undersigned have declined to submit a proposal for RFP No. **178-0174-P (SS)** for **State Governmental Relations Services**.

- ☐ Specifications too "tight", i.e., geared toward one brand or manufacturer only (explain below).
- ☐ Insufficient time to respond to the Request for Proposal.
- ☐ We do not offer this product or service.
- ☐ Our schedule would not permit us to perform.
- ☐ Unable to meet specifications.
- ☐ Unable to meet Bond requirement.
- ☐ Specifications unclear (explain below).
- ☐ Unable to Meet Insurance Requirements.
- ☐ Remove Us from Your "Notification List" Altogether
- ☐ Other (specify below).

REMARKS:

We understand that if the "No Proposal" letter is not executed and returned our name may be deleted from the Bidders List of Pinellas County.

COMPANY NAME: _____

DATE: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

TYPED NAME OF ABOVE: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

FAX: _____

EMAIL: _____

ATTACHMENT A - COMPENSATION

DESCRIPTION	LUMP SUM NOT TO EXCEED (includes all expenses)
YEAR 1 (12 MONTHS):	\$
YEAR 2 (12 MONTHS):	\$

Provide hourly rates below for each positions that will be used for hours worked (to be paid monthly). Hourly rates will not be used for evaluation of the services required in this RFP.

****Do not modify positions listed below****

TITLE	HOURLY RATE (All Inclusive)
Secretary	\$
Attorney	\$
GRAND TOTAL:	\$

INSERT AGREEMENT HERE AT ADVERTISEMENT PHASE