

Hello Mr. Covert,

April 30, 2026

I think your committee also needs to look at the “Elephant in the room” which is the string of annual Manatee County surpluses since 2017 totaling \$2.1 Billion dollars. The aim of governmental budgeting should be to balance revenues and expenses – not squirrel away annual surpluses into a money market fund which provide no benefit to Manatee County or its overtaxed citizens. Clearly, the succession of commissions since 2017 have failed at this basic task of balancing revenues and expenses.

According to the 2025 C.A.F.R. report prepared by the Clerk, unrestricted cash (which can be used for any county purpose) is \$958.4 Million which is \$595.4 million above what is allowed by Florida statute 129.01 c1,c2 (attached). Again, this illegal and over-reserve of cash is sitting in a money market fund and not being spent on County operations or returned in the form of a property tax credit against the annual property tax.

Besides, your examination of Manatee County processes, I urge your committee to look at the continuing and rising surpluses which for tax years 2024 and 2025 equaled \$818.5 million versus \$839.4 in property tax collected – implying that property taxes should be much lower due to these large surpluses.

I have been regularly addressing successive commissions on this issue since 2017, but have been met with apathy, financial ignorance and laughable millage cuts which have done nothing to address the surpluses or the excess cash on the balance sheet.

I hope your committee decides to seriously look at this “Elephant issue on Manatee County’s income statement and balance sheet.

Mike Meehan, CFA, MBA

complain@fla.com (941) 840-2804

Budget Summary...

Surpluses are too high = \$818.5 Million over last 2 years

Only needed \$20.5 Million in property taxes to run a Balanced budget, not the \$839.4 Million that was collected.

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This is \$595.4 Million above what is allowed by Florida statute.

Funds are sitting in Money market accounts providing NO BENEFIT to Manatee County citizens or economy.

Solution: Spend More or Tax Less ?

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Issue a Tax Credit against 2026 Property Tax Bills

Final thought: For budget year 2026, increase the cash allocation to our non-profit Social Service agencies who are doing yeoman work preserving the social fabric of Manatee County.

Mike Meehan, CFA, MBA remarks to MC Commission 5/5/2026

Manatee County, Florida
Changes in Net Position - Continued
Last Ten Fiscal Years
(Amounts expressed in thousands)

Business-Type Activities	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Function/Program Expenses										
Water and sewer	\$ 210,759	\$ 184,766	\$ 171,602	\$ 145,745	\$ 134,493	\$ 139,020	\$ 131,088	\$ 119,036	\$ 109,314	\$ 109,534
Port Authority	31,044	23,254	24,142	21,209	20,180	17,630	16,255	15,408	14,026	14,166
Solid waste	79,779	75,927	66,362	45,247	58,758	40,582	38,033	46,988	34,679	36,414
Transit	23,085	21,830	23,227	19,876	16,944	18,577	17,989	16,388	14,982	13,915
Stormwater	21,540	10,094	12,089	9,202	7,309	7,574	7,461	6,954	5,968	5,619
Civic center	3,722	3,853	3,344	2,747	2,738	2,565	2,868	2,478	2,515	2,322
Total expenses	<u>369,929</u>	<u>319,724</u>	<u>300,766</u>	<u>244,026</u>	<u>240,422</u>	<u>225,948</u>	<u>213,694</u>	<u>207,252</u>	<u>181,484</u>	<u>181,970</u>
Program Revenues										
Charges for services										
Water and sewer	250,303	233,275	204,181	164,341	151,861	159,978	154,949	141,563	134,568	127,484
Port Authority	36,810	34,796	31,041	28,457	22,791	17,980	19,477	16,065	13,832	12,021
Solid waste	104,510	92,320	58,939	52,523	49,339	49,255	48,829	46,282	44,403	42,847
Transit	157	180	252	980	743	616	1,322	1,283	1,304	1,377
Stormwater	24	137	104	95	30	107	136	59	84	89
Civic center	2,102	2,156	2,103	1,881	1,180	945	1,740	1,824	1,810	1,707
Operating grants and contributions	12,182	23,752	8,956	10,541	10,870	8,567	16,119	6,678	5,917	5,743
Capital grants and contributions	142,021	137,838	79,199	87,134	68,414	53,957	57,155	42,352	39,649	51,627
Total revenues	<u>548,109</u>	<u>524,454</u>	<u>384,775</u>	<u>345,952</u>	<u>305,228</u>	<u>291,405</u>	<u>299,727</u>	<u>256,106</u>	<u>241,567</u>	<u>242,895</u>
Net (Expense) Revenue	<u>178,180</u>	<u>204,730</u>	<u>84,009</u>	<u>101,926</u>	<u>64,806</u>	<u>65,457</u>	<u>86,033</u>	<u>48,854</u>	<u>60,083</u>	<u>60,925</u>
General Revenues and Other Changes in Net Position										
Interest income	1,015	1,151	965	(117)	164	152	424	206	102	68
Miscellaneous	314	197	189	343	29	243	167	155	151	182
Transfers	13,393	4,496	12,156	2,601	1,179	2,572	4,783	5,284	3,456	2,237
Total general revenues and other changes in net position	<u>14,722</u>	<u>5,844</u>	<u>13,310</u>	<u>2,827</u>	<u>1,372</u>	<u>2,967</u>	<u>5,374</u>	<u>5,645</u>	<u>3,709</u>	<u>2,487</u>
Total business-type activity change in net position	<u>192,902</u>	<u>210,574</u>	<u>97,319</u>	<u>104,753</u>	<u>66,178</u>	<u>68,424</u>	<u>91,407</u>	<u>54,499</u>	<u>63,792</u>	<u>63,412</u>
Total primary government change in net position	<u>\$ 363,923</u>	<u>\$ 459,867</u>	<u>\$ 294,007</u>	<u>\$ 281,406</u>	<u>\$ 209,213</u>	<u>\$ 132,603</u>	<u>\$ 141,189</u>	<u>\$ 107,986</u>	<u>\$ 98,464</u>	<u>\$ 83,997</u>

Manatee County, Florida
Changes in Net Position
Last Ten Fiscal Years
(Amounts expressed in thousands)

Governmental activities:	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Functions/Programs Expenses										
General government	\$ 157,729	\$ 154,113	\$ 189,405	\$ 121,272	\$ 122,876	\$ 109,084	\$ 105,999	\$ 99,834	\$ 95,367	\$ 89,085
Public safety	422,199	288,583	264,974	240,276	206,886	232,600	220,021	192,286	182,837	173,306
Physical environment	23,213	19,020	11,873	14,908	16,094	13,193	12,728	12,145	10,004	9,189
Transportation	76,965	65,072	63,539	53,403	48,746	48,507	46,774	43,110	41,191	38,006
Economic environment	44,430	39,653	35,391	35,540	57,102	22,219	22,753	18,951	19,311	15,572
Human services	43,735	41,816	40,228	36,708	37,791	34,947	33,183	33,997	30,014	28,993
Culture and recreation	45,735	41,832	37,080	26,165	25,287	24,069	24,271	20,222	19,250	18,097
Interest on long-term debt	26,078	21,035	13,037	4,338	3,399	4,596	3,819	3,811	3,891	4,300
Total governmental activities	→ 840,084	→ 671,124	→ 655,527	→ 532,610	→ 518,181	→ 489,215	→ 469,548	→ 424,356	→ 401,865	→ 376,548
Program Revenues										
Charges for services										
General government	56,039	50,086	51,469	47,876	44,018	38,550	37,248	37,332	34,712	33,781
Public safety	45,493	40,187	34,587	32,953	30,393	24,447	23,780	23,484	23,047	27,182
Physical environment	2,254	1,394	680	642	506	2,165	301	182	219	449
Transportation	48,245	50,286	40,394	34,124	28,074	23,546	24,311	22,064	18,527	13,518
Economic environment	1,902	1,630	1,833	1,463	1,554	936	1,409	1,010	684	550
Human services	181	154	144	150	139	131	149	166	141	152
Culture and recreation	14,096	14,806	13,899	11,015	10,303	7,540	6,943	6,871	6,794	7,251
Operating grants and contributions	62,303	37,209	86,980	43,101	94,228	26,875	21,334	22,519	21,132	18,555
Capital grants and contributions	71,990	51,586	41,164	70,042	19,836	30,624	16,893	9,650	10,492	10,075
Total governmental activities program revenues	→ 302,503	→ 247,338	→ 271,150	→ 241,366	→ 229,051	→ 154,814	→ 132,368	→ 123,278	→ 115,748	→ 111,513
Net (Expense) Revenue	<u>(537,581)</u>	<u>(423,786)</u>	<u>(384,377)</u>	<u>(291,244)</u>	<u>(289,130)</u>	<u>(334,401)</u>	<u>(337,180)</u>	<u>(301,078)</u>	<u>(286,117)</u>	<u>(265,035)</u>
General Revenues and Other Changes in Net Position										
Taxes										
Property taxes	439,608	399,788	340,464	296,105	276,464	258,156	239,454	221,469	202,515	187,729
Gasoline taxes	28,728	27,980	28,792	27,047	25,861	24,261	25,903	25,527	25,614	24,848
Sales tax	42,573	40,977	41,779	38,236	33,848	27,529	27,164	24,819	25,401	24,445
Infrastructure surtax	48,463	43,100	42,263	37,540	32,047	27,758	25,661	24,549	17,438	-
Other taxes										
Tourism taxes	31,512	31,030	30,887	28,461	22,781	14,717	15,868	14,725	13,357	12,870
Communication services taxes	5,888	5,714	5,472	5,221	4,874	4,951	4,847	5,003	4,949	4,977
Phosphate severance taxes	411	330	301	309	342	498	1,128	1,056	698	555
Vessel tax	357	367	366	335	363	360	363	368	382	370
State revenue sharing, unrestricted	16,973	16,229	16,639	15,370	11,778	9,974	10,597	9,957	9,388	8,884
Interest income	55,763	74,895	50,814	(4,473)	1,153	9,659	15,310	7,575	3,967	3,289
Miscellaneous	51,719	37,165	35,444	26,347	23,833	23,289	25,450	24,801	20,536	19,890
Transfers	(13,393)	(4,496)	(12,156)	(2,601)	(1,179)	(2,572)	(4,783)	(5,284)	(3,456)	(2,237)
Total general revenues and other changes in net position	→ 708,602	→ 673,079	→ 581,065	→ 467,897	→ 432,165	→ 398,580	→ 386,962	→ 354,565	→ 320,789	→ 285,620
Total governmental activities change in net position	→ \$ <u>171,021</u>	→ \$ <u>249,293</u>	→ \$ <u>196,688</u>	→ \$ <u>176,653</u>	→ \$ <u>143,035</u>	→ \$ <u>64,179</u>	→ \$ <u>49,782</u>	→ \$ <u>53,487</u>	→ \$ <u>34,672</u>	→ \$ <u>20,585</u>

(Continued)

Manatee County, Florida
Net Position by Component
Last Ten Fiscal Years
(Amounts expressed in thousands)

	2025	2024 ⁽¹⁾	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Governmental activities:										
Net investment in capital assets	\$ 1,797,471	\$ 1,582,235	\$ 1,401,126	\$ 1,253,869	\$ 1,134,429	\$ 1,086,846	\$ 1,024,540	\$ 997,965	\$ 975,065	\$ 948,102
Restricted	36,574	26,722	9,969	1,488	1,380	1,377	960	600	532	202
Unrestricted	410,555	469,805	418,374	377,424	320,319	224,870	223,414	200,567	170,048	124,513
Total governmental activities net position	<u>2,244,600</u>	<u>2,078,762</u>	<u>1,829,469</u>	<u>1,632,781</u>	<u>1,456,128</u>	<u>1,313,093</u>	<u>1,248,914</u>	<u>1,199,132</u>	<u>1,145,645</u>	<u>1,072,817</u>
Business-type activities:										
Net investment in capital assets	1,390,603	1,256,552	1,122,572	1,023,438	956,673	904,317	869,816	839,445	813,743	787,670
Restricted	22,329	17,077	9,938	6,289	6,229	14,870	14,520	11,479	12,365	9,809
Unrestricted	547,888	494,387	424,932	430,396	392,468	370,005	336,432	278,437	248,754	206,645
Total business-type activities net position	<u>1,960,820</u>	<u>1,768,016</u>	<u>1,557,442</u>	<u>1,460,123</u>	<u>1,355,370</u>	<u>1,289,192</u>	<u>1,220,768</u>	<u>1,129,361</u>	<u>1,074,862</u>	<u>1,004,124</u>
Primary government:										
Net investment in capital assets	3,188,074	2,838,787	2,523,698	2,277,307	2,091,102	1,991,163	1,894,356	1,837,410	1,788,808	1,735,772
Restricted	58,903	43,799	19,907	7,777	7,609	16,247	15,480	12,079	12,897	10,011
Unrestricted	958,443	964,192	843,306	807,820	712,787	594,875	559,846	479,004	418,802	331,158
Total primary government net position	<u>\$ 4,205,420</u>	<u>\$ 3,846,778</u>	<u>\$ 3,386,911</u>	<u>\$ 3,092,904</u>	<u>\$ 2,811,498</u>	<u>\$ 2,602,285</u>	<u>\$ 2,469,682</u>	<u>\$ 2,328,493</u>	<u>\$ 2,220,507</u>	<u>\$ 2,076,941</u>

(1) The business-type activities net investment in capital assets and unrestricted net position has been restated due to an error correction in the computation for net investment in capital assets. There was no change in the total net position.

5/8/26

To: Jeff Covert, FYI

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The Giving Challenge – A Community with a Heart



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Posted Friday, April 10, 2026 1:23 pm

by Mike Meehan

Some of you may have heard of the Giving Challenge, which is a two-day matching gift program supported by the Patterson Foundation that takes place April 15 and 16 this year. Essentially, any contribution between \$25 up to \$100 will be matched on a dollar-for-dollar basis for any number of charities/social service agencies that you choose to support. At last count, there were over 700 organizations participating in the Giving Challenge – a very impressive number dedicated to making life on this earth a little more bearable for the less fortunate.

Some of the organizations operating in Manatee County include: Turning Points, which is a “soup to nuts” operation in downtown Bradenton that provides access to almost any type of social service that you can imagine including: job search, laundry, temporary housing, utility/rental assistance, legal ID, and dental/medical services. If they don't provide it, they will help you find the service you need.

Other well-known social service groups include: Our Daily Bread/Loaves and Fishes which as the name suggests serves a hot meal on a daily basis between 10 and 11:30 each morning at its downtown location as well a well-stocked food pantry providing groceries twice a week. Last year, ODB served 79,678 meals and handed out 4,370 bags of groceries. As a side note, both of these organizations utilize a lot of volunteer help, and I can personally attest that it is a lot of fun and personally fulfilling to work on the daily serving line on a regular monthly basis.

Other organizations providing essential services include: Centerstone which serves the addicted and mentally ill, Women's Resource Center in support of women in a difficult home environment, Salvation Army which we all know and have respect for their long-standing food and residential support of the less fortunate, Boys and Girls Clubs of Manatee County offering multiple education, career counseling and athletic activities for our youth, Safe Children Coalition that offers safe haven and support for kids living in an unsafe environment, Habitat for Humanity which has built many homes here in Manatee County for low-income families, Help to Home which offers time-limited housing and financial planning support, Goodwill which offers below market prices on apparel and home goods as well as providing employment opportunities, Career Source Suncoast which helps with job training and employment, Roser Church food pantry which provides groceries to island residents, Harvest House which provides counseling and temporary housing for the homeless, Stillpoint Mission operating in the downtown area which provides help with utilities and free food and finally, Suncoast Waterkeepers which monitors the waters in our area to protect against flooding and water pollution.

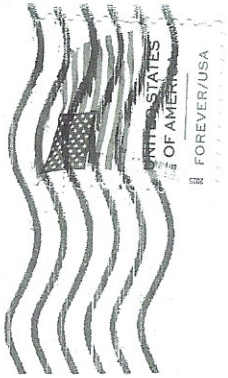
To be sure, there are many others worthy of your support, and I urge you to go to the Giving Challenge website on April 15 and 16, and show your heart for our community.

Mike Meehan, CFA, MBA



Michael Meehan
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34202-263160



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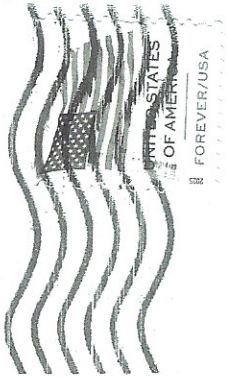
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The 2022 Florida Statutes

Title XI
COUNTY ORGANIZATION AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL
RELATIONS

Chapter 129
COUNTY ANNUAL
BUDGET

[View Entire Chapter](#)

CHAPTER 129 COUNTY ANNUAL BUDGET

- 129.01 Budget system established.
- 129.011 Consolidation of funds.
- 129.02 Requisites of budgets.
- 129.021 County officer budget information.
- 129.025 County budget officer.
- 129.03 Preparation and adoption of budget.
- 129.04 Fiscal year.
- 129.06 Execution and amendment of budget.
- 129.07 Unlawful to exceed the budget.
- 129.08 County commissioner voting to pay illegal claim or for excess indebtedness.
- 129.09 County auditor not to sign illegal warrants.
- 129.201 Budget of supervisor of elections; manner and time of preparation and presentation.
- 129.202 Budget of supervisor of elections; matters related to allocation, expenditure, etc., of amounts in budget.

129.01 Budget system established.—A budget system for the control of the finances of the boards of county commissioners of the several counties of the state is established as follows:

(1) A budget shall be prepared, approved, adopted, and executed as prescribed in this chapter for each fiscal year. At a minimum, the budget must show for each fund, as required by law and sound financial practices, budgeted revenues and expenditures by organizational unit which are at least at the level of detail required for the annual financial report under s. 218.32(1).

(2) The budget must conform to the following general directions and requirements:

(a) The budget must be prepared, summarized, and approved by the board of county commissioners of each county.

(b) The budget must be balanced, so that the total of the estimated receipts available from taxation and other sources, including balances brought forward from prior fiscal years, equals the total of appropriations for expenditures and reserves. The budgeted receipts must include 95 percent of all receipts reasonably anticipated from all sources, including taxes to be levied, provided the percent anticipated from ad valorem levies is as specified in s. 200.065(2)(a), and is 100 percent of the amount of the balances estimated to be brought forward at the beginning of the fiscal year. The appropriations must include itemized appropriations for all expenditures authorized by law, contemplated to be made, or incurred for the benefit of the county during the year and the provision for reserves authorized by this chapter. Both the receipts and appropriations must reflect the approximate division of expenditures between countywide expenditures and noncountywide expenditures and the division of county revenues derived from or on behalf of the county as a whole and county revenues derived from or on behalf of a municipal service taxing unit, special district included within the county budget, unincorporated area, service area, or program area, or otherwise not received for or on behalf of the county as a whole.

(c) Provision may be made for the following reserves:

1. A reserve for contingencies may be provided which does not exceed 10 percent of the total appropriations.
2. A reserve for cash balance to be carried over may be provided for the purpose of paying expenses from October 1 of the next fiscal year until the revenues for that year are expected to be available. This reserve may not be more than 20 percent of the total appropriations. However, for the bond interest and sinking fund budget, this reserve may not exceed the total maturities of debt, both principal and interest, which will occur during the next fiscal year, plus the sinking fund requirements, computed on a straight-line basis, for any outstanding obligations to be paid from the fund.

(d) An appropriation for outstanding indebtedness shall be made to provide for the payment of vouchers that have been incurred in and charged against the budget for the current year or a prior year, but that are expected to be unpaid at the beginning of the next fiscal year. The appropriation for the payment of such vouchers shall be to the same fund in which the expenses were originally incurred.

(e) Any surplus arising from an excess of the estimated cash balance over the estimated amount of unpaid obligations to be carried over in a fund at the end of the current fiscal year may be transferred to any of the other funds of the county, and the amount so transferred shall be budgeted as a receipt to such other funds. However, a surplus:

1. In a fund raised for debt service may not be transferred to another fund until the debt for which the fund was established has been extinguished.
2. In a capital outlay reserve fund may not be transferred to another fund until the projects for which the capital outlay reserve fund was raised have been completed and all obligations paid.

History.—s. 1, ch. 6814, 1915; RGS 1524; CGL 2302; s. 1, ch. 26874, 1951; ss. 12, 35, ch. 69-106; s. 5, ch. 73-349; s. 1, ch. 77-165; s. 1, ch. 78-132; s. 1, ch. 78-157; s. 28, ch. 80-274; s. 3, ch. 96-324; s. 4, ch. 2011-144.

129.011 Consolidation of funds.—

(1) In order to simplify and otherwise improve the accounting system provided by law and to facilitate a better understanding of the fiscal operation of the county by the general public, the board of county commissioners may, by resolution duly adopted, consolidate any of its separate budgetary funds into a single general fund, except that all revenue and expenditures of the county transportation trust fund established pursuant to s. 336.022 shall be shown as a separate budgetary fund.

(2) Subsequent to the consolidation of any budgetary funds as provided in subsection (1), the maximum permitted tax millage of the combined fund shall be the total amount authorized by law for the separate funds so consolidated.

(3) This section is deemed to be in the general public interests and it is the intent of the Legislature that the provisions hereof shall be liberally construed to accomplish the purposes contained herein.

History.—ss. 1, 2, 4, ch. 70-282; s. 2, ch. 77-165; s. 263, ch. 84-309; s. 19, ch. 87-224.

129.02 Requisites of budgets.—Each budget shall conform to the following specific directions and requirements:

(1) General fund budget shall contain an estimate of receipts by source, including any taxes now or hereafter authorized by law to be levied for any countywide purpose, except those countywide purposes provided for in the budgets enumerated below, any tax millage limitation to the contrary notwithstanding, and including any balance brought forward as provided herein; and an itemized estimate of expenditures that will need to be incurred to carry on all functions and activities of the county government now or hereafter authorized by law, except those functions and activities provided for in the budgets enumerated below, and of unpaid vouchers of the general fund; also of the reserve for contingencies and of the balances, as hereinbefore provided, which should be carried forward at the end of the year.

(2) The County Transportation Trust Fund budget shall contain an estimate of receipts by source and balances as provided herein, and an itemized estimate of expenditures that need to be incurred to carry on all work on roads and bridges in the county except that provided for in the capital outlay reserve fund budget and in district budgets pursuant to this chapter, and of unpaid vouchers of the County Transportation Trust Fund; also of the

2025 annual surplus = \$363.9 Million

2024 annual surplus = \$454.6 Million

Total 2 year surplus = \$818.5 Million

Total 2 year property taxes = \$839.4 Million

Since 2017, annual surplus = \$2.1 Billion

2025 Unrestricted Cash in money market fund = \$958.4 M.

2024 Unrestricted Cash in money market fund = \$958.9 M.

The 5/100 millage cut in 2025 did NOTHING to reduce the surplus or cash in money market funds

Suggestions: 1) Larger millage cuts - $\frac{1}{2}$ mill and higher

2) Use Manatee County surplus to fund a credit against 2026 property taxes

3) For Tallahassee, use Florida surplus (\$17.7 Billion over last two years) and Manatee County surplus (\$818.5 Million) to fund a larger property tax credit.

4) Increase property tax exemption levels to fund lower property taxes for Homesteaders and/or 65 + Homesteaders.

If there are not enough projects, then reinject the surpluses into Manatee County's economy taking advantage of the time velocity of money in circulation – (which turns over 6 times per year).

Allowing funds to sit idle for years on end in a money market fund is NOT a solution.

Mike Meehan, CFA, MBA

Remarks to Manatee County Commission 4/21/2026

The Bradenton Times

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

10% Increase in Property Tax Collections Yields \$364 Million County Surplus in 2025



(<https://zeta.creativecirclecdn.com/bradenton/original/20230804-193543-Letter.jpg>)

Posted Thursday, April 16, 2026 6:30 pm

If ever a headline screamed for yours (and the governor's attention), this would be it. Whether the Commissioners like it or not, the record number of Manatee County surpluses stretching back to 2017 are demanding some type of substantive action to bring County revenues in line with expenses. The cumulative surplus from 2017 to the present equals \$2.1 Billion – money extracted from Manatee County property taxpayers, which has been parked in a money market fund providing no benefit to Manatee County or its hurricane and inflation-ridden citizens.

Over the last eight years, I have written about the large and growing surpluses and have been met with laughable, minuscule millage cuts that have done nothing to address the excess property tax issue. Maybe the time has come for our Commissioners to spend some time during the current budget year seriously addressing this topic.

Some of the ideas suggested in past columns include: larger millage cuts applicable to all property taxpayers, surplus-funded rebates in the form of a credit against upcoming property tax bills, blended property tax relief from State of Florida and Manatee County surpluses (most recent two year surpluses are \$17.7 Billion and \$818.5 Million respectively) and regular homestead and over 65 homestead property tax relief by increasing the property tax exemption levels. Any of these concepts are financially valid and can be operationally

implemented. What is needed is for the Governor to start banging heads at the upcoming Special Session to get some real progress on this issue. As voting, hard-working citizens, we demand ACTION !

Mike Meehan, CFA, MBA

Comments

1 COMMENT ON THIS ITEM [ADD YOUR COMMENT](#)

 **san.gander**

That there exists a tax surplus is an illusion! No such thing as a tax surplus! As long as there is one hungry, ill-housed family, one collapsing sewer in the infrastructure, zero sidewalks on city streets for kids walking to schools, no traffic lights where there ought to be some, and under paid public workers. Look around the city, the county... the need is there! We are not in need of tax cuts... we need better planning... better people in government!

A good purpose exists for every tax dollar we've taken in... upkeep on the old... preparing for the new growth sensibly. Some of that surplus tax money could be a set aside reserve fund for emergencies - storms, fires, acts of God, whatever, not to be touched for routine government purposes.

Good planning and budgeting is expected of "good" governing at all levels! Tax level should balance need level! Let's work on that!

3 DAYS AGO [REPORT THIS \(/REPORT_ITEM.HTML?SUB_ID=193390&COMMENT_ID=4531&REFERRING_URL=%2FSTORIES%2F10-INCREASE-IN-PROPERTY-TAX-COLLECTIONS-YIELDS-364-MILLION-COUNTY-SURPLUS-IN-2025%2C193390%3FNEWSLETTER%3D193543\)](#)

[Back to newsletter](#)

OTHER ITEMS THAT MAY INTEREST YOU

10% Increase in Property Tax Collections Yields \$364 ... (</stories/10-increase-in-property-tax-collections-yields-364-million-county-surplus-in-2025,193390>)

The Giving Challenge – A Community with a Heart (</stories/the-giving-challenge-a-community-with-a-heart,192528>)

A Needed Perspective on Health Care Costs: Part 2 (</stories/a-needed-perspective-on-health-care-costs-part-2,190853>)



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