

Intergovernmental Coordination Data

PINELLAS COUNTY AREA OF CONCERN

Pinellas County Government

The **Board of County Commissioners** is the legislative and governing body of Pinellas County. The seven-member Commission is responsible for establishing policies to protect the health, safety, and general welfare of Pinellas County residents. Five of the Commissioners are elected to serve an individual district, and 2 serve at-large, or countywide. They serve four-year terms and each must reside in his/her geographic district. Each year, Commission members select a chairman to preside over the County Commission meetings and to serve as the elected head of the County. A vice chairman is also selected to assume these duties in the absence of the chairman.

The Board of County Commissioners appoints a County Administrator, who implements and administers the policies established by the Board. The County Administrator supervises the day-to-day operation of the departments under the Board.

The Departments under the Board of County Commissioners include the St. Petersburg-Clearwater International Airport, Animal Services, Information Technology, the Building and Development Review Services Department, Communications, Community Development, Consumer Affairs, County Extension, Culture, Education and Leisure, Economic Development, Emergency Communications, Emergency Management, Emergency Medical Services and Fire Administration, Employee Relations, Environmental Management, Fleet Management, General Services, Justice Coordination, Management and Budget, Planning, Public Works, Purchasing, Risk Management, Health and Human Services, St. Petersburg/Clearwater Area Convention and Visitor's Bureau, Utilities, and Veteran's Services.

Local/Municipal Governments

There are twenty-four municipalities within Pinellas County which are considered to be within Pinellas County government's (i.e., the Board of County Commissioners') **area of concern**. These are Belleair, Belleair Beach, Belleair Bluffs, Belleair Shores, Clearwater, Dunedin, Gulfport, Indian Rocks Beach, Indian Shores, Kenneth City, Largo, Madeira Beach, North Redington Beach, Oldsmar, Pinellas Park, Redington Beach, Redington Shores, Safety Harbor, St. Petersburg, St. Pete Beach, Seminole, South Pasadena, Tarpon Springs, and Treasure Island. The City of Tampa in Hillsborough County and the City of Bradenton in Manatee County are also considered to be within Pinellas County's **area of concern** for coordination.

Adjacent County Governments

Pinellas County coordinates with the following county governments within its **area of concern**: Hillsborough, Pasco, and Manatee Counties.

INVENTORY OF OTHER COORDINATING BODIES

Countywide Planning Agencies

In 1988, the Florida State Legislature amended Chapter 73-594, Laws of Florida and voters approved a referendum that amended the County Charter in November of 1988, giving the Board of County Commissioners Countywide Planning Authority. The amendments to Chapter 73-954 restructured the Pinellas Planning Council (PPC). The PPC is comprised of thirteen elected officials who provide representation for each of the twenty-four municipalities and the County. The PPC serves in an advisory role to the Board of County Commissioners in the Board's role as the Countywide Planning Authority (CPA). Their intent is to provide a forum for countywide planning in furtherance of the Countywide Future Land Use Plan.

Another example of countywide intergovernmental coordination via a planning body within Pinellas County is the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). This agency functions as the countywide transportation planning organization created through Federal regulation and State enabling legislation, Section 163.01, F.S., to provide a forum for making decisions on intracounty and intercounty transportation issues. The principal responsibilities of the Metropolitan Planning Organization include maintenance of a continuous, cooperative and comprehensive countywide transportation planning program and the development of Long Range Highway and Mass Transit Plans, and a five-year Transportation Improvement Program consistent with the Long Range Plans.

Regional Planning Agencies

At the regional level, the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council is intended to provide a forum for intergovernmental coordination. It was established in 1962, under Chapter 160, Florida Statutes, and by Interlocal Agreement, Chapter 163.01, F.S., in 1975. The Council was reorganized under Chapter 160, F.S., as amended in 1980. Its membership presently includes four Counties: Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco, and Pinellas, and 19 cities: Bradenton, Clearwater, Dade City, Dunedin, Gulfport, Largo, New Port Richey, Oldsmar, Palmetto, Pinellas Park, St. Petersburg, St. Petersburg Beach, Safety Harbor, Sarasota, Seminole, South Pasadena, Tampa, Tarpon Springs, and Temple Terrace. Today, the Council's primary duties and responsibilities include working in partnership with the State of Florida to plan the Region's long-term future and to assist and guide in the resolution of contemporary problems and issues.

Water Management Districts

The mission of the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) is to manage the waters and water related resources within its 16 county jurisdiction through regulatory and other programs. Central to the mission is maintaining the balance between the water needs of current and future populations, and protecting and maintaining the natural systems which provide existing and future water supply.

One of the nine major watershed basins managed by the SWFWMD is the Pinellas Anclote River Basin, of which Pinellas County is a part. The Basin Board is responsible for identifying the water-related concerns and problems within its area and for adopting a budget to help fund the resolution of identified problems.

Independent Special Districts

Special Districts, as described in Chapter 189, F.S., are local units of special purpose, as opposed to general purpose, government. They are created to carry out specialized functions and related powers. Independent Special Districts are defined as follows: (1) the membership of their governing body is not the same as that of the governing body of a single county or city; (2) their membership is not appointed by the governing body of a single county or city; (3) the governing body of a single county or city cannot remove a member during term; and (4) their budget does not require approval through the governing body of a single county or city. Under the requirements of Ch. 189.415, F.S., these Districts are required to submit a public facilities report annually to the local general purpose government as a means of fostering coordination in the local comprehensive planning process. The Independent Special Districts in Pinellas County are identified in **Appendix 1**.

OTHER UNITS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVIDING SERVICES TO PINELLAS COUNTY

In addition to the Board of County Commissioners, there are five other elected officials who provide services to Pinellas County and coordinate with the Board of County Commissioners. They are the Clerk of the Circuit Court, the Property Appraiser, the Sheriff, the Supervisor of Elections, and the Tax Collector. Authority for these five elected officials is vested in Article VIII, Section 1(d), of the Constitution of the State of Florida. A brief explanation of the function of each office is provided below.

The **Clerk of the Circuit Court**, while technically a part of the judicial and law enforcement function of Pinellas County, has many other duties. In addition to being the Clerk of the Circuit Court, this official also serves as Clerk of the County Court, Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners, County Treasurer or Comptroller, Recorder of Deeds, and Ex Officio County Auditor.

The **Property Appraiser's** responsibility is that of placing fair, equitable, and just value on all real and tangible personal property in Pinellas County; however, the Property Appraiser's Office does not set tax rates. These rates are set by the Board of County Commissioners, City Commissioners, School Board, and other tax levying boards.

The **Sheriff** is the chief law enforcement officer in Pinellas County. This constitutional official's powers, duties, and obligations are established by State law. Although the Sheriff is a County officer, this official represents the executive or administrative power of the State within the County.

The Sheriff is designated by State law as a conservator of the peace within the County and must maintain close liaison with municipal police departments, the Florida Highway Patrol, other sheriffs in the State, Federal law enforcement officers and any other law enforcement agencies which may be required to carry out responsibilities. Their duties include serving witness subpoenas, warrants, repossessions, distress writs, evictions, levies, mental patient orders, and other court orders. The Sheriff provides police services to the unincorporated areas of the County and municipalities that have contracted, through interlocal agreements, with the Sheriff for police

services. The Sheriff is also responsible for the operation of the Pinellas County Jail.

The **Supervisor of Elections** is a County office established by Article VIII, Section 1, of the Constitution of the State of Florida. This County official is responsible for registering voters, maintaining registration figures and statistical data, purging voter lists and recommending the establishment of precinct boundary lines to the Board of County Commissioners. The Supervisor of Elections conducts all elections within the County, including preparation of ballots, selection of polling places and assembly and distribution of voting equipment and supplies. This office also recruits, selects, and trains election officials to work at the polls. The elections office is responsible for qualifying candidates for election to County offices and maintaining all records related to the conduct of elections. This office is responsible for maintaining the County's voting equipment and determining the number of voting devices and the amount of supplies required in each precinct for municipal, county, state, federal, and special elections.

The **Tax Collector** is responsible for billing, collecting, accounting, and distributing all ad valorem taxes for County government, the municipalities, the School Board, and all other separate taxing districts, as well as fire districts. The amount of the taxes is based on the assessed value and the millage rate, which is set by the many and various taxing authorities. The Tax Collector also collects delinquent real and personal property taxes. The Tax Collector is an authorized state agent of the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles who issues State motor vehicle licenses and application of titles of automobiles, trucks, mobile homes, boats, and also collects the 3 percent Pinellas County Tourist Development Tax. The Tax Collector also sells fishing and hunting licenses for the State, as well as parking permits.

In addition to the Constitutional Officers, the **Pinellas County School Board** is a local agency responsible of establishing the policy for all of Pinellas County's public schools. It supervises the operation of the schools, hires school personnel, and authorizes the construction of new buildings and issuance of bonds, when needed, for construction. The School Board is also responsible for determining the rate of school district taxes within prescribed limits. Please refer to the Public School Facilities Element for detailed information regarding coordination with the School Board, as well as the Joint Processes For Collaborative Planning and Decision-Making Chapter of this Element.

STATE AGENCIES

Coordination is routinely carried out at the State level with various agencies including: the Executive Office of the Governor, the Florida Department of State, the Florida Department of Transportation, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the Florida Department of Community Affairs, the Florida Department of Education, the Florida Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services, and others. Frequently these coordinating relationships are vertical, or regulatory, in nature.