



2025

**ANNUAL
REPORT**



www.HernandoCounty.us



Brian Hawkins

Chairman of the Hernando County Board of County Commissioners

Dear Hernando County Residents,

As my time as Chair of the Hernando County Board of County Commissioners comes to an end, I want to thank you for the privilege of serving our community. Together, we launched the United States Flag US Retirement Campaign, celebrated new amenities including a playground at Coach Lorenzo Hamilton Sr. Park, a splash pad at Anderson Snow Park, and the Fitness Court at Veterans Memorial Park, and expanded transportation access by adding five new bus routes across the county. We successfully transitioned fire services from the City of Brooksville to Hernando County, preserving long-standing traditions while strengthening service to our residents. We also remained committed to fiscal responsibility. Under my leadership, Hernando County achieved the largest tax cut in the last 10 years, reducing the millage rate by .5606 mils. The final ad-valorem millage is 5.8891 which is below the rollback rate. We eliminated unnecessary spending by reducing contingencies out of reserve funds for Capital Improvement Projects. This also help reduce taxes for our residents. During state emergencies, including Hurricanes Helene and Milton, we supported emergency response efforts, assisted residents in need, and helped clean up while providing resources to the Ridge Manor, Hernando Beach, and Weeki Wachee area communities. We also reopened Pine Island with new features, including mobile bathrooms and a food truck pad, enabling the park to reopen quickly after storms.

It has been an honor to serve as Chair, and I am grateful for the trust and support of the people of Hernando County.

Sincerely,
Brian Hawkins

Brian Hawkins

HERNANDO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



From Left to right, (District 5) Steve Champion, (District 4) Jerry Campbell, Vice Chair, (District 2) Brian Hawkins, Chair, (District 3) John Allocco, 2nd Vice Chair, (District 1) Ryan Amsler

ADMINISTRATION



Jeff Rogers
County Administrator



Toni Brady
Deputy County Administrator

SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM



CARLA ROSSITER- SMITH
Chief Procurement Officer



CHRIS LINSBECK
Community Services Director



DOMINIQUE HOLMES
Public Information Officer



ERIN DOHREN
Budget Director



GORDON ONDERDONK, P.E.
Utilities Director



JAN HOUSER
Human Resources Director



JON A. JOUBEN
County Attorney



J. SCOTT HERRING, P.E.
Public Works Director & County Engineer



OMAR DEPABLO
Development Services Director



PAUL HASENMEIER
Director Safety & Fire Chief



VALERIE PIANTA
Economic Development Director



VEDA RAMIREZ
Director of Housing & Supportive Services

STATISTICS

COUNTY STATISTICS

Hernando County Population 218,150

Median Age 46.04

Housing Units 96,174

Building Permits Added 2,505

Median Household Income \$66,058

*July 2024 United States Census Bureau

+32%

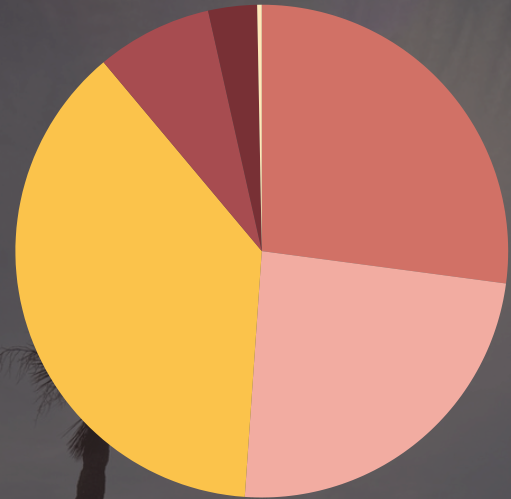
TOURIST DEVELOPMENT TAX

39M

TOTAL RENTAL HOME REVENUE

ADOPTED BUDGET

Hernando County's Fiscal Calendar runs from October through September. The budget is developed March-May and finalized in June. The proposed budget is presented to the Board of County Commissioners in July and adopted in September.



37% ENTERPRISE

24% GENERAL FUND

27% SPECIAL REVENUE

7% INTERNAL SERVICE

3% CAPITAL

0.3 DEPT SERVICE

FY 24-25 Final Budget by Fund Type

Our Vision

Rich in character, inspired by our natural resources, Hernando County is a safe environment for opportunities.

Mission

To Provide Efficient, Essential services, ensuring public safety and civic engagement for the well-being of all.

Values

Honor- Conduct in an honest, honorable, and ethical manner.

Excellence- Continuously strive to improve services and work together for organizational excellence.

Recognizing Resource Stewardship- Focus on listening, recognizing, and supporting the needs for our citizens

Natural Resource Stewardship- Serve as trusted stewards of the public's environmental and natural resources

Accountability- Achieve measurable success and continuous improvement and natural resources

Nurturing Innovation- Embrace new ideas and develop innovation solutions to increase adaptability, effectiveness and impact

Dedication to safety- Provide a safe environment all to live, work, and play

Opportunity- Cultivate environment abundant with opportunities for growth, innovation, and positive change

ECONOMIC GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Consistently manages 25-30 projects at various stages of development
- Ribbon Cutting for Gunnery Backstop WWII dedicated to the lives lost during training activities here at the Brooksville Airfield
- Conducted 22 in person existing industry business retention visits to assist with items such as business expansion, identifying training needs, importing/exporting opportunities and ensuring companies are utilizing available business incentives
- Salas Business Advisors completed an Incubator Feasibility Study to guide economic development efforts for entrepreneurs in the community

BROOKSVILLE — TAMPA BAY REGIONAL AIRPORT (BKV)

New Projects Funding

- The airport received \$1,886,763 of project funding in 2025
- \$362,915 FAA Grant for Airport Layout Plan (ALP) update project
- \$15,729 FDOT Grant for Airport Layout Plan (ALP) update project
- \$646,999 FAA Grant for Taxiway D/A1 Rehabilitation project
- \$36,120 FDOT Grant for Taxiway D/A1 Rehabilitation project
- \$675,000 FAA allocation from AIG grant funding
- \$150,000 FAA entitlement funding

Air Traffic

- 104,992

BKV Statistics

- 253 based aircraft
- 174 single-engine
- 25 multi-engine prop
- 38 jets
- 16 helicopters



COMMUNITY SERVICES

LIBRARY SERVICES

- Received 201,619 visits to library branches
- Circulated 423,549 physical library materials
- Offered a total of 766 programs with overall attendance of 17,350
- Over 34,700 electronic resources available for checkout
- Received 19,261 books/materials as donations
- Launched the new online learning platform LinkedIn Learning to join the several already provided
- Answered over 420,000 reference questions
- Over 34,700 electronic resources available for checkout

ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE LANDS

- Staff obtained a prescribed burn agreement with the Florida Forestry Service. This allows the use of prescribed burns in our preserves which helps with habitat restoration and management of nuisance/exotic species
- Staff continue to identify ecological restoration and management opportunities within preserves habitats and identify passive recreational opportunities to the public where appropriate

AQUATIC SERVICES/WATERWAYS

- Artificial reefs can improve marine habitat, enhance fish and other marine faunal communities by providing critical structure and cover, and offer recreational fishing, ecotourism, and diving opportunities to the public. Baseline data collection and monitoring was completed for our Artificial Reef project funded by the RESTORE Act

UF/IFAS EXTENSION OFFICE

- Youth and Adult Participation: A total of 22,142 individuals participated in marine science, agriculture, horticulture, 4-H, and family consumer sciences programs

Consultations

- The office provided educational information to 28,222 individuals during office consultations, field visits, emails, and phone calls

Awards

- Faculty won a total of 11 state and national awards

PARKS & RECREATION

- Continued partnership with United Way of Hernando-Kickball Tournament at Anderson Snow Park with 2,500 participants
- Continued partnership with YMCA - Family Fun Day at Coach Lorenzo Hamilton Senior Park with 250 participants
- Continued partnership with Swamp Fest at Linda Peterson Park with 2,500 participants
- Continued partnership with United Way Born Learning Trail – Veteran's Park
- Anderson Snow Splash Pad
- Pine Island Rebuild
- Brand new Pine Island Playground
- Brand new Pioneer Park Playground
- Brand new Coach Lorenzo Hamilton Sr. Park Playground
- Installed the Veteran's Park Fitness Court

VETERAN SERVICES

- Helped 1,650 clients in person
- Answered 1,800 assistance calls
- Responded to 830 emails
- Participated in eight outreach events and programs across Hernando County
- Provided direct, one-on-one outreach to 25 clients
- Assisted more than 100 walk-in Veterans





SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING

- Cell 3 is 24 acres, and is currently an active garbage cell with approximately two more years of space available
- Received Approximate 40 tons of old tires per month
- Received Approximately 533 tons of household and commercial trash daily

UTILITIES

- 2025 was a year of innovation, service excellence, and community celebration for Hernando County Utilities. In April 2025, Hernando County Utilities implemented a new phone system to improve communication efficiency, enhance call management, and strengthen reporting capabilities. Since deployment, the system has managed an average of approximately 6,500 calls per month, providing staff with critical data on call volumes and customer interactions

FLEET

- Our on-time PM compliance has increased by 46%
- Vehicle/Equipment count Increased from 762 to 797
- We provided year to date, 278,437 gallons of diesel and 213,633 gallons of unleaded

PUBLIC SAFETY

Be in the know during a storm, subscribe to Alert Hernando by visiting www.AlertHernando.org

FIRE RESCUE

- Established the Communications Division to centralize public information, IT coordination, and liaison functions with HCSO 911 Dispatch.
- Hired and onboarded the first Communications Specialist (January 2025).
- Led HCFR's transition to new NFIRS/NERIS and ePCR platforms (March 2025).
- Completed buildout and technology integration for the new Logistics & Facilities Warehouse

MOSQUITO CONTROL

- 27,872 breeding site and residential inspections
- 1,974 treatments of inspected sites
- 1,050 Sentinel Chicken sera submissions
- 540 CDC trap nights
- 318 acres treated by technicians
- 25,941 acres sprayed by truck
- 65 ULV spray missions
- 742 service requests for mosquitoes and pools inspected along with adjacent properties

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

- Managed Debris Removal for Helene and Milton
- Total Debris picked up throughout Hernando County in response to the two storms was:
 - 128,837.65 CY from ROW of C&D Debris
 - 417,588.05 from ROW of Veg Debris
 - Total Debris picked up was 546,425.70 CY

TRANSIT SERVICES (THEBUS)

- A brand-new "Micro transit" service which is a fixed route zone with an approximated 5-mile radius around the City of Brooksville. This service is a demand response curb to curb service with a 2 hour call ahead for a pickup and drop off available to anyone who resides in that zone
- TheBus Operated for 313 days
- ADA - 8,032 trips were provided 92,593 total miles and on-time performance of 98.25%
- Fixed Route - 156,384 trips (up from 2024) 765,206 total miles and on-time performance of 89.99%

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

- Hosted 13 training sessions across five emergency management mission areas, strengthening preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation capabilities
- Trained 28 new Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) members, expanding community-based emergency response capacity
- Achieved Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) approval of the updated Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) and Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS)
- Developed a new Recovery Operations Plan spanning the full long-term recovery continuum, enhancing post-disaster coordination and recovery operations
- Completed Phase 1 of the Regional Post-Disaster Redevelopment Plan, advancing long-range recovery and redevelopment planning

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

CODE COMPLIANCE

- Proactive Cases - 1,385
- Reactive Cases - 1,601
- Total Cases - 2,986
- Contractor Cases - 31
- Total Inspections - 7,223

PLANNING AND ZONING DIVISION

- 75 rezonings were processed during this period.
- 20 special exception permits were issued.
- 15 conditional use permits were granted.
- 67 concurrency evaluations were completed.
- 3 comprehensive plan amendments were approved.
- 3 community development districts were established.

BUILDING DIVISION

- 85,545 inspections were performed
- 14,508 video inspections completed
- 20,228 permits issued

LEGAL SERVICES

COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

- Prosecuted 2,882 Hernando County Code violations wherein the Defendant failed to come into compliance or deliberately, knowingly committed a violation. Provided prosecuting attorney for Sheriff's Office deputies and Animal Services Officers, Florida Fish & Wildlife, Building Department, Code Enforcement, and Fire Department code violation hearings
- Processed 950 Civil Restitution Lien Orders to recover costs from those persons sentenced to jail time and issued Satisfactions when any of those liens were paid
- Responded to 3,192 formal legal requests presented by the Board and its departments/committees as well as the Constitutional Officers; attended 942 meetings; and, prosecuted or defended 72 civil court cases on various governmental issues

HOUSING & SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

- Connected and enrolled county residents to over 6,992 services or programs for assistance
- Assessed, case managed and/or housed families with 91 Hernando County homeless school aged youth
- Conducted first Back to School Wellness Fair

HOUSING

- Improved housing conditions for 79 households totaling \$2,264,984.21 through housing rehabilitation,
- Increased homeownership opportunities to 21 low to moderate income households by providing down payment assistance in the amount of \$1,026,264.16

COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT

- Partnered with local nonprofits, Dawn Center of Hernando, The Arc Nature Coast the YMCA, and United Way Hernando to provide financial literacy, childcare assistance, skills training, senior activities, and emergency assistance to 2534 residents

PROCUREMENT

- In 24-25 fiscal year, reduced the average requisition processing time from 173 hours (7.2 days) to 117 hours (4.9 days) [weekends included]. This was on top of a 23-24 fiscal year, reduction of 444 hours (18.5 days) to 173 hours (7.2 days)
- In 24-25 fiscal year, reduced the average solicitation cycle time from 172 days to 134 days. This was on top off a 23-24 fiscal year, reduction of 195 days to 172 days
- Engage vendors: Engaged 300 new vendors in 24-25. This was on top off a 23-24 fiscal year increase of 600
- Develop personnel expertise: In 24-25, 3 staff received Florida Certified Contract Management Professional (FCCM) certification





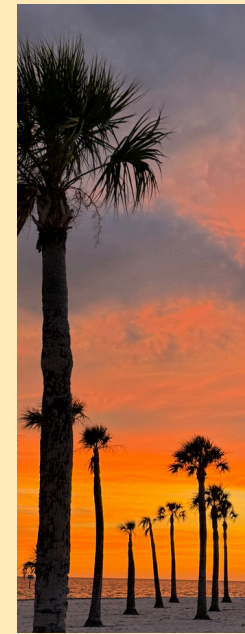
TOURISM

Hotel KPIs

- ADR increased 8%, from \$137 to \$149
- Occupancy declined 0.8%, from 77.8% to 77%
- RevPAR increased 7%, from \$107 to \$114
- Revenue increased 7%, from \$17M to \$18.1M

Vacation Rental Home KPIs

- ADR increased 11%, from \$233 to \$258
- Occupancy increased 8%, from 37.1% to 40%
- RevPAR increased 19%, from \$87 to \$103
- Revenue increased 24% from \$31.5M to \$39M



GET INVOLVED WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT



NOW HIRING!



Stay up-to-date with all the local happenings and engage with us by visiting www.EngageHernando.com



HERNANDO COUNTY GOVERNMENT

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 📍 15470 Flight Path Dr., Brooksville, FL 34604

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