



The Sand DOLLAR

Your Access to County Finances

Lee County
FLORIDA



Demographics • Trends • Public Finances

Popular Annual Financial Report for the
Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2021

www.LeeClerk.org

MESSAGE FROM

Clerk Karnes



Dear Lee County Residents,

Each and every one of us has the right to know how our government manages and spends the public's money. One of the Clerk & Comptroller's most important duties is to provide clear, concise, and transparent information about county financials. It is my pleasure, for the first time in the Lee Clerk's office history, to present The Sand Dollar, my office's annual citizen's guide to Lee County finances.

As your Clerk, I serve as the Chief Financial Officer for the Board of County Commissioners and share fiscal responsibility for county funds with them. This report provides you, the citizens, a brief analysis of where county revenues come from and where those dollars are spent (see *Revenue, page 11 and Expenses, page 15*). It is designed to give you an easy-to-read synopsis of the county's financial health and covers the fiscal year that ended Sept. 30, 2021.

As your Clerk & Comptroller, my primary focus is to provide outstanding service to you. The Sand Dollar shows you in a clear, straightforward manner how your tax money is managed, spent and invested. You can view and download all of our financial reports at www.leeclerk.org/finance. If you have any questions about the information provided in this report, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at KKarnes@LeeClerk.org.

I hope you find this report contains the facts you need to be an informed and engaged citizen. Thank you for trusting me to serve as your Clerk, and I look forward to serving you for many years to come.

Sincerely,

Kevin C. Karnes

Kevin Karnes
Clerk of the Court & Comptroller, Lee County

Clerk Karnes is Lee County's 16th Clerk of the Court & Comptroller. He was appointed by Gov. DeSantis in 2022 and previously served as the office's Chief Operating Officer.

As a 15-year veteran of the Clerk's office, Karnes has served as Chief Officer of the Courts, Operations Manager and Evidence Clerk. In these roles, Karnes focused heavily on process improvement, making it easier for the judiciary, attorneys, and public to access Clerk services. Throughout his tenure, he has instituted new technologies to improve efficiencies, enhance services, and cut costs.

Karnes holds a master's degree in Legal Studies from American Public University and a bachelor's degree from Florida Gulf Coast University. Kevin has always worked to provide improved services to the public and reduce operational costs through reducing our reliance on paper records, streamlining many data entry processes, and adding online services.

Kevin proudly serves on the Board of Directors of the United Way of Lee, Hendry, Glades, and Okeechobee counties.

TABLE OF *Contents*

ABOUT THIS *Guide*

The Sand Dollar is your easy-to-read guide on Lee County's fiscal and economic health. Also known as the Popular Annual Financial Report, this inaugural report is a recommended best practice of the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA), North America's leading authority on governmental accounting and financial reporting.

Content for The Sand Dollar is derived from the Clerk's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) for the Fiscal Year that ended Sept. 30, 2021. Unlike this report, the ACFR presents the county's financial position and operating activities in great detail and in conformity with the General Accepted Accounting Principles. The Clerk's office has received the GFOA's Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for an exceptional 36 consecutive years.

Financial information provided throughout this guide is based on fiscal year 2021, which began on Oct. 1, 2020, and ended on Sept. 30, 2021. Lee County's financial information is prepared by the Clerk of the Court & Comptroller. The information is audited by an independent audit firm, CliftonLarsonAllen. The independent auditors rendered an unmodified, clean opinion that the county's financial statements for the fiscal year ended Sept. 30, 2021, are fairly presented in conformity with GAAP. GAAP stands for Generally Accepted Accounting Principals, which is a combination of authoritative standards (set by policy boards) and the commonly accepted ways of recording and reporting accounting information.

The Sand Dollar provides an overview of the areas of responsibility and finances of Lee County's primary government, which includes the Board of County Commissioners, Constitutional Officers, and the Port Authority. Visit www.leeclerk.org/finances to download these financial reports or to submit your feedback.

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ABOUT THE Clerk

The Lee County Clerk of the Court & Comptroller is one of five constitutional officers independently elected by county citizens every four years.

The public trustee is designated with more than 1,000 statutory duties supporting the state court system and county government agencies. The Clerk also protects the Official Record and serves as the county treasurer.



CONSTITUTIONAL & STATUTORY DUTIES



NEUTRAL PARTNER IN THE COURT SYSTEM

One of the Clerk's primary functions is to maintain the court records of Lee County. The Clerk processes all filed documents, attends court hearings, and manages submitted evidence. The Clerk is also responsible for managing jurors, collecting and dispersing all court-related monies, and helping self-represented individuals navigate their way through the court process.

104,264 cases filed • 1,109,946 e-filed documents processed • 55,142 jurors summonsed



OVERSIGHT OF YOUR TAX DOLLARS

As Comptroller, the Clerk is responsible for oversight of all expenditures of the Board of County Commissioners. To ensure proper government accounting, the Clerk audits all county invoices prior to payment. The Clerk monitors the county's debt and generates investment income on the county's investment portfolio.

\$1.47B tax dollars managed & invested • \$947.5M bills audited & paid



PRESERVING THE RECORDS OF YOUR LIFE

The Clerk records, processes and maintains all Official Records of Lee County dating back to 1887 when the county was founded. Mortgages, deeds, wills, marriage licenses, and liens are some of the many public records made available online. Citizens can also apply for their U.S. passport at the Clerk's office.

726,602 official records recorded • 4,707 passports processed • 4,634 marriage licenses issued



PROTECTING TAXPAYERS & ENSURING ACCOUNTABILITY

The Clerk's certified Inspector General performs internal audits and conducts fraud, waste, and abuse investigations of the operations and financial records of Lee County government agencies, departments, employees and others under the authority of the Board of County Commissioners, Port Authority, and Clerk.

\$52.8M tourist tax collected & disbursed • \$850,000 recovered after fraud scheme found at Port Authority

ABOUT *Lee County*

Lee County was founded in 1887 and is located in Southwest Florida on the Gulf Coast. The county encompasses approximately 811 square miles and has an estimated growing population of 750,492 as of the 2020 census.

The City of Fort Myers is the center of a popular tourist area in Southwest Florida and the seat of Lee County. However, the City of Cape Coral ranks as the largest residential community with more than 180,000 residents. Lee County is about 120 miles south of Tampa at the meeting point of the Gulf of Mexico and the Caloosahatchee River.

Lee County is home to one of the fastest-growing populations in the country, increasing by 24% since 2010. While the county is well known as a retirement destination, the Bureau of Economic and Business Research projects a 38% increase in the county's 25-54 age group by 2040.

Lee County is the spring training home of the Boston Red Sox and Minnesota Twins Major League Baseball teams. Tourism employs one out of every five people with an estimated 4.8 million visitors annually generating \$3 billion in economic impact. In Fiscal Year 2021, a record \$52.8 million in Tourist Development Tax was collected.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



Kevin Ruane
District 1



Cecil Pendergrass
District 2, Chairman



Ray Sandelli
District 3, Vice Chair



Brian Hamman
District 4



Frank Mann
District 5

The Lee County Board of County Commissioners serves as the Board of Port Commissioners for the Port Authority. The term of each Port Commissioner coincides with their regular term of office as a County Commissioner.

CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS



Kevin Karnes*
Clerk & Comptroller
leeclerk.org



Matthew Caldwell
Property Appraiser
leepa.org



Carmine Marceno
Sheriff
sheriffleefl.org



Tommy Doyle
Supervisor of Elections
lee.vote



Noelle Branning
Tax Collector
leetc.com

**Linda Doggett served as Clerk of the Court & Comptroller from Jan. 8, 2013 until her retirement Feb. 18, 2022.*

DEMOGRAPHICS

At-a-Glance

FY2021



POPULATION
782,579



MEDIAN AGE
48.5



**MEDIAN
HOUSE SALE PRICE**
\$360,000



**SCHOOL
ENROLLMENT**
95,023



TOURISTS VISITED
4,483,700



**COUNTY
OPERATING BUDGET**
\$803,252,985



DEBT PER CAPITA
\$1,021.24



**PER CAPITA
PERSONAL INCOME**
\$54,707

RESIDENT Services



General Government

Lee County government, county attorney, county planning, hearing examiner, court services, Supervisor of Elections, and the Clerk of the Court's finance, value adjustment board, recording, and board services functions.



Public Safety

Sheriff, fire control, county jail, protective inspections, emergency & disaster relief, ambulance & rescue services, medical examiner and animal services.



Culture & Recreation

Library costs, recreational programs, public parks and preservation lands.



Transportation

Roads, bridges, traffic engineering, and transit systems (Lee Tran).



Economic Environment

Economic Development, Visitor and Convention Bureau, Veterans Services, Sports Authority, and neighborhood improvements.



Human Services

Care, treatment, and control of human illness and injury, such as Health Department, family services and community agency support.



Physical Environment

Electric, water services, garbage/solid waste control, recycling, sewer services, hazardous waste, conservation and resource management, flood control, extension services, and other physical environmental needs.

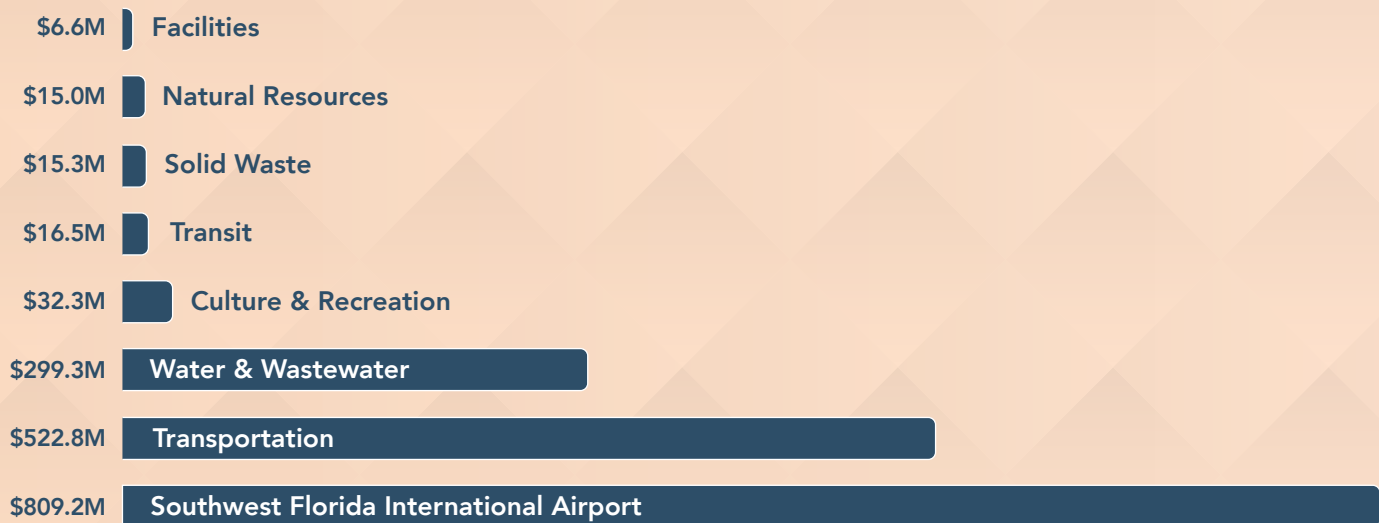
MAJOR

Initiatives

Since 2010, Lee County's population has grown 24%, making it the seventh fastest growing county in Florida. To meet the increased demand on county resources and infrastructure, the county has started numerous initiatives and improvement projects, such as buildings, roads, bridges, and parks. The significant ongoing project are grouped into eight categories below and total nearly \$1.72 billion. More information on completed capital projects is available on page 17.

WHAT IS A FISCAL YEAR?

Throughout this guide, you will see several references to fiscal year, or FY. The fiscal year runs from Oct. 1 to Sept. 30, as opposed to a calendar year that runs from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31.



CORONAVIRUS

Federal Relief

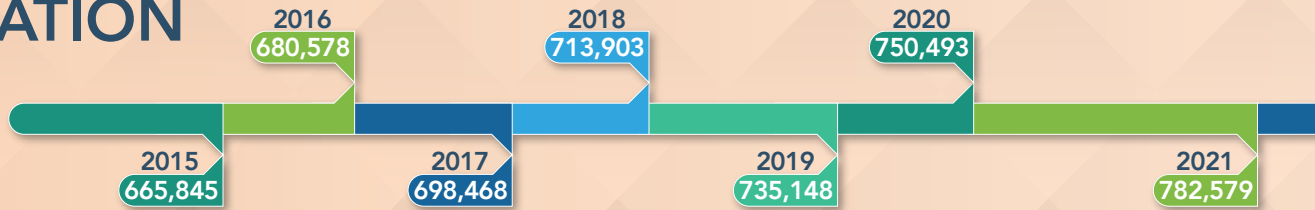
Lee County has received \$239.9 million in federal COVID-19 relief since the pandemic started. As of Sept. 2021, \$144.2 million has been distributed to

those in need. An additional \$95.7 million is among the unspent funds to be disbursed with more federal aid to come.

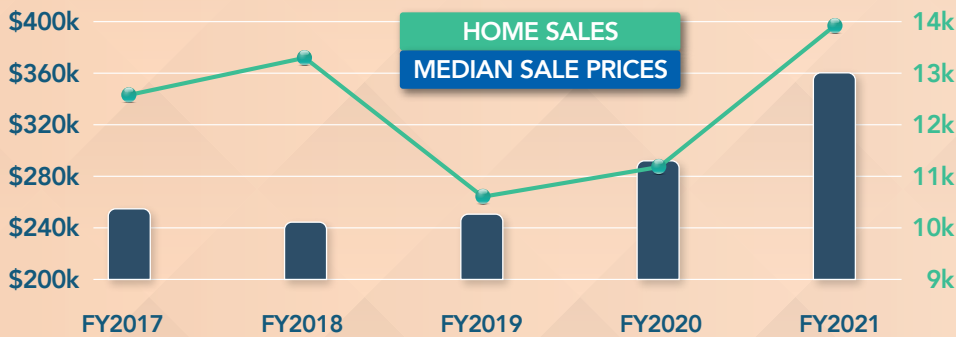


POPULATION & Housing

POPULATION



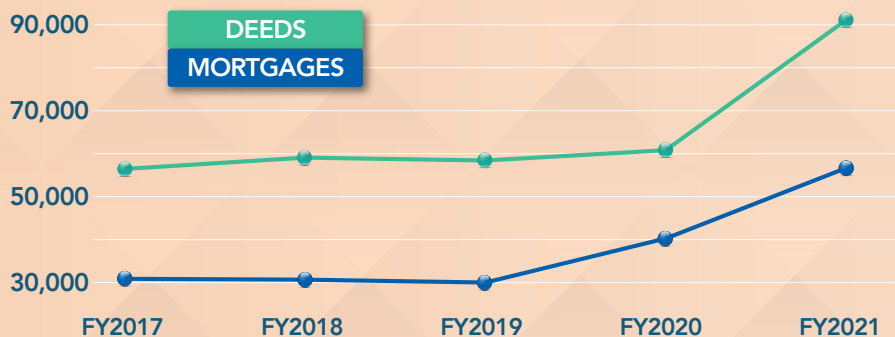
HOME SALES vs. MEDIAN SALES PRICES*



Lee County's population has increased 24% since 2010, creating a stronger demand for housing and increasing real estate prices. From fiscal years 2020 to 2021, the median single-family home sales price increased 23.2% and total home sales increased 24.8%.

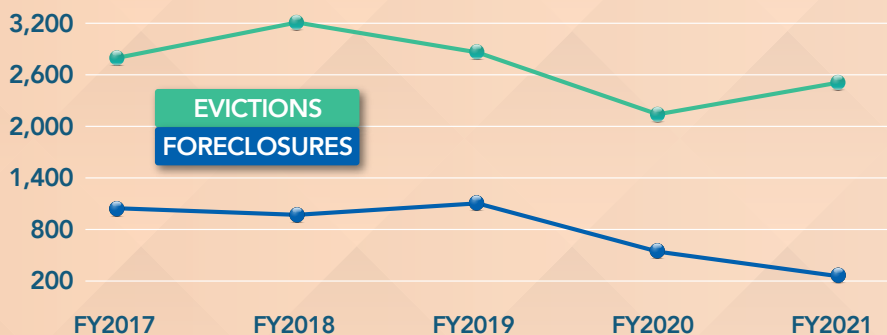
*Single-Family Homes

DEEDS & MORTGAGES RECORDED



Deeds recorded with the Clerk's office into Lee County's official records increased 50% from fiscal years 2020 to 2021. As of Sept. 30, 2021, 90,902 deeds and 56,154 mortgages were recorded.

EVICCTIONS & FORECLOSURES FILED



In fiscal year 2021, foreclosures in Lee County dropped to 265, a new record low. Meanwhile, evictions increased slightly to 2,477, an 18% increase from the fiscal year 2020.

WORKFORCE & *Employment*

Lee County's strong workforce saw an increase in per capita personal income, which is calculated by the total personal income of all residents divided by the entire population. The unemployment rate also trended lower than the state and nation over the past five years.

LARGEST *Employers*

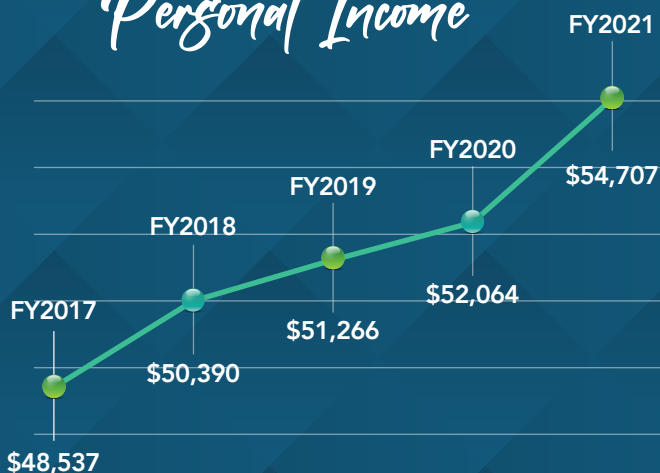
Lee Health	14,028
Lee County School District	11,003
Publix Super Market	4,624
Walmart	3,467
Lee Board of County Commissioners	2,696
City of Cape Coral	1,858
Gartner, Inc.	1,819
Lee County Sheriff's Office	1,564
Chico's FAS Inc.	1,532
McDonald's	1,522

TOP CORPORATE *Taxpayers*

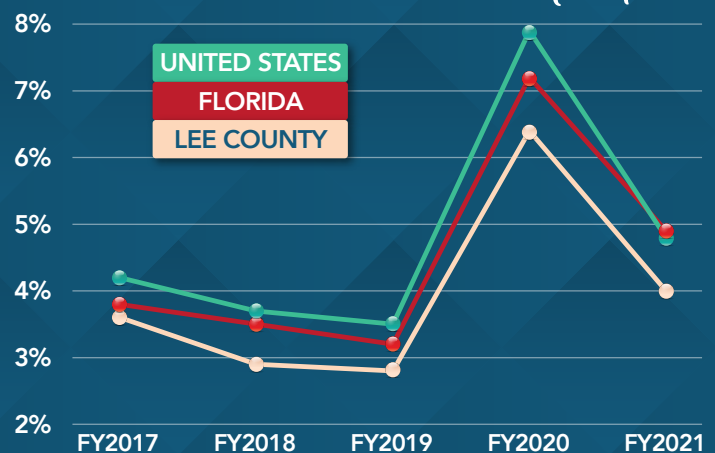
IN THOUSANDS

Christian & Missionary Alliance, Inc.	\$339,265
Coconut Point Developers LLC	\$115,728
Miromar Outlet West LLC	\$111,150
GCTC Holdings LLC	\$110,813
Lurin Real Estate Holdings XVI	\$90,866
Lennar Homes LLC	\$88,810
Quadrum Lakes Park LLC	\$88,182
Mall Ground Portfolio LLC	\$80,477
Hertz Corporation	\$62,199
Bell Tower Shops LLC	\$61,809

PER CAPITA *Personal Income*



UNEMPLOYMENT *Rate*



Source: Regional Economic Research Institute, Lutgert College of Business, Florida Gulf Coast University

NET Position

The statement of activities is a summary of changes in net position and reflects the expenses of a given function or program, which are offset by program revenues. Program revenues are defined as charges for services, operating grants and contributions, and capital grants and contributions directly associated with a given function. Taxes are reported under General Revenue. The statement includes governmental and business-type

activities of the primary government. General government and intergovernmental revenues support the governmental activities, whereas the business-type activities are primarily supported by user fees and charges for services. As of the close of fiscal year 2021, the county reported a total net position of \$3,153,811,000 which is an increase of \$221,042,000, or 7.5%, in comparison to the prior year.

SUMMARY IN CHANGES OF NET POSITION

AS OF SEPT. 30, 2021 •
IN THOUSANDS

	FY2021	FY2020	INCREASE (DECREASE) FY 2020 V. FY 2021	PERCENT CHANGE FY 2020 V. FY 2021
REVENUES				
Program Revenues:				
Charges for services	\$536,377	\$483,973	\$52,404	10.83%
Operating grants and contributions	\$166,297	\$154,535	\$11,762	7.61%
Capital grants and contributions	\$139,437	\$66,230	\$73,207	110.53%
General Revenues:				
Taxes	\$532,426	\$486,616	\$45,810	9.41%
Grants and contributions not restricted to specific programs	\$84,359	\$70,123	\$14,236	20.30%
Other	\$12,841	\$37,888	(\$25,047)	-66.11%
Total Revenues	\$1,471,737	\$1,299,365	\$172,372	13.27%
EXPENSES				
Program Activities:				
General government	\$339,647	\$337,632	\$2,015	0.60%
Public safety	\$269,623	\$292,276	(\$22,653)	-7.75%
Physical environment	\$15,965	\$16,458	(\$493)	-3.00%
Transportation	\$72,252	\$75,765	(\$3,513)	-4.64%
Economic environment	\$30,870	\$28,098	\$2,772	9.87%
Human services	\$33,412	\$24,125	\$9,287	38.50%
Culture and recreation	\$79,949	\$83,546	(\$3,597)	-4.31%
Interest on long-term debt	\$6,389	\$6,771	(\$382)	-5.64%
Indirect expenses	-	-	-	-
Business-type Activities:				
Airport	\$113,608	\$122,825	(\$9,217)	-7.50%
Water and Wastewater	\$128,047	\$134,432	(\$6,385)	-4.75%
Transit	\$32,692	\$32,087	\$605	1.89%
Transportation Facilities	\$24,705	\$22,650	\$2,055	9.07%
Solid Waste	\$103,536	\$103,007	\$529	0.51%
Total expenses	\$1,250,695	\$1,279,672	(\$28,977)	-2.26%
Total change in net position before transfers	\$221,042	\$19,693	\$201,349	1022.44%
Transfers	-	-	-	-
Change in net position	\$221,042	\$19,693	\$201,349	1022.44%
Net position - Beginning	\$2,932,769	\$2,913,026	\$19,743	0.68%
Net position - Ending	\$3,153,811	\$2,932,719	\$221,092	7.54%

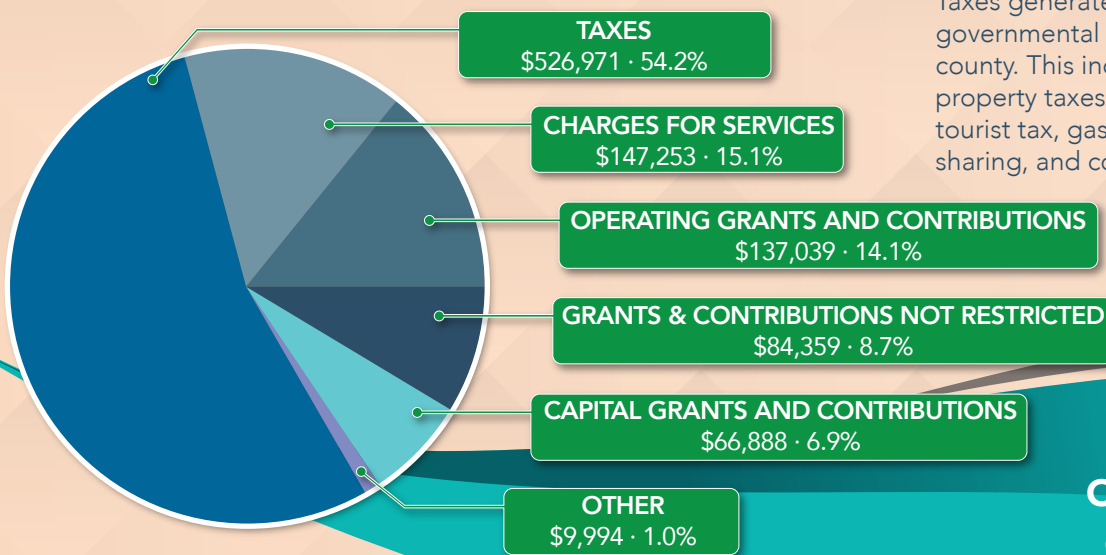
COUNTY *Revenue*

The county's total primary government revenues have increased by \$172 million. The total revenues increase is mainly due to capital grants and contributions, which received a \$72 million increase, or 109%.

Governmental Activities are activities supported mainly by taxes. The county maintains governmental funds that are used to account for taxes, program and other miscellaneous revenues.

GOVERNMENTAL *Revenue*

FY2021 | THOUSANDS



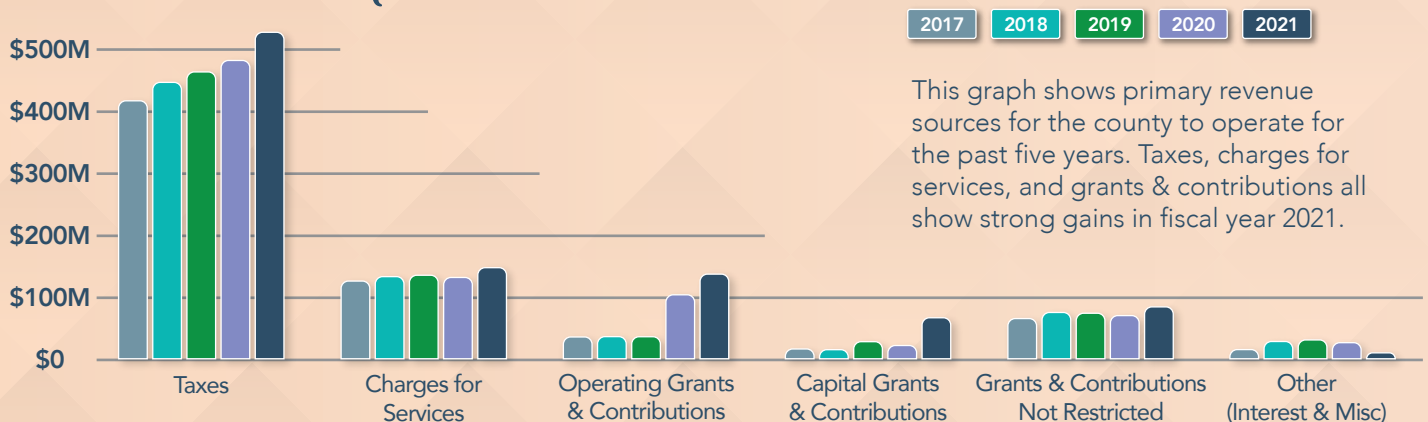
Taxes generate more than half of the governmental activities revenue for the county. This includes ad valorem property taxes, half-cent sales tax, tourist tax, gas tax, state-revenue sharing, and communication service tax.

CAPITAL GRANTS & OPERATING GRANTS

Capital Grants and Operating Grants are both state, federal, other government and private contributions. Capital Grants fund capital purchases for specific programs, while Operating Grants fund specific programs.

TRENDS IN GOVERNMENTAL *Revenue*

FY2017 - FY2021



This graph shows primary revenue sources for the county to operate for the past five years. Taxes, charges for services, and grants & contributions all show strong gains in fiscal year 2021.

PROPERTY *Taxes*

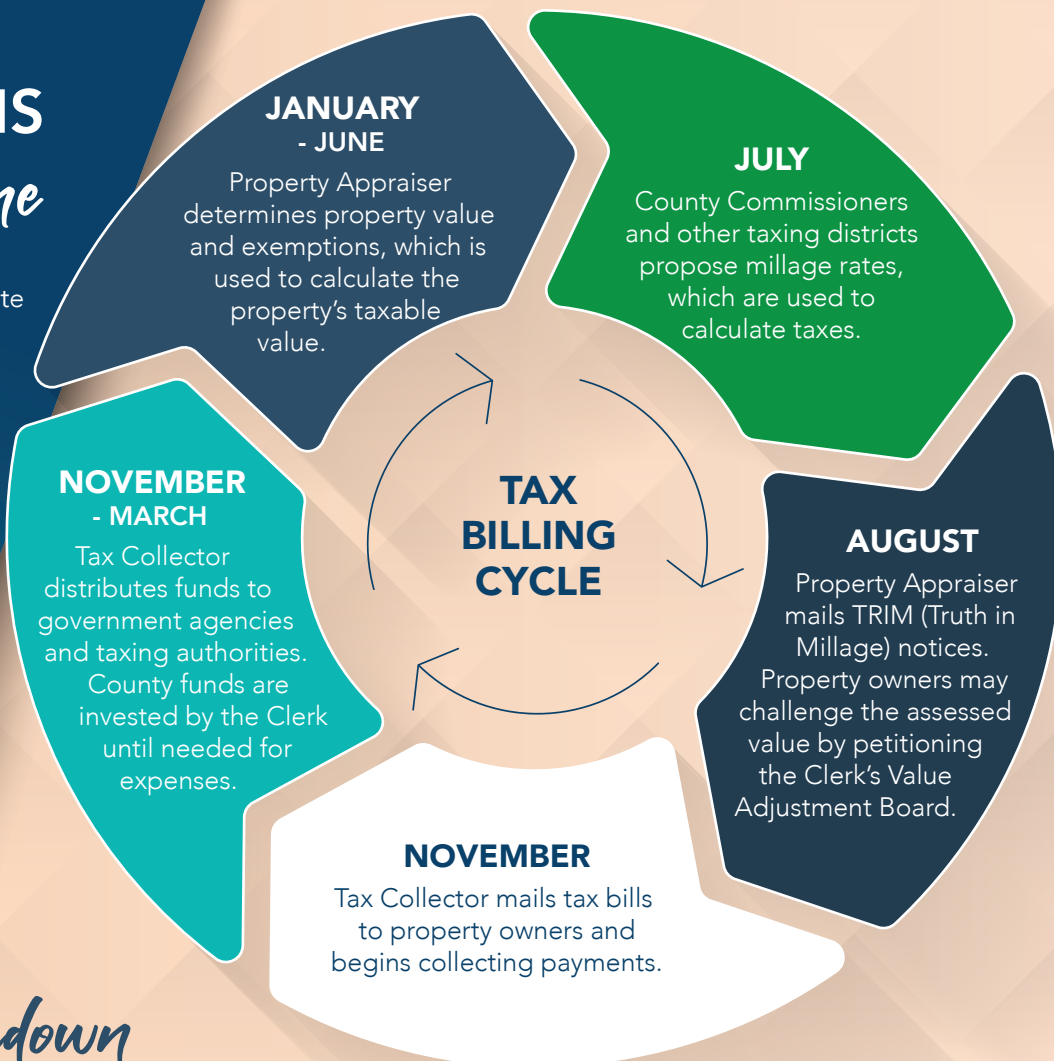
Property taxes are the largest source of funding for Lee County, accounting for half of the total revenues in FY2021. Total revenue from property taxes reached a record high in FY2021.

CALCULATIONS & *Timeline*

A millage rate represents the tax rate levied on real estate or other property. The taxable value of your property can be calculated using the following equation:

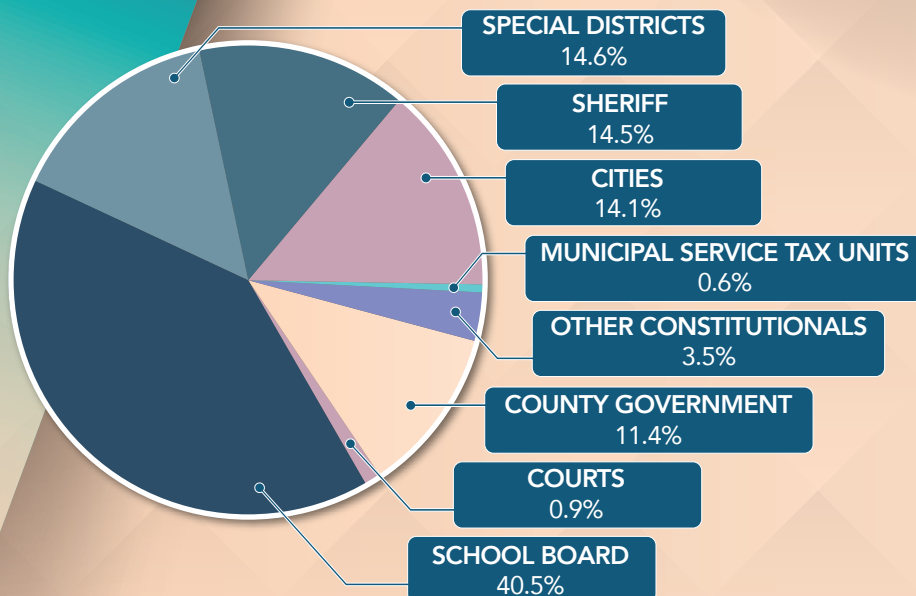
Assessed Value - Exemptions = Taxable Value

Taxable Value / 1,000 Total Millage Rates = Total Property Tax



TAX BILL

Breakdown



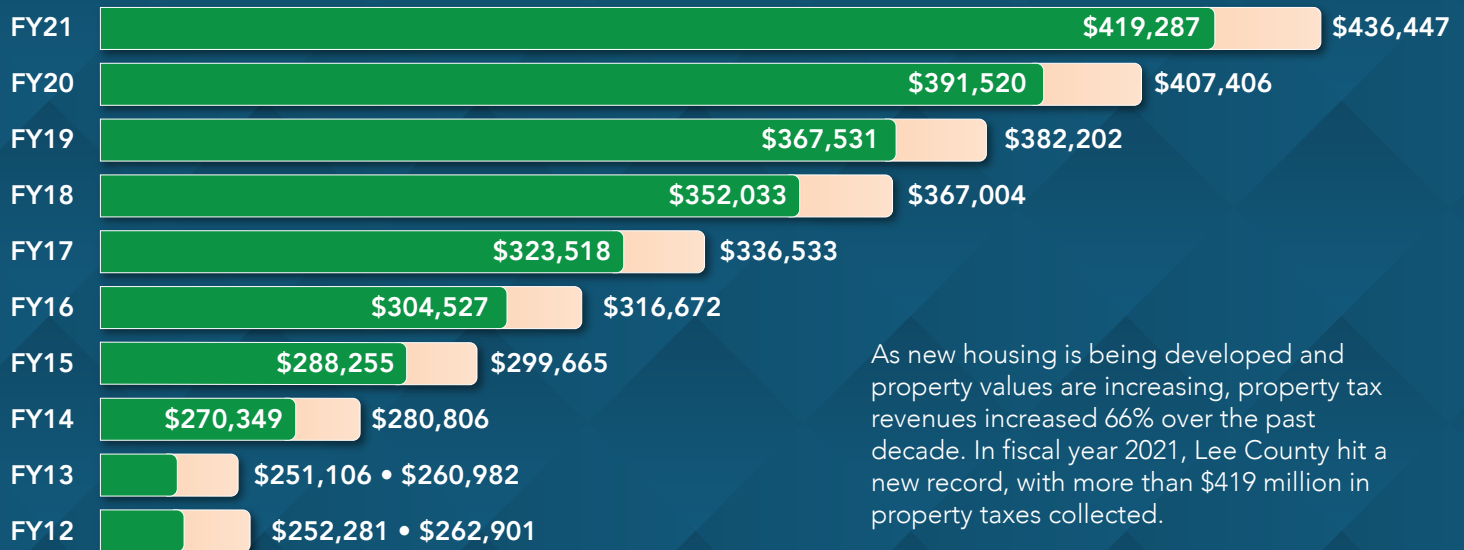
Your property tax bill is composed of many tax levying authorities, including Lee County government, the School Board, and the Sheriff. For a complete breakdown of your property tax bill, visit the Tax Collector's website at leetc.com.

To contest the Property Appraiser's assessed value of your property, you can file a petition with the Clerk's Value Adjustment Board. Learn more about leeclerk.org/vab.

PROPERTY TAX

Collections & Levies

FY2012 - FY2021 | THOUSANDS



As new housing is being developed and property values are increasing, property tax revenues increased 66% over the past decade. In fiscal year 2021, Lee County hit a new record, with more than \$419 million in property taxes collected.

BUDGET PROCESS

Lee County must prepare an annual budget authorizing the spending of public funds. Florida law requires the county to have a balanced budget that can only be amended during public board meetings of the Board of County Commissioners. The fiscal year of the budget begins Oct. 1 and ends Sept. 30.

In addition to the county, the school board, cities, utilities, and other taxing districts, may also impose taxes on property owners. In Lee County, there are more than 90 taxing authorities.

SEPARATION OF POWERS

Florida's constitution established several government offices designed to ensure a check and balance to protect Floridians.

The Board of County Commissioners and other taxing districts levy property taxes.



The Property Appraiser assesses the property taxable value.



The Tax Collector collects and disburses taxes.



The Clerk of the Court & Comptroller pays the county's bills and manages the Value Adjustment Board.

SAVE OUR HOMES

The Florida Constitution was amended effective 1995 to limit annual increases in assessed value of property with homestead exemptions. The limit is 3% or the change in the Consumer Price Index, whichever is lower. No assessment shall exceed current fair market value.

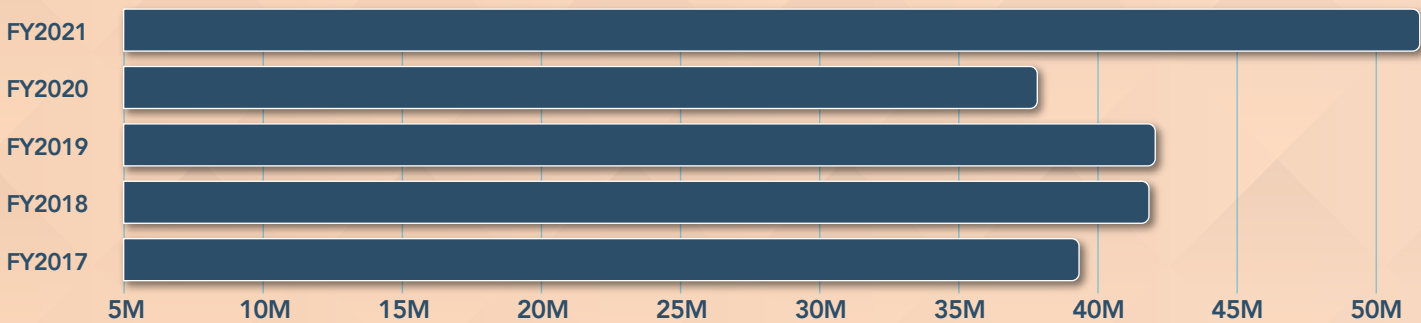
This cap only applies to property value, not property taxes. If the property is sold, the cap and exemption are removed and taxes are then calculated on the full just/market value. To learn more about Save Our Homes, visit the Property Appraiser's website at leepa.org.

COUNTY *Taxes*

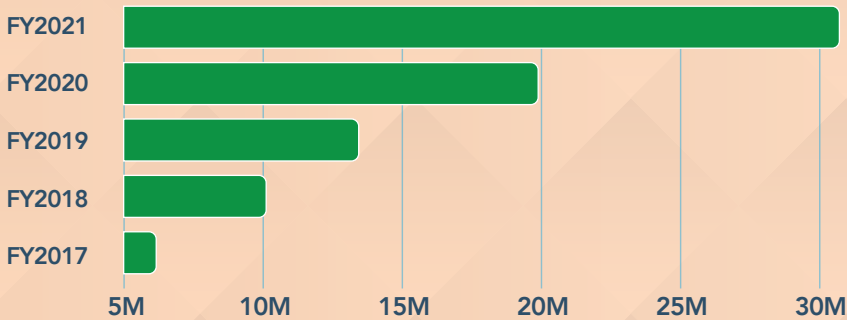
As the county recovered from the pandemic, tourism quickly rebounded and broke new records. The local 5% bed tax brought in \$52.8 million in 2021, a 24% increase over the pre-pandemic previous record of \$42.6 million in 2019. The Lee Clerk's office is one of the only Clerk's offices

in Florida to collect and distribute Tourist Development Tax. The local gas tax also reached a new record in 2021, bringing \$32 million. Lee County's strong growth didn't slow down during the pandemic. Impact fees on new development also increased 374% in the past five years.

TOURIST DEVELOPMENT TAX

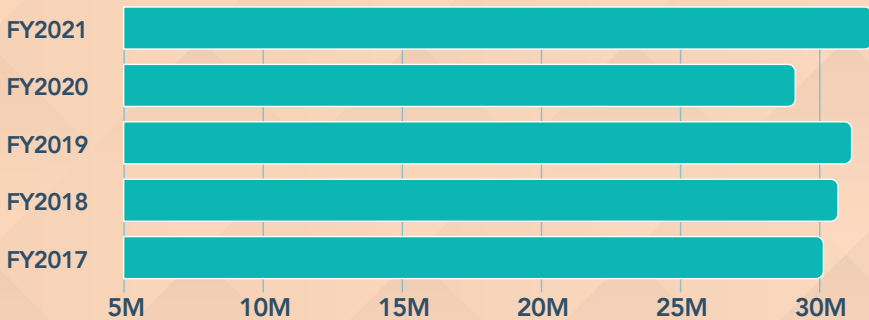


IMPACT FEES



Impact fees ensure that new development helps pay for the increased transportation, parks, schools, fire protection and emergency medical services that will be needed by that development.

LOCAL OPTION GAS TAX



For every gallon of gas purchased in Lee County, a 5-cent gas tax is imposed. The funds have raised \$153.6 million over the past five years.

COUNTY *Expenses*

In fiscal year 2021, the county incurred \$1.25 billion in expenses, with nearly half designated to general government and public safety. Business-type activities are activities supported by user charges. The county maintains five business-type funds that are used to

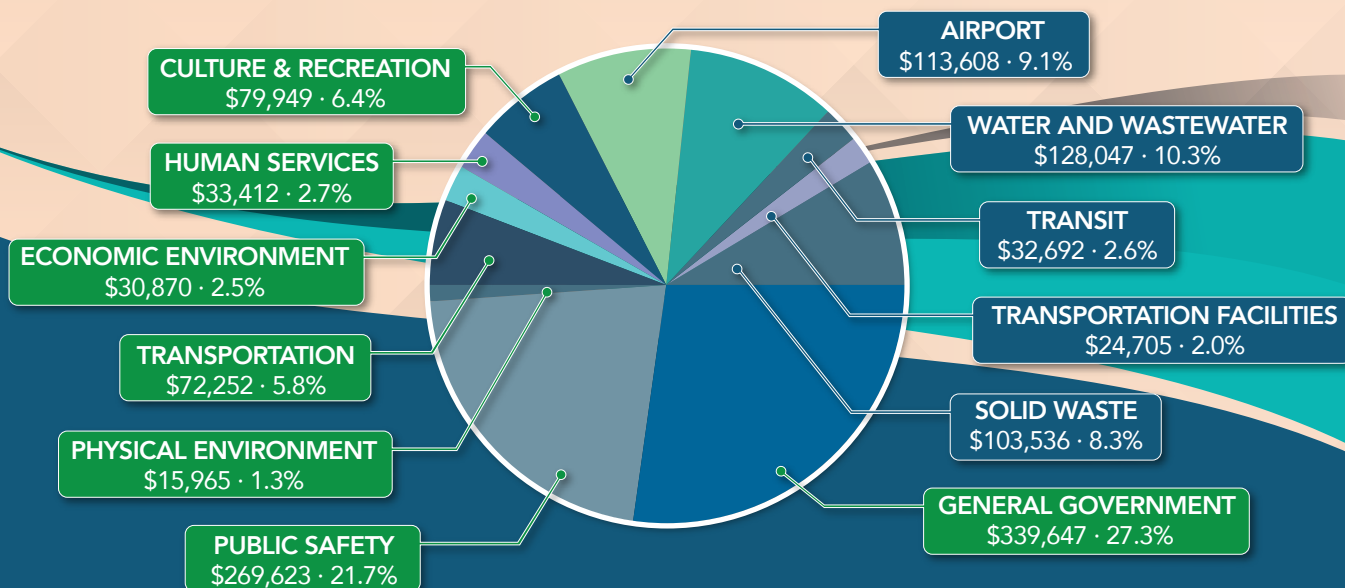
account for activities for which a fee is charged to external users for goods or services. There was an increase in expenditures in General Government in fiscal years 2020 and 2021 due to COVID-19-related expenditures paid with federal funds received to manage the pandemic.

COUNTY EXPENDITURE & *Expenses*

FY2021 | THOUSANDS

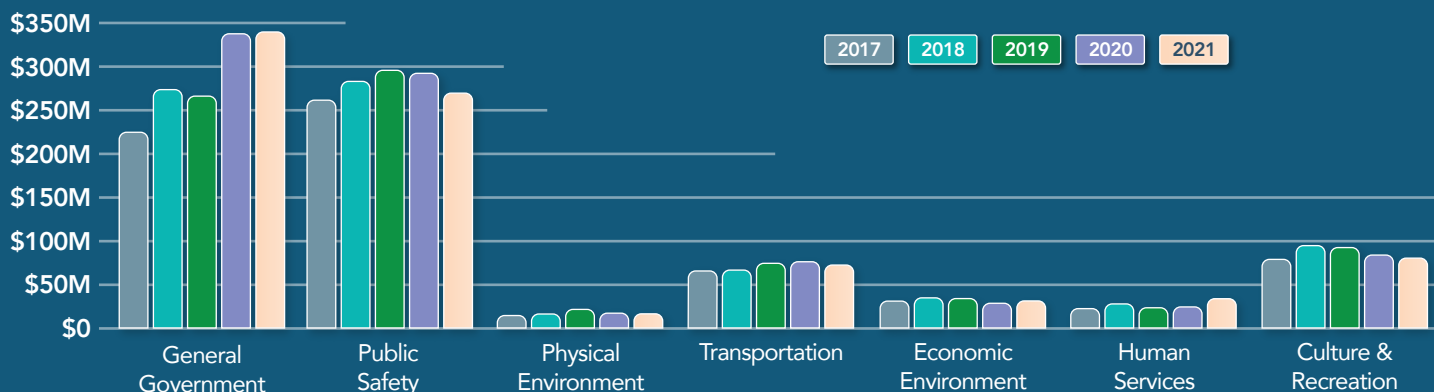
GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES

BUSINESS-TYPE ACTIVITIES



TRENDS IN COUNTY EXPENDITURES & *Expenses*

FY2017 - FY2021 | MILLIONS-BILLIONS



INVESTMENTS

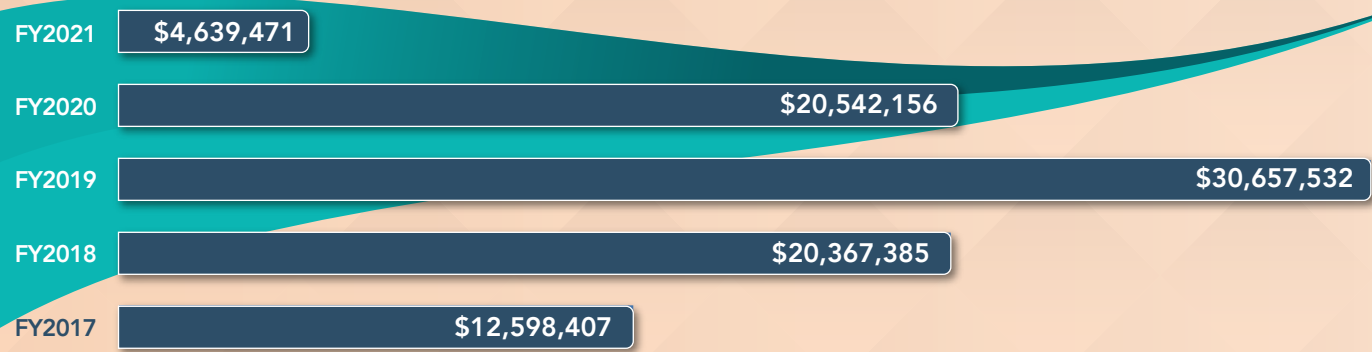
The Clerk manages the county's investment portfolio with the primary objectives of safeguarding principal, ensuring liquidity to meet daily cash needs, and maximizing investment earnings within statutory and fiduciary constraints. The investment types are either allowed by Florida Statutes Section 218.415, the county's adopted investment policy, or various bond covenants.

At Sept. 30, 2021, the county investment portfolio was invested in the categories listed in the Portfolio Allocations chart below. All amounts reflect their fair market value as of Sept. 30, 2021. For safety and flexibility, the county maintains a short overall weighted average maturity. As of Sept. 30, 2021, its weighted average maturity for fixed income investments was 3.32 years.

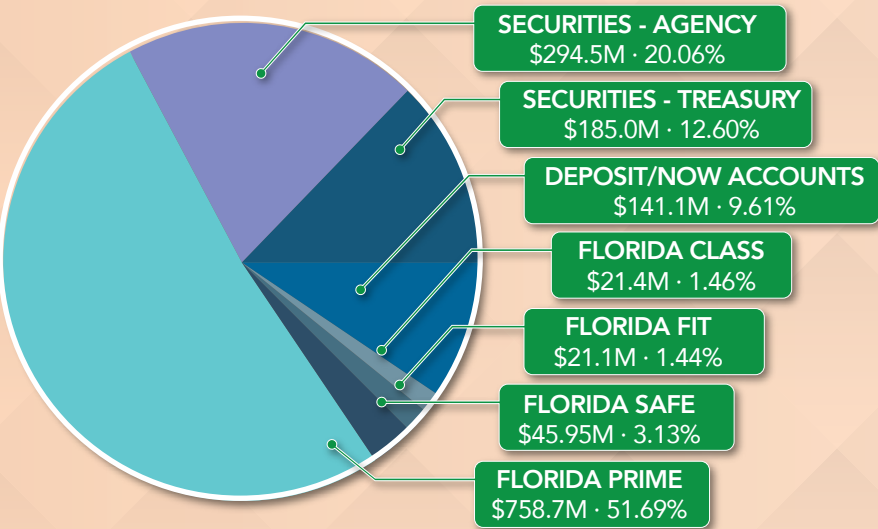
INVESTMENT *Income* FY2017 - FY2021

Investment income is largely dependent on federal interest rates, not the size of the investment portfolio. Investment income decreased during FY2021 in response

to the lower federal interest rates and the markets reacting to the COVID-19 pandemic. Since FY2017, the county's investment portfolio has generated \$88,804,951.



PORTFOLIO *Allocation* AS OF SEPT. 30, 2021



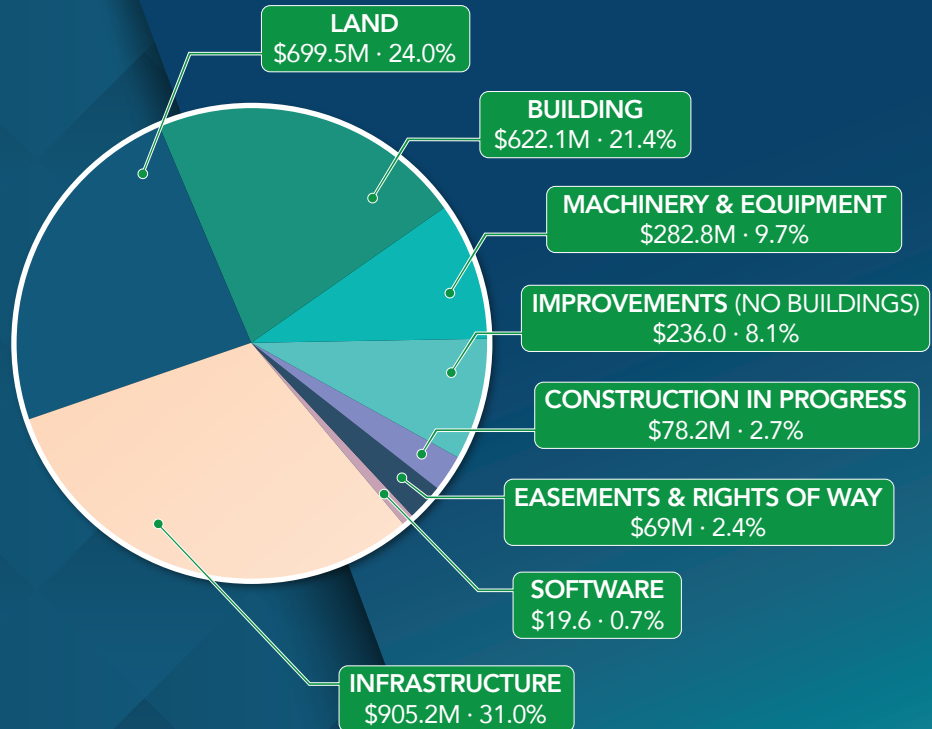
The county's investment portfolio stood at **\$1,467,774,992** at the end of fiscal year 2021. Of the seven primary investment categories, more than half is invested in Florida Prime. Securities make up 32.7% of the portfolio.

CAPITAL *Assets*

Capital assets are major fixed assets or infrastructure with long-term value, such as buildings, roads, bridges, and parks. Funds budgeted for a specific project remain allocated until the project is completed.

Additionally, construction project budgets are reviewed annually and, if needed, funding may be adjusted. Projects may be funded by current revenues or by debt financing, depending upon the availability of funds, the nature of the project, and the policies of the Board of County Commissioners.

The pie chart to the right outlines the county's governmental capital assets.



COMPLETED CAPITAL *Projects*

FY2021

Funding for these major capital projects are from grants, impact fees, tourism taxes, property taxes, gas taxes, proceeds from loans, and municipal bond issues.

\$28.1M

Replacement of 27 passenger boarding bridges at Southwest Florida Int'l Airport

\$18.8M

Alico Road widening – Ben Hill to Airport Road

\$9.1M

North Lee County Deep Injection Well

\$3.9M

Kismet/Littleton Realignment

\$3.2M

Gateway/Commerce Roundabout

COUNTY *Debt*

As of Sept. 30, 2021, Lee County had total outstanding debt of \$729.6 million. This included \$630 million in outstanding bonded debt, \$55 million in bank loans, \$41 million in DEP loans, and \$2.9 million in MSBU loans. Standard & Poor's Rating Group suggest that

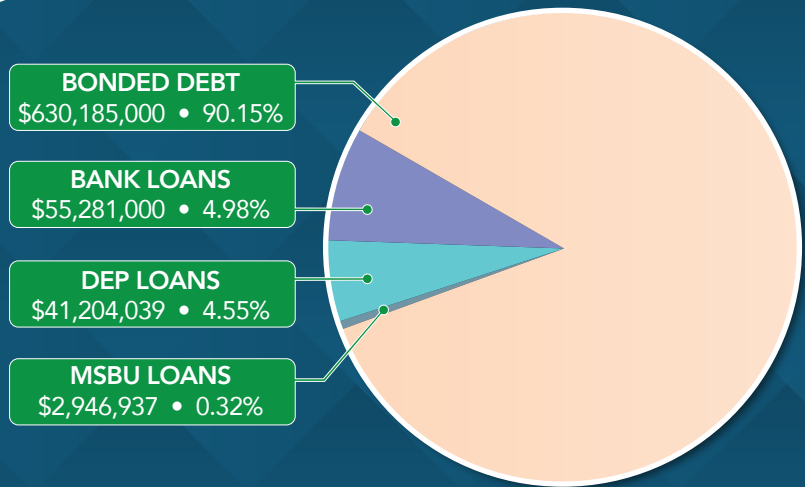
debt service should not exceed 10-15% of appropriations. Fiscal year 2021 debt service was 4.0% of appropriations, which is within the suggested guidelines.

The Clerk's Finance Department is responsible for preparing and paying the county's debt service payments, monitoring compliance with bond resolutions, including debt service coverage and monitoring post issuance compliance.

DEBT OUTSTANDING

Revenue Bonds make up 100% of the outstanding bonded debt, and 90% of total debt outstanding. The outstanding bonded debt balance decreased \$71.5 million, or 10.2% as a result of scheduled debt service payments and refunding Airport Revenue bonds.

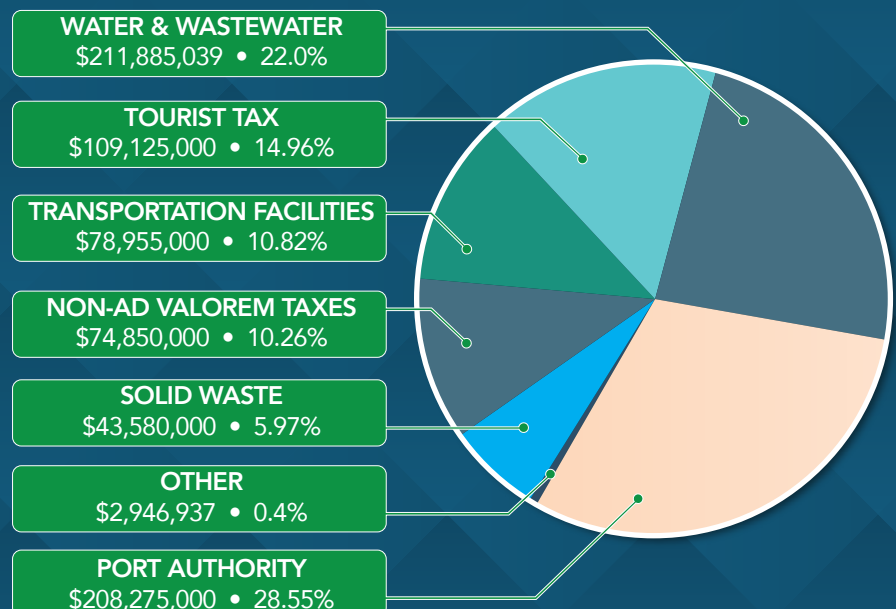
On June 30, 2021, the county issued the Airport Revenue Refunding Bonds, Series 2021A in the amount of \$139.5 million. The proceeds were used to currently refund \$172.7 million of outstanding Airport Revenue Refunding Bonds, Series 2011A.



OUTSTANDING DEBT BY PLEDGED REVENUE

Lee County's debt is repaid with pledged revenues from tourist tax, non-ad valorem funds, net revenues of the Port Authority, net revenues of the Water and Wastewater system, net revenues of the Sanibel, Cape Coral, and Midpoint Memorial bridges (Transportation Facilities), and net revenues of the Solid Waste system.

Approximately 28% of the county's outstanding debt is payable from revenues of the Port Authority.



LOOKING *Ahead*



SHERIFF CARMINE MARCENO



The safety and security of our great residents is my number one priority. By constantly upgrading our technology, adjusting our practices, and improving our already positive relationships with residents, working together, we are able to keep our residents safer than ever before. Lee County has experienced an overall crime reduction of 11% in 2020, as well as the preceding year (2019) where crime dropped 18.6%.

Lee County's Board of County Commissioners has voted to continue to prioritize water quality, access to public lands, investment in human services, infrastructure and clear communication with the community. The board formally adopted its strategic priorities in March 2022, which include:

- Complete the Countywide Wastewater Management Plan for submission to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection in January 2023.
- Identify project(s) to be submitted in the 2023 legislative session for septic-to-sewer grant funding.
- Analyze the feasibility and impacts of the county purchasing Florida Governmental Utility Authority's (FGUA) assets.
- Submit recommendations for spending of American Rescue Plan Act funds that continue to focus on human services, affordable housing, workforce training and infrastructure.
- Develop options for the Civic Center complex after an engineering study is completed.
- Continue working on access to Conservation 20/20 properties, including the GS-10 preserve in Lehigh Acres.

- Continue public education using social media platforms, including information about the county's comprehensive plan.

Lee County has created a special landing page with the strategic priorities and additional information from the Strategic Planning Workshop, including the presentation, minutes and information from last year's workshop. To learn more about the workshop, visit www.leegov.com/boccc/strategicworkshop. A video of County Commission Chairman Cecil Pendergrass discussing the strategic priorities can also be viewed on the website.

IMPORTANT DATES

OBSERVED HOLIDAYS

Clerk & County Government Offices Closed

Memorial Day	May 30, 2022
Independence Day	July 4, 2022
Labor Day	Sept. 5, 2022
Veteran's Day (observed)	Nov. 11, 2022
Thanksgiving	Nov. 24 & 25, 2022
Christmas (observed)	Dec. 23 & 26, 2022
New Year's Day (observed)	Jan. 2, 2023
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	Jan. 16, 2023

TAX DEADLINES

Homestead Exemption Deadline	March 1, 2023
2022 Property Tax Deadline	March 31, 2023
<i>Pay your property taxes to the Tax Collector early to receive savings on your bill. Get 4% savings in November, 3% savings in December, 2% savings in January, or 1% savings in February.</i>	
Tourist Development Taxes Due	1 st of each month

UPCOMING ELECTIONS

Primary Election	Aug. 23, 2022
General Election	Nov. 8, 2022
<i>The deadline to register to vote is 29 days before an election. Learn more at www.lee.vote.</i>	



CLERK *Services*

PAY & BID

Traffic Citations • Child Support • Court Fees • Tourist Development Tax • Foreclosure & Tax Deed Auctions

E-SERVICES

Court Date Reminders • E-Certify Documents • E-File Court Cases • E-Record Documents • Jury Duty Check-In • E-File Value Adjustment Board Petitions • Report Fraud • Public Records Requests

VIEW & DOWNLOAD

Case Documents • Court Calendars • Official Records • Court Forms • County Commission Minutes • Video Archives • Lobbyist Logs • Passport Forms • Clerk Budgets • Audit Reports • County Financial & Investments Reports

PRE-APPLY & REGISTER

Marriage License • Property Fraud Alert

SELF-HELP COURT ASSISTANCE

Evictions, Small Claims, & Domestic Violence assistance • TurboCourt • Free Legal Consultations