

CITIZENS' REPORT
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

For the fiscal year ended September 30, 2001



Prepared by

Clerk of the Circuit Court
Ernie Lee Magaha

Deputy Finance Director
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Website Citizens' Report photos, graphics (excluding charts/graphs)
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Report to the Citizens

We are pleased to present the Citizens' Report of Escambia County, Florida, for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2001. This report has been prepared by the Finance Department of the Clerk of the Circuit Court to inform residents about the County of Escambia, its operations, services and programs, and its financial condition. It is suitable for those readers who prefer an overview or summary of the County government and its financial condition.

The following provides a brief description about your government's organizational structure and how it relates to the services provided to the residents of Escambia County. The purposes of the County's various funds and account groups are also addressed.

The financial information is presented in a condensed and summarized form, but does not substitute for the County's detailed Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). The Escambia County CAFR provides in detail the financial position and financial changes for each year presented in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles. The CAFR is available for your review, download and print through the Clerk's Website should you require additional data. Unlike the CAFR, this Citizens' Report is unaudited and is provided for informational purposes. This report will include all funds and account groups for primary government, but will not contain information on major components of our organization (Santa Rosa Island Authority, the Housing Finance Authority, and the Civil Service Board).

In keeping with our commitment to excellence, we proudly present this user-friendly document to you. We hope that this report will give you a better understanding of the services Escambia County provides, as well as its accomplishments and overall financial condition. We welcome your suggestions and comments to improve this presentation. In closing, we would like to acknowledge the hard work of Patty Sheldon, CPA, CGFO, and Arlene Curb in preparing this report.

Respectfully submitted,

Ernie Lee Magaha

Clerk of the Circuit Court

Wanda M. McBrearty, CPA, CGFO

Deputy Finance Director

Escambia County General Information

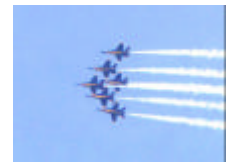
Escambia County's history dates back to the sixteenth century when it became a place where the Spanish explorers traded with the Indians. Through such trading activities the County developed its name, "Escambia," which comes from the Spanish meaning "to barter." Pensacola also derived its name from this early era; it is a combination of Choctaw words meaning "long hair," referring to the Indians that inhabited the area. Because of the area's strategic importance to many countries, it changed hands thirteen times during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Five powers flew their flags over the area during these two hundred years: Spain, France, Great Britain, Southern Confederacy, and the United States of America.



The County was established in 1821 with the area extending between the Perdido and Suwanee Rivers, the Gulf of Mexico, and the thirty-first parallel to the north. Today, the County is much smaller and encompasses approximately 661 square miles, or 420,480 acres, with an additional 64,000 acres of water area. The population is currently estimated at 294,410.

Escambia County is located in the extreme northwestern part of the State, bordered on the west and north by Alabama, on the east by Santa Rosa County, and the south by the Gulf of Mexico. The County is labeled by the Area Chamber of Commerce as "The Western Gate to the Sunshine State," and is known for its superb year-round climate and sugar-white sand beaches. There are two municipalities within the County: the Town of Century and the City of Pensacola, the County seat.

Escambia County is known as the "Cradle of Naval Aviation" and is the nucleus of four Navy bases. Pensacola is proud to be the home of the "Blue Angels," the Navy's flight demonstration team and the National Museum of Naval Aviation, one of the largest museums of its kind. Escambia County provides education to more than 44,000 students from elementary school through high school, with continuing education provided through one two-year college and three four-year colleges. Medical facilities are provided through four hospitals located in the County, all of which have surgical centers. Throughout the area, one may attend any number of cultural events, festivals, and museums.



Escambia County is organized as a non-charter government established by the Constitution of the State of Florida. The Board of County Commissioners is responsible for adopting the Ordinances and Resolutions which govern the County. Separate powers for operation of specific functions of the County government are provided through five elected Constitutional Officers, the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Property Appraiser, Sheriff, Supervisor of Elections and the Tax Collector.

Board of County Commissioners

The legislative and policy-making powers are vested with the five-member Board of County Commissioners who are elected by district for four year terms. The Chairman that presides over the Board is elected by the Commissioners annually.

The Board of County Commissioners performs such duties as adopting the County's fiscal budget, setting the millage rate, and adopting the Ordinances and Resolutions, which are our local laws and policies. The Board of County Commissioners is ultimately responsible to the residents of Escambia County. Commissioners as of September 30, 2001 are:



W.D. Childers
Chairman
District One



Michael T. "Mike" Bass
District Two



Willie J. Junior
Vice Chairman
District Three



Thomas G. "Tom" Banjanin
District Four



Terry Smith
District Five

The County is committed to providing high levels of service to its residents, at the lowest possible cost, in order to minimize taxpayer burden. Some of the services that the County provides include general governmental services, law enforcement, animal and fire control, solid waste disposal, conservation and resource management, industrial development, code enforcement, permitting, ambulance and emergency medical services, and providing residents with cultural and recreational programs. Some of those departments or divisions are described within this report. Other departments or divisions such as the County Administrator's Office, Office of Budget and Management, Human Resources, Purchasing Department and Risk Management serve the administrative needs of the County.

Clerk of the Circuit Court



Provisions of the Florida Constitution, which have governed the people of Florida for more than 150 years, established the Clerk of the Circuit Court as an elected public trustee. The State of Florida Constitution establishes the Clerk of the Circuit Court as an elected public trustee with wide and varied mandated duties. The Constitution mandates to the Clerk the responsibility for maintaining the records of the Circuit and County Courts. As well, the Constitution mandates to the Clerk certain financial responsibilities toward the Board of County Commissioners. The Honorable Ernie Lee Magaha has served as Clerk of the Court of Escambia County since he was first elected in 1957. The following is a brief listing of the Board and Court Services provided by the offices of the Clerk of the Circuit Court.

Court Services include Jury Management, Circuit and County Criminal Records Divisions; Circuit Civil, County Civil, Landlord and Tenant, Marriage and Small Claims Divisions; Juvenile and Domestic Relations Divisions; Traffic, Criminal and Civil Court Divisions; Official Records Division; and various other divisions that serve the administrative needs of the Circuit and County Judicial system. A few of the many duties of Court Services include ensuring that the court's orders, judgments and directives are carried out within the parameters allowed by law; maintaining court records; collecting and disbursing court fines, fees and assessments; and collecting and disbursing court ordered child support and alimony payments.

Board Finance is responsible for carrying out certain financial duties for the Board of County Commissioners. The Clerk serves as accountant, auditor, and custodian of funds to the Board of County Commissioners. These responsibilities are discussed more in depth on page 6 of this report.

Clerk to the Board prepares the resumes and official minutes of County Commission Meetings and maintains a complete and accurate record of all actions and fully-executed documents of the government of Escambia County with the ability to retrieve and provide accessibility to said records by other governmental entities and the general public.

Official Records records all documents as required by law and maintains a current alphabetical and chronological index, direct and reverse, of all instruments filed for public record; and provides accessibility of public records to the public. This division also manages storage of microfilm, maintains and repairs books as needed, takes proper care of plats, assists the public in research and use of our equipment and processes tax deed applications.

Property Appraiser

The Honorable Chris Jones' office is primarily responsible for identifying, locating and valuing all property within the County for ad valorem tax

purposes. Mr. Jones is also responsible for administering exemptions, mapping all parcels and classifying agricultural lands. Being custodian of certain county records, Mr. Jones must maintain property record cards, subdivision plats, ownership maps, sales data records and prior tax rolls. From these records one can access the files, determine building size, a description of its components and property characteristics. The Property Appraiser's Office is a primary source of information and this office shares data and information with numerous persons on a daily basis.



Sheriff

The Honorable Ron McNesby in person or by deputy shall: execute all process of the Supreme Court, Circuit Courts, County Courts, and Boards of County Commissioners of this state to be executed in



Escambia County; execute such other writs, processes, warrants, and other papers directed to them, as may come to their hands to be executed in Escambia County; attend all terms of the Circuit Court and County Court held in Escambia County; execute all orders to the Board of County Commissioners for which services they shall receive such compensation, out of the County treasury, as said Board may deem proper; be conservators of the peace in Escambia County; suppress tumults, riots, and unlawful assemblies in Escambia County with force and strong hand when necessary; apprehend, without warrant, any person disturbing the peace, and carry that person before the proper judicial officer, that further proceedings may be had against him or her according to law; have authority to raise the power of the County and command any person to assist them, when necessary, in the execution of their duties of their office, and whoever, not being physically incompetent, refuses or neglects to render such assistance, shall be punished by imprisonment in jail not exceeding one year or by fine not exceeding \$500; be, ex officio, timber agents for their County; and perform such other duties as may be imposed upon them by law. Sheriff McNesby, in Escambia County, in person or by deputy, shall, at the will of the Board of County Commissioners, attend, in person or by deputy, all meetings of the Board of County Commissioners of Escambia County, for which services they shall receive such compensation out of the County treasury, as the Board may deem proper.

Supervisor of Elections

The Honorable Bonnie Jones is responsible for the voting requirements of the County. The Supervisor of Elections became a



constitutional officer in the constitutional revision of the State of Florida in 1968 and is elected for a four year term. Prior to that, it was a statutory office established in 1889, known as the Supervisor of Registration. The Supervisor of Elections is the Chief Election Officer of the County, official custodian of the voting records and has the exclusive control of matters pertaining to registration and voting. The responsibilities of the Supervisor of Elections are as follows: registration of voters; prepares for and conducts all elections that are held in Escambia County; conducts elections for the City of Pensacola; supplies voting equipment and assists with school elections, organization elections, etc.; serves as member of the Escambia County Canvassing Board--the Board certifies election results; designates polling locations; custodian of the voting equipment; purchase and maintenance of voting equipment; absentee voting; maintains information pertaining to past and present elections; qualifies candidates for County and City offices; receives and maintains copies of the candidates' contribution and expenditure reports; notifies all individuals required to file financial disclosure forms with this office; and distributes and maintains the financial disclosure forms.

Tax Collector



The Honorable Janet Holley, provides services to individuals and businesses. The elected County office of Tax Collector in Florida was established in 1885 in the state constitution based on the idea that local taxes could best be collected at the local level. Furthermore, by being an elected officer, the Tax Collector would be more responsible to the needs of the community in which he or she was elected. In most counties, the Tax Collector is responsible for not only the collection of ad valorem taxes (which is the single largest tax collected in Florida), but also the collection of other taxes at the local level. In Florida Tax Collectors are

independent constitutional officers duly elected from their counties of residence by their fellow citizens and taxpayers. This independence, coupled with the fact that Tax Collectors deal with a variety of duties and responsibilities and provide a myriad of important public services, allows them to exercise valuable leadership roles in Florida's government. The Escambia County Tax Collector, bills, collects and disburses annual property taxes levied by the Escambia County Commission and other taxing authorities such as the District School Board, the Sheriff's Office, Water Management District, and the Cities of Pensacola and Century. The office collects a variety of non-ad valorem assessments levied for specific purposes, such as fire protection and road assessments. The Tax Collector's office issues occupational licenses, motor vehicle and vessel registrations and titles, hunting and fishing licenses, and provides driver license services at some locations.

Fiscal Responsibility

The fiscal responsibility for Escambia County is divided between the Board of County Commissioners and the Clerk of the Circuit Court. The State of Florida Constitution vests separate powers to the County Officers to provide checks and balances within County government that help protect and safeguard the assets of the County.

The Board of County Commissioners is responsible for establishing policies and managing the County Departments through the County Administrator. The Board adopts the annual budget that governs expenditures for all departments and Constitutional Officers.

The Clerk of the Circuit Court is designated as the accountant, auditor and custodian of funds for the Board of County Commissioners. As **accountant**, the Clerk's Office maintains the accounting system and prepares all financial statements and reports. As **auditor**, the Clerk's Office pre-audits all expenditures to assure correctness, policy compliance and legality prior to payment. Also, as auditor, the Clerk's Office performs internal audits to identify control weaknesses and make recommendations of improved controls. As the **custodian of funds**, the Clerk's Office is responsible for maintaining all funds of the Board of County Commissioners. Cash collection controls and timely deposits are established to prevent theft and to maximize investable funds. The investment portfolio is invested in accordance with policy to protect principal, provide liquidity and maximize yield. The Clerk's Office processes all Board of County Commissioner disbursements through either payables or payroll.



Financial Condition



The future is bright for Escambia County and its residents. Efforts toward creating a positive business environment are paying off. The strong vitality of the area is the result of collaborative efforts taking place among local governments, other public organizations and the private sector.

The overall financial condition of the County continues to improve. Although the property tax millage remained at 8.756, an increase in assessed property values allowed the County to realize an increase in ad valorem revenue from the previous fiscal year. The County continues to update capital improvement plans to adequately forecast long-term needs. A firm commitment to planning, together with enhanced economic development efforts and strong civic leadership should result in sufficient revenue growth to sustain the quality of life enjoyed by our residents and propel the area's economy to new heights.

Following are financial summaries based upon a condensed view of the County's funds and account groups as of September 30th, the end of the County's fiscal year. The financial summaries group County operations into two categories; governmental operations and enterprise operations.

Governmental Operations encompasses all the activity of the County's Elected Officials with exception of the Enterprise Funds.

Enterprise Operations account for specific operating "enterprises" of the governing body. Government enterprise funds are financed and operated in a manner similar to private businesses where the intent is to cover the cost of providing goods or services to the general public through user fees. The County has the following Enterprise Funds:

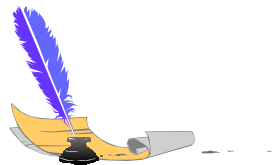
- ◆ Solid Waste Fund
- ◆ Inspection Fund
- ◆ Ambulance Fund
- ◆ Civic Center Fund
- ◆ Economic Development and Industrial Fund

BALANCE SHEET

FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED
SEPTEMBER 30, 2001

BALANCE SHEET	Governmental Operations	Enterprise Operations	Total September 30, 2001	Total September 30, 2000
Assets				
Cash and investments	\$ 107,801,740	\$ 19,470,742	\$ 127,272,482	\$ 134,737,799
Accounts receivable	16,695,230	4,407,399	21,102,629	27,003,370
Fixed assets	590,846,204	39,366,106 *	630,212,310	592,969,817
Inventory	980,872	105,081	1,085,953	1,287,513
Restricted for debt service	136,086,468	112,483	136,198,951	146,627,357
Total assets and other debits	<u>\$ 852,410,514</u>	<u>\$ 63,461,811</u>	<u>\$ 915,872,325</u>	<u>\$ 902,625,856</u>
Liabilities				
Payables	\$ 17,620,966	\$ 5,262,588	\$ 22,883,554	\$ 17,530,964
Compensated absences payable	15,742,722	931,110	16,673,832	20,241,417
Closure liability	0	18,664,334	18,664,334	17,749,187
Leases, notes, and loans	55,875,381	2,408,277	58,283,658	68,356,611
Outstanding claims payable	11,668,419	0	11,668,419	9,748,107
Bonds payable	64,495,000	4,585,795	69,080,795	73,385,095
Other liabilities	10,511,373	94,145	10,605,518	9,819,527
Total liabilities	<u>\$ 175,913,861</u>	<u>\$ 31,946,249</u>	<u>\$ 207,860,110</u>	<u>\$ 216,830,908</u>
Equity and Other Credits				
Investment in general fixed assets	\$ 590,743,612	\$ 0	\$ 590,743,612	\$ 554,912,077
Equity	3,030,393	31,515,562	34,545,955	35,035,284
Fund balances	82,722,648	0	82,722,648	95,847,587
Total equity and other credits	<u>\$ 676,496,653</u>	<u>\$ 31,515,562</u>	<u>\$ 708,012,215</u>	<u>\$ 685,794,948</u>
Total liabilities, equity and other credits	<u>\$ 852,410,514</u>	<u>\$ 63,461,811</u>	<u>\$ 915,872,325</u>	<u>\$ 902,625,856</u>

*Fixed assets for Enterprise Funds are reported net of accumulated depreciation.



SOURCES / USES SCHEDULE

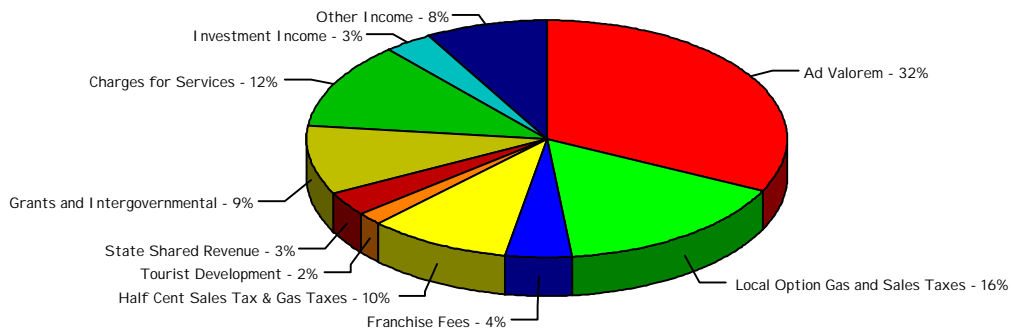
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED
SEPTEMBER 30, 2001

SOURCES / USES SCHEDULE

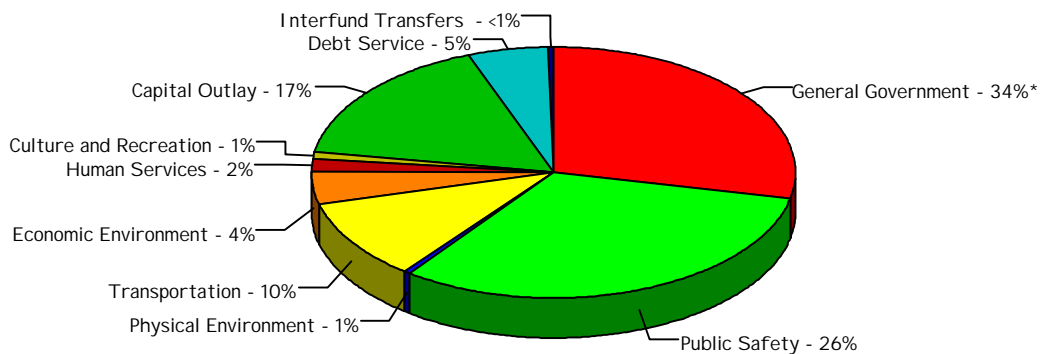
Sources	Governmental Operations	Enterprise Operations	Total September 30, 2001	Total September 30, 2000
Taxes	\$ 121,057,156	\$ 0	\$ 121,057,156	\$ 112,887,628
Grants and other governmental revenue	49,561,756	0	49,561,756	49,668,986
Charges for services	26,186,661	23,008,901	49,195,562	47,249,868
Investment income	7,148,408	1,084,914	8,233,322	9,583,767
Other income	18,288,116	664,850	18,952,966	56,221,305
Total sources	\$ 222,242,097	\$ 24,758,665	\$ 247,000,762	\$ 275,611,554
Uses				
General government				
Clerk of the Circuit Court	\$ 10,255,240	\$ 0	\$ 10,255,240	\$ 9,040,040
Board of County Commissioners	47,080,553	2,580,119	49,660,672	44,492,515
Property Appraiser	3,671,918	0	3,671,918	3,473,299
Supervisor of Elections	1,547,679	0	1,547,679	1,458,406
Tax Collector	4,729,476	0	4,729,476	4,238,805
Public safety				
Board of County Commissioners	13,301,968	9,827,182	23,129,150	19,760,115
Sheriff	62,272,144	0	62,272,144	56,264,604
Physical environment	999,564	6,195,984	7,195,548	6,423,010
Transportation	24,614,330	0	24,614,330	23,475,899
Economic environment	9,901,839	491,885	10,393,724	10,017,681
Human services	3,844,566	0	3,844,566	4,054,694
Culture and recreation	2,222,289	4,904,547	7,126,836	8,172,311
Capital outlay	39,617,544	0	39,617,544	49,535,309
Debt service	12,683,407	0	12,683,407	12,348,574
Interfund transfers	847,198	0	847,198	297,208
Total uses	237,589,715	23,999,717	261,589,432	253,052,470
Net sources (uses)	\$ (15,347,618)	\$ 758,948	\$ (14,588,670)	\$ 22,559,084

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

Sources of County Funds



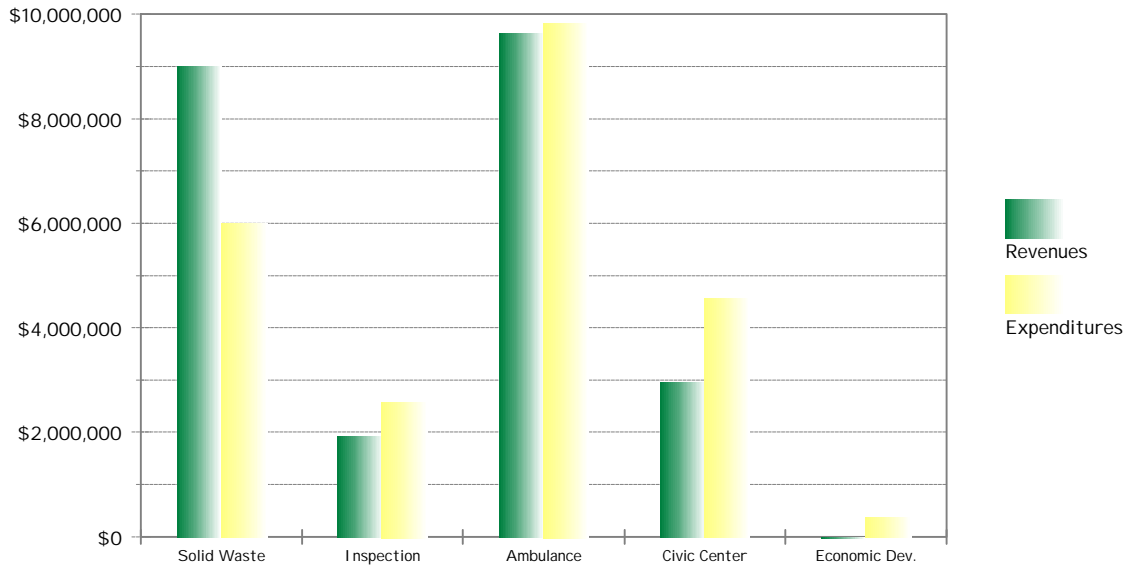
Uses of County Funds



*General Government includes all Constitutional Officers except the Sheriff's Office, which accounts for the majority of Public Safety Uses.

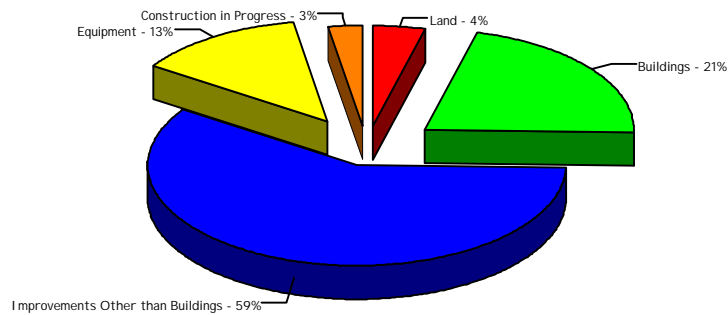
ENTERPRISE OPERATIONS

OPERATING REVENUES AND EXPENSES



COUNTY FIXED ASSETS

(Net of Accumulated Depreciation)



Escambia County Budget

SOURCES	Original* Budget	Ending Budget	Actual	
Taxes	\$123,511,173	\$125,844,354	\$121,057,156	
Licenses & permits	2,955,473	2,955,473	619,375	
Grants & other intergovernmental	56,320,147	61,953,727	49,561,756	
Charges for services	39,197,408	49,157,058	49,195,562	
Fines & forfeitures	1,770,864	2,348,581	2,294,324	
Miscellaneous revenues	40,515,535	11,363,797	8,268,435	
Other	103,715,375	158,852,364	16,004,154	
	\$367,985,975	\$412,475,354	\$247,000,762	
USES				Number of Budgeted Positions
Board of County Commissioners	\$286,736,478	\$328,089,538	\$179,112,975	1,098
Clerk of the Circuit Court	9,693,523	10,350,523	10,255,240	234
Sheriff	60,944,191	63,080,767	62,272,144	1,154
Property Appraiser	4,123,895	4,756,995	3,671,918	72
Tax Collector	4,424,757	4,134,400	4,729,476	89
Supervisor of Elections	2,063,131	2,063,131	1,547,679	19
	\$367,985,975	\$412,475,354	\$261,589,432	2,666

*Original Budget does not include grant funds awarded during fiscal year.

Ad Valorem Taxes

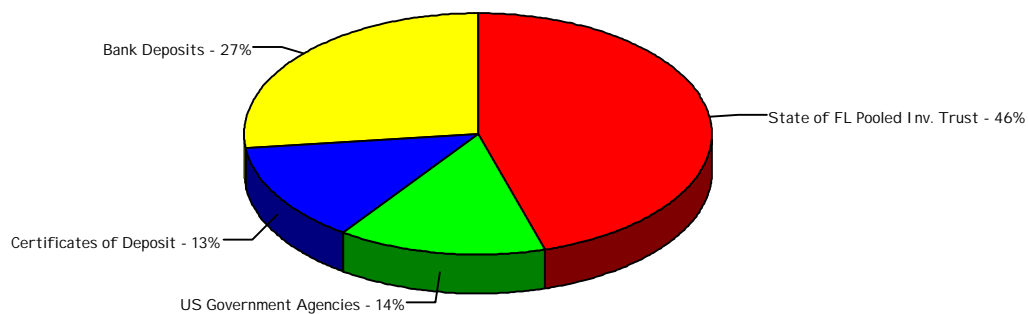
ASSESSED VALUES			
Fiscal Year	Assessed Value	Tax Collections	Millage Rates
1992	\$6,563,412,590	\$38,031,938	7.998
1993	\$6,672,025,190	\$39,484,462	7.998
1994	\$6,891,962,230	\$47,552,338	8.817
1995	\$7,051,257,770	\$49,531,953	8.817
1996	\$7,330,933,580	\$49,167,620	8.789
1997	\$7,538,325,190	\$50,841,281	8.756
1998	\$8,408,675,280	\$53,178,162	8.260
1999	\$9,187,553,282	\$61,519,272	8.756
2000	\$10,483,805,990	\$65,340,474	8.756
2001	\$11,231,095,470	\$71,605,263	8.756
Source: Escambia County Property Appraiser			

Investment Policy

As of September 30, 2001, the County's investment portfolio totaled \$127 million. Although most of this money is obligated to various projects, it is invested to provide interest income that is depended upon as a revenue source. The County's Investment Ordinance and Policy sets forth specific criteria for all investments. The policy requires monthly reporting of portfolio activity to the Board of County Commissioners by the Clerk of the Circuit Court's Office and provides for oversight by an investment advisory committee comprised of appointed citizens, the County Administrator and the Clerk of the Circuit Court.

The Clerk invests in a diversified portfolio of minimum risk to generate the highest yield possible. During fiscal year 2001, the investments made by the Clerk earned an average yield of 5.27% and generated over \$8.2 million in investment earnings. The chart below is a breakdown of the portfolio by types of investments.

INVESTMENTS



Board Departments

Parks and Recreation Department - The mission of this department is to provide County residents with facilities for leisure time, recreational, educational and cultural opportunities that will enhance the quality of life for all citizens. Created in mid-fiscal year 1994, this department is tasked to implement the Local Option Sales Tax expenditures targeted for public recreation facilities. This department currently maintains seventy-two sites totaling more than 600 acres throughout the County.



Community Services - This department seeks to provide professional social services to eligible participants of the County at the least possible cost. This department addresses and utilizes community resources, the social services network within the community and is a clearinghouse in coordinating delivery of services to the public. Some of the services provided by this department include: Crisis Stabilization and Baker Act; Title V Funding through the State of Florida and the Department of Juvenile Justice; Summer Feeding Program for Children; Veterans Services; and Workfare Programs.

Public Safety Department - This department has several divisions that form a team to provide safety to the residents of Escambia County.

Emergency Management Information - This division supplies information and assistance to local government as well as County residents in cases of a natural disaster--i.e., hurricanes.

Emergency Communications - A PSAP is a Public Safety Answering Point--the Escambia County Emergency Communications Center (ECC) is the primary PSAP for all County residents outside the City of Pensacola. This answering system is activated when 911 is dialed.

Escambia County Fire-Rescue - Escambia County Fire-Rescue proudly operates as a combination fire and rescue service, utilizing the talents and diversities of volunteer and career fire fighting personnel. All personnel are dedicated to protecting the lives, property and environment within Escambia County and respond daily to the emergency and non-emergency needs of Escambia County's residents and visitors. Services provided include fire suppression, hazardous materials response, vehicle extraction and emergency medical first response.

Animal Regulation and Control - The main focus of this department is to provide animal control services to the County.

Emergency Medical Services - This department was established in 1975 by the Board of County Commissioners to provide pre-hospital care and transportation of sick and injured persons, preventing unnecessary disability and loss of life. This department also works in conjunction with other departments to provide services in high risk/high hazard situations.



Contract Agencies - The following list indicates each agency and function:

Civic Center - The Civic Center, managed by Facilities Management Corp. of Pensacola c/o SMG on behalf of the County, is charged with the responsibility of providing entertainment and enjoyment to the residents of the County, as well as attracting outside visitors.

Escambia County Area Transit - This department, managed by ATC/Vancom Management Services of Pensacola on behalf of the County, is responsible for providing safe public transportation utilizing its buses and trolleys.

Public Health Unit - This unit combines State and County funding for the Public Health Facilities in the County. This department is managed by the State of Florida.

Extension Services - This department educates residents in environmental and natural resources, commercial agriculture, horticulture (both to homeowners and businesses), home economics, 4-H youth, and marine and coastal zone development. This department is managed by both State and County personnel.

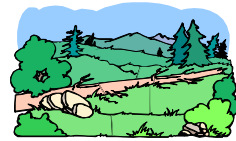
Economic Development - This department functions as a focal point of contact for business development within the County, providing information to businesses and other organizations. The main goals of this department are to develop, manage and market the County's Industrial Parks. This department also provides the supervision of the economic development contract with the Pensacola Area Chamber of Commerce.

Building Inspections - This department issues permits, reviews plans and provides building inspection services including electrical, plumbing, gas, mechanical and fire safety for all developments within the unincorporated area of the County to ensure compliance with State and local building regulations.

Neighborhood and Environmental Services - The mission of this department is to provide a healthy, safe environment for all County residents, businesses and visitors through such activities as neighborhood cleanup drives, code enforcement, revitalization of neighborhood and business areas, pollution prevention, environmental awareness, sustainable development and services to ensure the integrity of all new structures and improvements. This department incorporates the following divisions in order to meet the regulatory and service needs for the County.

Environmental Health - Protects the health and comfort of residents, businesses, and visitors from environment-borne disease.

Environmental Enforcement - Supports and enforces the environmental goals of the community by providing effective law enforcement in cases of intentional or negligent environmental degradation and provides environmental compliance support and assistance to small businesses.



Code Enforcement - Strives to improve the quality of life and protect property value and environment by providing civil and criminal enforcement of the County Code.

Community Redevelopment Agency - Enhances the quality of life by encouraging private re-investments throughout the most mature and distressed neighborhoods.

Neighborhood Enterprise Foundation - Provides administrative, fiscal and technical support to plan, design and deliver quality housing rehabilitation and community redevelopment primarily for lower income residents.

Engineering Department - The engineering department consists of engineers, technicians, and professionals that provide a wide range of transportation and stormwater management services to the County Commission and residents. Included in their services is roads and drainage systems design and construction; roadway improvements for capacity and safety; review of subdivision and commercial development plans to ensure that the plans follow safety, traffic and stormwater criteria for the County; traffic calming studies and implementation; property acquisition for road paving and stormwater design/implementation; surveying services in support of roads and drainage system improvement projects; and traffic sign, pavement markings and traffic signals design.



Public Works - This department supports orderly growth and commerce within the community by providing safe roadways and functional stormwater management systems. Within this department are the following divisions:

Roads and Bridges Division - Maintains the County's network of roads and stormwater drainage systems. Additionally, this division performs all the moving, road shoulder repair, right-of-way clearing, tree cutting and fence maintenance throughout the County.

Road Prison Division - This prison is unique in Florida; it is the only County-operated work camp. As a work camp, this division provides a large part of the manual labor work force for the Roads and Bridges Division.

Department of Solid Waste Management - This department oversees the County's residential and commercial waste hauling activities. This department is tasked with operating the Perdido Landfill in compliance with environmental rules and regulations. Major construction is ongoing to assure protection of the groundwater. Perdido Landfill is the only active location for disposal of solid waste in Escambia County. Other landfill sites have been closed and are being monitored for any possible adverse environmental affects.

Advisory Boards and Committees

The County has many advisory boards and committees that provide citizens an opportunity to contribute to their local government and participate in significant policy decisions. Some of the current boards and committees are listed below.

Board of Adjustment -

The Board was established to conduct required quasi-judicial public hearings on applications for variances, conditional uses and administrative appeals regarding land uses, etc.

Area Housing Commission -

This Commission's purpose is to provide decent, safe, sanitary, and economical housing to low and moderate income families in Escambia County (not including the Town of Century).

Citizens' Environmental Committee -

This Committee's purpose is to get citizen input into how to make the Solid Waste Department's operation better known to the public and the review of environmental issues.

Arts Council of Northwest Florida -

This Council is to preserve the local cultural heritage and to develop, advance, enhance and sustain the cultural life of the Northwest Florida area by providing a wide range of local arts agency services for the area of Escambia, Santa Rosa, and Okaloosa Counties.

Bay Area Resource Council (BARC) -

This Council was formed by interlocal agreement between Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties and the Cities of Pensacola and Gulf Breeze in 1988 to provide a unified standard set of data that would aid in the evaluation, maintenance and enhancement of the physical, chemical, biological, economic and aesthetic qualities of the bay system.

Chamber of Commerce Pensacola Area -

The Pensacola Area Chamber of Commerce (Chamber) is a strong, unified voice of the business, industrial and professional community organized to ensure that Pensacola and Escambia County fully realize their potential as the financial, retail, wholesale, professional, industrial, marketing and cultural center of the Northwest Florida area.

Downtown Improvement Board -

The Board was established to correct downtown Pensacola commercial blight, preserve property values; encourage economic development, attract commercial and residential reinvestment into urban core, and beautify downtown Pensacola through property maintenance, aesthetic and technical design and redevelopment measures.

Santa Rosa Island Authority -

This Authority was created to administer the area known as Pensacola Beach and has the responsibilities of beach maintenance, development of recreation facilities, and adoption and enforcement of rules, regulations and improvements within this area.

Tourist Development Council -

This Council reviews each proposal for expenditure of funds to determine if the expenditure complies with the tourist development plan of the Ordinance.

Investment Advisory Committee -

This committee reviews and advises on investment decisions made for the County's investment portfolio to determine compliance with the County's investment policy and philosophy.

How to Contact Escambia County Government

Clerk of the Circuit Court

Honorable Ernie Lee Magaha
MC Blanchard Building
190 Governmental Center
Pensacola, FL 32501-5773
(850) 595-4310 Phone
(850) 595-4316 Fax
www.clerk.co.escambia.fl.us

Other Clerk Service Locations:

Old County Courthouse

Clerk to the Board - 595-3920

Finance Department - 595-4830

Official Records - 595-3930

223 Palafox Place
Pensacola, FL 32501-5845

Escambia County Office Building

Juvenile Justice - 595-3780

Domestic Relations / Child

Support / Alimony - 595-3770

2251 Palafox Street
Pensacola, FL 32501-1722

Juvenile Justice Center

1800 West Saint Mary Avenue

Pensacola, FL 32501-1097

Century Annex

Billy G. Ward Century Courthouse

7995 North Century Blvd.

Century, FL 32535-2995

Supervisor of Elections

Honorable Bonnie Jones

Old County Courthouse

223 Palafox Place

Pensacola, FL 32501-5845

(850) 595-3900 Phone

(850) 595-3914 Fax

www.webintellects.net/www/election.html

Board of County Commissioners

Commissioner Childers - District 1
(850) 595-4910

Commissioner Bass - District 2
(850) 595-4920

Commissioner Junior - District 3
(850) 595-4930

Commissioner Banjanin - District 4
(850) 595-4940

Commissioner Smith - District 5
(850) 595-4950

Old County Courthouse

223 Palafox Place

Pensacola, FL 32501-5845

www.co.escambia.fl.us

County Administrator

Old County Courthouse

223 Palafox Place

Pensacola, FL 32501-5845

(850) 595-4900 Phone

(850) 595-4908 Fax

County Attorney

14 West Government Street

Pensacola, FL 32501

(850) 595-4970 Phone

Property Appraiser

Honorable Chris Jones
213 West Garden Street

Pensacola, FL 32501

(850) 434-2735 Phone

(850) 435-9526 Fax

www.escpa.org

Other Property Appraiser

Location:

153 Highway 97

Farm Bureau Building

Molino, FL 32577

(850) 434-2735 Phone

(850) 587-3290 Fax

Tax Collector

Honorable Janet Holley

Matt Langley Bell III Building

213 Palafox Place

Pensacola, FL 32501

(850) 438-6500 Phone

www.ectc.co.escambia.fl.us

Other Tax Collector Locations:

Brent Oaks Mall Branch Office

33 Brent Lane

Pensacola, FL 32503

Cantonment Branch Office

292 Muscogee Road

Cantonment, FL 32533

Century Branch Office

7500 No. Century Blvd. (Hwy. 29)

Century, FL 32535

Warrington Branch Office

507 North Navy Blvd.

Pensacola, FL 32505

Sheriff

Honorable Ron McNesby

1700 West Leonard Street

Pensacola, FL 32501

(850) 436-9620 Phone

www.escambiaso.com

