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25

LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PREEMPTIONS PERSIST	4
TRANSFORMATIVE TECHNOLOGY	8
WATER QUALITY & SUPPLY PROJECTS	13
FLORIDA'S RESILIENT FUTURE	16
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	18
LEADERSHIP & CONTACT INFORMATION	22

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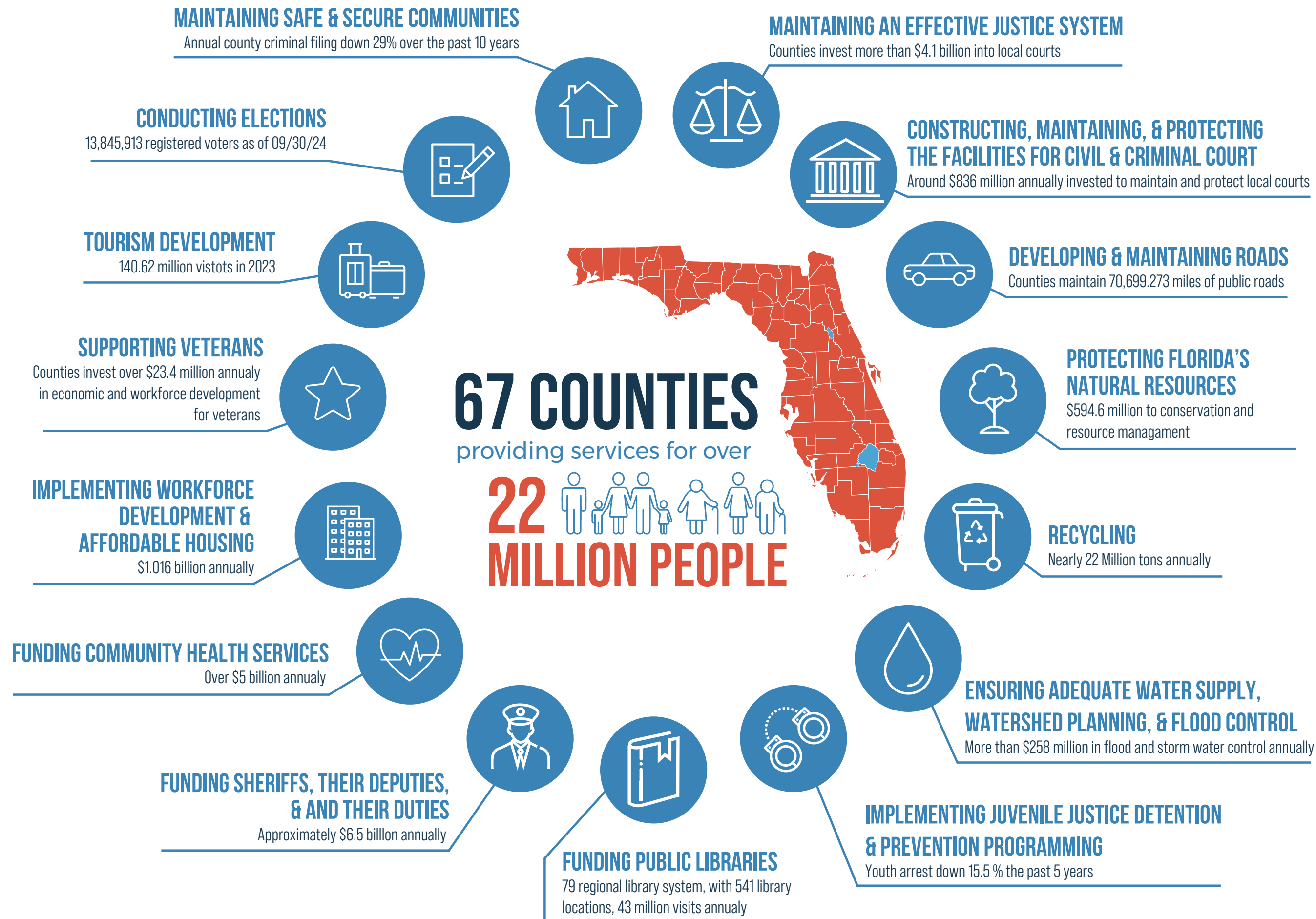


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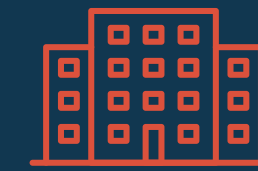
LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS



WHY FLORIDA COUNTIES MATTER



COUNTY POPULATION INFORMATION



7 URBAN COUNTIES

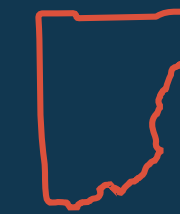
With a total population of 12,037,464



29 FISCALLY

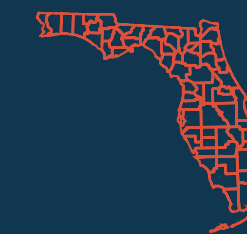
CONSTRAINED COUNTIES

With a total population of 848,196



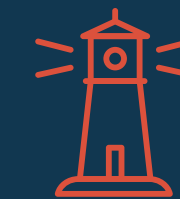
LARGEST COUNTY: MIAMI-DADE

with 2,748,748 residents



31 MEDIUM COUNTIES

with a total population of 9,290,471



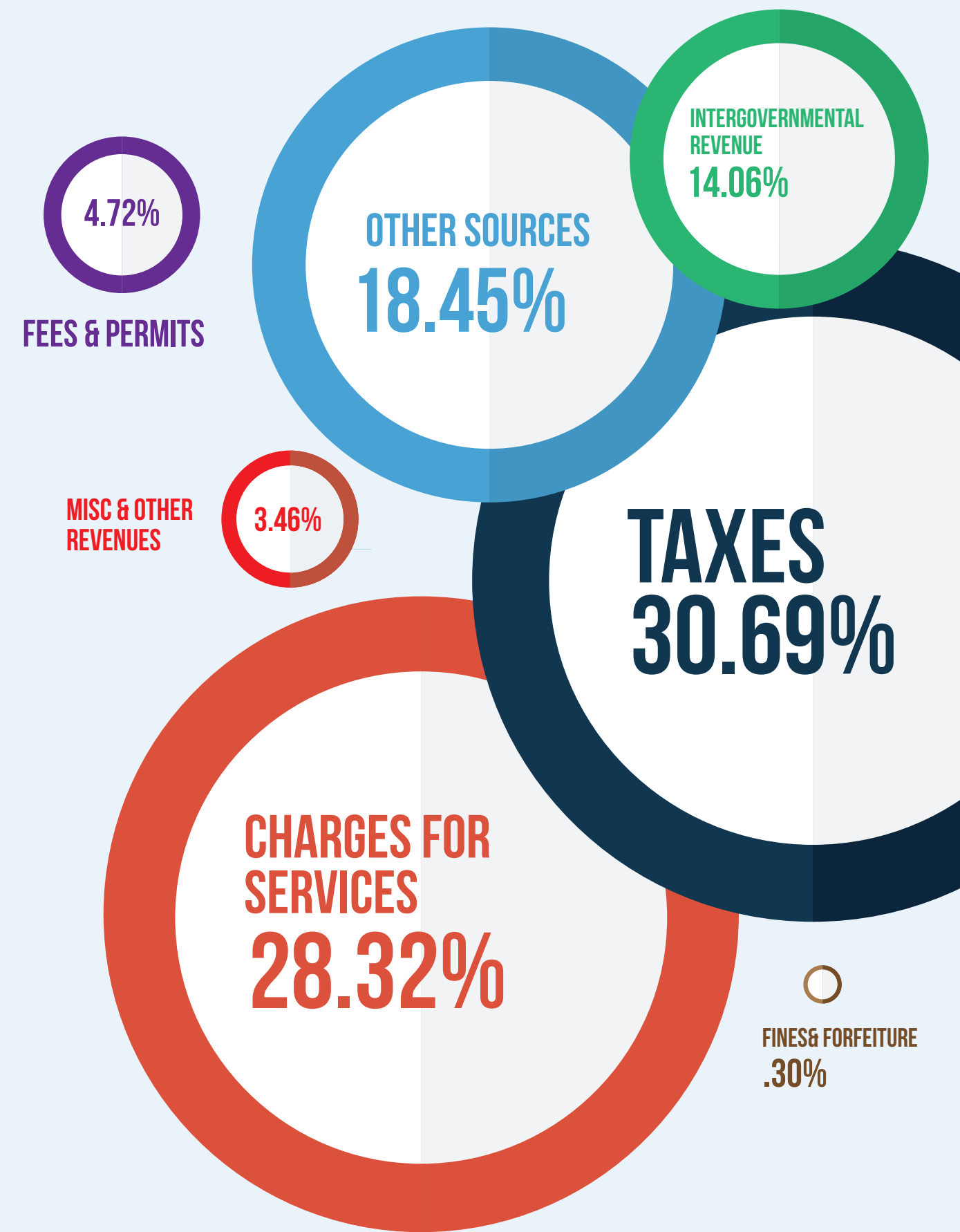
35 COASTAL COUNTIES

with 825 miles of beaches

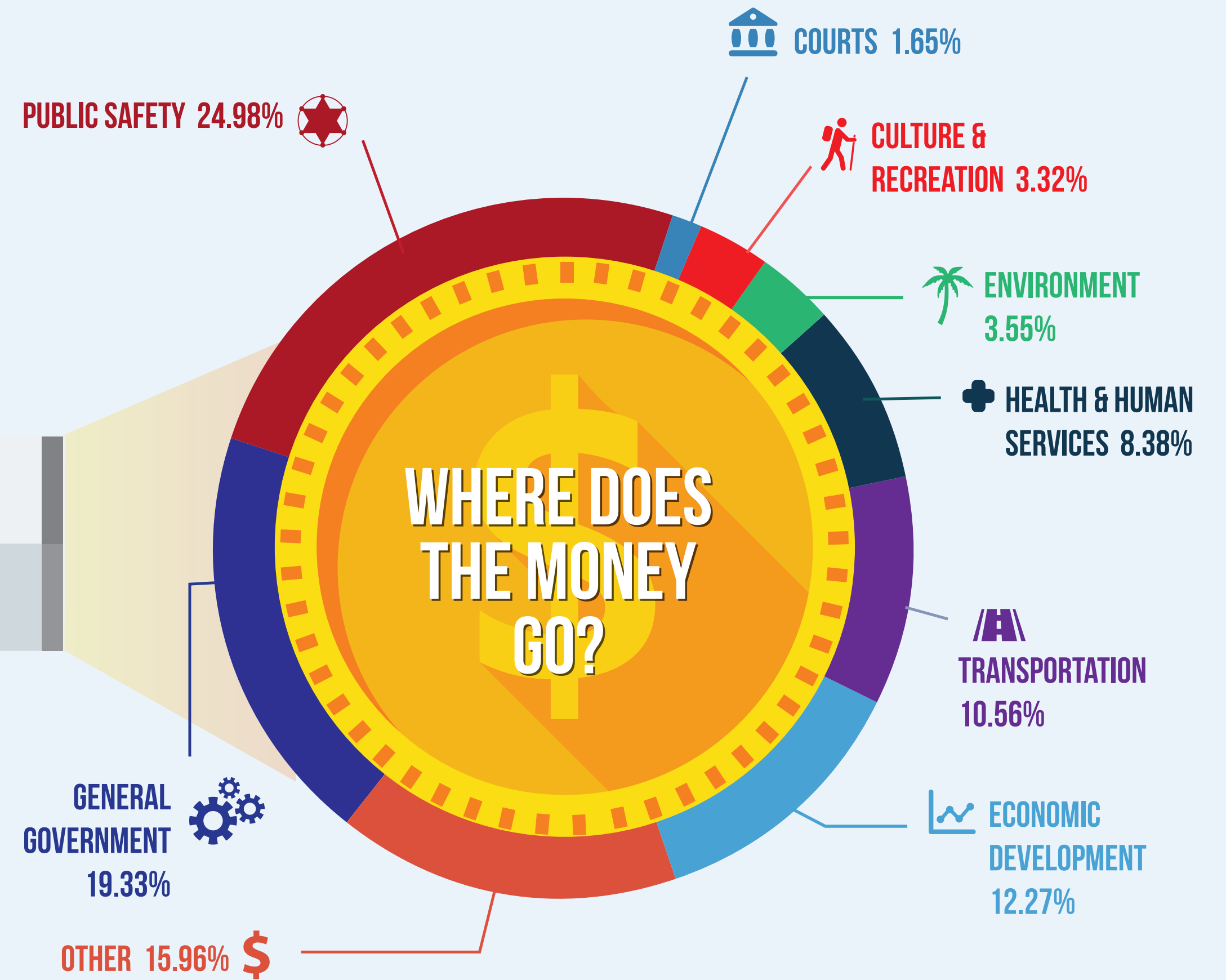


SMALLEST COUNTY: LIBERTY

with 6,421 Residents



WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM?



PREEMPTIONS PERSIST

As Florida's population continues to grow and change, it is important that our communities continue to reflect local values. This is best accomplished by empowering local voters and their representatives rather than by one-size-fits-all regulations from Tallahassee.

Recently, measures have passed that take away local residents' ability to have a say in such basic questions as whether local specialty contractors should be licensed or whether the public through their local government should be able to regulate businesses in residential neighborhoods. State officials have considered measures that would have prevented local communities from enforcing regulations on:



**Vacation
Rentals**



Pet Sales



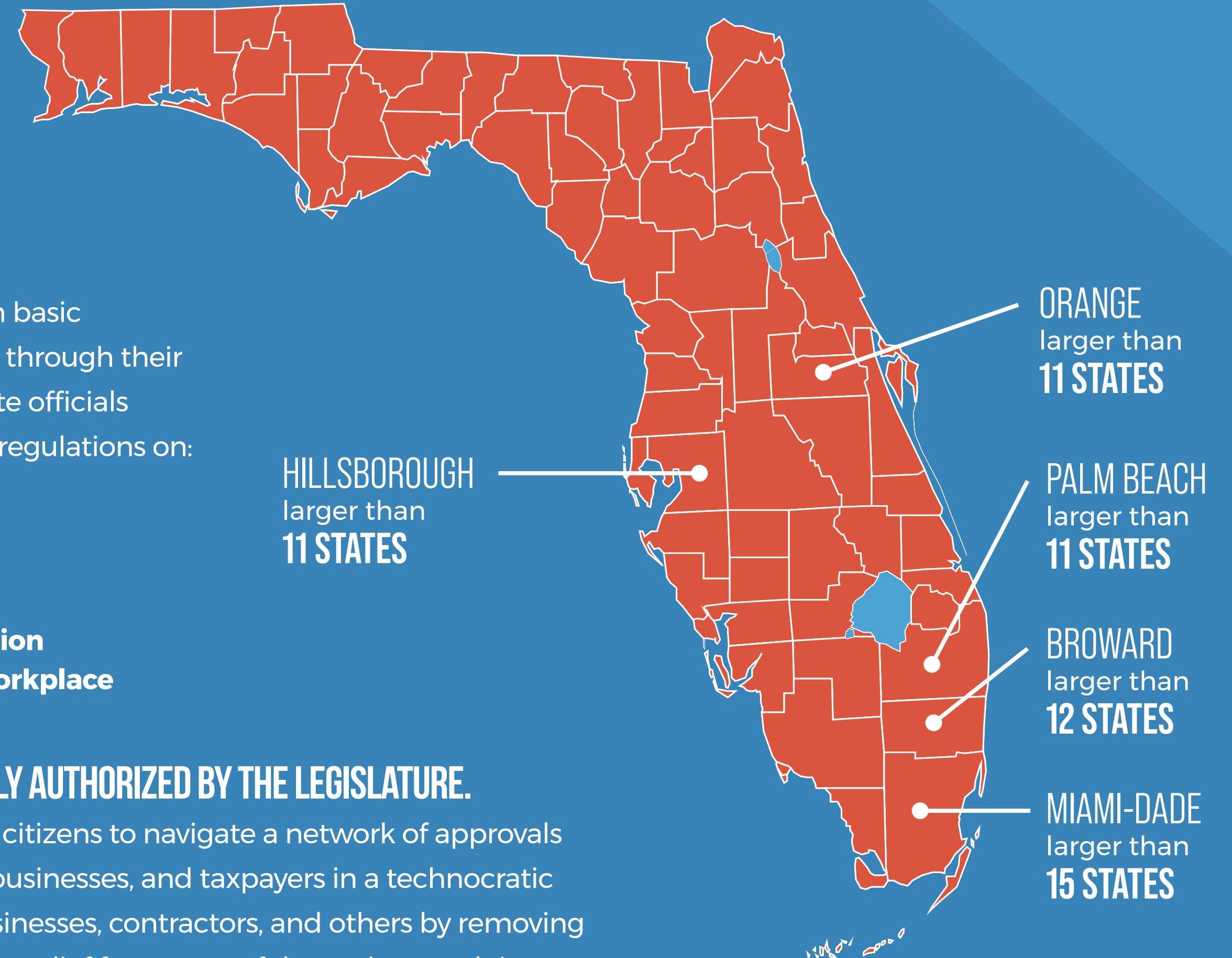
Plastic Straws



**Nondiscrimination
Protections in the Workplace**

EFFORTS HAVE BEEN MADE TO REQUIRE ALL LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACTIONS TO BE SPECIFICALLY AUTHORIZED BY THE LEGISLATURE.

In some cases, Legislative actions will swell the ranks of Tallahassee bureaucracies, forcing citizens to navigate a network of approvals and appeals to tackle mundane administrative matters and tangling local governments, businesses, and taxpayers in a technocratic web. In other respects, the Legislature has left residents to the mercy of unscrupulous businesses, contractors, and others by removing reasonable local regulations to the state without providing an avenue for seeking necessary relief from wrongful acts that result in changing the nature of residential neighborhoods or creating losses suffered by consumers.



PREEMPTIONS PERSIST

KEY MESSAGE POINTS:

LOCALISM PRESERVES THE RIGHTS OF OUR COMMUNITIES

The attack on home rule threatens to undermine the rights of Floridians to have an accessible and efficient government that reflects their values. Tallahassee regulations are bad for communities and business.



PASSED PREEMPTIONS DURING 2024 SEASON



Local Preferences in Public Works Projects



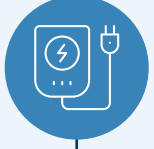
Business Impact Statement Expansions



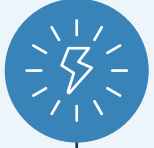
Workplace Heat Protection



Local Procurement (HB 433)



EV Charger Regulation



Energy Siting



Prohibits Growth Management and Annexation-Related Charter Amendments by Charter Review Commission



PASSED PREEMPTIONS DURING 2023 SEASON



Drone Ports



Prohibit Local government involvement in landlord/tenant relationship



Temporary Commercial Kitchens



Prohibits new land use regulations or comprehensive plan amendments within a 100-mile radius landfall of Hurricanes Ian and Nicole (SB 250)



Local Preferences in Public Works Projects



Data Transparency



Prohibit certain local government regulatory and building requirements relating to demolition permits and single-family homes constructed on demolition sites



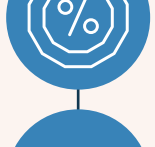
FAILED PREEMPTIONS DURING 2024 SEASON



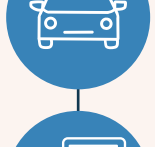
County Commissioner Term Limits



Labor and Employment (HB 433)



Local Business Tax Cap



Millage Increases



County Budget Officers



Dredge and Fill



Coastal Construction Control Lines

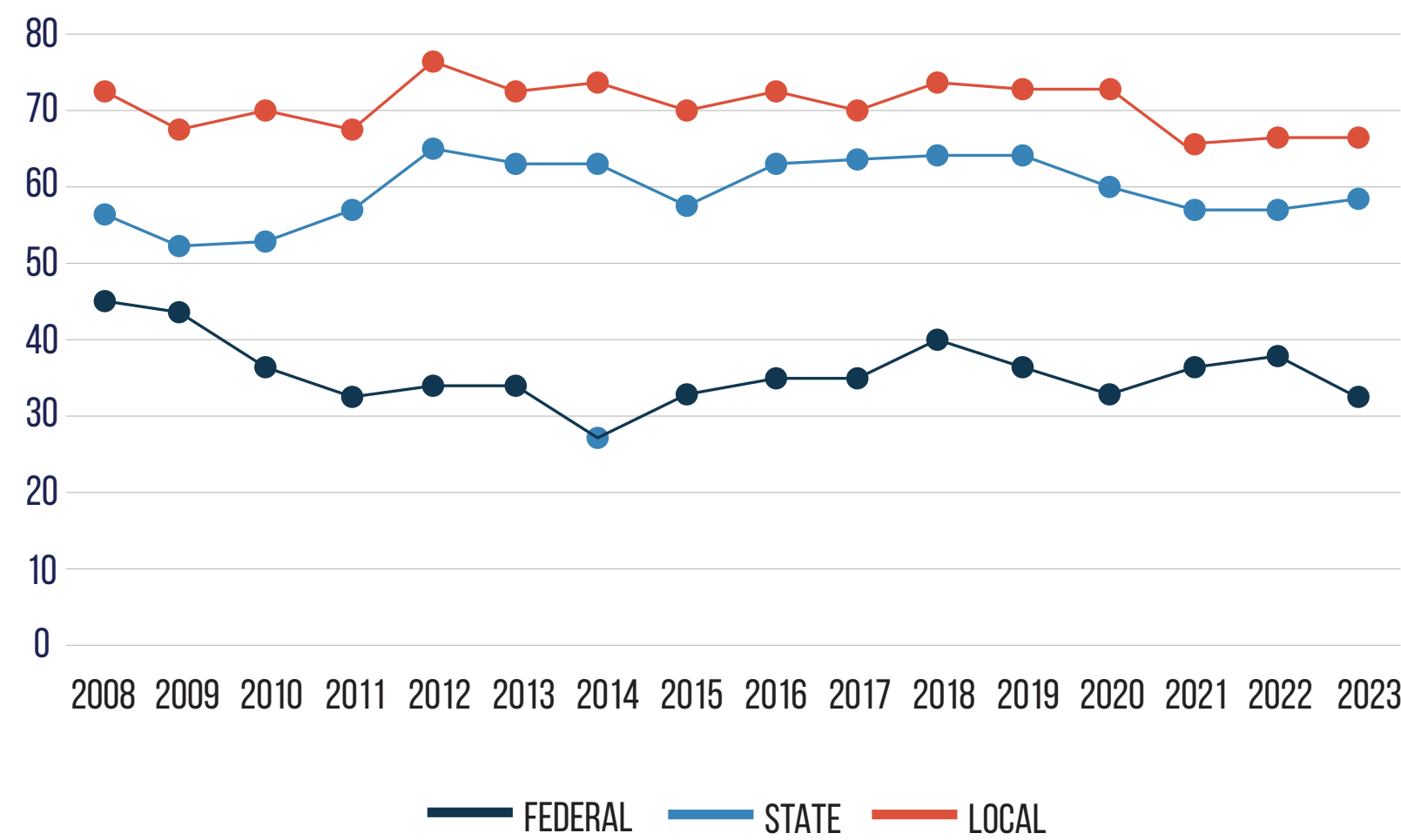
WHY LOCALISM MATTERS

KEY MESSAGE POINTS:

LOCALISM ALLOWS BUSINESSES TO BE ACCESSIBLE AND NIMBLE

Businesses should not be forced to navigate the state legislative process for minor matters that are easily addressed at the local level. This is particularly problematic for small businesses, which may lack the resources to pursue matters through the state legislative process. Local governments are the most accessible venue to resolve business concerns because they are closest to the people and most familiar with their communities. Tallahassee is not equipped to address every problem in every community.

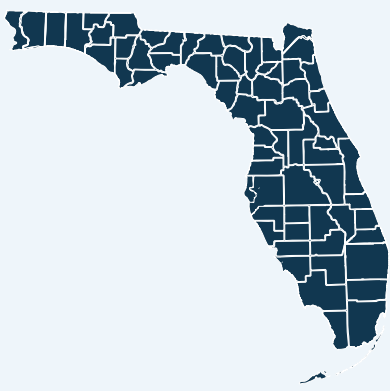
GALLUP POLLING DATA SHOWING THE MOST
CONFIDENCE IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT



KEY MESSAGE POINTS:

TERM LIMITS

The Florida Constitution provides that 5-7 members will be elected to four-year staggered terms. Neither the Florida Constitution nor Florida Statutes provide term limits for county commissioners. However, a charter county has the authority to set their own term limits, 11 counties in Florida imposed term limits within their county charter. Forcing counties to have term limits becomes overarching into their home rule authority. Legislation that requires term limits could result in an imbalance of power within the executive functions at the local level. Placing term limits on just part of the executive structure creates limited institutional knowledge and experience in governance. This dynamic is particularly strong in fiscally constrained counties.



12 COUNTIES
IMPOSED TERM LIMITS WITHIN
THEIR COUNTY CHARTER

KEY MESSAGE POINTS:

LOCALISM ALLOWS FOR REGULATORY CERTAINTY

Florida’s statutory and case law has evolved under the home rule system. Upending that body of law will have far-reaching, unintended consequences. Businesses are conservative by nature, and economic uncertainty discourages investment and innovation. Even specific preemptions often have unintended consequences and frequently result in litigation. When Tallahassee picks the winners, Floridians lose.

TRANSFORMATIVE TECHNOLOGY

The rapid rise of generative artificial intelligence systems represents a watershed moment in the drive for technological modernization in the 21st century. Many counties have encountered and utilized artificially intelligent or “automated” services in the past for augmenting county processes, improving efficiencies in government services and increasing productivity within the county workplace.

With these changes, counties must also play a critical role in protecting the sensitive information and critical infrastructure for over 22 million Floridians. County governments have a statutory responsibility to safeguard the local government’s data, IT, and IT resources to ensure availability, confidentiality, and integrity. This includes providing a comprehensive cybersecurity approach that includes standards adoption, training, and incident reporting.

In order to make this a reality for all counties, FAC continues to advocate for affordable, reliable high-speed internet to all Floridians. Counties play a crucial role as policymakers, funders, data aggregators, conveners, and partners in pursuing sustainable solutions to broadband access, affordability, and reliability.

TRANSFORMATIVE TECHNOLOGY

Since 2020, FAC has implemented a comprehensive approach to empower Florida's counties to develop solutions to address the impacts of highspeed broadband access, cybersecurity threats and now the safe and secure implementation of artificial intelligence.



AFFORDABLE AND RELIABLE, HIGH-SPEED INTERNET ACCESS IS:



ESSENTIAL FOR FLORIDIANS TO BE PROSPEROUS, COMPETE IN A GLOBAL ECONOMY, AND ACHIEVE A HIGH QUALITY OF LIFE.



AS FUNDAMENTAL AS ACQUIRING ELECTRICITY IN THE FIRST HALF OF THE 20TH CENTURY



CAN BE COST PROHIBITIVE FOR MANY FLORIDIANS FURTHER ACCELERATING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

THE ABSENCE AND/OR LACK OF HIGH-SPEED INTERNET IMPACTS



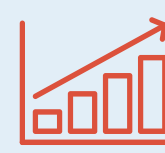
Equitable educational opportunities for school children and workforce development



Access to telemedicine to improve health outcomes without demanding travel and transportation needs



Rapid communication between the public and law enforcement agenciesneeds



Economic competitiveness limiting business investment, job growth, and career opportunities;

The Association's comprehensive approach is based on the underlying principles of its mission:



ADVOCATE



COLLABORATE



EDUCATE

- **ADVOCATE** for the adoption, as well as, the implementation of state and federal policies that contribute to the development of solutions that address the lack of access in our local communities.
- **COLLABORATE** with key stakeholders who share a common goal in developing solutions to address the lack of access in our local communities.
- **EDUCATE** our members with local solutions by sharing best practices among Florida's counties and similar communities and organizations from around the country.

FUTURE TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

The Future Technology committee will focus on emerging technology policy as counties adapt their governance to 21st Century modernization and the evolving opportunities to provide efficiencies in service delivery. This includes but is not limited to, the following:

- **ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE**
- **BROADBAND DEPLOYMENT AND ADOPTION**
- **CYBERSECURITY**
- **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**
- **PRIVACY, STANDARDS, AND GUARDRAILS**



TRANSFORMATIVE TECHNOLOGY



FLORIDA'S BROADBAND PROGRAMS

The Florida Office of Broadband (ConnectedFlorida) was established in 2021 to foster a connected economy that supports workforce and community development, education opportunities, resiliency, and telemedicine by increasing broadband availability, accessibility, and adoption.

FLORIDA BROADBAND AWARDS

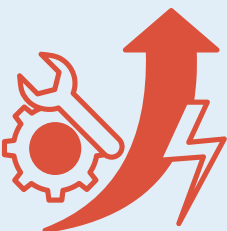
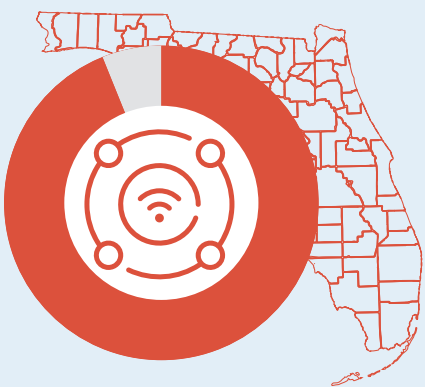


\$707 MILLION
in grant awards



\$642 MILLION
in private leverage

63 OF 67
counties



29
community facilities
upgrades



16
affordable device
programs

TRANSFORMATIVE TECHNOLOGY

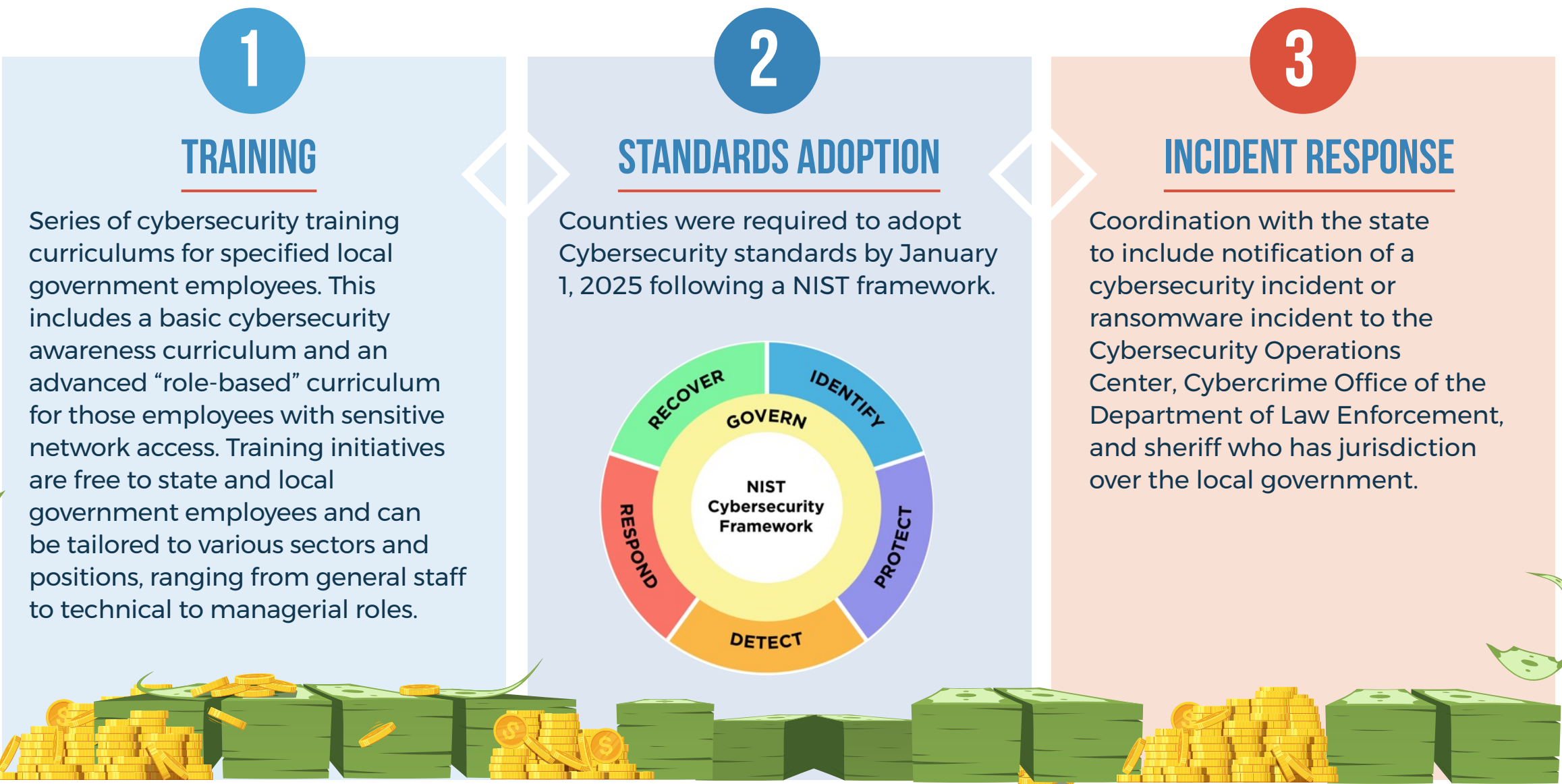
CYBERSECURITY IN FLORIDA

With the rise of cyber threats around the country, Florida is investing millions to adopt standards and train employees to protect against intrusions to the state’s critical infrastructure and government networks. Florida’s counties have an opportunity to enhance their cyber-readiness to thwart potential digital threats through strategic partnerships.

Leading the state in cyber-protection efforts, the Florida Digital Service FL[DS] was established in 2020. FL[DS] was created by the Florida Legislature to propose innovative solutions that securely modernize state government, to achieve value through digital

transformation and interoperability, and to fully support Florida’s cloud-first policy. The Digital Service has subsequently been designated as the acting lead entity on cybersecurity and been made responsible for establishing the state’s first enterprise-wide cybersecurity operation. Their mission is to deliver better government services and transparency to Floridians through design and technology.

Local & State coordination is essential to safeguard Floridians. In 2022, the Local Government Cybersecurity Act established this framework.



CYBERSECURITY STATISTICS from NACo



30,000

Globally, 30,000 websites are hacked daily



24,000

On average of around 24,000 malicious apps blocked daily



39 SECONDS

Every 39 seconds, there is a new attack somewhere on the web



150%

In 2020, ransomware cases grew by 150%



94%

Email is responsible for around 94% of all malware



\$180

Average cost of a cyberattack per record is \$180 per record

FLORIDA LOCAL CYBERSECURITY GRANT PROGRAM:

\$40 MILLION IN 2024 TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

- Centralized monitoring and response.
- Asset discovery.
- Endpoint protection.
- Content Delivery Network.
- Managed Security Services.
- Incident response.

FEDERAL STATE AND LOCAL CYBERSECURITY GRANT PROGRAM

\$11.9 MILLION

Funded by the Department of Homeland Security, in partnership with the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency and Federal Emergency Management Agency

WATER QUALITY & SUPPLY PROJECTS

Water quality and water supply issues are among the most challenging issues facing Florida. All levels of government must adopt and enforce policies that proactively address the various sources of nutrient pollution as well as plan to sustainably meet the water supply needs of a growing population.

In short, clean and abundant water is paramount to preserving our way of life. The overall goal of all of these charts is showing the growing need for investment in water infrastructure.

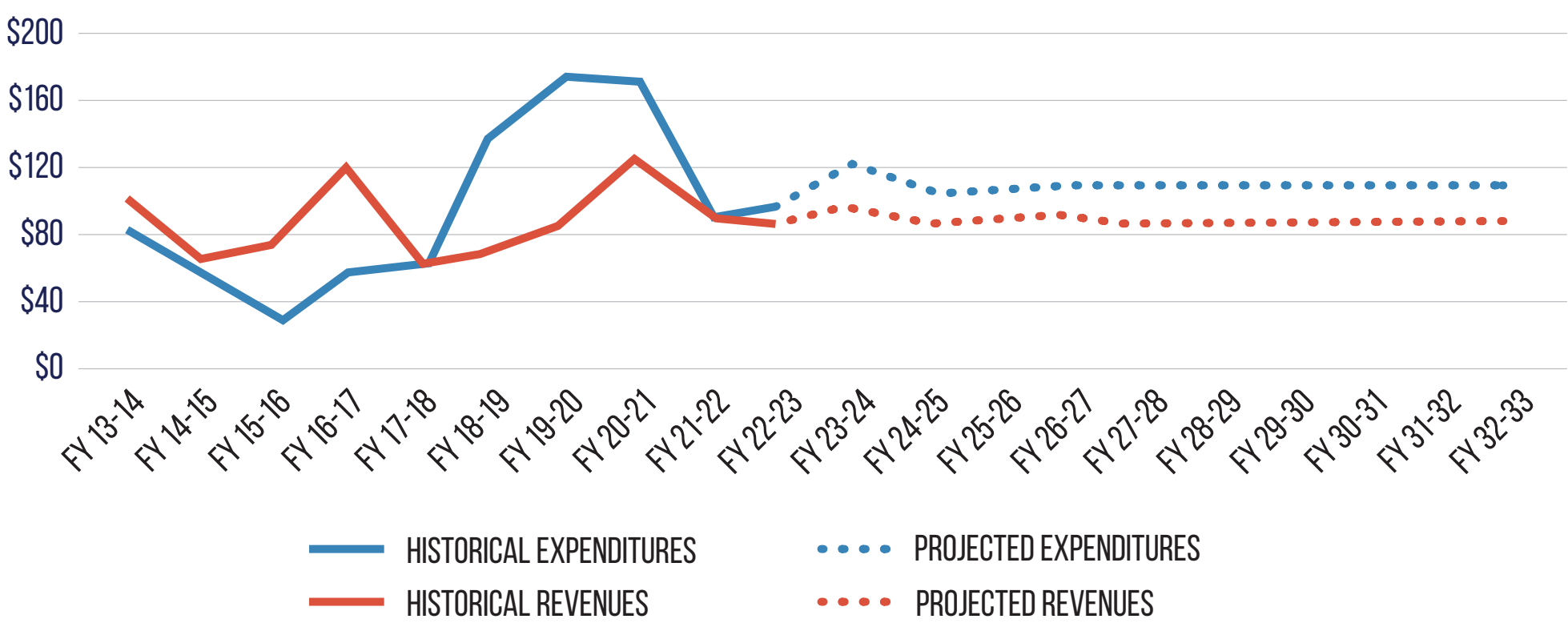
WATER QUALITY & SUPPLY PROJECTS

KEY MESSAGE POINTS:

INCREASE WATER QUALITY FUNDING

To reduce nutrient pollution in Florida’s impaired water bodies, the State must increase funding for water quality improvement projects. These projects must be comprehensive in nature recognizing that multiple sources, rather than a single source, contribute to nutrient loading, including, but not limited to, wastewater and septic systems, industrial, agricultural, fertilizer, and residential water use.

HISTORICAL AND PROJECTED STATE WATER SUPPLY FUNDING GAP (MILLIONS)



PROJECTED STATE WATER SUPPLY FUNDING GAP (MILLIONS)

	FY 23-24	FY 24-25	FY 25-26	FY 26-27	FY 27-28	FY 28-29	FY 29-30	FY 30-31	FY 31-32	FY 32-33
PROJECTED EXPENDITURES	\$120.84	\$104.07	\$107.64	\$110.85	\$107.52	\$108.67	\$109.01	\$108.40	\$108.69	\$108.70
PROJECTED REVENUES	\$95.69	\$87.64	\$88.17	\$90.83	\$87.62	\$88.41	\$89.08	\$89.12	\$89.62	\$90.03
GAP	(\$25.15)	(\$16.43)	(\$19.47)	(\$20.02)	(\$19.90)	(\$20.26)	(\$19.93)	(\$19.28)	(\$19.07)	(\$18.68)

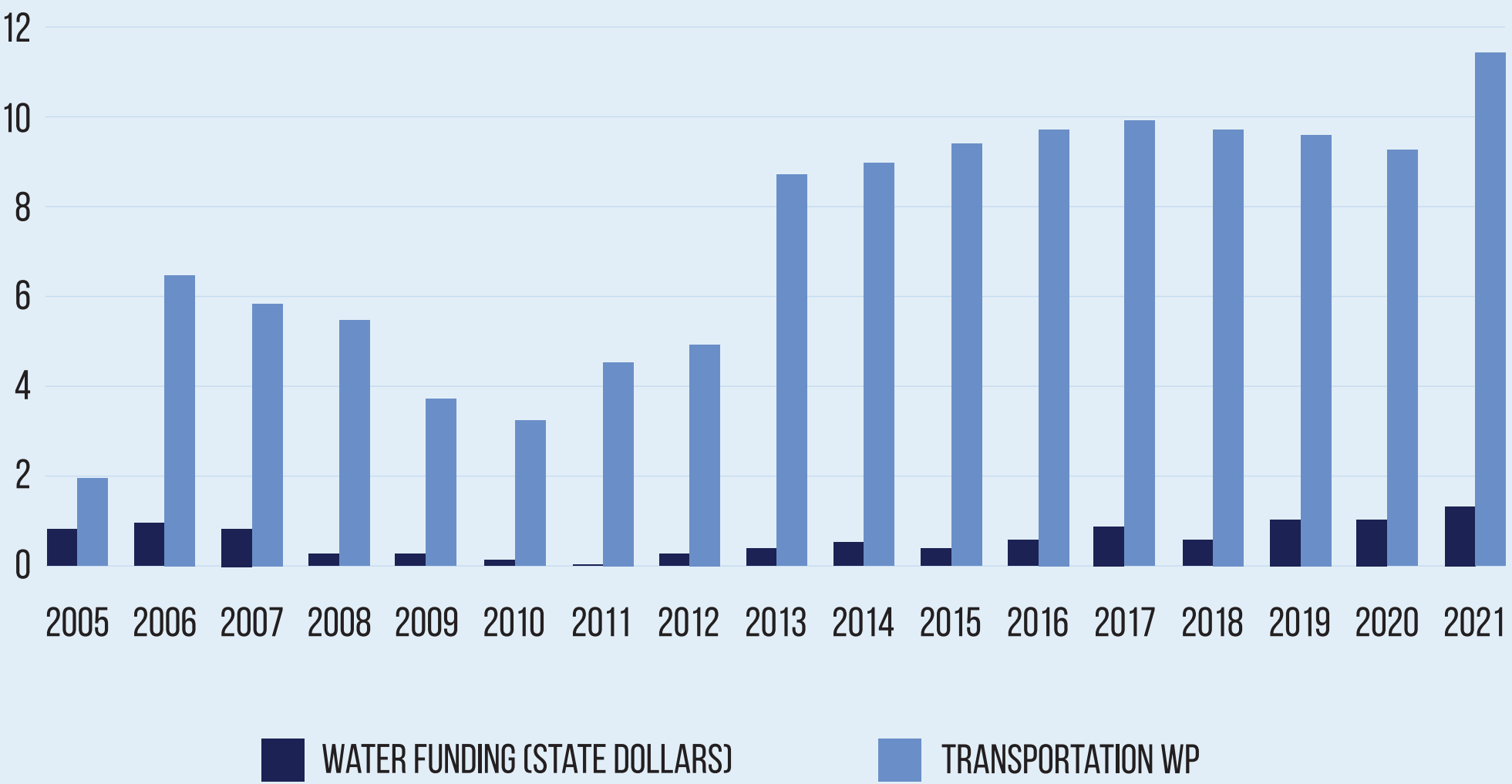
Source: EDR Annual Assessment of Water Resources

KEY MESSAGE POINTS:

STATE MATCH FOR COUNTY FUNDING

The State should match a county’s investment of local funds to restore impaired springs, estuaries, lagoons and other waterbodies.

CHALLENGE REQUIRES RECURRING FUNDING SUPPORT (BILLIONS)

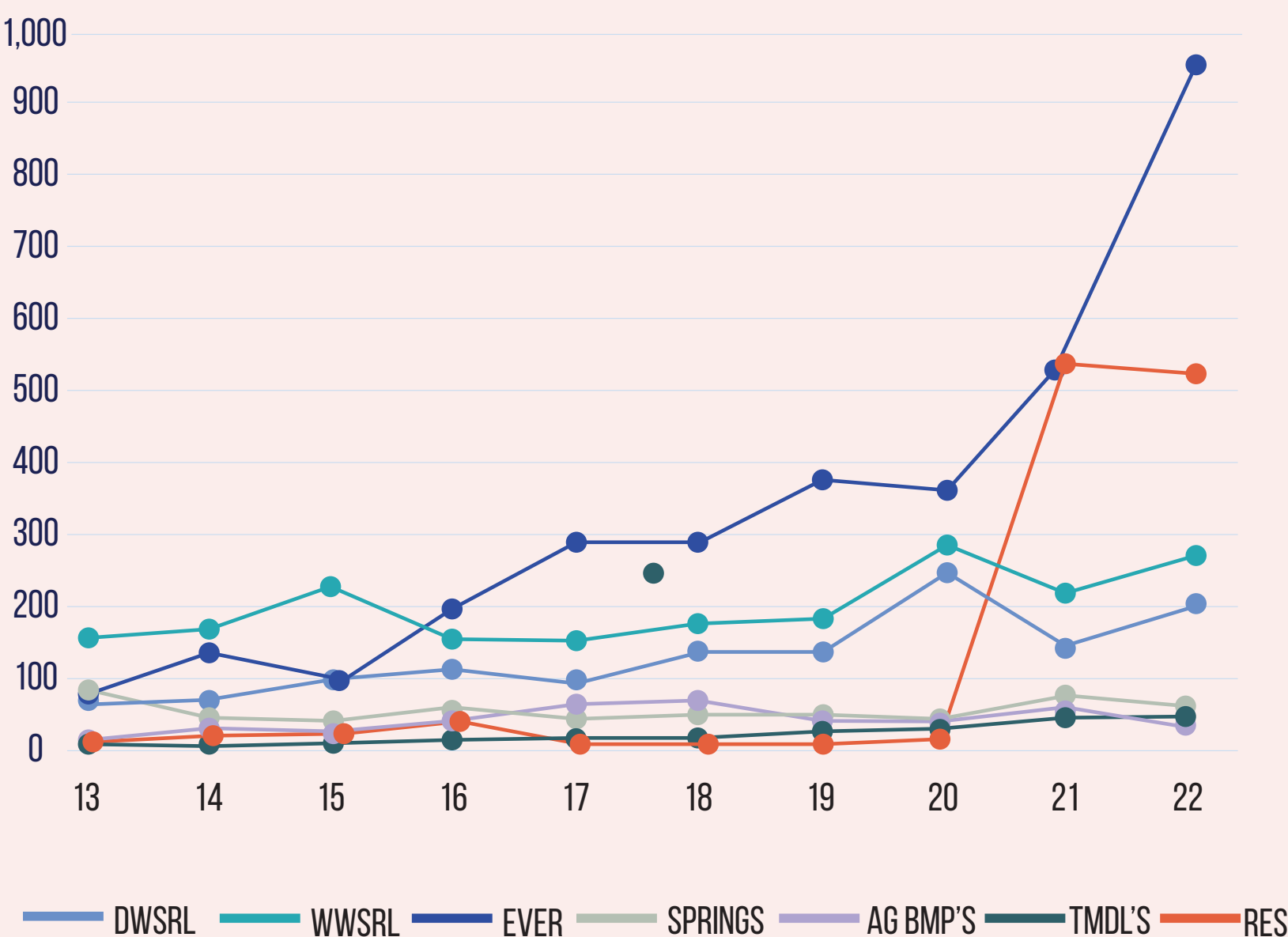


BACKGROUND

Increased demands on Florida's water supply are forcing many diverse interests to work with county government to plan the future of water policy in Florida.

Significant investment is needed in coming years to upgrade and replace aging water infrastructure, restore impaired waterbodies, and develop alternative water supplies to meet the needs of a growing population. Additionally, securing funding for local water projects can be a frustrating process for local officials as state legislative leadership changes and priorities shift; thus, a long-term or multi-year water plan at the state level is needed to ensure that appropriate investments are being made in the state's water infrastructure.

STATE PROGRAMMATIC FUNDING



KEY MESSAGE POINTS:

ALLOW FOR MORE FLEXIBILITY FROM POSSIBLE LOCAL FUNDING SOURCES

Restrictions on funding sources should be removed, allowing counties to use any and all available funding for local and regional water supply development and water quality projects.

KEY MESSAGE POINTS:

MAXIMIZE USE OF RECLAIMED WATER

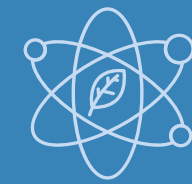
Incentivizing infrastructure investment for the reliable and safe distribution of reclaimed water would decrease the ever-increasing demand on Florida's limited water supply. Reclaimed water that is economically, technically and environmentally feasible can be used for reuse service areas and prioritized irrigation and other nonpotable uses.



FLORIDA'S RESILIENT FUTURE

Counties are leading in regional collaboration focused on resiliency. Counties are maximizing resources, sharing information, analysis, and best practices.

State and Federal partners must support adaptation and mitigation strategies critical to local governments' initiatives to address:



01.
ECOSYSTEM
SUSTAINABILITY



02.
LONG-TERM
WATER SUPPLY



03.
FLOOD
PROTECTION



04.
PUBLIC HEALTH
AND SAFETY



05.
ECONOMIC
PROSPERITY

State support of comprehensive policies is essential to reduce a county's risk to the impacts of:



01.
COASTAL,
INLAND, AND
NUISANCE FLOODING



02.
WATER QUALITY
DEGRADATION



03.
EXTREME
WEATHER



04.
SEA LEVEL RISE



05.
CLIMATE CHANGE

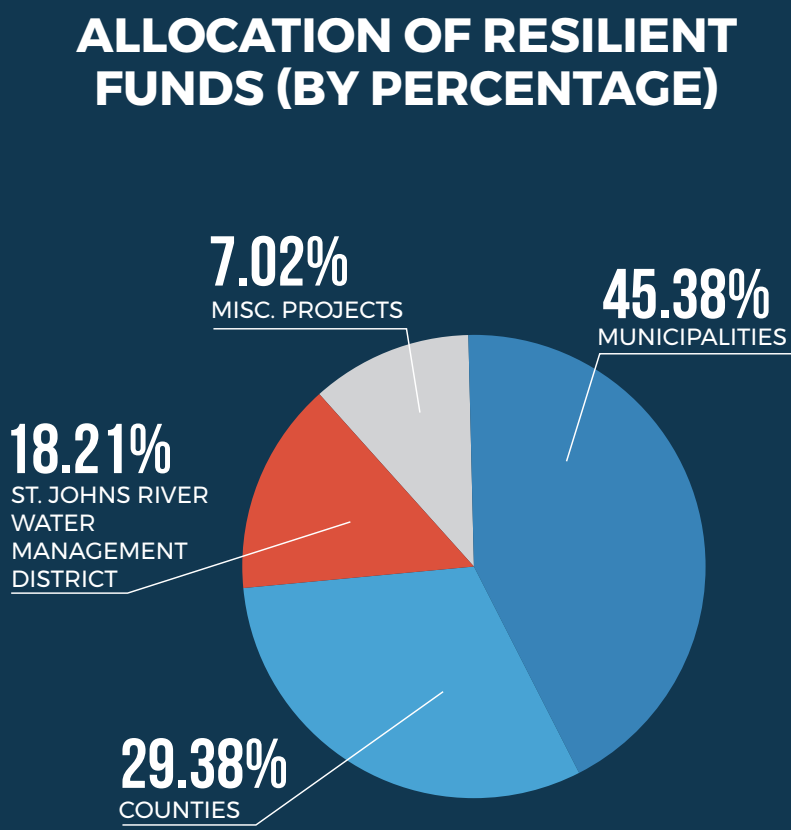
RESILIENT FLORIDA AND THE STATEWIDE FLOODING AND SEA LEVEL RISE RESILIENCE PLAN:

In 2021, the Florida Legislature established the Resilient Florida Grant Program within the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). Resilient Florida planning grants may be used by a county or municipality for:

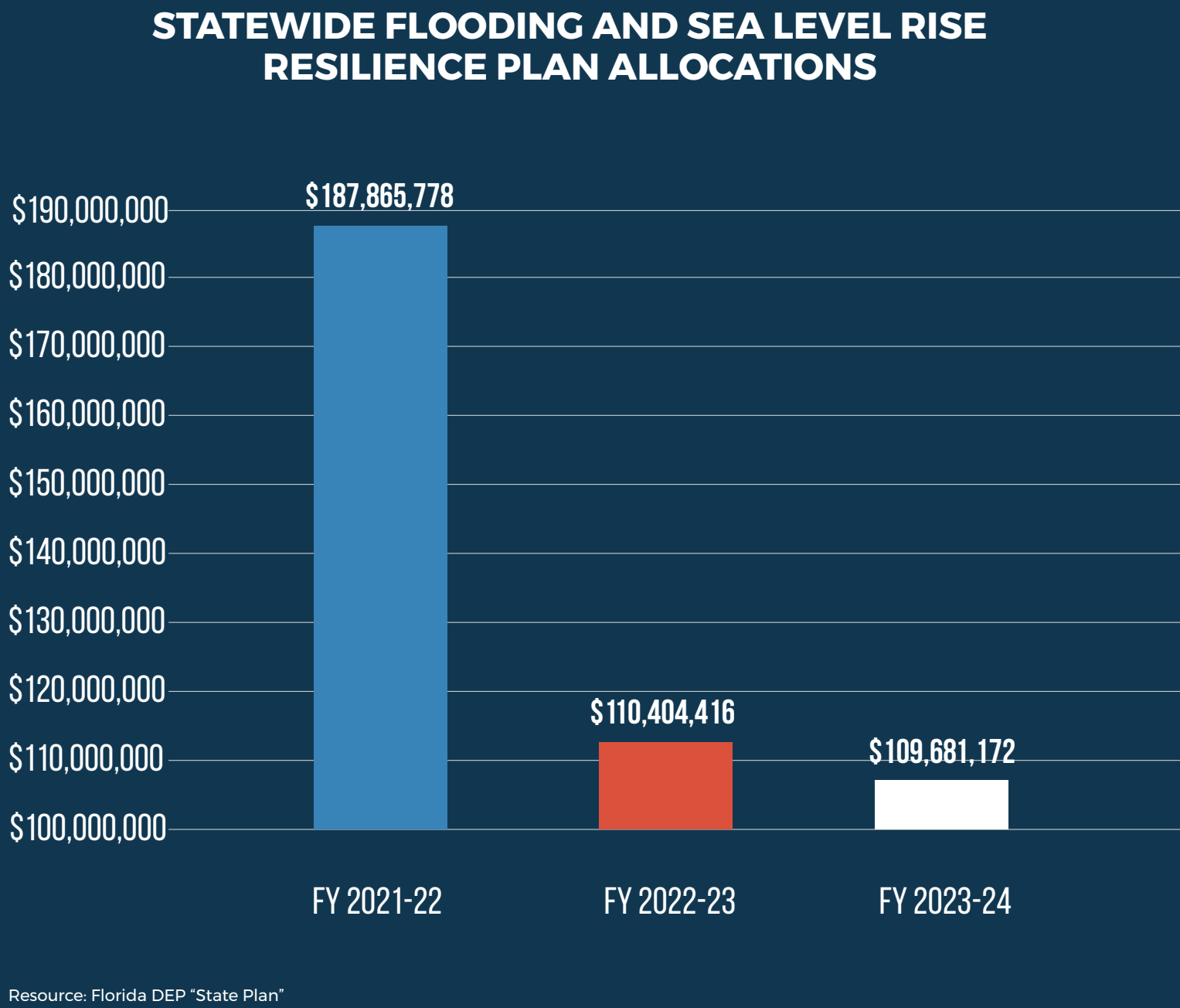
- Vulnerability Assessments to identify the risk of coastal and inland flooding or sea level rise
- Inventory of critical assets in coastal or floodplain areas
- Adaptation plans to enhance community preparation for the impacts of flooding and sea level rise
- Pre-construction activities for project submissions to the Statewide Flooding and Sea Level Rise Resilience Plan
- Feasibility studies for nature-based solutions to reduce the impact of flooding and sea level rise

The Legislature appropriated \$20 million for Resilient Florida Planning Grants for FY 2023-24.

Meanwhile, the legislature also directed DEP to annually develop and submit a **Statewide Flooding and Sea Level Rise Resilience Plan**. Counties, municipalities, and regional resistance entities are authorized to submit resilience projects to DEP for competitive grant funding under the plan. The statute initially authorized **up to** \$100 million per year for projects; in 2022, the legislature revised the \$100 million cap to a \$100 million **minimum** per year.



The preliminary State Plan awarded over \$407 million over the first three fiscal years, toward 86 new projects, as well as the continuation of five existing ones. The State of Florida received \$200 million in Federal State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) toward this end. SLFRF funds were required to have been obligated by December 1, 2024, and must be fully expended by December 1, 2026.



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Under Florida State Statute Chapter 252, counties are granted broad powers to protect life and property during emergencies, but their primary role is to act as the central coordinator for local response and recovery efforts.

Part I (Sections 252.31-252.71) establishes the foundation for statewide emergency management, emphasizing preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation activities. It authorizes counties to adopt emergency plans, declare local emergencies, and direct resources to safeguard public safety.

Part II (Sections 252.81-252.905) focuses on community right-to-know provisions, requiring counties to manage and disseminate hazardous materials information to ensure transparency and public safety. In practice, county emergency management agencies collaborate with municipalities, state agencies, non-profits, and private partners to integrate response efforts, facilitate resource sharing, and streamline recovery processes, fulfilling their statutory mandate to serve as the backbone of local emergency operations.

2024 HURRICANE SEASON

Provided below is a list of all the name weather systems from the 2024 hurricane season:

- Alberto
- Beryl
- Chris
- Debby
- Ernesto
- Francine
- Gordon
- Helene
- Isaac
- Joyce
- Kirk
- Leslie
- Milton
- Nadine
- Oscar
- Patty
- Rafael
- Sara
- Tony
- Valerie
- William

During this 2024 hurricane season, the state experienced three named systems that captured widespread attention: **Debby, Helene, and Milton.**

Each storm left its mark, underscoring the season’s intensity and the growing need for vigilance and preparedness in affected regions.

When disaster strikes, communities often face overwhelming challenges in restoring normalcy and ensuring public safety. FEMA’s Public Assistance (PA) seeks to provide essential support to state and local governments, tribal entities, and eligible nonprofits. Of the three major hurricanes that impacted the sunshine state this season, Debby, Helene and Milton, we saw PA declarations by counties reach 26, 33 and, 29 respectively.

The following charts illustrate which Florida counties have qualified for Public Assistance (PA) funding from FEMA. Public Assistance is a federal program designed to help state, local, tribal, and territorial governments, as well as certain private nonprofit organizations, respond to and recover from major disasters or emergencies. The program provides reimbursement for eligible activities and is divided into various subcategories:

PA

Non-emergency Public Assistance (PA) funding from FEMA. Non-emergency work is subject to National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) reviews.

EMERGENCY CATEGORY

PA-A DEBRIS REMOVAL

This category covers the clearance, removal, and disposal of debris from public roads, rights-of-way, and other public or private property when it is necessary to eliminate immediate threats to public health and safety.

EMERGENCY CATEGORY

PA-B EMERGENCY PROTECTIVE MEASURES

This category supports measures taken before, during, and after a disaster to save lives, protect public health and safety, and prevent damage to improved public and private property. Examples include emergency operations center activation, sandbagging, search and rescue, and medical care.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

DEBBY

PA	PA-A	PA-B	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Alachua• Baker• Bradford• Charlotte• Clay• Columbia• Dixie• Duval• Franklin• Gilchrist• Hamilton• Jefferson• Lafayette• Leon• Levy• Madison• Manatee• Nassau• Pinellas• Sarasota• St. Johns• Sumter• Suwannee• Taylor• Union• Wakulla	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Alachua• Baker• Bradford• Charlotte• Clay• Columbia• Dixie• Duval• Franklin• Gilchrist• Hamilton• Jefferson• Lafayette• Leon• Levy• Madison• Manatee• Nassau• Pinellas• Sarasota• St. Johns• Sumter• Suwannee• Taylor• Union• Wakulla	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Alachua• Baker• Bay• Bradford• Brevard• Calhoun• Charlotte• Citrus• Clay• Collier• Columbia• DeSoto• Dixie• Duval• Escambia• Flagler• Franklin• Gadsden• Gilchrist• Glades• Gulf• Hamilton• Hardee• Hendry• Highlands• Holmes• Jackson• Jefferson• Lafayette	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lake• Lee• Leon• Levy• Liberty• Madison• Manatee• Marion• Monroe• Nassau• Okaloosa• Okeechobee• Orange• Osceola• Pasco• Pinellas• Polk• Putnam• Santa Rosa• Sarasota• Seminole• St. Johns• Sumter• Suwannee• Taylor• Union• Volusia• Wakulla• Walton• Washington

HELENE

PA	PA-A	PA-B	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Alachua• Baker• Bradford• Charlotte• Citrus• Collier• Columbia• Dixie• Duval• Franklin• Gadsden• Gilchrist• Gulf• Hamilton• Hernando• Jefferson• Lafayette• Leon• Levy• Liberty• Madison• Manatee• Marion• Nassau• Pasco• Pinellas• Putnam• Sarasota• Sumter• Suwannee• Taylor• Union• Wakulla	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Alachua• Baker• Bradford• Charlotte• Citrus• Collier• Columbia• Dixie• Duval• Franklin• Gadsden• Gilchrist• Gulf• Hamilton• Hernando• Hillsborough• Jefferson• Lafayette• Lee• Leon• Levy• Liberty• Madison• Manatee• Marion• Nassau• Pasco• Pinellas• Putnam• Sarasota• Sumter• Suwannee• Taylor (County)• Union• Wakulla	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Alachua• Baker• Bay• Bradford• Calhoun• Charlotte• Citrus• Collier• Columbia• Dixie• Duval• Escambia• Franklin• Gadsden• Gilchrist• Gulf• Hamilton• Hernando• Hillsborough• Holmes• Jackson• Jefferson• Lafayette	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lee• Leon• Levy• Liberty• Madison• Manatee• Marion• Monroe• Nassau• Okaloosa• Pasco• Pinellas• Putnam• Santa Rosa• Sarasota• Sumter• Suwannee• Taylor• Union• Wakulla• Washington

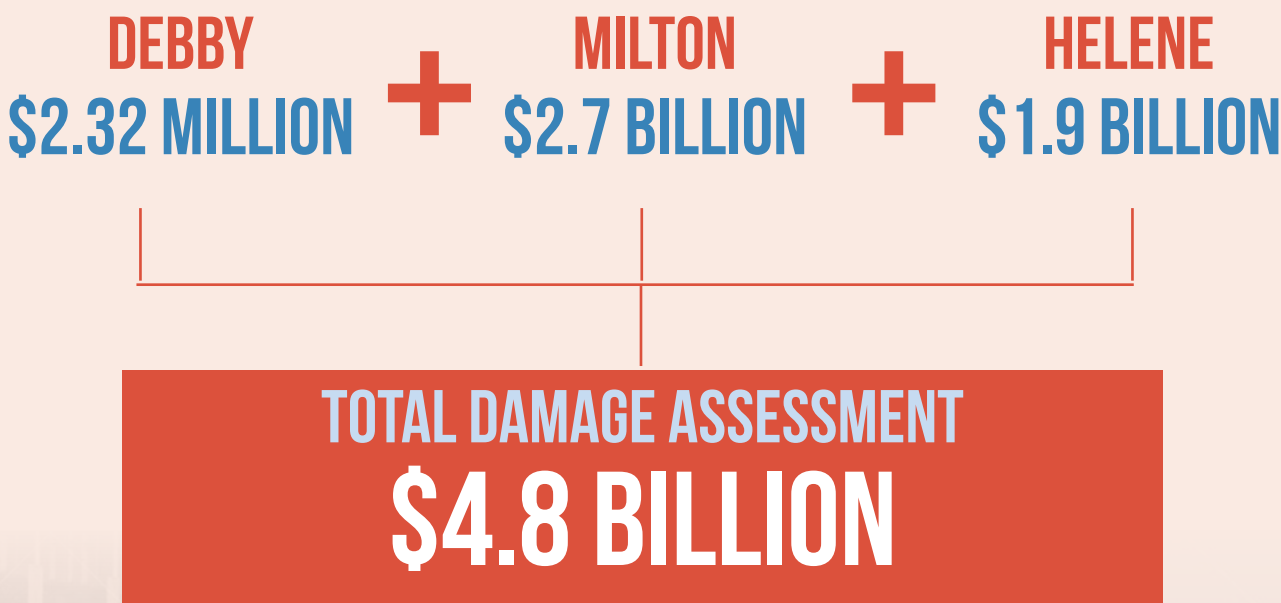
MILTON

PA	PA-A	PA-B	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Brevard• Charlotte• Citrus• Clay• Collier• DeSoto• Duval• Flagler• Glades• Hardee• Hendry• Hernando• Highlands• Hillsborough• Indian River• Lake• Lee• Manatee• Marion• Martin• Nassau• Okeechobee• Orange• Osceola• Palm Beach• Pasco• Pinellas• Polk• Putnam• Sarasota• Seminole• St. Johns• St. Lucie• Sumter• Volusia	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Brevard• Charlotte• Citrus• Clay• Collier• DeSoto• Duval• Flagler• Glades• Hardee• Hendry• Hernando• Highlands• Hillsborough• Indian River• Lake• Lee• Manatee• Marion• Martin• Nassau• Okeechobee• Orange• Osceola• Palm Beach• Pasco• Pinellas• Polk• Putnam• Sarasota• Seminole• St. Johns• St. Lucie• Sumter• Volusia	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Alachua• Baker• Bradford• Brevard• Broward• Charlotte• Citrus• Clay• Collier• Columbia• DeSoto• Dixie• Duval• Flagler• Gilchrist• Glades• Hamilton• Hardee• Hendry• Hernando• Hillsborough• Indian River• Lake• Lee	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Levy• Madison• Manatee• Marion• Martin• Miami-Dade• Monroe• Nassau• Okeechobee• Orange• Osceola• Palm Beach• Pasco• Pinellas• Polk• Putnam• Sarasota• Seminole• St. Johns• St. Lucie• Sumter• Suwannee• Taylor• Union• Volusia

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Of the counties that reported their damage assessment totals to the county WebEOC dashboard, across all three major hurricane systems that impacted Florida, there was a total damage assement amount estimating to \$4.8 billion dollars.

With approximately \$232 million resulting from Hurricane Debby, \$2.7 billion as a result from Hurricane Milton, and \$1.9 billion resulting from Hurricane Helene.



Of the devastating damages resulting from these three hurricanes, we saw **79,854 homes in total experience damages**. And the chart below depicts the number of homes from each hurricane that were destroyed, suffered major damages, and minor damages.

Minor damages in a non-flood disaster, as stated in the, FEMA Damage Assessment Category Guidelines. event typically refer to nonstructural impacts that affect essential living spaces and the overall integrity of the property. This includes damage to roof components such as shingles, fascia boards, soffits, flashing, and skylights, as well as interior wall components like drywall and insulation. Additionally, exterior elements such as house wrap, doors, window framing, or substantial loss of exterior siding may also be affected. Minor damages can also involve multiple small vertical cracks in the foundation and issues with the chimney, such as tilting, cracks, detachment, or collapse.

Major damages in a non-flood disaster event can also include failures or partial failures of structural components that impact the safety and stability of a residence. This includes damage to structural roof elements such as rafters, ceiling joists, and ridge boards, as well as structural wall elements like framing and sheathing. Damage to the foundation may involve crumbling, bulging, collapsing, horizontal cracks larger than two inches, or significant shifting of the residence on the foundation by more than six inches. In some cases, the extent of damage may render parts of the structure inaccessible.

NUMBER OF HOMES IMPACTED FROM HURRICANES DEBBY, HELENE AND MILTON

	NUMBER OF HOMES DESTROYED	HOMES EXPERIENCING MAJOR DAMAGE	HOMES EXPERIENCING MINOR DAMAGE
DEBBY	32	688	858
HELENE	2,025	30,969	15,371
MILTON	988	11,004	17,919



The 2024 hurricane season has highlighted significant emergency management efforts across the state, with substantial progress in debris removal and restoration. Waterway cleanup initiatives led to the collection of 147,400 cubic yards of debris and the removal of 27 abandoned or derelict boats, ensuring safer navigation and environmental restoration. 21.688 Million cubic yards of debris have been removed as a result of the 2024 Hurricane to date. 17.1 million cubic yards of which was made up of vegetative debris, 2.6 million cubic yards of which was made up of construction and demolition debris and, 27.08 thousand cubic yards was reported in hazardous waste debris.

The 2024 hurricane season has underscored the resilience and coordinated response efforts of Florida's emergency management framework. Between October 10 and November 15, 2024, a total of 992 shelters were opened across all 67 counties to support communities impacted by Hurricanes Helene and Milton. With counties leveraging their statutory authority to protect life and property, significant strides were made in mitigating the impacts of Hurricanes Debby, Helene, and Milton. From managing FEMA Public Assistance programs to removing over 21 million cubic yards of debris, these efforts reflect the dedication to restoring normalcy and ensuring public safety. Together, Florida’s counties have proven their ability to turn challenges into opportunities for stronger, safer communities.

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