

An aerial photograph of a large concrete bridge spanning a wide river. The river is surrounded by lush green trees and vegetation. In the background, there are some residential houses and a golf course. The sky is blue with some light clouds.

Manatee County

FLORIDA

POPULAR REPORT

**A FINANCIAL SUMMARY FOR ITS CITIZENS
FISCAL YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2017**

Manatee County



Photo credit: Manatee County Library Historical Image Digital Collection

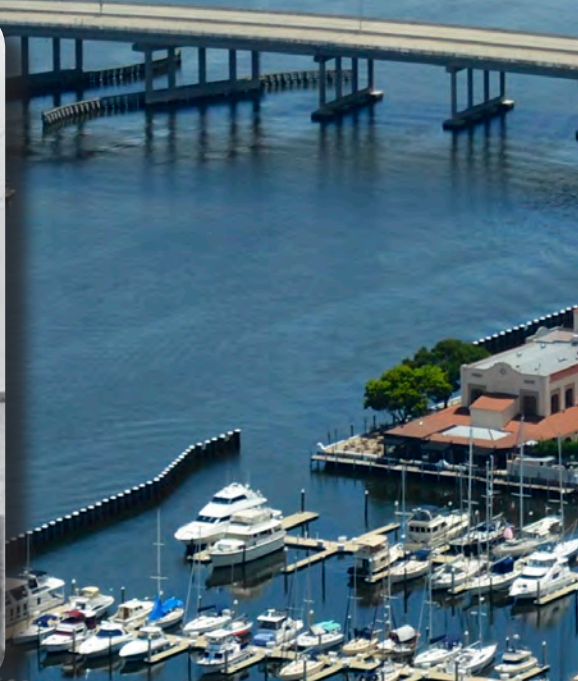


Photo credit: Melissa Matisko



Photo credit: Herb Loomis Postcard Collection, Manatee County Historical Records Library

Manatee County

FLORIDA

Since settlers first arrived on the Manatee River in the 1840s, the area that became Manatee County has been a tourist destination. After building a home and clearing land for farming, Josiah and Mary Gates constructed a hotel and advertised that travelers to the Manatee Lands could enjoy boating, hunting and fishing, be cured of diseases, and relax amidst the tropical environment and salt air.

What if you had to swim across a river to get to work? County Commissioner William Vanderipe did when a hurricane washed out the crossing across the Braden River. What if the only library was on the other side of a mile wide river? With help from the Carnegie Foundation, Manatee County residents built two libraries, one in Palmetto and one in Bradentown. What if our barrier islands were so inaccessible they were reserved only for vacations or special excursions? While the Manatee River and other area waterways provided a means of transportation, delivery of goods, services and crops, they also created a barrier to growth. As long as the only form of transportation was by water, the small communities scattered along the Manatee River's twenty-two miles of shoreline clustered close to that source. For many years, the Manatee River was like our modern Interstate system. Everyone who came to the area, from the prehistoric tribes to the arrival of the early settlers in 1842 and on up until the railroad's construction in the early 1900s, wanted to be near the water and access to boat transportation. Of the present day county's 893 square miles, 150 square miles are water. When government and civic organizations finally spanned creeks, bays and rivers with bridges, horses, wagons, automobiles and trucks opened communication and transferred goods and ideas throughout the area and the world. These wooden bridges, while they did not last, foreshadowed the transit system we rely upon today. Today, thousands of people cross our county's bridges each day as they commute to and from work, school or entertainment. Modern bridges are constructed of concrete and steel and designed to withstand hurricane force winds. Though commuters often complain about rush hour traffic on the bridges, imagine what life would be like if we all rushed to ferries or trundled across wooden one lane structures at ten miles per hour? Bridges helped the county grow and impacted who we are today. Therefore, as part of the 2016-2017 Manatee County Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, we present, "The Bridges of Manatee County." ♦

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2016 – 2017

Clerk of the Circuit Court

Accomplishments at a Glance

- ◆ Collected in excess of \$25 million in child support for the children of Manatee County. Manatee County exceeded expectations for the percentage of cases with support orders.
- ◆ The Violence Protection division aided in the filing of 1,114 injunctions for protection, commonly referred to as "restraining orders," for victims of domestic, repeat, sexual, stalking and dating violence during the past fiscal year.
- ◆ The Department of Financial Recovery (DFR) collects fines and court costs legally owed this fiscal year. Since its inception in July, 2004, the DFR has collected in excess of \$10.1 million in fines and courts costs which may have gone uncollected.
- ◆ Our Indigence Examiners, since January, 2008, have collected a cumulative total of over \$1.1 million. These monies previously went uncollected until responsibility was given to the Clerk.
- ◆ 284 children ages 10 to 17 participated in Teen Court and Teen Court Too and contributed over 5,737 community service hours to the community. Additionally, 191 youth volunteers donated over 2,259 hours of volunteer time to the community.
- ◆ 3,675 Manatee County students participated in the school programs offered at the Manatee Village Historical Park, the Florida Maritime Museum, the Palmetto Historical Park and the Manatee County Agricultural Museum. Over 46,000 residents and visitors attended special events and programs at these parks throughout 2017.
- ◆ Volunteers at the Manatee Village Historical Park, Florida Maritime Museum, Palmetto Historical Park and Manatee County Agricultural Museum donated almost 9,000 hours of community service.
- ◆ 1,100 local students participated in the Manatee County History Fair, hosted each year by the Manatee County Historical Commission and our Historical Resources department.
- ◆ Received our 38th consecutive Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for our 2016 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.
- ◆ Received our 19th consecutive GFOA Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting for our 2016 Popular Report.
- ◆ The Internal Audit Department issued 10 audit reports and 6 project reports. The department also provided more than 850 consulting and project hours in the form of assistance to other departments and agencies. In addition, the department allocates 500 hours each year to assist the external audit firm in performing the annual audit of the County's financial statements, thereby reducing the cost of the audit services.
- ◆ Kept minutes at 140 meetings and work sessions for 12 Boards or Committees.

A Message from Angelina "Angel" Colonnese

Manatee County Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller

I am pleased to share with you the 2017 Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR) for Manatee County. This document will help you understand our county's financial performance and well-being for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017 in valuable, summarized format that every resident can use. Our stewardship of the county's investments, on behalf of our citizens, is a responsibility we take very seriously.

We are also proud that this issue of Manatee County's PAFR includes photographs of some of the important bridges that have in the past or current span the waterways of our county. Surrounded by water, the Manatee River and other waterways define who we are. These bridges opened communication and the transfer of goods and ideas throughout the area. While the Manatee River shaped our county's growth, so did the bridges that spanned it.

My father owned a business in Palmetto while we lived in Bradenton. As a child, I remember crossing the Manatee River on the old Green Bridge. Riding in the back seat of my parents' car with my brother, the rumble of the tires on the concrete pavement was a song that made me feel secure and at home. As a child I never understood why they called it the Green Bridge when it was not even the color green. My dad explained to me that it was named for Emmet P. Green, a citizen of Manatee County who served on the all-important state road board and helped to secure one million dollars to build the old bridge in 1927. Today, one million dollars is still a lot of money, but it takes more than that to build a bridge. Since 1986, cars travel across the higher, modern span of a new bridge which still bears Green's name. The Manatee River and all of our county's waterways, creeks, rivers and bays shaped our community, but, it is the bridges that help us communicate, share ideas and offer assistance. On a personal level, the Green Bridge was a bridge to my heritage since my dad was born and raised in Palmetto and grew up there as a child along with his six siblings. In the 1940's my grandfather even owned a store on the other side of the bridge called Frank's Market. That was back in the day when business was transacted using ledger books. Without our bridges, we might still live in the isolated communities of the past century, relying on boats for transportation. Currently, we are engaging in discussions about how to replace some of these older spans without damaging historic neighborhoods and businesses. Because of this community discussion, our office thought it would be appropriate to highlight some of the bridges from our past and present. Who



knows what the future will hold? One thing I do know, it will take citizens with the same commitment and passion as the ones who erected our current bridges to determine our county's future. Just as I am committed to helping Manatee County residents understand the importance of how we became the community we are today, I am committed to fiscal integrity and stewardship in my job as the Manatee County Clerk and Comptroller.

Within the pages of this year's Popular Annual Financial Report, we have not only provided an explanation of the County's finances, but have also introduced you to some of the stories

and photographs of the bridges which have served us and still span our waterways today. Should you desire more information, the Finance Department of the Clerk of Circuit Court's Office also produces the more detailed Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). The CAFR meets stringent governmental accounting standards and is evaluated by rating agencies to assess Manatee County's financial stability, leading to favorable interest and insurance rates.

It is also with great pleasure that I can report that for the 38th year, our 2016 CAFR received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association. While the responsibility for the accuracy of the data lies with me, the recognition of receiving this prestigious award goes to our Finance Department. All four financial reports prepared by this office; this Popular Report, the Manatee County CAFR, the Port Manatee CAFR and the Manatee County Public Utilities System Annual Report, are available on-line at www.manateeclerk.com, or on CD. These reports are available by contacting our Finance Department at (941) 749-1800, Ext. 6102. In addition, this Popular Report is available in hard copy and available in many location throughout the county, including this office and the public libraries.

Thank you for taking the time to learn about Manatee County's financial strengths. If you have comments or suggestions on how we can improve our Popular Report, please contact my office at (941) 749-1800 or by visiting our web site at www.manateeclerk.com.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Angelina Colonnese".

Angelina "Angel" Colonnese
Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller



Government Finance Officers Association

**Award for
Outstanding
Achievement in
Popular Annual
Financial Reporting**

Presented to

**Manatee County
Florida**

For its Annual
Financial Report
for the Fiscal Year Ended

September 30, 2016

Christopher P. Morill
Executive Director/CEO

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) has given an Award for outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual financial Reporting to Manatee County, Florida for its Popular Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2016. The Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting is a prestigious national award recognizing conformance with the highest standards for preparation of state and local government popular reports.

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

An Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting is valid for a period of one year only. We believe our current report continues to conform to the Popular Annual Financial Reporting requirements, and we are submitting it to GFOA. ♦



ABOUT THIS REPORT

THE POPULAR REPORT PROVIDES AN OVERVIEW OF THE OPERATIONS OF MANATEE COUNTY'S CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICES:

Board of County Commissioners and Port Authority
Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller
Property Appraiser
Sheriff
Supervisor of Elections
Tax Collector

This report also provides an overview of the areas of responsibility for each county department and the Constitutional Officers.

The financial information presented here is in summarized form, is expressed in thousands, and does not substitute for the County's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). The CAFR outlines the County's financial position and operating activities for the year in great detail and in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles. Our Popular Report includes condensed information from its statement of net position and a condensed statement of activities with previous year comparative data as well as an overview of county functions and historical data. This Popular Report, because of its summary nature, does not conform to generally accepted accounting principles and associated reporting standards set forth by applicable governing bodies.

The presentation reflects county operations divided into two major categories: governmental and business-type.

Governmental activities are those primarily supported by tax dollars for services such as libraries, emergency medical services, law enforcement and transportation. The governmental category can be further subdivided between operations and capital activities. Capital project activities are dollars spent to construct, acquire or improve major facilities of the government.

Business-type activities offer goods and services of the county for sale and are intended to be self-supporting. Examples are Port Manatee and the County's water and sewer system. ♦

MANATEE COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Manatee County is a non-charter county established under the Constitution and the laws of the State of Florida. The Board of County Commissioners is the legislative body for Manatee County and is made up of seven residents elected by county voters. The commissioners' offices are in the County Administrative Center where public meetings are held. The commissioners also serve as the Port Authority board.

In addition to the seven County Commissioners, voters elect five constitutional officers: Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller, Property Appraiser, Sheriff, Supervisor of Elections and the Tax Collector.

Encompassing 740 square miles, Manatee County has six incorporated cities within its borders: Anna Maria, Bradenton, Bradenton Beach, Holmes Beach, Longboat Key and Palmetto. Each is governed by city councils elected by residents of the respective city. ♦



Old Wooden Cortez Bridge, 1957

Photo credit: Manatee County Public Historical Image Digital Collection

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

The Board of County Commissioners and the Clerk of Circuit Court and Comptroller share in the fiscal responsibility of Manatee County. The Commission and the Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller are separately elected constitutional officers and vested with separate powers, according to Florida law. This separation of power provides checks and balances within the county government to help safeguard the assets of the county.

The Board of County Commissioners is responsible for adopting an annual budget for all departments under the commissioners. The budget is prepared by the Department of Financial Management and presented to the commissioners for approval. The budget governs expenditures by the departments. It is illegal for department managers to exceed their budget.

The Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller is responsible for safeguarding Manatee County assets and is personally liable for any losses due to illegal payments. A key part of this responsibility is the control of county funds. Only the Clerk can disburse funds. Before monies are disbursed, all expenditures go through a rigorous pre-audit process. The Clerk must ensure that all expenditures are legal, budgeted and in compliance with county policies and procedures. As an extension of these responsibilities, the Clerk's office also prepares the financial statements of the county. ♦

FINANCIAL REPORTING

The following graphs provide comparative government-wide information, giving a broad overview of Manatee County's financial position for both its governmental and business-type activities. The values are computed under similar financial rules as private sector financial statements. Governmental activities are those primarily supported by tax dollars for services such as public safety, transportation, human services and general government. Business-type activities offer goods and services for sale and are intended to be self-supporting through the charges for those goods and services.

Current and other assets are assets that one can realistically expect to convert to cash, sell, or consume within one year. Capital assets include the County's long-term investments in land, buildings, equipment, improvements, infrastructure, and construction in progress. These assets are used to provide services to the community and are not available to future spending. Deferred outflows of resources are the use of assets that relate to a future reporting period. Long-term liabilities represent debt obligations that exceed more than one year. These include pension liability, compensated absences, other post-employment benefits, closure liability; as well as, bonds, notes, and loans payable that are used to finance large projects and equipment purchases. Other liabilities include debt

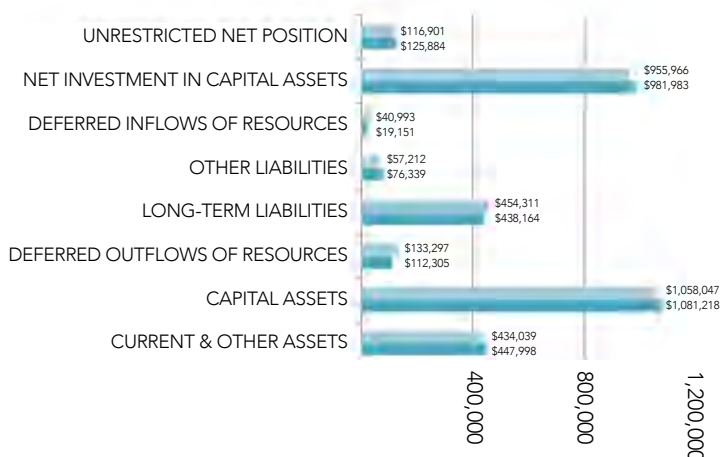
obligations due within one year. These are also made up of the debt obligations similar to long-term debt, but also include accounts and claims payable, accrued payroll, unearned revenue, and deposits. Deferred inflows of resources are the acquisition of net assets that pertains to a future reporting period. Total net position is comprised of three categories; net investment in capital assets, restricted net position and unrestricted net position. The value of all of the County's capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation and any debt outstanding that is associated with their purchase or construction, make up the category of net investment in capital assets. Restricted net position are those assets that have a restriction placed on them, typically by third parties; unspent bond proceeds and related debt and funds set aside for the payment of debt are good examples of these asset types. Unrestricted net position makes up the last component of net position, representing the resources that are available to finance the County's on-going operations.

These graphs present the County's assets and deferred outflows of resources, liabilities and deferred inflows of resources and net position. Changes in net position over time are an indication of an improving or deteriorating financial position. Governmental activities' net position increased by \$35,000 and business-type net position had a \$63,707 increase in total

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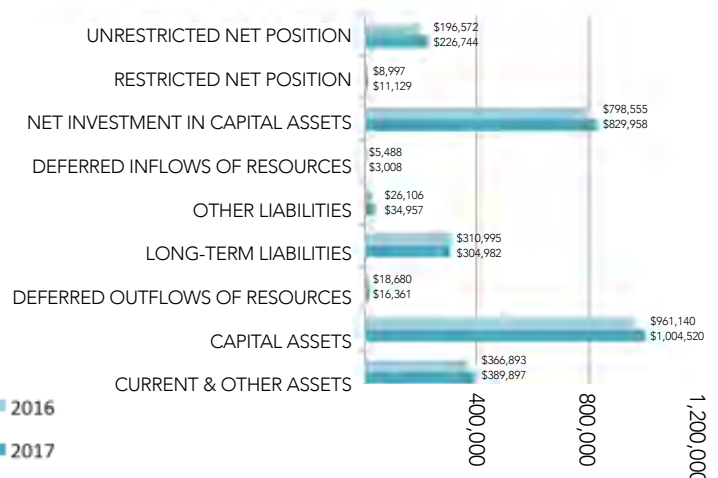
Governmental Activities

(Amounts expressed in thousands)



Business-Type Activities

(Amounts expressed in thousands)



FINANCIAL REPORTING Cont.

net position from September 30, 2016 to 2017, reflecting a positive and stable fiscal position for the County.

In the below graphs depicting the changes in net position, we can see that Manatee's County's governmental activities show substantial differences in various categories from the prior year's amount. The \$23,171 increase in capital assets and the \$26,017 increase investment in capital assets are mostly the result of land acquisitions and public domain infrastructure. The decrease in deferred outflows in resources is related to deferred pension outflows as determined by the Florida Retirement System.

The business-type activities of Manatee County show significant differences in various categories from the prior year's amounts. The increase of \$43,380 in capital assets and \$31,403 increase in net investment in capital assets are due to continuing increases by the utility system for capacity enlargement, connectivity and processing improvements, and the new Transit Fleet Facility being placed into service. The \$30,172 increase in unrestricted net position reflects continued growth within the County in its tax base and charges for services.

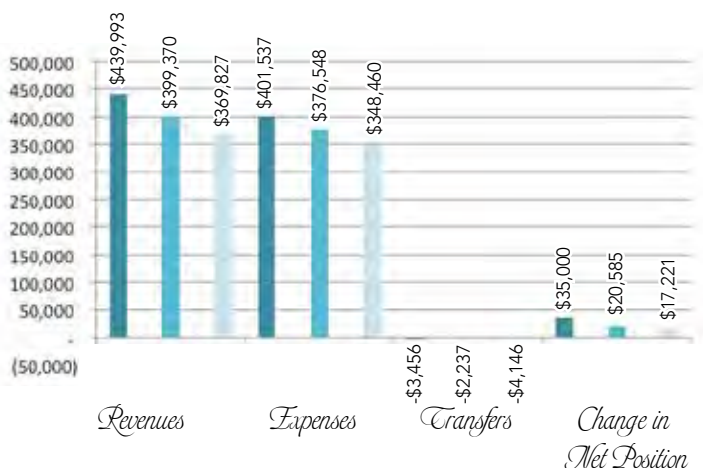
The following comparative, government-wide Condensed Statement of Activities and related graphs present the revenues, expenses and changes in net position. Increasing revenues which out-pace increased expenses, suggests that Manatee County is continuing to experience an increase in overall growth, coupled with controlled spending.

Program revenues consist of charges for services, operating grants (grants for daily business activities), capital grants (grants for capital projects and assets) and contributions. General revenues consist of property taxes, other taxes, state revenue sharing, interest income, miscellaneous revenues and intergovernmental transfers. Other expenses for governmental activities consist of physical and economic environment, human services, culture and recreation functions, interest payments on debt and intergovernmental transfers.

Overall, revenues increased by around \$40 million in the current year and expenses increased \$25 million over the prior year's levels, compared to a \$59 and \$36 million increase in revenues and expenditures, respectively, between fiscal years 2016 and 2015. In the general revenue

Activities

(Amounts expressed in thousands)



GOVERNMENTAL

BUSINESS

Manatee County Statement of Activities

(In Thousands)

category, a \$14.8 million increase in property taxes represents an ongoing increase in assessed property values. General revenue also increased \$17.4 million from the new Infrastructure surtax that was effective January 1, 2017. Expenses for governmental activities increased \$25 million resulting from increased allocations for public safety, the County's role in helping to host the World Rowing Championship, and transportation projects, while the prior year also saw increased expenditure activity of \$28 million due to public safety and insurance claim severity. An increase of \$10.5 million in the current year and \$16.6 million in the prior year for business-type activity charges for services. Water and sewer continues to show an increase in charges for service although it is waning compared to the increase in the prior year. Capital grants and contributions decreased by \$11.4 million, as the county completed construction of its new Transit Fleet Facility. In fiscal year 2016 capital grants and contributions increased by \$14.3 million, primarily in the Water and Sewer and Port funds, the result of increases in donated infrastructure and reimbursable grants associated with the reconstruction of Berth 9, respectively. Reflected in the spending, the County continues to be committed to providing basic governmental services and public safety expected by its citizens, balanced with those functions whose costs can be managed in the near term with increasing revenues. The County continues to monitor its workforce in order to continue to provide high levels of customer service. Continued spending for general government, public safety and utilities activities accounted for 79% of the expenses in the current year. ♦

Photo credit: Cathy Slusser

	GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES			BUSINESS-TYPE ACTIVITIES			TOTAL		
Revenues	2017	2016	2015	2017	2016	2015	2017	2016	2015
Program revenues	\$ 115,748	\$ 111,513	\$ 104,665	\$ 242,067	\$ 242,895	\$ 213,514	\$ 357,815	\$ 354,408	\$ 318,179
General revenues	324,245	287,857	265,162	253	250	183	324,498	288,107	265,345
Total Revenues	439,993	399,370	369,827	242,320	243,145	213,697	682,313	642,515	583,524
Expenses									
General government	95,465	89,085	83,176	-	-	-	95,465	89,085	83,176
Public safety	182,534	173,306	152,037	-	-	-	182,534	173,306	152,037
Transportation	41,154	38,006	36,644	-	-	-	41,154	38,006	36,644
Utilities	-	-	-	150,545	151,567	143,591	150,545	151,567	143,591
Port Authority	-	-	-	14,034	14,166	13,788	14,034	14,166	13,788
Other	82,384	76,151	76,603	17,490	16,237	16,193	99,874	92,388	92,796
Total Expenses	401,537	376,548	348,460	182,069	181,970	173,572	583,606	558,518	522,032
Transfers	(3,456)	(2,237)	(4,146)	3,456	2,237	4,146	-	-	-
Total Transfers	401,537	401,537	401,537	401,537	401,537	401,537	401,537	401,537	401,537
Changes in net position	35,000	20,585	17,221	63,707	63,412	44,271	98,707	83,997	61,492
Beginning net position	1,072,867	1,052,282	1,035,061	1,004,124	940,712	896,441	2,076,991	1,992,994	1,931,502
Ending net position	\$ 1,107,867	\$ 1,072,867	\$ 1,052,282	\$ 1,067,831	\$ 1,004,124	\$ 940,712	\$ 2,175,698	\$ 2,076,991	\$ 1,992,994

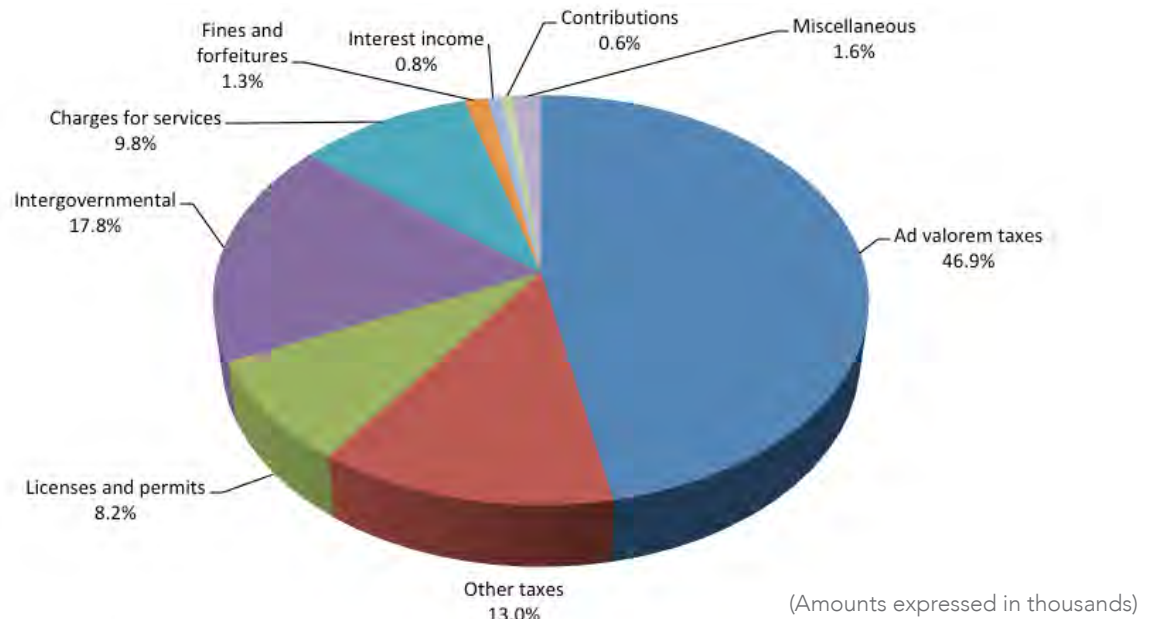
GENERAL GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS

Governmental funds are used to account for tax supported activities. The classifications of certain financial transactions are recorded per fund accounting requirements. The primary differences between the government-wide statement of revenues and expenses on the preceding pages and the governmental fund statistics on this page are:

- ◆ **GOVERNMENT FUND REVENUES** include all proceeds from the sale of capital assets, but exclude donations, net revenue of internal service funds and certain deferred revenues.
- ◆ **GOVERNMENT FUND EXPENDITURES** include capital outlays for the acquisition of new assets, expenditures for debt issuance costs and the repayment of principal of long term debt, but exclude deferred expenses and annual depreciation and amortization charges.

Revenues

During fiscal year 2017, revenues in the general government funds increased by approximately \$37 million from the prior fiscal year, with \$18.5 million attributable to an increase in other taxes principally from the new voter-approved infrastructure surtax. Ad valorem taxes increased by \$14.8 million due to increasing assessed property values. Licenses and permits were up \$1.9 million, related to impact fee collections. The increase in intergovernmental revenue of \$4.7 million is mostly due to state funding and increased property



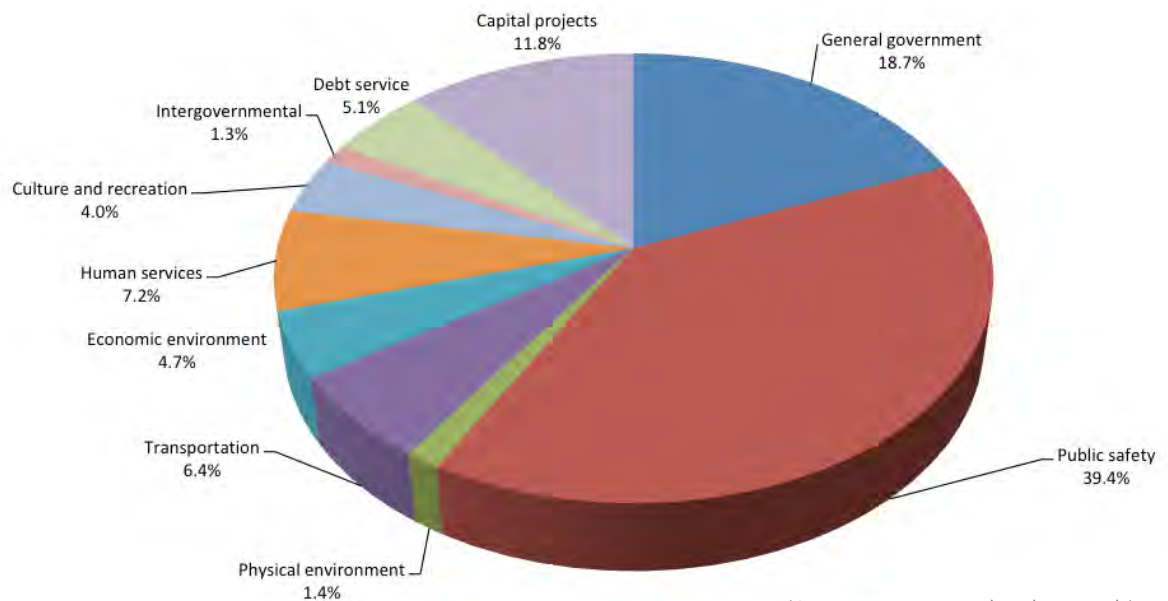
Revenues

	2017	2016	2015
Ad valorem taxes	\$202,515	\$187,729	\$172,458
Other taxes	56,096	37,591	35,306
Licenses and permits	35,581	33,652	25,811
Intergovernmental	76,688	72,021	68,865
Charges for services	42,362	45,541	43,193
Fines and forfeitures	5,591	5,718	6,566
Interest income	3,448	2,806	2,154
Assessments	90	114	141
Contributions	2,699	3,125	5,223
Miscellaneous	6,770	6,719	7,018
	\$431,840	\$395,016	\$366,735

values. A decrease in charges for services of \$3.1 million is attributed to an increase in ambulance fee write-offs. For fiscal 2016, revenues in the general government funds increased by approximately \$28 million from the prior fiscal year, with \$15.3 million attributable to an increase in ad valorem taxes primarily from rising assessed property values. Licenses and permits were up \$7.8 million, related to impact fee collections. The increase in intergovernmental revenue of \$3.2 million is mostly due to state funding for continued beach erosion projects. Ambulance fee write-off decreases combined with corresponding EMS revenue increases contributed to the rise of \$2.3 million in charges for services.

Expenditures

For fiscal year 2017, expenditures increased \$11.5 million from the prior fiscal year. Public safety expenditures increased \$6.4 million related to the continued Sheriff's office renovations and vehicle replacement programs. Capital project expenditures decreased \$8.4 million as the 44th Avenue East road expansion project, Fort Hamer and other major projects were near completion. The \$3.5 million increase in economic environment is primarily due to the County's participation in helping to host the 2017 World Rowing Championships. During fiscal year 2016, expenditures increased \$16.4 million from the prior fiscal year. Public safety expenditures increased \$7.2 million related to the Sheriff's office renovations and improvement of facilities and vehicle replacements. Capital project expenditures increased \$5 million as the 44th Avenue East road expansion project continues. The \$2 million increase in general government is largely related to the Supervisor of Elections acquiring a new voting system used in the 2016 general election and continuing software improvements county-wide. ♦



(Amounts expressed in thousands)

	2017	2016	2015
General government	\$77,807	\$77,303	\$75,256
Public safety	163,698	157,314	150,126
Physical environment	5,765	5,407	5,007
Transportation	26,454	23,980	22,928
Economic environment	19,696	16,171	15,357
Human services	30,057	28,149	29,452
Culture and recreation	16,667	15,357	15,352
Intergovernmental	5,545	4,643	4,361
Debt service	21,353	18,840	17,997
Capital projects	49,053	57,455	52,420
	\$416,095	\$404,619	\$388,256

CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT AND COMPTROLLER

The office of the Clerk of Circuit Court, an elected public trustee, was established by the Florida Constitution over 175 years ago. Responsible for over 925 separate duties, the Clerk is accountable to the citizens of Manatee County, not to any elected official, thereby creating a system of “checks and balances” at the county level that has served the public well.

The Clerk oversees a complex organization that performs a wide range of record keeping, information management and financial management in the judicial system and county government.

The Clerk serves as the:

- ◆ Chief Financial Officer, accountant and auditor to the Board of County Commissioners, and Port Authority.
- ◆ Custodian of public records, public funds and public property.
- ◆ Clerk of the Circuit and County Courts 12th Judicial District.
- ◆ Collector and distributor of court fines and fees, child support and alimony payments and statutory assessments.
- ◆ Custodian of court records and ensures that the courts’ orders, judgments and directives are carried out within the parameters allowed by law.

Finance

The Finance Department is responsible for carrying out the Clerk’s duties as the county’s chief financial officer and comptroller for the Board of County Commissioners and Port Authority. Those duties include pre-auditing disbursements made on behalf of the county.

The Finance Department also processes payroll for the Board and the Clerk, manages the county’s investment portfolio, maintains the records and conducts annual physical inventories of capital assets for the Board, Clerk, Property Appraiser, Supervisor of Elections and Tax Collector and, as the accountant to the Board, prepares financial reports.

Each year, the Finance Department produces the County’s Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, the Public Utilities System Annual Financial Report, the Manatee County Port Authority Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, the Popular Report, as well as individual statements and reports for the Clerk of the Circuit Court.

The Clerk of the Court is the official record keeper of all instruments required by law to be recorded. Official records are documents such as deeds, leases, mortgages, tax warrants, evictions or other documents relating to the ownership, transfer or encumbrance of real or personal property. Examples of other types of documents recorded in the official

records are items such as judgments entered by the courts, tax liens, and bankruptcy petitions and orders.

Official record documents are electronically scanned, indexed and made available on the Clerk's website, www.ManateeClerk.com, upon being recorded. The indexing of documents allows various searches to review the history of property or legal documents and cases involving a person or business.

Internal Audit

Internal auditing is an independent, objective assurance and consulting activity designed to add value and improve an organization's operations. As a service to management and the taxpayers of Manatee County, the Internal Audit Department measures and evaluates the operational efficiency and effectiveness of various Manatee County departments and agencies. They evaluate internal controls as well as compliance with a complex environment of federal, state and local laws, regulations, policies, and procedures. They report to the Board of County Commissioners, the County Administrator, and the public on how well Manatee County departments comply with these rules. In addition, the Internal Audit department provides consulting services to Manatee County departments that include independent analysis, review, and recommendations for new and continuing processes upon management's request.

The Internal Audit department is also staffed with Certified Fraud Examiners (CFE) who can professionally investigate allegations of fraud, irregularities, abuse, other illegal acts, and employee misconduct. Employees reporting suspected wrongdoing are protected by the Whistle Blower's Act from retaliation by management and other employees. Reporting may be done anonymously using the department's fraud hotline at (941) 742 - 5938, or by using an on-line fraud reporting form.

Courts

The Florida Constitution charges the Clerk of the Court with the responsibility of maintaining the records of both the circuit and county courts, and ensuring that the court's orders, judgments and directives are carried out within the parameters allowed by law. The Clerk's office does this by processing new cases, preparing court dockets, attending all criminal proceedings and recording disposition of cases, determining indigence, collecting criminal fines, pursuing financial recovery, and preparing and recording judgments.

The Clerk is required by law to summon jurors who are needed in trial courts and pay the jurors for their service.

Criminal, civil and traffic court case management information is available on-line on the Clerk's website, www.ManateeClerk.com. ♦

Photo credit: Melissa Matisko



PROGRAMS & SERVICES

Child Support Program

Child Support Program began operation under the Clerk in 1985, when collections were approximately \$5,000 per month. That figure has grown to over \$2 million per month.

Staff attorneys represent the Department of Revenue in civil litigation involving paternity establishment, child support establishment, modification and enforcement. This department handles cases in which the person owing support or the person due support lives either in Manatee County, Florida, another state, or a foreign country where reciprocal agreements exist for child support services.

By law, these services are provided to parents or caretaker relatives who receive public assistance, Medicaid and/or food stamps for the child in their care. Parents not receiving such assistance may request child support services free of charge.

Enforcement of Child Support orders for non compliant parents can be done through several methods such as drivers' license suspension, wage withholding and interception of Internal Revenue Service refunds, unemployment compensation and lottery winnings.

Funds paid for court-ordered support cases are processed through the State Disbursement Unit. the Public Utilities System Annual Financial Report, the Manatee County Port Authority Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, the Popular Report, as well as individual statements and reports for the Clerk of the Circuit Court.

Teen Court & Teen Court Too

Teen Court and Teen Court Too were established by the Clerk to provide early intervention of young offenders to prevent a pattern of criminal behavior.

Children, ages 10-17 who meet certain criteria are referred to the programs by the Juvenile Assessment

Center, the State Attorney's Office, law enforcement agencies, juvenile court and school resource officers. Teen Court and Teen Court Too volunteers, who are in elementary, middle and high school, perform the roles of prosecuting and defense attorneys, clerks, bailiffs and jury. Local attorneys, who volunteer their time, act as the judge and are the only adults directly involved in the proceedings.

Offenders accept the consequences of their acts through community service, serving on jury duty for other Teen Court cases and any other disciplinary measures sanctioned by the Teen Court jury. In 2017, 284 children successfully completed Teen Court and Teen Court Too and contributed over 5,737 community service hours to the community. An additional 191 youth volunteers donated over 2,259 hours of volunteer time to the community.

Violence Protection

The Clerk's Violence Protection Advocate division provides assistance to victims of domestic, repeat, dating, stalking and sexual violence. They help victims by explaining the procedures involved in filing a petition, processing the temporary injunction, attending the hearing for final injunction and requesting modifications, reporting violations of injunctions and assisting in the criminal prosecutions.

Historical Resources

The Historical Resources Division is responsible for the management of the Manatee Historical Village Park, Manatee County Historical Records Library, the Palmetto Historical Park, the Manatee County Agricultural Museum and the Florida Maritime Museum.

Visitors to the Manatee Historical Village Park experience the lifestyles of pioneer families. The park includes the first county courthouse, a sugar cane mill, a pioneer farm, a boat works, a schoolhouse, a steam train, a blacksmith shop and a

church as well as the Wiggins General Store. Many of the structures have been moved to the park and carefully maintained or restored as closely as possible to their original state.

The Manatee County Historical Records Library, the first archival library of its kind in Florida, was opened in 1979. It is housed in a 1918 Carnegie Library. Deed books, marriage licenses, probate files and County commission records, as well as court minute books, are archived there for use by historians and genealogists.

At the Palmetto Historical Park, visitors experience life through the eyes of local pioneers. They can visit Palmetto's first post office and library, do a lesson on the slates in the one-room schoolhouse, and even experience old-fashioned chores in the turn-of-the-century cottage. The park also features a military museum and a re-imagined chapel.

The Manatee County Agricultural Museum highlights the important role agriculture has played

in our community. At the museum, visitors can explore the past through photographs, machinery, exhibits, slides and video presentations.

The Florida Maritime Museum is housed in the restored 1912 Cortez Schoolhouse. The museum is dedicated to the gathering, presentation and interpretation of Florida's maritime heritage, with special emphasis on the historic fishing village of Cortez as a traditional maritime community within the greater context of Florida's maritime history.

Public Access

The Public Access Department centralizes the everyday public records requests and provides access to the public for electronic records searches. They also review all electronically filed documents and perform necessary redactions of confidential information pursuant to Florida law. Public Access completed 6,859 phone, email, postal mail and walk-in record requests during fiscal year 2017. ♦

SUPPORT SERVICES

Board Records

Board Records maintains the records of the official actions of 12 boards and committees in Manatee County. This includes taking minutes of the board meeting and keeping the official records, as well as files and exhibits of official actions. Board Records keeps electronic minute books, scans documents, and offers on-line verification of those minutes and documents. These actions improve the on-line availability of the records to the public. The Board Records Department also takes on the role of administrator for the Value Adjustment Board and Tax Deed Sales.

Clerk's Technology Services

Clerk's Technology Services plans, assembles and maintains the information systems needed to support the duties of the Clerk of the Court in a timely efficient manner. The department's Chief Technology Officer, analysts, programmers, technicians and support staff ensure that the Clerk's computer system and software applications fulfill

present needs, as well as plans for the future. They are also responsible for storing and destroying, as approved by law, the records of various court departments.

Human Resources

The Human Resources Department (HR) is responsible for all typical human resource functions within the Clerk's Office. From recruiting new employees to training and supporting staff, HR maintains productive working relationships with Clerk employees, while also administering policies, programs and benefits packages, looking for new approaches and innovative practices in all areas of HR management to help develop the Clerk's employees' full potential for serving the citizens of Manatee County. ♦

Clerk of Circuit Court

	2017	2016
Budget	\$13,099	\$12,922
Expenditures	\$11,588	\$11,359



OTHER CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS

PROPERTY APPRAISER • CHARLES E. HACKNEY

- ◆ Annually appraises over 184,600 parcels, including 2,800 new homes added to the tax roll for 2017
- ◆ Annually appraises over 12,700 tangible personal property accounts
- ◆ Maintains current property ownership records for assessment purposes
- ◆ Maintains the county section maps and aerial photos
- ◆ Administers all property tax exemptions
- ◆ Analyzes and approves all new homestead applications, including over 8,676 in 2017
- ◆ Produces the ad valorem tax roll annually
- ◆ Provides data updates at: www.Manateepao.com

Property Appraiser

	2017	2016
Budget	\$5,198	\$4,947
Expenditures	\$5,044	\$4,738

SHERIFF • RICK WELLS

- ◆ Provides law enforcement services to Manatee County
- ◆ Responsible for all county inmate care, custody and control
- ◆ Provides bailiffs and security for court system
- ◆ Provides countywide, specialized explosive response capability
- ◆ Conducts education programs at the jail (LIFE-Leading Inmates to Future Employment) to train inmates in a trade to enhance their return to society after their release from jail, i.e. engine repair, carpentry, construction, meat processing, horticulture, GED classes, auto body repair/paint, hydroponics, aquaculture (fish farming), custom garment and sewing, mattress production and grist mill operation
- ◆ Conducts the Alcohol and Drug Recovery Pod program at the jail
- ◆ Provides support to the Manatee County School System through the School Resource Officer Program
- ◆ Provides Special Team Support, Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT), Dive Team, Marine, Aviation,

Mounted Patrol, Special Response Team (SRT) as requested to city law enforcement jurisdictions

- ◆ Contracts with DCF to provide child protection services
- ◆ Provides sexual predator unit to monitor sexual offenders
- ◆ Maintains comprehensive emergency services unit to respond to natural disasters
- ◆ Operates an accredited corrections officer training academy
- ◆ Provides Sheriff's Patrol TV show, Traffic hotline, Teen Challenge Driver Training, Citizens Academy
- ◆ Road Gangs for County maintenance
- ◆ Operates juvenile booking facility
- ◆ Contracts with the City of Anna Maria for law enforcement services
- ◆ Provides drug drop boxes for secure disposal of prescription drugs
- ◆ Provide parking SAFEZONES for citizen's internet transactions (i.e. Craigslist)
- ◆ For additional information visit : www.ManateeSheriff.com

Sheriff

	2017	2016
Budget	\$123,590	\$117,429
Expenditures	\$115,858	\$111,393

SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS • MICHAEL BENNETT

- ◆ Registers voters and maintains accurate voter registration files
- ◆ Educates voters
- ◆ Expanded website: www.votemanatee.com
- ◆ Conducts all national, state, local and special taxing district elections
- ◆ Uses the state certified optical scan voting system
- ◆ All precincts equipped with disability compliant voting equipment
- ◆ Provides electronic poll book at all precincts and early voting sites
- ◆ Registered voters as of September 30, 2017: 230,654
- ◆ Eligible voters in the last general election (November 2016): 231,056

◆ Eligible voters in the last primary election (August 2016): 221,981

Supervisor of Elections

	2017	2016
Budget	\$2,416	\$5,465
Expenditures	\$1,869	\$3,260

TAX COLLECTOR • KEN BURTON, JR

- ◆ Collects ad valorem taxes
- ◆ Collects tourist taxes
- ◆ Registers and titles vehicles, boats and mobile homes
- ◆ Issues concealed weapon licenses
- ◆ Issues disabled parking permits
- ◆ Issues hunting and fishing licenses
- ◆ Provides Florida driver license services, including

driving tests, and transfers of valid out-of-state driver licenses

◆ \$3.1 million in unused revenue returned to the County

◆ Pre-registers driver license customers to vote in accordance with the National Voter Registration Act

◆ Service links available on www.taxcollector.com

- Schedule appointments
- Renew Florida driver license
- Renew vehicle, boat or mobile registrations
- Pay tourist taxes
- Obtain Florida hunting and fishing licenses

Tax Collector

	2017	2016
Budget	\$10,930	\$10,459
Expenditures	\$10,246	\$10,104

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

BETSY BENAC, Chairman

Vanessa Baugh

Robin DiSabatino

Stephen Jonsson

Charles Smith

Carol Whitmore

Priscilla Whisenant Trace

The Board of County Commissioners governs Manatee County. It has seven members: one elected from each of five districts and two elected at-large for alternating four-year terms. The members select their chairman and vice-chairman for one-year terms

Board meetings are held Tuesdays at 9 a.m. and are open to the public. The Commissioners also sit as the Manatee County Port Authority and elect officers separately for those entities.

The board makes policy decisions, which are implemented by an appointed county administrator who directs the activities of employees.

The Board of County Commissioners budgets and provides funding for the various county departments and the operations of the constitutional officers. Fees collected by the Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller and the Tax Collector provide funding for the budgets of those offices. ◆

COUNTY DEPARTMENTS

General Government Operations

ADMINISTRATION

The County Administrator is appointed by the Board of County Commissioners to implement the Board's policies, budget and programs. The Administrator oversees all County staff and departments and is responsible for managing County programs, facilities and services to residents. Public relations, intergovernmental relations, legislative affairs, long range planning, impact fees and the Citizen's Action Center are managed through the County Administrator's Office.

Administration

	2017	2016
Budget	\$2,968	\$2,778
Expenditures	\$2,714	\$2,633

BUILDING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

The Building and Development Services Department is responsible for maintaining the County's Land Development Code and Comprehensive Plan for unincorporated Manatee County, as well as monitoring and regulating construction to protect public health and safety. The Building/Regulation Compliance program consists of permitting intake, contractor licensing, plans review, floodplain management, inspections, and administrative functions. The Planning and Development program provides land development information and requirements to developers and citizens. Code Enforcement conducts compliance for the land development code, county ordinances and building codes and responds to and follows up on complaints of potential violators.

Building & Development Services

	2017	2016
Budget	\$18,881	\$16,463
Expenditures	\$14,392	\$14,270

CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU

The Convention and Visitors Bureau promotes our destination to prospective tourists both nationally and internationally. It also manages the Bradenton Area Convention Center and the Powel Crosley Estate which facilitate hundreds of events annually.

Convention & Visitors Bureau

	2017	2016
Budget	\$11,868	\$9,415
Expenditures	\$9,841	\$6,869

COUNTY ATTORNEY

The County Attorney's Office functions as an in-house law firm providing legal advice to the Board of County Commissioners and its various operating departments. The County Attorney's Office also represents the Board in state and federal courts and in administrative law settings. The Risk Management Division of the County Attorney's Office works to reduce the County's exposure to liability and to enhance the operational safety of County employees and of the general public. Risk Management administers the County's self-insurance program by evaluating and adjusting claims against the County. The County Attorney reports directly to the Board of County Commissioners.

County Attorney

	2017	2016
Budget	\$2,667	\$2,453
Expenditures	\$2,571	\$2,381

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

The Financial Management Department (FMD) develops, reviews and implements the county budget, capital improvements program and related county policies. They work closely with county departments, the county administrator and the Board of County Commissioners in all areas of financial management. FMD provides procurement services for county departments and other agencies. Many budget and related documents are available online at www.mymanatee.org/budget.

Financial Management

	2017	2016
Budget	\$2,108	\$1,916
Expenditures	\$1,899	\$1,866

HUMAN RESOURCES

The Human Resources Department (HR) administers the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) and Personnel policies of the Board of County Commissioners; provides employment services, including recruitment, onboarding, orientation, employee retention and retirement programs; provides employee career development and training programs; administers the County's performance management and merit pay programs; administers the drug free workplace program; provides labor relations services; and provides workforce planning and job classification services. HR also administers the County's employee health benefits program, including medical, dental, prescription, deferred compensation, life insurance, long term disability, health care spending

accounts and wellness programs and services.

Human Resources

	2017	2016
Budget	\$1,472	\$1,161
Expenditures	\$1,300	\$1,023

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

The Information Technology Services Department (ITS) promotes the successful day to day business of Manatee County Government. ITS provides technical guidance and realization to our County partners who are seeking effective, quality business solutions, and embrace opportunities to create business process efficiencies balanced with good financial stewardship. Under the direction of the County Administrator, we collaborate and partner with BCC Agencies, Constitutional Officers, and the Courts. The Department manages services that offer and support Applications and Systems, County fiber network, Telecommunications, Radio Repair, Network Infrastructure, Security, and Customer and Business Services.

Information Technology Services

	2017	2016
Budget	\$11,075	\$9,838
Expenditures	\$9,356	\$8,328

NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES

The Neighborhood Services Department is made up of four divisions. **NEIGHBORHOOD CONNECTIONS** division nurtures the establishment of new neighborhoods, assists with the revitalization of existing or aging neighborhoods. They are active in the community and collaborate with many other departments and agencies throughout the County providing citizens with upcoming changes in the area. This division also includes the award-winning Neighborhood Connections online newsletter which reaches over 5,000 households each month and is growing rapidly due to the useful information generated in the newsletter. **LIBRARY SERVICES** division oversees the function of system wide services and learning opportunities as well as a vital online presence featuring digital resources. The libraries provide materials, added value services such as technology training via library professionals and engaging programs for all citizens. They provide many children's early literacy programs and hands on events at each of the library locations targeted for each age and interest. The libraries also offer meeting space for small businesses, organizations and tutors. **COMMUNITY SERVICES**, this division oversees services and programs designed to assist vulnerable and/or at risk youth, disabled, elderly or economically/socially disadvantaged individuals meet the most basic of human needs. The division administers funds through

not-for-profit agencies providing community based services. Within this division, the department manages grant revenues and/or contracts for a number of federal and state mandated human services programs that focus on services to maintain independence for aging seniors, prescriptions, burials and mental health. This division manages the mandated health services and program areas that meet the needs of the jail medical component of the Sheriff's office, mental/behavioral health and the indigent medical care. Veteran Services, is charged with assisting Veterans and their dependents in obtaining services related to benefits, addressing their health care and transportation needs. **PROBATION SERVICES** provides pre-and post-sentence services to residents based on court assignments and charges. This division supervises the Offender Work Program, which enables first time and misdemeanor offenders to work throughout the community to avoid jail time in order to continue to provide for themselves and their families.

Neighborhood Services

	2017	2016
Budget	\$22,186	\$11,594
Expenditures	\$19,077	\$9,586

PARKS AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Parks and Natural Resources Department is a diverse department that oversees a multitude of recreational and athletic opportunities throughout our public parks and natural preserves system. The Recreation Division supervises, coordinates and implements county recreational programs and facilities. Administrative Services provides administrative, contract management, grants management, policy guidance and oversight for recreational programs, personnel, budget and fiscal management. The Natural Resources division manages approximately 30,000 acres of County preserved lands and coastal resources. Responsibilities include acquisition, restoration and passive recreational development of environmentally-sensitive land. They also oversee projects such as beach renourishment, boat ramps, artificial reefs, navigation aids and abandoned vessel removal. The Environmental Protection Division protects ground water through its involvement with governmental permits related to pollutant storage tanks, hazardous waste, water wells, phosphate and mining regulation, and mining and shell pit operations.

Parks & Natural Resources

	2017	2016
Budget	\$6,469	\$5,204
Expenditures	\$5,947	\$4,658

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

The Property Management Department consists

COUNTY DEPARTMENTS

General Government Operations

of six unique divisions: **BUILDING MANAGEMENT** maintains and manages County facilities providing electrical, air conditioning, plumbing and maintenance services. **CONSTRUCTION SERVICES** completes minor construction and renovation projects and provides vertical construction management resources for County owned facilities. **PROPERTY ACQUISITION** manages land purchases, easements, land exchanges, leases, vacations and acquisition of property for capital improvement road projects. The **SURVEY DIVISION** provides survey services for County departments and ensures compliance with State and County rules and regulations for recorded plats. **RECORDS MANAGEMENT** oversees electronic records retention and copy services for County departments and is responsible for mail and courier services for both the County departments and Constitutional officers. **PARKS MAINTENANCE** maintains all County parks and certain other non-park facilities covering over 1,162 acres and approximately 2.6 miles of beaches.

Property Management

	2017	2016
Budget	\$19,340	\$19,054
Expenditures	\$17,995	\$17,234

PUBLIC SAFETY

The Public Safety Department's mission is to serve and protect its community with compassion, honor and commitment. **ANIMAL SERVICES** enforces state and local animal control statutes and ordinances, shelters impounded animals, promotes responsible pet ownership through education of owners on spay/neuter and leash rules, and facilitates adoptions through its own programs and those of its animal rescue partners in the community. **EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS CENTER (ECC/911)** processes 911 calls from the community, dispatching and coordinating fire, emergency medical services resources and law enforcement agencies throughout the county. **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT** plans for and assists in mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery for countywide disasters, including training, public awareness, and technical assistance for disaster plans and procedures. **EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS)** provides basic and advanced life support treatment along with transport services throughout the entire County. **MARINE RESCUE** is responsible for protecting our residents and visitors while they visit our public beaches. **COMMUNITY PARAMEDICINE** Community paramedics participate in the 911 system by responding to calls with the intent of redirecting non-emergent patients to appropriate resources. The Community Paramedic program is geared

towards improving access to appropriate healthcare for Manatee County's medically vulnerable, underinsured, and medically underserved citizens.

Public Safety

	2017	2016
Budget	\$25,197	\$23,342
Expenditures	\$24,527	\$22,949

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

The Public Works Department is comprised of administrative services as well as twelve divisions within three operational business centers:

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES:

ADMINISTRATION provides clerical supports to the Public Works Director and Deputy Directors. The **EMPLOYEE RESOURCE CENTER** coordinates personnel matters, safety/training and acts as an emergency liaison with the County Emergency Operations Center. **FISCAL OPERATIONS** supports the financial management of Public Works cost centers and the Capital Improvement Program (CIP).

ENGINEERING SERVICES:

ROAD/BRIDGE ENGINEERING performs engineering for Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) projects involving roadway, sidewalk, and intersection improvements, along with computer aided design (CAD) operations. Staff successfully designed, permitted and supervised the construction of the recently opened 44th Ave E from US 41 to 19th St Ct E. In-house staff also designed and permitted Fort Hammer Road, Upper Manatee Road and 53rd Ave W projects, all currently under construction. **UTILITY ENGINEERING** reviews private residential and commercial development utility plans and completes conflict resolutions with FDOT. Various CIP related activities are ongoing for construction projects. They continue to support County operations and provide CAD support, permit preparation and water/wastewater computer modeling. **STORMWATER MANAGEMENT** performs tasks from review through certification activities related to stormwater facilities, public and private development plans, and growth management. They provide permit acquisition and design services for County, federal and state agency sponsored CIP projects, review and approve no-rise certificates for FEMA floodway improvements, participate in renewing the FEMA Community Rating System for flood insurance discounts, and ensure NPDES permit compliance for the EPA. The division inspects and certifies county owned and maintained stormwater

facilities subject to state water management permits. **INFRASTRUCTURE INSPECTIONS** inspects all horizontal commercial and development construction projects. **PROJECT MANAGEMENT** oversees all phases of Manatee County’s roadway, potable water, waste water, reclaimed water, stormwater and landfill projects. Notable projects this year include the Fort Hamer Bridge, along with functional improvement projects on both Upper Manatee River Road and Fort Hamer Road to add bike lanes, grassed shoulders, sidewalks and to mill and resurface the existing pavement. The 44th Ave East roadway is partially open with two segments up to 45th St. E. under construction. Surveying, geotechnical and environmental reviews were conducted for segments of 44th Ave E over the Braden River and I-75, with preliminary engineering and design ongoing. Widening of 45th Street East from SR70 to 44th Avenue will commence construction in early 2018.

FIELD OPERATIONS SERVICES:

FIELD MAINTENANCE maintains, repairs and improves approximately 1,448 miles of paved and unpaved roadway and related rights-of-way. They maintain over 166 miles of canals, an estimated 21,015 stormwater inlets, all roadside ditches, retention ponds, storm water pipes and off-road pipes and associated structures. Road gangs enhance the labor force as part of a cooperative program with the Sheriff’s Office. **FLEET SERVICES** operates a County-wide fleet management program, consisting of four service facilities, each with a parts distribution center. They collect and analyze vehicle repair, utilization, and life cycle data while managing the vehicle replacement process to maintain a safe and efficient vehicle fleet. **FUEL/INVENTORY OPERATIONS** maintains inventory used by all Public Works’ divisions and disposes of County-wide surplus items. Staff manages fuel and distributes over 1.5 million gallons of gasoline and diesel annually. Customers include all County departments, Sheriff’s office, School Board and Fire Rescue.

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT:

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING responsibilities include transportation concurrency implementation, updates to the traffic section of the Comprehensive Plan, impact fee review, determining right-of-way needs, preparing transportation related development orders, maintenance of the concurrency database system for both transportation and non-transportation components and undertaking traffic study reviews;

TRAFFIC DESIGN develops, implements, and administers various traffic engineering studies, construction plan review, vehicle count and crash data. In addition, they conduct signal timing and coordination for over 200 traffic signals throughout the County. The Traffic Design

division includes the regional Traffic Management Center, providing a unified intelligent transportation management traffic control system for Manatee and Sarasota counties and cities.

TRAFFIC OPERATIONS provides all maintenance of over 200 State and County signalized intersections, over 3,000 street lights, 136 school zone flashers, 20 permanent count stations, 4 dynamic message signs, 109 miles of fiber optic cable communication, over 150 Intelligent Transportation System devices, approximately 50,000 traffic signs on County roads, and pavement marking maintenance on almost 400 miles of paved County roads.

<i>Public Works</i>	2017	2016
Budget	\$19,563	\$18,010
Expenditures	\$18,185	\$16,000

REDEVELOPMENT AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY DEPARTMENT

The Redevelopment and Economic Opportunity Department (REO) was created in October 2016 to focus county efforts on the redevelopment and revitalization of urban areas of the county and to create greater economic opportunities for residents and businesses with our housing, community and economic development projects and programs. This includes a strong emphasis on job retention and creation through working with local businesses; implementing redevelopment strategies in the Southwest District (SWD); and providing opportunities for affordable rental and homeownership projects. The department consists of three programs: Redevelopment, Economic Development and Community Development.

REO provides administrative and policy leadership in these areas and explores enhanced and new projects and programs crossing the broad spectrum of business types and income groups. Department goals are accomplished through attracting additional investment, business and employment growth; creating new infill, mixed-use and housing opportunities through targeted incentive programs and engaging in strategic partnerships.

The **REDEVELOPMENT PROGRAM** encompasses the Southwest County Improvement District, commonly referred to as SWTIF or SWD, adopted by the Board on June 3, 2014. This tax increment district became effective October 1, 2014 with a 30-year life span. In the district, 50% of tax increment revenues are directed to support redevelopment, economic development, and infrastructure improvements that attract investment, increase the tax base, create jobs, improve connections, and brand the district.

The **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM** seeks to retain and expand existing local business, and attract new businesses to the area. Growing the economic base of the County through targeted industry jobs in manufacturing, bio/clean technology, life sciences, information technology, financial and professional services, corporate headquarters, and sports performance makes this happen. Job opportunities at or above 115% of the average annual County wage may be eligible for financial incentives. Rapid response permitting provides a time and cost savings to businesses. The Economic Development Ad Valorem Tax Exemption (EDAVTE) provides an additional incentive in the County's Economic Development toolbox for qualified new or existing businesses to relocate or expand to foster local economic growth and increase employment.

The **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM** administers over \$16 million in grant program funds from the state and federal governments for affordable housing and community development activities for low to moderate-income residents. These programs include the State Housing Initiative Partnership (SHIP) program, Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, Home Investment Partnership (HOME) program and the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) program.

These programs work together to realize the County's goals of a diversified economic tax base and improved quality of life with better economic opportunities for residents and businesses.

Redevelopment & Economic Opportunity

	2017	2016
Budget	\$971	\$990
Expenditures	\$636	\$651

BCC COURT FUNDING

The Board of County Commissioners funds various costs to assist in the support of the state court system in addition to those costs expended by the Clerk of Circuit Court, including court costs, court administration costs, Public Defender and State Attorney costs. ♦

BCC Court Funding

	2017	2016
Budget	\$3,020	\$2,916
Expenditures	\$2,678	\$2,523

PROPRIETARY OPERATIONS

PUBLIC UTILITIES SYSTEM

The County provides utility services through various operational and fiscal management divisions under a number of county departments. In 1991, the County combined its existing Water and Wastewater Systems, Solid Waste System and Stormwater Management System into one public utility.

The **UTILITIES DEPARTMENT** operates the County's water, wastewater and solid waste systems. The Water Division operates, maintains and monitors the County's drinking water supply, water treatment facility, laboratory and distribution system including meter reading and water conservation efforts. The Wastewater Division manages pumping stations, gravity and force main lines and three regional treatment plants that process wastewater into effluent usable for urban and agricultural irrigation. The Solid Waste division operates and maintains the Lena Road Landfill, scalehouse and recycling program. Utilities Customer Service and Billing Collections division provides services to system customers.

The **PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT** through the Stormwater Division maintains and ensures the flood carrying capacity of the Stormwater drainage system and develops and implements the Stormwater Management Plan. The department also provides engineering services for utilities projects, reviews constructions plans, and provides survey locations and record support services for the Utilities System.

PUBLIC UTILITIES SYSTEM	2017 (000's omitted)	2016 (000's omitted)
Operating and non-operating revenues	\$ 179,113	\$ 170,443
Grant and Contributions	34,615	34,295
Total expenses	(122,037)	(123,584)
Excess of revenues over expenses	91,691	81,154
FY 2017 Transfers in from General and Radio Funds and transfers to General and Radio Funds and Revenue Refund and Improvement Bonds Fund. FY 2016 Transfers to General Fund, Bldg Cap Prjs and Motor Pool Fund, also transfer in from Solid Waste.	(3,413)	(3,850)
Depreciation and amortization	(28,669)	(28,066)
Net after depreciation	\$ 59,609	\$ 49,238

The **INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT** develops and maintains a digital base of geo-referenced information about the County's public utilities infrastructure and produces graphic displays of the information.

The **AGRICULTURE AND RESOURCE CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT** administers the water conservation education program for the County Utilities System.

The Public Utilities System's capacity to pay the principal and interest due on its bonds is referred to as "revenue bond coverage." Although the system is required to maintain revenue bond coverage of 115%, the coverage during the current fiscal year was 369%.

CONVENTION CENTER

The Bradenton Area Convention & Civic Center provides meeting space for trade shows, sporting events, exhibitions, conferences and private parties. The Powel Crosley Estate provides conference space and an indoor/outdoor venue for both public and private events. Both facilities are managed by the Convention and Visitors Bureau.

CONVENTION CENTER	2017 (000's omitted)	2016 (000's omitted)
Operating and non-operating revenues	\$ 1,874	\$ 1,775
Total expenses	(2,214)	(2,022)
Excess of expenses over revenues	(340)	(247)
FY 2017 Transfer from Tourist Development Fund and transfer out to Fuel Services Fund. FY 2016 Transfer from Tourist Development Fund	598	600
Depreciation	(301)	(289)
Net after depreciation	\$ (43)	\$ 64

TRANSIT SYSTEM

MANATEE COUNTY AREA TRANSIT (MCAT), administered by the Public Works department, provides bus service with over 900 designated bus

stops along 15 defined route corridors. Buses along these fixed route corridors generally operate Monday-Saturday, from 5:30 AM to 7:00 PM. A trolley service is provided on Anna Maria Island (i.e., AMI Trolley), which provides 20-minute service frequency and operates daily until 10:30 PM. The Manatee County Transit Division operations also include a demand response paratransit service (i.e., Handy Bus) for people with disabilities that cannot utilize the fixed route bus service. The Transit Division also provides transportation to area shelters during emergency events.

PORT MANATEE

Port Manatee is one of the largest of Florida's 14 deepwater seaports. The Manatee County Port Authority manages the major shipping gateway to our community, an 1,100-acre facility home to the importing and exporting of many agricultural and industrial products. It hosts shipments of orange juice and other citrus juices and beverages, forestry products, bananas, melons, aluminum, steel, paper products, linerboard, wood pulp, petroleum products, construction-grade aggregate, cement and fertilizer.

Port Manatee opened its expanded south gate complex in December 2016 offering enhanced capabilities for movement of oversized cargo. The \$1.1 million project features new gates, guard kiosk, canopy and lighting, as well as reconfigured security fencing.

Port Manatee's Berth 9 is now able to accommodate heavier loads thanks to the completion in June 2017 of a reconstruction project. The Florida Department of Transportation funded three-quarters of the project's \$10.3 million cost. The fortified 625-foot-long berth can now handle uniform loads of as many as 1,000 pounds per square foot.

TRANSIT SYSTEM	2017 (000's omitted)	2016 (000's omitted)
Operating revenues and interest income	\$ 1,434	\$ 1,529
Grant and Contributions	6,026	16,660
Total Expenses	(12,644)	(11,919)
Excess of expenses over revenues	(5,184)	6,270
Subsidy from Transportation & General Funds	5,841	4,840
Depreciation	(2,418)	(2,146)
Net after depreciation	\$ (1,761)	\$ 8,964

PORT MANATEE	2017 (000's omitted)	2016 (000's omitted)
Operating revenues and interest income	\$ 13,832	\$ 12,021
Grant and Contributions	5,425	6,415
Total Expenses	(8,865)	(9,197)
Excess of revenues over expense	10,392	9,239
Transfer of sales tax revenue	430	647
Depreciation	(5,149)	(4,932)
Net after depreciation	\$ 5,673	\$ 4,954

In June 2017, an additional 128 refrigerated plugs were installed in the intermodal container yard to accommodate the increase in containerized perishable cargo.

Port Manatee's fiscal year 2017 container volume is up 52 percent from fiscal year 2016's volumes, helping the Port report its top year ever for total cargo tons moved in the fiscal year ended September 30, 2017. The Port Authority has loans and revenue bonds payable outstanding. The bonds are secured by and are solely payable from pledged revenues of the Port, primarily net operating revenues and investment earnings. The Port Authority has committed in its bond authorization resolution to maintain certain financial ratios while these bonds are outstanding. The Port Authority was in compliance with its covenants for the year ended September 30, 2017. ♦

CAPITAL PROJECTS

CAPITAL PROJECTS	2017 (000's omitted)	2016 (000's omitted)
Beaches	\$ 1,576	\$ 4,753
Buildings	12,617	19,426
Parks	6,477	7,903
Roads & drainage	29,350	37,370
Port Manatee	6,716	7,815
Water & sewer	48,404	34,595
Solid waste	272	707
Total	\$ 105,412	\$ 112,569



2017 CAPITAL PROJECTS



2016 CAPITAL PROJECTS

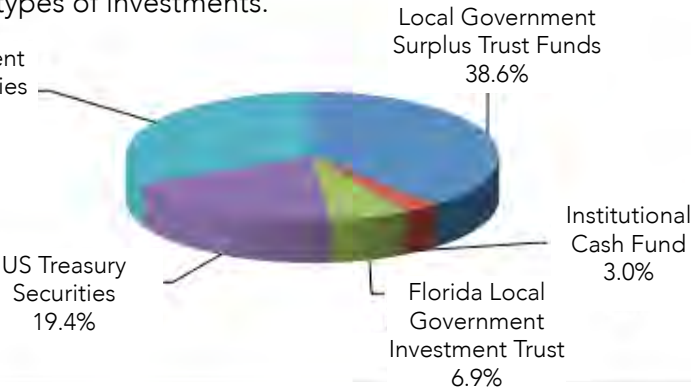
INVESTMENT POLICY

During fiscal year 2017, the County's investment portfolio ranged from \$732 to \$896 million. Although most of this money is obligated to various projects, it is invested to provide interest income that is budgeted as a revenue source. The Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller invests this money according to a written investment policy approved by the Board.

This policy dictates how the County's money or portfolio can be invested. The policy first assures that any investments are of a minimum risk. Although sometimes higher interest rates are bypassed to do this, the primary concern is to prevent any principal being lost through unsafe investments. The policy also assures liquidity, or that cash will be available as needed to pay any bills. The third criteria to be considered is yield or interest rate. If risk and liquidity are the same for different investments, the final selection will be based on the highest yield.

The Clerk invests frequently, diversifying the portfolio to generate the highest yield possible. During fiscal year 2017, the investments made by the Clerk earned an average of .9780 % and generated \$7.8 million in investment earnings. The chart below is a breakdown of the portfolio at fair value, by types of investments.

MANATEE COUNTY INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO		
Local Government Surplus Trust Funds	\$301,615	38.6%
Institutional Cash Fund	24,054	3.0%
Florida Local Government Investment Trust	53,766	6.9%
US Treasury Securities	151,463	19.4%
US Government Instrumentalities	251,170	32.1%
Total	\$782,068	100.0%



OTHER FINANCIAL DATA

PRINCIPAL PROPERTY TAXPAYERS

TAXPAYER	ASSESSED VALUE
Florida Power and Light Company	\$ 904,611
Tropicana Products, Inc.	\$ 366,389
Mosaic Fertilizer LLC	\$ 166,456
Gulfstream Natural Gas System LLC	\$ 161,400
Peace River Electric Co Op, Inc.	\$ 114,856
Manatee Memorial Hospital	\$ 114,576
Gulf Coast Factory Shops	\$ 110,000
Verizon Florida, Inc.	\$ 82,420
Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.	\$ 74,876
Publix Super Markets, Inc.	\$ 63,238
Totals	\$2,158,822

ASSESSED VALUES

Fiscal Year	Net Assessed Value	Tax Collections
2008	\$34,453,086	\$226,596
2009	\$33,493,766	\$209,421
2010	\$28,673,792	\$189,094
2011	\$24,844,685	\$164,050
2012	\$23,756,729	\$157,148
2013	\$23,257,910	\$154,202
2014	\$24,156,807	\$160,285
2015	\$25,951,635	\$172,337
2016	\$28,219,084	\$187,362
2017	\$30,541,289	\$202,699

PROPERTY TAX RATES

	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total
TOTAL	14.4696	14.8209	14.9469	15.1653	15.1933
COUNTY	6.4326	6.4326	6.4326	6.4326	6.4326
SCHOOL BOARD	6.9200	7.2670	7.3760	7.5720	7.5890
OTHER	0.5061	0.5104	0.5274	0.5498	0.5608
UNINCORPORATED MSTU	0.6109	0.6109	0.6109	0.6109	0.6109
FISCAL YEARS 2017-2013	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013

DEMOGRAPHIC/ECONOMIC

Year	Population	Unemployment Rate	Total Government Employees
2008	323,374	7.4%	3,547
2009	330,201	12.7%	3,360
2010	318,176	12.6%	3,310
2011	324,168	10.9%	3,274
2012	330,862	9.0%	3,246
2013	333,687	7.2%	3,257
2014	337,546	6.1%	3,307
2015	341,405	5.1%	3,362
2016	356,133	4.7%	3,401
2017	368,782	3.3%	3,455

2017 PRINCIPAL EMPLOYERS

Employer	Employees ⁽¹⁾	Rank	Percentage of Total County Employment
Manatee County School Board	5,695	1	3.36%
Manatee County Government	1,858	2	1.09%
Beall's Inc.	1,732	3	1.02%
Manatee Memorial Hospital	1,200	4	0.71%
Manatee County Sheriff's Department	1,180	5	0.70%
Tropicana Products, Inc.	1,000	6	0.59%
Publix	994	7	0.59%
Blake Medical Center	849	8	0.50%
IMG Academies	700	9	0.41%
Feld Entertainment	600	10	0.35%
TriNet	600	10	0.35%
Total number of individuals employed within Manatee County ⁽²⁾	169,711		

Sources:

(1) Manatee Chamber of Commerce: Economic Development Council, Manatee County Government and Manatee County Sheriff's Department.

(2) Florida Department of Economic Opportunity

How to Contact Manatee County Government

CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT

Manatee County Courthouse
1115 Manatee Ave. West
Bradenton, Florida 34205
www.manateeclerk.com
(941) 749-1800

Other Clerk Services Locations:

CHILD SUPPORT PROGRAM

1115 Manatee Ave. West
2nd floor
Bradenton, Florida 34205

CHILD SUPPORT

Judicial Center
Enforcement Hearings
1051 Manatee Ave. West
Bradenton, Florida 34205

HISTORICAL RECORDS LIBRARY

(Carnegie Library)
1405 Fourth Ave West
Bradenton, Florida 34205

MANATEE VILLAGE HISTORICAL PARK

1404 Manatee Ave. East
Bradenton, Florida 32408

PALMETTO CARNEGIE LIBRARY

Palmetto Historical Park
515 Tenth Ave. West
Palmetto, Florida 34221

FLORIDA MARITIME MUSEUM

AT CORTEZ
4415 119th Street West
Cortez, Florida 34215

MANATEE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL MUSEUM

1015 6th Street West
Palmetto, Florida 34221

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Administrative Center
1112 Manatee Ave. West
Bradenton, Florida 34205
www.myanatee.org
(941) 748-4501

PROPERTY APPRAISER

915 Fourth Ave. West
Bradenton, Florida 34205
www.manateepao.com
(941) 748-8208

SHERIFF

600 U.S. Highway 301 Boulevard West
Bradenton, Florida 34205
www.manateesheriff.com
(941) 747-3011

SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS

600 U.S. Highway 301 Boulevard West
Suite 108
Bradenton, Florida 34205
www.votemanatee.com
(941) 741-3823

TAX COLLECTOR

819 301 Boulevard West
Bradenton, Florida 34205
www.taxcollector.com
(941) 741-4800

Other Tax Collector Services Locations:

Lakewood Ranch
6007 111th Street East
Bradenton, Florida 34211

North River
4333 U.S. Highway 301 North
Ellenton, Florida 34222

Palma Sola
7411 Manatee Ave. West, Suite 200
Bradenton, Florida 32409

Driver License Office
901 301 Blvd W
Bradenton, FL 34203

First Manatee South County Tag Agency
5756 14th ST W
Bradenton, FL 34207

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