



August 7, 2025

Dear Mayor Marino,

Over the last five years, the taxpayers of Palm Beach County have watched as your county government has increased annual estimated property tax collections by nearly \$480 million, over 50% from FY 2020 levels. That is nearly half a billion dollars *each year* in additional property tax payments, which occurred even as the county slightly trimmed the millage rate in FY 23 and FY 24. This increase has helped fund growth in net budgeted expenditures from the county's general fund of \$600 million over the same time period, to nearly \$2 billion in FY 25. And while the county's estimated population has grown during that time, so has the number of county employees per capita.

Having entrusted their governments with the power to tax, the citizens of Florida have a right to expect that their elected officials will spend the collected funds responsibly, and on truly necessary programs. Governor DeSantis has charged us, through Florida's DOGE effort, to identify and report on this type of excessive spending at the city and municipal level. In follow-up to our July 11, 2025 letter requesting information linking your county's sources of revenue to its expenditures, the DOGE team has identified additional information needed for our review.

In exercise of the Governor's authority under the Article 4, Section 1(a) of the Florida Constitution, the Chief Financial Officer's authority under ss. 17.04 and 17.05, Florida Statutes, and the Office of Policy and Budget's authority under the Laws of Florida, chapter 2025(199), Section 124, we hereby request access to your county's physical premises, data systems, and responsive personnel, as detailed below our signatures, on August 18, 2025 and August 19, 2025 at the county offices and such other locations that you identify as necessary to comply with these requests.

You may reach out to the Florida DOGE team and OPB regarding this request at 850-759-2440 or EOGDOGE@laspbs.state.fl.us.

Responses to the information requests may be provided at the time of the requested access, or may be provided electronically in advance by contacting us for access to a secure electronic portal to which documents and other types of data may be uploaded.



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY

You should note that financial penalties may accrue for your failure to comply with each of the following requests for access on those dates.

Sincerely,

Eric Soskin
Senior Advisor to the
Governor and DOGE
Team Lead
Executive Office of
Governor Ron DeSantis

Blaise Ingoglia
Chief Financial Officer
State of Florida

Leda Kelly
Director, Office of Policy
and Budget
Executive Office of
Governor Ron DeSantis

Cc: Todd Bonlarron, Interim Palm Beach County Administrator

Specific Requests

For each of the following topic areas, you are requested to make available: (i) the information and documents described; (ii) access to the data systems containing such information and documents; and (iii) individuals with appropriate expertise to describe the county's activities and decisions

Topic: Procurement and contracting

Request No.1 Policies, procedures, rules, and legal requirements for procurements or contracts in excess of \$10,000.

Request No. 2 A list of all procurements and contracts in excess of \$10,000.

Request No. 3 All records of bid solicitations, vendor selections, and contract documents for procurements or contracts responsive to Request No. 2.

Request No. 4 All information supporting the determination of the reasonableness of pricing for procurements or contracts responsive to Request No. 2.

Request No. 5 A listing of all sole source procurements or contracts in excess of \$10,000.

Request No. 6 For all sole source procurements or contracts responsive to Request No. 5, the sole source procurement justification form and all other information supporting use of a sole source procurement.

Request No. 7 For all sole source procurements or contracts responsive to Request No. 5, all information supporting a determination that the pricing was fair and/or reasonable.

Request No. 8 All reviews and reports on the timeliness of work authorizations, notices to proceed, change order approval, billing, invoicing, and payment.

Topic: Personnel Compensation

Request No. 1 The amount of regular pay, overtime pay, bonuses, gross wages, and total cash compensation for all employees from FY 19-20 to present.

Request No. 2 All rules, procedures, and guidance at the department-wide level or above regarding promotions, step or level increases, or bonuses from FY 2019-20 to the present.

Request No. 3 A list of all decisions to provide department-wide or county-wide salary increases or bonuses from FY 2019-2020 to the present.

Request No. 4 For all decisions responsive to Request No. 3, any analysis conducted of the costs of such increases, alternatives, and projections of future associated costs and how such costs would be paid.

Request No.5 Individuals with appropriate expertise to discuss your jurisdiction's performance management systems and their use in promotions, pay increases, and bonuses.

Request No. 6 Data at the department level or above regarding the extent to which staff meet or exceed performance targets.

Request No. 7 For all individuals receiving over \$200,000 in total cash compensation in the last year, the performance standards for their position, all reviews of their performance, and any requirements for improvement imposed.

Request No. 8 Policies regarding the accrual of leave and payout of leave on separation

Request No. 9 Access to the systems used for tracking leave accrual.

Request No. 10 Records of all leave payouts on separation exceeding 25% of the annual salary of the separating individual from FY 19-20 to the present.

Request No. 11 Access to the systems used for tracking overtime.

Request No. 12 Records of all personnel recording more than 25% of their hours as overtime.

Request No. 13 For the Department of Youth Services, the Office of Resilience, the Office of Community Revitalization, and the Office of Community Services, the following:

- a) A complete organizational chart
- b) All current strategic plans or planning documents
- c) All drafts prepared for inclusion in the FY 26 budget

Management Practices

Request No. 1 Records of all inventories of tangible personal property, including:

- a) the date of the most recent inventory performed to date]
- b) the reconciliation of that inventory to property records
- c) records of disposal between inventories
- d) identification of attractive personal property items

Request No. 2 For any county-owned property leased to another entity, private or public:

- a) the amount of the lease
- b) the terms of the lease
- c) any assessment of the fair market value of the property
- d) the basis and determination that such lease constitutes the best use of the property.

Request No. 3 For any purchase or sale of public-owned property, the most recent appraisal made prior to such purchase or sale.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion:

Request No. 1 All jobs with the responsibility to advance the diversity, equity, inclusion, or so-called anti-racism. Diversity, equity, and inclusion includes any form of preferential treatment based on race, ethnicity, gender, or the like (including the use of substitutes such as “cultural competence” or “lived experience” to conceal such preferential treatment), training sessions or other programs that separate people into groups based on intrinsic characteristics, and training or required statements about privilege, bias, diversity, racism, or belonging.

Request No. 2 The current positions and activities of any person who previously had such responsibilities and is still employed by Palm Beach County, including, but not limited to, those who were part of the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

Request No. 3 The titles, dates of administration, and duration for any scheduled training for county personnel, or made available by the county to others (including but not limited to contractors, grant recipients, or members of the public) that included diversity, equity, inclusion, or anti-racism as a topic or subject.

Request No. 4 The titles of any unscheduled or self-service training for county personnel, or made available by the county to others (including but not limited to contractors, grant recipients, or members of the public) that included diversity, equity, inclusion, or anti-racism as a topic or subject.

Request No. 5 For any training responsive to Request No. 3 or Request No. 4, a copy of all training materials used, provided to participants, or made available for participants to obtain voluntarily.

Request No. 6 For any training responsive to Request No. 3 or Request No. 4, the identities and qualifications of those conducting the training.

Request No. 7 For any training responsive to Request No. 3 or Request No. 4, the names and positions of those attending the training.

Request No. 8 For any training responsive to Request No. 3 or Request No. 4, the identities and qualifications of those conducting the training.

Request No. 9 For any training responsive to Request No. 3 or Request No. 4, all costs and expenses associated with the training or maintaining systems through which to provide the training.

Request No. 10 For any training responsive to Request No. 3 or Request No. 4, if the training was conducted by a contractor or other external entity, all documents related to the qualifications, selection, and payment of such individual, contractor or entity.

Request No. 11 Any program operated by the county on the basis of an individual's race, ethnicity, or gender, or targeted to a specific group based on the group's racial, ethnic, or gender characteristics.

Request No. 12 Any grant made by the county to an organization that operates on the basis of, or for the benefit of, individuals of a specified race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or gender identity other than male or female, or that targets a specific group or set of groups based on race, ethnicity, or sexual orientation.

Request No. 13 Any communication sent to all county staff, or to all staff within a county department, between January 1, 2019 and the present, regarding diversity, equity, inclusion, DEI, or so-called anti-racism.

Request No. 14 Since January 1, 2023, all actions taken in support of the policy for Diversity and Inclusion at Mounts Botanical Garden (MBG), including all policies, procedures, decision tools and rubrics, and records of decisions related to staffing, programming, outreach, and communications and all actions taken by other county departments to promote or support MBG

Request No. 15 Since January 1, 2023, all expenditures in support of the Palm Beach County Youth Master Plan (YMP) or the YMP 2.0, and all actions taken by other county departments to promote or support the YMP.

Request No. 16 Access to the diversity management software system of the Office of Equal Business Opportunity

Request No. 17 All records of expenses associated with the software system identified in Request No. 16

Green New Deal

Request No. 1: Identify any goals or targets for carbon or emissions reduction that have been adopted, or are being pursued, by the county.

Request No. 2: For any goals or targets listed in response to Request No. 1:

- a) consideration of alternatives to any such emissions goal or target;
- b) any cost-benefit analysis undertaken in support of such emissions goal or target, including any analysis conducted or estimate made of the impact of adopting the goal on global climate;
- c) A list of all, actions, and expenditures taken to date to advance that goal; and
- d) All assessments of the impact on global climate of the actions and expenses taken in support of that goal

Request No. 3: If not included in the response to Requests No. 1 and No. 2 above, any purchases or other expenses for the lease or acquisition of battery-electric vehicles (EVs), EV infrastructure, energy purchases associated with EV infrastructure, solar power systems, carbon credits, carbon charges, or other emissions reduction mechanisms, , and for each such expense, provide any records, assessments, or analysis of:

- a) Any alternative purchase option, including but not limited to, no-purchase options, purchase or lease of internal combustion engine powered vehicles, power generated from other sources;
- b) any analysis of the impact of the action on global climate;
- c) records of the reliability of any EV, EV infrastructure, or solar power system in use by the county during the time period from January 1, 2019 to present;
- d) records of all training related to the topic of climate change, battery-electric vehicles, or solar power, including the justifications, content, and attendance records for such training, and the location and costs (including travel costs) of such training.

Request No. 4: Records of all expenses and staff time spent to date and planned for the 2025 Southeast Florida Climate Leadership Summit

Grants and Other Financial Management

Request No. 1: Policies, procedures, rules, and legal requirements for grants made to external entities such as NGOs, and for all such grants made since January 1, 2023:

- a) records of all such grants made
- b) records of all payments made pursuant to such grants
- c) Procedures for monitoring of spending and performance by recipients of grants
- d) all records of the monitoring and performance of such grants

Request No. 2: For all grants received by the county other than those made by a state agency, in partnership with a state agency, or administered by a state agency:

- a) the matching requirements for such grants, if any
- b) the source of funding for the match
- c) records of the decision to pursue such grant
- d) analysis of the impact of the grant, including any assumptions made in support of the analysis.

Transportation

Request No. 1: Since January 1, 2023, for all installations of traffic calming devices, included but not limited to speed tables, speed humps, raised intersections, curb extensions, and chokers, the following information:

- a) the location, capital, planned lifecycle, and expected annual maintenance costs
- b) the basis for the installation, including any plan, analysis, or recommendation
- c) information related to the consideration of any alternatives

Request No. 2: For all traffic calming devices not included in Request No. 1, the planned lifecycle and expected annual maintenance costs

Homeless Services

Request No. 1 Direct spending by the Palm Beach County on programs related to the homeless.

Request No. 2 Grants to other entities, including NGOs, related to homeless services.

Request No. 3 Palm Beach County's efforts to measure the effectiveness of these programs.

Request No. 4: All data collected or otherwise in the County's possession regarding mental health, crime, immigration status, substance abuse, and public service usage in connection with homeless and affordable housing services.