



July 24, 2025

**Dear Mayor Demings,**

Over the last five years, the taxpayers of Orange County have watched as your county government has increased burdens on property owners to the annual tune of \$330 million dollars in additional ad valorem tax collections – an increase of over 50%. This has been part of a growth in annual total expenditures of over \$1.6 billion over the past five years, which represents a 57% increase in spending.

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, not recklessly, and on truly necessary programs. Governor DeSantis has charged the Florida DOGE team, in partnership with Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Blaise Ingoglia, and the Office of Policy and Budget (OPB) with identifying and reporting on excessive spending at the county and municipal levels, and the citizens of Florida have responded with enthusiasm.

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 OPB's authority under the Laws of Florida, chapter 2025(199), Section 124, we hereby request access to your counties' physical premises, data systems, and responsive personnel, as detailed below our signatures, on August 5, 2025 and August 6, 2025 at the County's Administration Building and such other locations that you identify as necessary to comply with these requests.

Please reach out to the Florida DOGE team and OPB by July 30 to provide us with an on-site contact for those dates, and to pose any questions regarding this request, at 850-759-2440 or [EOGDOGE@laspbs.state.fl.us](mailto:EOGDOGE@laspbs.state.fl.us). In addition, please encourage a representative from the Manatee County DOGE committee to contact us as well.

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.

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,



**EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**  
**DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY**

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

Department of Financial  
Services

Leda Kelly

Director, Office of Policy  
and Budget

Executive Office of  
Governor Ron DeSantis

Cc: Orange County Administrator Byron Brooks

## **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.

Request No. 9: All reviews and reports on the timeliness of work authorizations, notices to proceed, change order approval, billing, invoicing, and payment.

Request No. 10: All reviews conducted of reported conflicts of interest in procurement and contracting and all actions taken as a result of such reviews.

### **Topic: Personnel Compensation**

Request No. 1: The amount of regular pay, overtime pay, bonuses, and other 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: Policies regarding the accrual of leave and payout of leave on separation

Request No. 8: Access to the systems used for tracking leave accrual.

Request No. 9: 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. 10: Access to the systems used for tracking overtime.

Request No. 11: Records of all personnel recording more than 25% of their hours as overtime.

## **Property Management**

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.

Request No. 4: All expenditures on renovations to county office space since January 1, 2023

Request No. 5: Final costs associated with the design, development, construction, and completion of the Orange County Multicultural Center and any review or analysis conducted of those costs and the management or administration of the project.

Request No. 6: All operating costs associated with the operation of the Orange County Multicultural Center since its opening and the sources of funding for those costs

Request No. 7: For all events held in the Orange County Multicultural Center since its opening, information on:

- a) The costs, source of funding, and operating subsidy from public funds.
- b) The date and title of the program and any external organizations associated with the event
- c) All descriptions of the event or marketing materials published by or received by Orange County

Request No. 8: Information about the County's activities to issue an RFP for new security guard services (noted in the February 21, 2025 response to the Orange County Comptroller's follow-on audit) to replace those provided by Security Guard Contract Y13-118, including all consideration of how to address the existing contract's shortcomings.

## **Utilities**

Request No. 1: All rate studies or utilized to determine rates since January 1, 2019.

Request No. 2: Methodology used to determine transfers of funds between the utilities system and the general fund, or other government funds not specifically dedicated to utilities.

## **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion:**

Request No. 1: Since January 1, 2020, all jobs with the responsibility to advance the diversity, equity, inclusion, or so-called anti-racism.

Request No. 2: The current positions and activities of any person who previously had such responsibilities and is still employed by Orange County.

Request No. 3: Since January 1, 2020, 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, including related topics such as purported “implicit bias” or alleged “micro-aggressions.”

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, including related topics such as “implicit bias” or “micro-aggressions.”

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.

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.

### **Green New Deal**

Request No. 1: Documentation related to the adoption of the goal in the Orange County Sustainable Operations & Resilience Action Plan of reducing "county operations greenhouse gas emissions . . . 30% by 2030" or any other emissions reduction or carbon reduction target, including:

- a) consideration of alternatives to the greenhouse gas emissions goal described in Request No. 1 or any comparable emissions reduction or carbon reduction target;
- b) any cost-benefit analysis undertaken in support of the goal described in Request No. 1 or any comparable emissions reduction or carbon reduction target, including any analysis conducted or estimate made of the impact of adopting the goal on global climate;
- c) all assessments of capital and operating expenses associated with the goal in Request No. 1 or any comparable emissions reduction or carbon reduction target.
- d) all actual expenses to date associated with the goal in Request No. 1 or any comparable emissions reduction or carbon reduction target.

Request No. 2: If not included in response to Request No. 1 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;

Request No. 3: 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: Since January 1, 2020, information on the incorporation of LEED standards into any project funded by the county, including the justification for the use of LEED standards, any analysis of the costs associated with doing so and alternatives to doing so, and any post-construction analysis or assessment of the costs and benefits.

### **Grants and Other Spending**

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) All criteria and rubrics used to assess grant applications
- b) records of all such grants made
- c) records of all payments made pursuant to such grants
- d) Procedures for monitoring of spending and performance by recipients of grants
- e) all records of the monitoring and performance of such grants, including the allocation of staff time to such oversight

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.

Request No. 3: All rules, policies, and procedures governing vehicle allowances, and the names and titles of all recipients of a vehicle allowance;

Request No. 4: All rules, policies, and procedures governing take-home vehicles, a list of the names and titles of all persons making use of a take-home vehicle, and records of all mileage and expenses associated with those take-home vehicles, including repairs and calculations of the associated taxable income;

Request No. 5: Since January 1, 2023, all consulting contracts ongoing or entered into by the county, including costs, deliverables, assessments of performance, and copies of any reports or recommendations generated as a result of the contract.

Request No. 6: For all county provision of public Wi-Fi services:

- a) Any analysis, justification, and recommendations related to the installation and provision of such services the lifecycle of all associated equipment
- b) Planned and actual installation and operating costs
- c) Records and analysis of the usage of such services

## **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

Request No. 3: For all bicycle lanes, bicycle infrastructure, and multi-purpose trails intended to serve bicycles constructed, opened, or improved since January 1, 2019:

- a) all plans, analysis, justifications, and recommendations related to the project, including estimated and actual capital and operating costs;
- b) all usage forecasts and measurements of actual usage;
- c) information related to the consideration of any alternatives, including no-build alternatives

**Homeless Services**

Request No. 1: Direct spending by Orange County on programs related to the homeless.

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

Request No. 3: Orange County's efforts to measure the effectiveness of these programs.