



Pinellas County Government **2025 Accomplishments**



**Our Vision: To be the Standard for
Public Service in America**

Board of County Commissioners

At-Large Districts

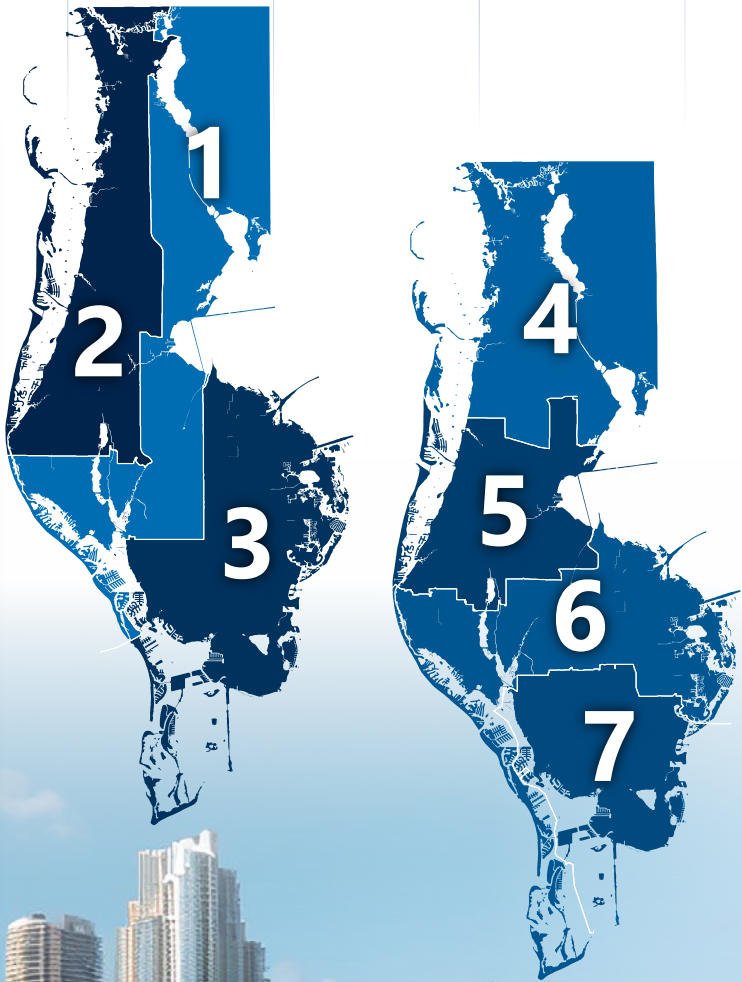
Single-Member Districts



District 1 Chris Scherer 2024 – 2028 (727) 464-3365	District 2 Brian Scott 2022 – 2026 (727) 464-3360	District 3 Vince Nowicki 2024 – 2028 (727) 464-3363	District 4 Dave Eggers 2022 – 2026 (727) 464-3276	District 5 Chris Latvala 2024 – 2028 (727) 464-3278	District 6 Kathleen Peters 2022 – 2026 (727) 464-3568	District 7 René Flowers 2024 – 2028 (727) 464-3614
---	---	---	---	---	---	--

Table of Contents

Message from your Board.....	1
Top Accomplishments of 2025.....	2
Strategic Plan	4
Resilient Infrastructure and Environment.....	6
Healthy and Safe Communities	12
Prosperity and Opportunity	16
Smart Service Delivery.....	18
Cultivating a World Class Workforce.....	20
Award Winners	22



Message from Your Board

2025 was a year of recovery and renewal for Pinellas County. In 2024, hurricanes Debby, Helene and Milton damaged nearly 47,000 homes and 1,200 businesses, claiming 14 lives. Our barrier islands and coastal communities were hit with the highest storm surge since 1921. Stormwater destroyed homes and eroded beaches.

In the aftermath, our highest priorities were helping those whose lives were disrupted by the storms and rebuilding our beaches to restore their protection from future hurricanes. But we had to do this knowing that the storms’ impacts on property values would reduce the County’s budget.

We put these priorities into action after the storms by leading recovery efforts that helped residents rebuild safely. This included **simplifying and waiving some permit requirements, conducting large-scale damage assessments and issuing thousands of permits quickly.** To better prepare for future emergencies, the County also worked with our cities to create a process that will allow them to temporarily add permitting staff when needed to handle the added workload.

To help residents recover, we pursued federal grants and were **awarded \$813.8 million from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD),** the largest federal storm-recovery allocation to any local government in Florida. It usually takes more than a year from the award of the grant to the opening of applications for residents. We did it in seven months.

Thanks to our tourist development tax, paid by guests staying in hotels and short-term rentals in our county, we have just completed the engineering marvel of **moving more than 2.5 million cubic yards of sand onshore to restore beautiful, wide beaches** where the storms had wiped them away.

While focusing on recovery, we worked with County Administration to look for new ways to cut costs and return money to our residents. After a nine-month budget process, **we reduced the General Fund property tax rate to its lowest level since 1990.** We did this thoughtfully so that County staff could continue to provide a high level of service in our most critical areas, such as public safety, transportation, economic development, and taking care of our parks and environment.

Read on to see how we restored our beaches, accelerated community rebuilding, invested in unincorporated areas, strengthened essential infrastructure, expanded affordable housing and improved care for sheltered animals during a challenging but rewarding year.

We are proud to serve as your Board of County Commissioners and remain committed to our responsibility to deliver an efficient and effective Pinellas County Government.

Handwritten signatures of the Board of County Commissioners members.

Top Accomplishments of 2025

Accelerating Relief to Residents

Secured Florida’s largest federal storm recovery grant of almost \$814 million, then cut administrative timelines to launch resident applications in just seven months, delivering aid nearly twice as fast as the standard timeline.



Streamlined Permitting and Waived Fees for Faster Rebuilding

Streamlined hurricane recovery by aligning code enforcement with relief programs and waiving fees, issuing over 34,100 permits and completing 85,000 inspections. Additionally, led a new initiative enabling cities to augment staff and improve permitting timelines for future emergencies.



Restored Beaches for Storm Protection and Economic Vitality

Completed a massive emergency beach nourishment project, restoring beaches from Clearwater to St. Pete. This vital investment was funded from the tourist development tax to strengthen storm defenses, protecting homes and preserving our \$10 billion tourism economy.



Secured Critical Healthcare Funding

Helped Pinellas hospitals secure hundreds of millions of dollars in federal funding to cover the costs of treating low-income patients, stabilizing the local healthcare system and expanding access to emergency and mental health services.



Preserved FEMA Funding and Insurance Discounts

Completed the County’s five-year update of the Local Mitigation Strategy, maintaining access to FEMA grants and preserving valuable flood insurance discounts of up to 40 percent for property owners in unincorporated Pinellas.

**40%
Flood
Insurance
Discount**

Restored Tourism and Jobs

Rallied with industry partners to drive a rapid tourism recovery, welcoming nearly 15 million visitors and securing a \$10 billion economic impact that sustained 100,000 local jobs.



Pinellas County Strategic Plan

Vision

To Be the Standard for Public Service in America.

Mission

Meeting the needs and concerns of the community today and tomorrow.

Values

- Put People First
- Engage with Purpose
- Work Smart
- Invest in our Employees
- Focus on Results

Our Strategic Priorities



Resilient Infrastructure and Environment

We plan and build for the future, adapt to change and take care of the infrastructure we have.

We protect the natural beauty that makes the county a great place to live and visit.

We develop and maintain County infrastructure that supports efficient transportation, enhances public spaces and promotes long-term environmental sustainability.

We create systems that can adapt to evolving conditions while ensuring resilience, safety and a healthy environment for all residents.

Goals:

- 1.1 Improve traffic flow efficiency.
- 1.2 Maintain and enhance County infrastructure.
- 1.3 Increase access to green space.
- 1.4 Improve environmental quality.
- 1.5 Strengthen resilience and adaptation.
- 1.6 Ensure sustainable water management.



Healthy and Safe Communities

We protect our residents and pursue a high quality of life for all.

We work to foster environments in which individuals can live, work and thrive without compromising their physical, mental or social well-being.

These communities are characterized by a range of factors and conditions that promote health, safety and a high quality of life for all residents.

Goals:

- 2.1 Improve public health.
- 2.2 Enhance community safety.



Prosperity and Opportunity

We actively support our business community and workforce to grow our economy, and we nurture cultural and environmental amenities that make our communities great places to live.

Goals:

- 3.1 Increase the availability of attainable housing.
- 3.2 Provide and promote tourism opportunities.
- 3.3 Increase workforce opportunities.
- 3.4 Enhance educational and cultural opportunities.
- 3.5 Foster business growth.



Smart Service Delivery

We actively pursue better ways to serve the public, businesses and employees.

We continuously improve through the strategic use of technology, data and innovation to make us more efficient and effective.

Goals:

- 4.1 Optimize County energy use.
- 4.2 Achieve and maintain a high level of customer satisfaction.
- 4.3 Improve efficiency of service delivery through technology.
- 4.4 Pursue continuous improvement.
- 4.5 Develop and retain a highly skilled and efficient workforce.



Resilient Infrastructure and Environment

Soon after the 2024 hurricanes, Pinellas County prioritized recovery by securing historic levels of federal funding and launching the People First Hurricane Recovery programs.



People First Hurricane Recovery



Engaged with over 3,000 residents through People First programs #1



Putting People First

- 1 Engaged over 3,000 residents in shaping Pinellas County’s long-term hurricane recovery plan, ensuring the new People First programs funded by our \$813 million HUD grant would align with community needs.
- 2 Hosted almost 100 community outreach events that reached nearly 8,000 people with helpful information and services ranging from hurricane preparedness and recovery to bike safety and behavioral health needs.
- 3 Expanded emergency shelter capacity by adding approximately 800 new spaces in Clearwater, further protecting residents during hurricanes and other disasters.

Clearing the Path to Full Recovery

- 4 Secured \$233 million in FEMA mitigation grants to fund 71 high-priority infrastructure hardening projects, including elevating critical electrical systems and storm-hardening 35 traffic signals to ensure operational continuity during major disasters.
- 5 Helped 735 business owners and residents secure more than \$460 million in U.S. Small Business Administration disaster loans, providing a critical financial lifeline for rebuilding after the 2024 hurricanes.
- 6 Compassionately encouraged rebuilding to safe standards by waiving permit penalty fees and extending the storm repair compliance deadline through June 2026 for owners of substantially damaged properties in unincorporated areas.
- 7 Partnered with all 24 municipalities on a scalable recovery contract to ensure ready-to-deploy permitting, code enforcement, and emergency staffing for future disasters.

Paving the Way for Resilience

- 8 Resurfaced nearly 225 miles of roadway to ensure smoother, safer commutes for residents.
- 9 Repaired almost 550 potholes while achieving a 99 percent response rate within three days.
- 10 Replaced more than five miles of sidewalk and installed new ADA-compliant paths and drainage in Lealman, improving safety, reducing flooding and connecting residents to local businesses.



Pothole Repairs #9



Replaced over five miles of sidewalks #10

Improving Water Services

- 11 Started construction on wastewater management projects in seven manufactured home communities to reduce sewer strain and flooding, utilizing ARPA grants to deliver critical upgrades under budget.
- 12 Expanded the Private Sewer Lateral Program with targeted upgrades and \$3,500 rebates, reducing sewer overflows and protecting water quality in vulnerable areas.
- 13 Upgraded the County’s water metering system with digital technology that allows customers to track usage and set leak alerts, helping families lower bills and conserve water.
- 14 Built a new reclaimed water booster pump station, enhancing pressure and service performance for thousands of homes in North County that rely on reclaimed water for irrigation.



Upgraded Water Meters #13



Built a new reclaimed water booster pump station #14



Collected household hazardous waste for proper disposal #17



Boosted air-based mosquito control 43 percent #19



Collected more than 1,000 tires for proper disposal #21

Harnessing Energy from Waste

- 15 Stabilized solid waste disposal rates by generating more than \$13 million in new revenue selling Waste-to-Energy electricity on the open market.
- 16 Recycled a record 1.2 million tons of material in 2025, maintaining the eighth-highest recycling rate in Florida.
- 17 Collected nearly one million pounds of household hazardous waste, keeping dangerous materials out of the County landfill and protecting residents and ecosystems.
- 18 Processed over 500,000 transactions at the Solid Waste Scalehouse, a 16 percent increase from 2024 and the highest volume in County history.

Protecting Our Environment

- 19 Combated West Nile virus by boosting air-based mosquito control 43 percent and increasing treatment efficiency by 98 percent while launching a new online map to help residents track local control efforts.
- 20 Expanded the County’s tree canopy by planting 400 trees to reduce urban heat and distributing over 1,000 more trees through Arbor Day celebrations and the Front Yard Tree Program.
- 21 Collected more than 1,000 tires for proper disposal during a countywide waste-tire roundup, eliminating mosquito-breeding sites and improving neighborhood appearance.

Keeping Florida Wild in Pinellas County

- 22** Preserved and enhanced wildlife habitat by removing invasive plants from 90 acres of natural area and restoring critical ecosystems across county preserves.
- 23** Installed nearly 10,000 oyster reef modules to restore wildlife habitat, filter local waterways and promote healthier marine ecosystems.
- 24** Planted more than 450 native trees in parks, preserves and rights-of-way to increase shade and improve air and water quality.
- 25** Restored more than 40 acres of salt marsh at Weedon Island Preserve by filling mosquito ditches and reshaping mounds to improve tidal flow and wildlife habitat.
- 26** Protected rare upland habitats by acquiring nearly 30 acres of environmentally sensitive land next to Mariner’s Point, preserving territory for gopher tortoises, longleaf pines and other native wildlife.
- 27** Fostered biodiversity by launching eight native wildflower test plots in County parks and engaging over 400 residents in a citizen science pollinator census.



Installed nearly 10,000 oyster reef modules #23



Protected rare upland habitats #26



Planted more than 450 native trees #24



Opened the Lake Tarpon Outfall Canal Bridge #28



Completed new playgrounds #29



Rehabilitated boardwalks #30

Improving Our Parks and Trails

- 28** Opened the Lake Tarpon Outfall Canal Bridge to complete the Pinellas Trail Loop’s northern segment, connecting 65 miles of continuous trail for safe recreation and travel.
- 29** Completed new playgrounds at Fred Howard Park, Ridgecrest Park and Walsingham Park, providing more accessible recreational spaces for children of all abilities.
- 30** Renovated waterfront access by rehabilitating boardwalks and fishing piers at A.L. Anderson Park and Weedon Island Preserve, extending their lifespan and improving accessibility for visitors.

Healthy and Safe Communities

From safeguarding vulnerable families and pets to strengthening public trust, we expanded services that help our residents thrive in a safe and peaceful community.



Helped preserve or create over 1,400 housing units #31



Modernized the 9-1-1 network #36



Funded three new fire stations #37

Investing in Safe, Affordable Living

- 31 Helped preserve or create more than 1,400 affordable and workforce housing units.
- 32 Pioneered a program to help residents of Twin City Mobile Home Park and other high-risk communities stay in their homes or relocate to safer housing by providing on-site resource clinics and direct relocation aid.
- 33 Assisted nearly 50 families through the Family Housing Assistance Program, reducing average time to permanent housing by 32 percent compared to 2024.
- 34 Provided emergency housing support to nearly 300 households at risk of eviction or homelessness.

Elevating Emergency Services

- 35 Completed a seven-year project to harden the County's emergency radio towers against Category 5 hurricanes, ensuring 911 dispatchers and first responders can stay in constant communication during disasters.
- 36 Modernized the 9-1-1 network and verified the master address database to ensure accurate dispatch, while adding a national radio channel to improve coordination with outside agencies during major disasters.
- 37 Funded three new fire stations in Clearwater, Largo and Palm Harbor, improving service coverage and reducing response times for residential areas.

Helping People Heal, Hope and Thrive

- 38** Connected more than 1,100 veterans and their families to housing, healthcare and other support services.
- 39** Transitioned 80 Pinellas Safe Harbor residents battling chronic homelessness and severe mental health or substance use challenges into housing or treatment.
- 40** Expanded court treatment programs with a \$4 million federal grant to support neurotrauma survivors struggling with substance abuse.
- 41** Returned more than \$1.7 million to residents through Consumer Protection enforcement and dispute resolution.

Strengthening Our Unincorporated Communities

- 42** Partnered with Habitat for Humanity to complete 39 homes in the Lealman Community Redevelopment Area while developing a new grant pilot program to increase affordable housing options through Accessory Dwelling Units.
- 43** Restructured the Palm Harbor Main Street program to boost economic vitality and partnered with Duke Energy to implement a new downtown street lighting district, enhancing safety and neighborhood character.



Opened a newly renovated Animal Services medical facility #47



Provided support to over 1,100 veterans #38



Partnered with Habitat for Humanity #42



Showcased adoptable dogs through our K9 Commissioners campaign. #49

Supporting Safe and Livable Neighborhoods

- 44** Implemented a new Short-Term Rental Certificate of Use program for unincorporated Pinellas County, giving property owners clear rules while improving safety, noise control and neighborhood quality of life.
- 45** Updated the County's noise ordinance to better address late-night disturbances and help residents enjoy quieter neighborhoods.
- 46** Expanded weekend Code Enforcement coverage and proactive outreach, increasing officer presence at community events to prevent minor issues from becoming major problems.



Supported 80 residents battling homelessness #39



Protecting Pets

- 47** Opened a newly renovated Animal Services medical facility with a state-of-the-art surgical center, dental suites and diagnostic equipment to provide higher-quality care for shelter pets.
- 48** Improved life and safety for our shelter pets with upgraded kennel buildings with air conditioning, enlarged runs and hardened infrastructure able to withstand a Category 4 hurricane.
- 49** Conducted more than 10,000 field visits to educate pet owners about responsible pet care and respond to animal welfare concerns, protecting both residents and animals.
- 50** Expanded access to veterinary care for nearly 1,000 pets through a voucher program that provided spay and neuter services to families with limited means.
- 51** Showcased adoptable dogs through our K9 Commissioners campaign, leading to 16 dog adoptions, 470 visits to the adoption center website and more than 250,000 views on social media.

Prosperity and Opportunity

Pinellas County’s economic development, tourism and workforce partners worked together to create jobs, support small businesses and bolster a strong local economy that benefits all our residents.



Safeguarded more than \$146 million in annual wages and preserved 1,600 high-wage jobs #53



Broke all-time records at PIE #59



Partnered with private industry #54



Launched the Grouper Airport Express #61



Supported local industry through retention visits #52



Welcomed nearly 15 million visitors #56

Destination Pinellas!

56 Welcomed nearly 15 million visitors, generating \$10 billion in economic activity and supporting about 100,000 jobs. In total, generating more than \$91 million in tourist development taxes for the fourth straight year—vital revenue that funds beach restoration, cultural assets and sports events

57 Engaged residents with the fifth annual “727 Day,” helping them save money and rediscover local businesses through a mobile passport that drove nearly 5,000 deal redemptions and kept tourism dollars within our community.

58 Earned a spot in the MICHELIN Guide Florida with four local restaurants recommended, elevating Pinellas County’s culinary profile and attracting new food-loving visitors.

Soaring to New Heights in Service

59 Broke all-time records by serving almost 2.8 million passengers at St. Pete-Clearwater International Airport with more than 60 nonstop destinations.

60 Secured more than \$16 million in state and federal grants to launch redevelopment of the 128-acre Airco site and boost future aviation opportunities.

61 Launched the Grouper Airport Express in partnership with Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority, transporting 5,000 airport travelers directly to Clearwater Beach in its first year, reducing traffic and supporting tourism.

Fueling Jobs and Business Growth

52 Supported local industry through more than 1,200 direct business engagements and retention visits, resulting in the creation or retention of over 1,600 jobs and nearly \$122 million in capital investment.

53 Safeguarded more than \$146 million in annual wages and preserved 1,600 high-wage jobs by retaining 18 key tenants at the Young-Rainey STAR Center.

54 Partnered with private industry to secure more than 1.6 million square feet of new or renovated industrial space, leveraging \$44.5 million in Penny for Pinellas funds to drive over \$344 million in private investment.

55 Empowered approximately 600 small business owners with expert, no-cost consulting that supported nearly 2,000 local jobs and brought more than \$19 million into the local economy.

Smart Service Delivery

From permitting and licensing to 9-1-1 communications and online services, County staff focused on making every interaction clearer, faster and more relevant to our residents' needs.



Processed 500k loads at the Solid Waste Disposal Complex #67

Upgrading Technology to Improve Public Access

- 62 Continued upgrading smart water meters, helping thousands of customers detect leaks and lower their bills, conserving water and protecting natural resources.
- 63 Rolled out a new direct booking engine on the Visit St. Pete-Clearwater website, making it easier for travelers to plan their trips and driving more business to local hotels.

Streamlining Operations and Services

- 64 Expanded in-person storm recovery permitting hubs to offer guided assistance and issue same-day permits when possible—speeding up rebuilding for storm-impacted homeowners.
- 65 Upgraded systems for hurricane damage permitting, including streamlined workflows and an internal damage estimation tool, reducing delays, confusion and call volumes.
- 66 Implemented new billing software generating approximately \$100 million in EMS funding, increasing reserves by over \$15 million to ensure faster service, better equipment and sustainable emergency care.

- 67 Processed a record-breaking 500,000 loads at the Solid Waste Disposal Complex—a 16 percent increase—keeping drop-off lines moving so residents and crews could clear storm debris faster.
- 68 Modernized the water treatment system at the County's Solid Waste Disposal Complex to process industrial water more efficiently, protecting local water quality while saving taxpayers nearly \$660,000 in annual operating costs.



Continued upgrading smart water meters #62



Modernized the Industrial Water Treatment Facility #68

Enhancing Regional Resilience

- 69 Partnered with all 24 municipalities to create a contract for a ready-to-use disaster staffing plan, ensuring the County can immediately add inspectors, permitting specialists and other experts to help residents rebuild faster after major storms.
- 70 Launched plain-language online guides to help residents resolve common code issues faster and prevent recurring violations, saving time and minimizing repeat visits.

Cultivating a World Class Workforce

The County’s greatest strength is its people. In 2025, Pinellas County continued to invest in employee development, recognition and well-being so that our high-performing workforce can deliver excellent service every day.



Employees donated 70 new bicycles and helmets for children in need #79



Employees volunteered over 225 hours during the Great American Teach-In #75



Investing in Our Employees

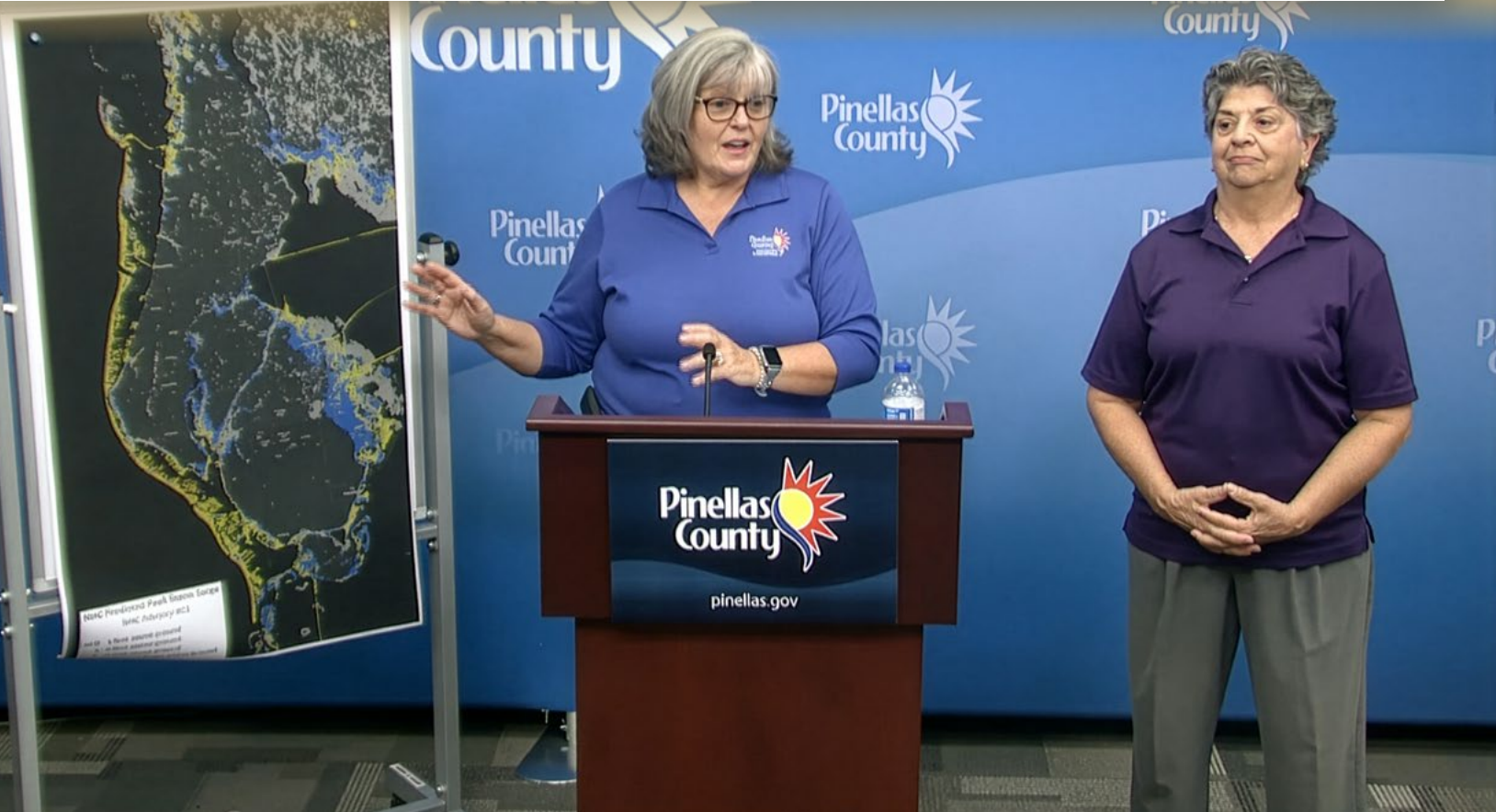
- 71 Achieved a 33 percent internal promotion rate in 2025 through Career Ladders and other internal advancement programs, supporting growth and retention of high-performing employees.
- 72 Implemented cross-training programs across 16 departments and nearly 1,150 employees to expand skills and improve continuity of operations during emergencies, vacancies, and increased workloads.
- 73 Delivered advanced training through the Asset Management Certification program, graduating 13 new Certified Asset Managers to make smart investments in the future and efficiently manage what we have.
- 74 Recognized approximately 130 employees completing internal leadership programs, broadening organizational knowledge and succession readiness.

Contributing to Our Community

- 75 Employees volunteered more than 225 hours in local classrooms during the Great American Teach-In, sparking students’ interest in public service careers.
- 76 Guided middle school students in exploring public service careers through summer youth programs, inspiring the next generation of community leaders.
- 77 Reached an estimated 4,000 residents through 9-1-1 safety events, presentations and tours, boosting awareness, education and trust in emergency services.
- 78 Volunteered at community events such as a neighborhood Honey & Arts Festival and holiday tree lighting, strengthening local pride and connection.
- 79 County employees donated nearly \$12,000 to provide local children with 70 new bicycles and helmets, brightening the holidays for families in need.

Award Winners

In 2025, Pinellas County departments and employees earned recognition from regional, state and national partners for their excellence in tourism promotion, financial stewardship, public safety and customer service.



Multiple 3CMA awards #80



Small Business Development Center of the Year award #84



Awarded for comprehensive hurricane education #81



Debra Schweikowsky recognized #86

Aubri Shauger-Haley honored #85

Communications

- 80 Earned multiple City-County Communications & Marketing Association (3CMA) awards for effective public education, including a hurricane social media campaign, The Wave newsletter and post-storm outreach.
- 81 Recognized by the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council with a Future of the Region Award for comprehensive hurricane education.
- 82 Received three Florida Public Relations Association awards for the development and execution of the 2024 Accomplishments Report.
- 83 Attained the live chat LiveHelpNow Best Customer Service Award each month from October 2020 through July 2025 for exceptional digital customer support.

Economic Development

- 84 Received the U.S. SBA 2025 Small Business Development Center of the Year award for helping businesses access capital and secure government contracts.
- 85 Honored Aubri Shauger-Haley with the 2025 Laura Subel Lifetime Achievement Award for helping businesses secure over \$75 million in government contracts.
- 86 Recognized Debra Schweikowsky as the 2025 Florida SBDC Consultant "Rising Star" for her innovative approach and dedication to small business success.

Emergency Management

- 87 Director Cathie Perkins earned the 2025 Chad Reed Emergency Management Professional of the Year Award and the Governor's Hurricane Conference Bob Lay Emergency Management Award for excellence in leadership.
- 88 Mary Burrell received the 2025 Governor's Hurricane Conference Public Information and Public Education Award for outstanding efforts in community safety education.
- 89 Nicholas Morrow was recognized as a "Rising Star" at the 2025 Governor's Hurricane Conference.

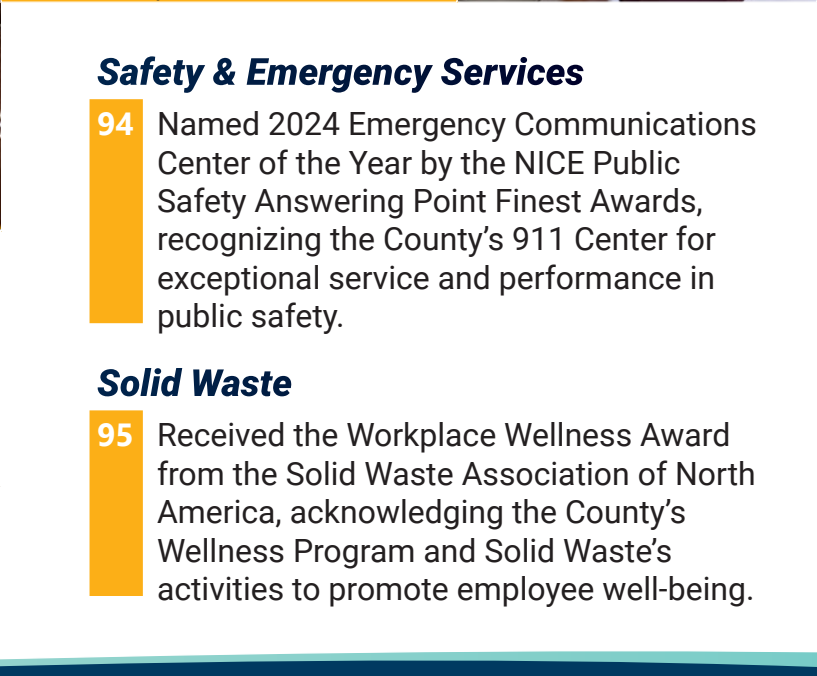


Human Services

- 90 Jessica Geib received the 2025 Governor's Hurricane Conference Distinguished Service and National VOAD State VOAD of the Year awards for coordinating voluntary disaster organizations.
- 91 Received the distinguished Daisy Award (Pinellas Matters Program) in partnership with Bayfront/Orlando Health for outstanding substance abuse care delivery.
- 92 Awarded the Gold Star Award (Family Housing Assistance Program) for excellence in data quality within the Homeless Information System.

Parks & Conservation Resources

- 93 Pinellas County youth participating in 4-H through the Pinellas County/ University of Florida partnership earned 12 of the 27 total medallions awarded at the 4-H District Competitive Events for top performance in public speaking and subject matter expertise.



Utilities

- 96 Received the Biosolids/Residuals Program Excellence Award from the Florida Water Environment Association for operations at the William E. Dunn Advanced Water Reclamation Facility.

Visit St. Pete/Clearwater

- 97 Received the U.S. Travel Association's Excellence in Print Marketing Award for the 2024-2025 Gulf to Bay Magazine, recognizing superior destination storytelling and visitor guides.
- 98 Recognized by Moviemaker Magazine as one of the Best Places to Live and Work as a Moviemaker for the fifth consecutive year, reinforcing the County's standing as a top film destination.



Pinellas.gov
315 Court Street
Clearwater, FL 33756

Pinellas County Government **2025 Accomplishments**



Pinellas County complies with all federal, state and local laws related to persons with disabilities. To request alternate formats of this information, contact the Office of Human Rights at (727) 464-4062 (V/TDD) or email accommodations@pinellas.gov. Funding for this report was provided by Pinellas County Communications. 1,200 copies were printed at a cost of \$1,915 or \$1.595 each. 02/26