

CITIZENS' REPORT

ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

For the fiscal year ended September 30, 2002



Prepared by

The Honorable Ernie Lee Magaha
Clerk of the Circuit Court

Wanda M. McBrearty, CPA, CGFO
Deputy Finance Director

Report to the Citizens

We are pleased to present the Citizens' Report of Escambia County, Florida, for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2002. 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 desire 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 and 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 Web site should you require additional data (www.clerk.co.escambia.fl.us). Unlike the CAFR, this Citizens' Report is unaudited and is provided for information purposes. This report includes all funds and account groups for primary government, but it does not contain information on major components of our organization (Santa Rosa Island Authority, the Housing Finance Authority, the Escambia County Law Library Board 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 Suwannee 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, 420,480 acres, with an additional 64,000 acres of water area. The population is currently estimated at 296,709.

Escambia is located in the extreme northwestern part of the State of Florida, 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, which is 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 43,000 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. The area provides 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 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; Clerk of the Circuit Court, Property Appraiser, Sheriff, Supervisor of Elections and Tax Collector.

Clerk of the Circuit Court



The Florida Constitution over 150 years ago established the Clerk of the Circuit Court as an elected public trustee with wide and varied mandated duties. The Clerk is responsible for maintaining the records of the Circuit and County Courts and acts as the ex officio clerk of the Board of County Commissioners, auditor, recorder and custodian of all County funds. The Honorable Ernie Lee Magaha was elected and has served as Clerk of the Court since 1957. The following is a brief description of Court and Board Services provided by the Clerk of the Circuit Court's Office.

Administrative Support includes Operational Services and Management Information Systems (MIS). Operational Services provides a variety of services which include building and facility oversight, reproduction and distribution of reports and other information as well as training. MIS assembles and maintains the information systems needed to support the duties of the Clerk's office.

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 performing 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 later in this report.

Clerk to the Board attends all meetings and workshops held by the Board of County Commissioners and prepares the resumes and official minutes of County Commission Meetings. This division also 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 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 records research and processes tax deed applications.

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 Board of County Commissioners adopts the County's fiscal budget, sets the millage rate and adopts the Ordinances and Resolutions, which are local laws and policies. The Board of County Commissioners is ultimately responsible to the residents of Escambia County. The Commissioners as of September 30, 2002 were:



Clifford Barnhart
District One



Timothy W. Wright
Vice Chair
District Two



Marie Young
Chair
District Three



Thomas G. "Tom" Banjanin
District Four



Janice Gilley
District Five

The County is committed to providing high levels of services 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, emergency medical services and providing residents with cultural and recreational programs. Some of those departments or divisions are described within this report.

Supervisor of Elections

The Honorable Bonnie Jones is responsible for 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 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 held in Escambia County; conducts elections for the City of Pensacola; supplies voting equipment and assists with school elections, organization elections; serves as member of the Escambia County Canvassing Board which 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. 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. 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 processes titles and registrations for motor vehicles, vessels, trailers, and mobile homes; issues occupational, hunting and fishing licenses; and provides drivers license services at some locations.



Property Appraiser

The Honorable Chris Jones' office identifies, locates and values 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. As custodian of certain county records, Mr. Jones maintains 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 is mandated to: execute all process of the Supreme Court, Circuit Courts, County Courts, and Boards of County Commissioners of this state to be executed within 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 of the Board of County Commissioners; 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; 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; 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 all meetings of the Board of County Commissioners of Escambia County as the Board may deem proper.



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 the 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 **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.



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. Because this information is summarized, the Citizens' Report is not prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. The financial summaries group County operations into two categories: governmental operations and enterprise operations.

Governmental Operations are those primarily supported by tax dollars for services such as law enforcement, transportation and capital project activities. The Governmental Operations encompasses all the activity of the County's Elected Officials with exception of the Enterprise Funds.

Enterprise Operations offer goods and services of the County for sale and are intended to be self-supporting. 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, 2002

	Governmental Operations	Enterprise Operations	Total September 30, 2002	Total September 30, 2001
Assets				
Cash and investments	\$100,865,169	\$17,801,621	\$118,666,790	\$127,272,482
Accounts receivable	16,177,390	4,300,683	20,478,073	21,102,629
Fixed assets	618,282,984	40,895,046 *	659,178,030	675,574,659
Inventory	1,006,750	168,351	1,175,101	1,085,953
Restricted for debt service	128,379,450	93,736	128,473,186	136,198,951
Total assets and other debits	<u>864,711,743</u>	<u>63,259,437</u>	<u>927,971,180</u>	<u>961,234,674</u>
Liabilities				
Payables	17,768,619	6,191,067	23,959,686	33,489,072
Compensated absences payable	18,856,570	1,033,059	19,889,629	16,673,832
Closure liability	0	18,802,009	18,802,009	18,664,334
Leases, notes, and loans	49,324,872	394,787	49,719,659	58,283,658
Outstanding claims payable	13,389,823	0	13,389,823	11,668,419
Bonds payable	60,225,000	5,465,858	65,690,858	69,080,795
Total liabilities	<u>159,564,884</u>	<u>31,886,780</u>	<u>191,451,664</u>	<u>207,860,110</u>
Net Assets				
Investment in capital assets (net of related debt)	508,733,112	29,255,683	537,988,795	530,210,206
Restricted net assets	24,029,403	268,736	24,298,139	34,545,955
Unrestricted net assets	172,384,344	1,848,238	174,232,582	170,618,403
Total net assets	<u>\$705,146,859</u>	<u>\$31,372,657</u>	<u>\$736,519,516</u>	<u>\$735,374,564</u>

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

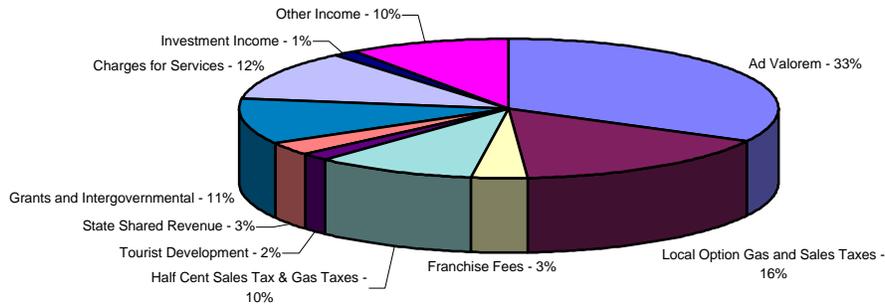
Sources / Uses Schedule

FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED
 SEPTEMBER 30, 2002

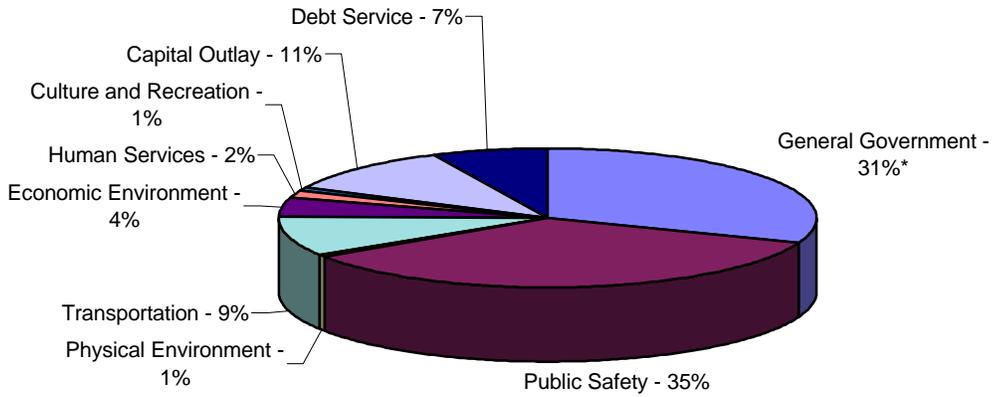
	Governmental	Enterprise	Total	Total
	Operations	Operations	September 30,	September 30,
Sources			2002	2001
Taxes	\$127,896,239	\$0	\$127,896,239	\$121,057,156
Grants and other governmental revenue	54,198,354	0	54,198,354	49,561,756
Charges for services	27,068,942	25,355,388	52,424,330	49,195,562
Investment income	3,101,234	434,351	3,535,585	8,233,322
Other income	20,059,918	1,151,849	21,211,767	18,952,966
Total sources	<u>\$232,324,687</u>	<u>\$26,941,588</u>	<u>\$259,266,275</u>	<u>\$247,000,762</u>
Uses				
General government				
Clerk of the Circuit Court	\$10,327,333	\$0	\$10,327,333	\$10,255,240
Board of County Commissioners	49,761,563	5,994,588	55,756,151	49,660,672
Property Appraiser	3,984,031	0	3,984,031	3,671,918
Supervisor of Elections	1,658,259	0	1,658,259	1,547,679
Tax Collector	5,500,702	0	5,500,702	4,729,476
Public safety				
Board of County Commissioners	16,354,856	10,564,302	26,919,158	23,129,150
Sheriff	63,978,642	0	63,978,642	62,272,144
Physical environment	1,509,292	5,378,050	6,887,342	7,195,548
Transportation	20,865,981	0	20,865,981	24,614,330
Economic environment	10,082,849	484,245	10,567,094	10,393,724
Human services	3,885,068	0	3,885,068	3,844,566
Culture and recreation	2,326,902	4,663,308	6,990,210	7,126,836
Capital outlay	24,525,469	0	24,525,469	39,617,544
Debt service	16,329,883	0	16,329,883	12,683,407
Interfund transfers	0	0	0	847,198
Total uses	<u>231,090,830</u>	<u>27,084,493</u>	<u>258,175,323</u>	<u>261,589,432</u>
Net sources (uses)	<u>\$1,233,857</u>	<u>(\$142,905)</u>	<u>\$1,090,952</u>	<u>(\$14,588,670)</u>
Net assets at beginning of year	<u>703,913,002</u>	<u>31,515,562</u>	<u>735,428,564</u>	<u>749,963,234</u>
Net assets at end of year	<u>\$705,146,859</u>	<u>\$31,372,657</u>	<u>\$736,519,516</u>	<u>\$735,374,564</u>

Governmental Operations

Sources of County Funds



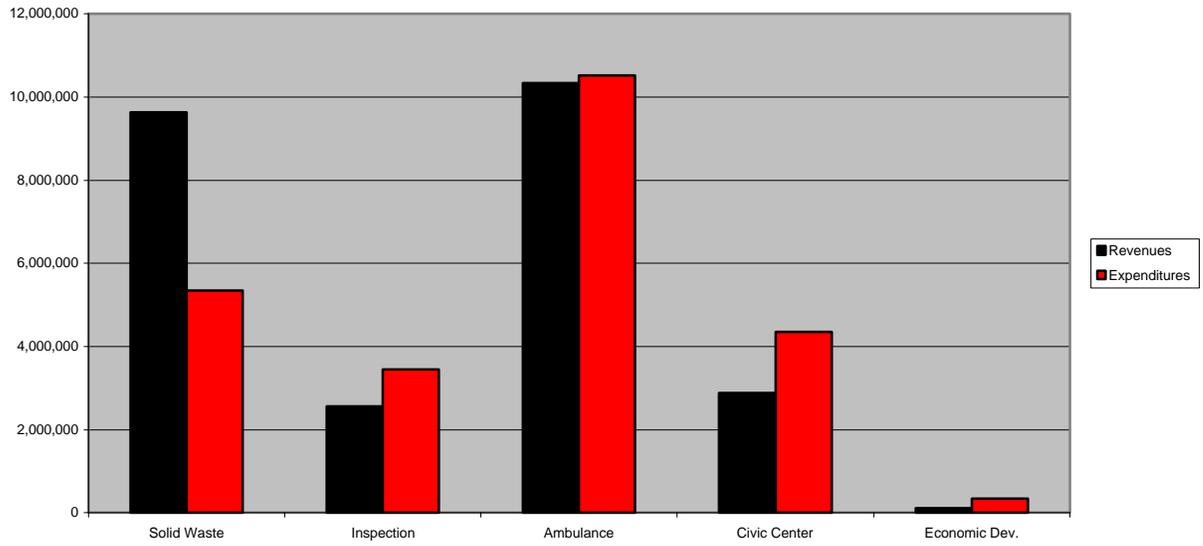
Uses of County Funds



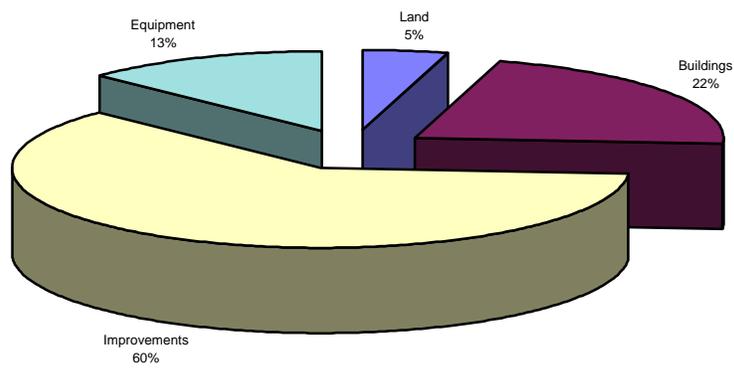
*General Government includes all Constitutional Officers except the Sheriff's Office, which accounts for the majority of the Public Safety Uses.

Enterprise Operations

Operating Revenues and Expenses



County Fixed Assets



Escambia County Budget

SOURCES	Original*	Ending	Actual	Number of Budgeted Positions
	Budget	Budget		
Taxes	\$132,585,622	\$126,723,598	\$127,896,239	
Licenses & permits	2,556,525	541,747	438,953	
Grants & other intergovernmental	54,287,009	65,571,341	54,198,354	
Charges for services	46,335,128	42,605,122	52,424,330	
Fines & forfeitures	1,949,454	1,941,454	2,118,861	
Miscellaneous revenues	43,072,868	62,482,652	7,560,720	
Other	93,402,546	98,982,374	14,628,818	
	<u>\$374,189,152</u>	<u>\$398,848,288</u>	<u>\$259,266,275</u>	
USES				
Board of County Commissioners	\$289,462,798	\$313,020,492	\$172,726,356	1,030
Clerk of the Circuit Court	10,182,463	10,413,777	10,327,333	225
Sheriff	63,701,887	64,213,712	63,978,642	1,155
Property Appraiser	4,350,080	4,348,023	3,984,031	74
Tax Collector	4,781,826	5,025,954	5,500,702	89
Supervisor of Elections	1,710,098	1,826,330	1,658,259	20
	<u>\$374,189,152</u>	<u>\$398,848,288</u>	<u>\$258,175,323</u>	<u>2,593</u>

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

Ad Valorem Taxes

ASSESSED VALUES

Fiscal Year	Assessed Value	Tax Collections	Millage Rates
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
2002	\$11,673,095,374	\$76,446,757	8.756

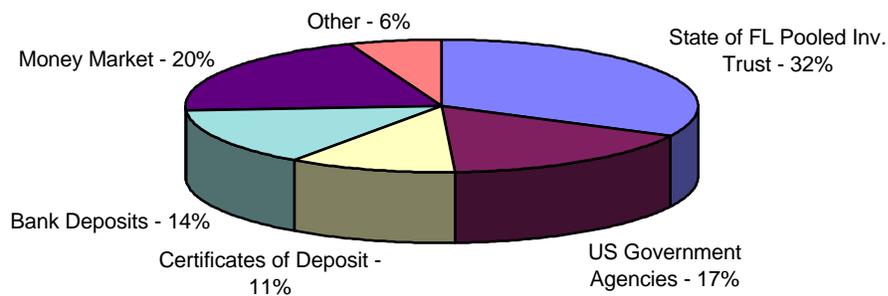
Source: Escambia County Property Appraiser

Investment Policy

As of September 30, 2002, the County's investment portfolio totaled over \$113 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 2002, investments made by the Clerk earned an average yield of 2.28% and generated over \$2.8 million in investment earnings. The chart below is a breakdown of the portfolio by types of investments.

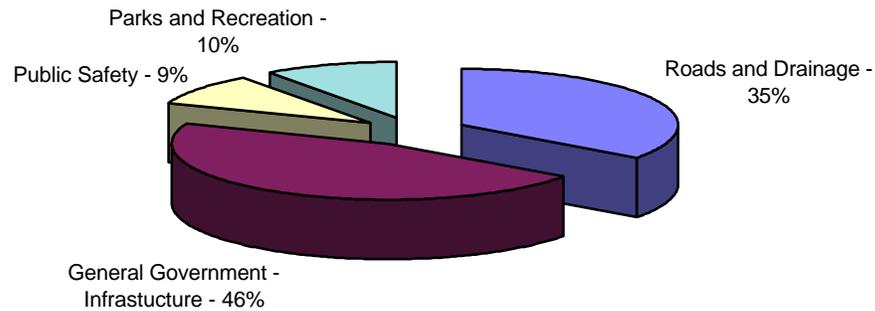
Investments



Local Option Sales Tax

The County levies a one-cent local option sales tax pursuant to County Ordinance 92-10 and Florida Statue 212.055. Revenues are used to provide infrastructure projects, road and drainage improvements, recreation projects, public safety, community redevelopment projects and debt service on bonds and notes related to construction of the before-mentioned items. The chart below represents the types of purchases made during the year ended September 30, 2002.

Local Option Sales Tax



Board Departments

County Attorney - This office provides the Board of County Commissioners and County staff legal representation. This representation is based on two primary activities: legal counsel and litigation. Legal counsel provides legal opinions to Commissioners and staff concerning the legal consequences of proposed actions. This includes reviewing documents, agreements, contracts, disciplinary actions and other matters. Litigation involves representing the County in various judicial and quasi-judicial tribunals, such as administrative hearings, and State and Federal trials.

County Administrator - The mission of the County Administrator's office is to ensure that all County activities are geared toward efficiency, economy and maximum service effectiveness on behalf of the Board of County Commissioners. Under the direction of the County Administrator are the Assistant County Administrator and six major departments. The six major departments include the Office of Public Information and Communications, Office of Human Resources, Administrative Services Department, Office of Purchasing, Public Works and Land Management Agency and the Community Services and Public Safety Agency. These Departments and their divisions are briefly described below.

Public Information and Communications - This office serves as the lead agency with the citizenry and is responsible for developing and implementing internal and external communications strategies to ensure that the Board of County Commissioners' mission, programs, services and initiatives are articulated clearly and consistently to improve the image of Escambia County government and enhance the quality of life of all people in the County. The divisions within this office include Community Relations, Commerce Park Development and Tourist Promotion.

Human Resources - This office manages personnel related programs that enhance employee effectiveness in providing County services to the public. This office also oversees County employee services and benefits.

✿ The **Office of Risk Management** oversees the activities of the Safety and Loss Control office whose responsibilities include risk management, safety programs, coordination with the County's insurance agents and third party administrators, self-insurance program and insurance policy maintenance, and providing a safe and healthy environment to protect County employees and other members of the public to whom the County has such responsibility.

Admistrative Services - This office includes the following departments:

✿ The **Office of Management and Budget** provides professional and municipal finance and budget analyses of various functions under the Board. The responsibilities include developing and researching funding strategies, coordinating, processing and providing

analytical review for the implementation and adoption of the annual budget in accordance with Florida Statutes.

- ✿ The **Office of Property Management** is responsible for properly disposing of County fixed assets and retention and archival of County records.
- ✿ **Contractual Services** provides for contract services through the Civic Center, Escambia County Transit Authority (ECAT) and Public Health Unit which are provided by private corporations or other governmental agencies.

O **ffice of Purchasing** - The centralized procurement function is performed by the Office of Purchasing for all Board of County Commissioners' Departments and Divisions. This office's responsibilities are to obtain the maximum value in services and commodities for tax dollars expended, develop an effective central purchasing program that reduces cost of government and improve the quality and timeliness of services and goods provided to Board Departments.

P **ublic Works and Land Management Agency** - This office provides administrative direction to the departments under its control in order to ensure the most efficient use of available resources and the most effective, integrated delivery of services to the residents, businesses and visitors of the County.

- ✿ **Information Resources** is tasked with the development and maintenance of information technology based on the goals and operating strategies of the County to improve the operations and efficiencies of the County's departments and divisions. Divisions within this department include Administration, Network Services, GIS and Systems Services.
- ✿ The **Road Department** is tasked with all aspects of road, bridge and drainage system maintenance. Divisions include Administration, Fleet Maintenance, Roads and Bridges, Road Prison and Fuel Distribution. The Road Prison provides inmate labor squads to perform road maintenance making it the only work-camp prison in the State of Florida
- ✿ The **Engineering Department** provides quality assurance and quality control for the planning, design, construction operations, inspection and financing of County capital infrastructure improvements. This department is also represented in the County's Development Review Committee (DRC) for the purpose of ensuring minimum standards are applied to facilities and infrastructure proposed for public dedication and private construction of new developments. Divisions within this department include Administration, Construction Management, Plans and Operations, Real Estate Acquisition and Traffic Engineering.
- ✿ The **Growth Management** Department's mission is to implement Board policies and directives related to future growth and development of the County. Many of these policies and directives are enacted as a result of mandates contained in Florida law, which required the adoption of a Comprehensive Plan and Land Development Code. Staff is tasked with implementing policies and administering directives as they relate to growth of the County as a whole and the development of specific parcels. Divisions

within this department include Administration, Development Services and Long Range Planning.

✿ **Building Inspections Department** safeguards the health, safety and welfare of County residents, businesses and visitors by conducting planned inspection services to ensure the integrity of all new structures and major improvements to existing structures built in the unincorporated area of the County and to ensure all residential and commercial construction is in compliance with State and local building requirements. Divisions within the department include Administration, Contractor Licensing and Permitting and Inspections.

✿ **Solid Waste Management** is to serve the County's citizens and businesses by providing environmentally responsible and economical municipal solid waste disposal and recycling services. Divisions within the department include Administration, Engineering and Environmental Quality, Landfill Operations and Recycling.

✿ **Neighborhood and Environmental Services** provides enhanced quality of life by stimulating residential and commercial reinvestments in designated areas and supporting infrastructure improvements; protecting property value and the environment by code enforcement; protecting the health and comfort of citizens and visitors from vector-borne disease; protecting and overseeing the wise use of soil, water, and related natural resources; and the administrative, fiscal and technical support for the planning, design and delivery of quality housing and community developments for the benefit of lower income residents of the County. Divisions include Administration, Community Redevelopment, Code Enforcement, Environmental Quality, Mosquito and Rodent Management and Marine Resources. The department also works in conjunction with the Escambia Soil and Water Conservation District and Neighborhood Enterprise Foundation, Inc.

✿ **Environmental Health** combines State and County funding for public health facilities within the County and is managed by the State of Florida.

Community Services and Public Safety Agency - This office provides administrative direction to the departments under its control in order to ensure the most efficient use of available resources and the most effective, integrated delivery of services to residents, businesses and visitors of the County.

✿ **Facilities Management** provides safe, clean, comfortable facilities and telecommunications systems for Board Departments, agencies and the public. Divisions within this department include Administration, Custodial, DCAT, Maintenance and Telecommunications and Utilities.

✿ **Parks and Recreation** provides quality parks and recreation opportunities to meet the diverse needs of a growing community. Divisions within this department include Administration and Special Projects, Equestrian Center and Operations and Maintenance.

- ✿ **Community Services Department** provides professional social services to eligible participants of Escambia County at the least possible cost. Divisions include Administration, Community Centers and Social and Human Services.

- ✿ **Public Safety Department** has several divisions providing emergency and disaster response and recovery activities for the County. The divisions include Administration, Communications (911), Emergency Management, Emergency Medical Services (ambulance services), EMS Operations (paramedics), Animal Regulation and Control and Fire Services.

- ✿ **Extension Services** educates residents in environmental and natural resources, commercial agriculture, horticulture, home economics, 4-H youth and marine and coastal zone development. Management of this department is provided by both State and County personnel.

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 for 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.

Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) -

This Council is to provide a continuing comprehensive and cooperative transportation planning process for Escambia County.

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.

Value Adjustment Board -

The Board was established to provide the hearing of all petitions, complaints, appeals and disputes concerning taxable pieces of properties.

West Florida Regional Planning Council -

The Council functions as the official regional planning council and as the regional planning agency. Responsibilities include strategic regional policy plans, review local government comprehensive plan amendments, review developmental impacts of the region and intergovernmental coordination and review.

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 the 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
223 Palafox Place
Pensacola, FL 32501-5845

Clerk to the Board - 595-3920

Finance Department - 595-4830

Official Records - 595-3930

Escambia County Office Building

Juvenile Justice - 595-3780

Domestic Relations / Child Support

/ Alimony - 595-3770

2251 Palafox Street

Pensacola, FL 32501-1722

Archives

120 East Blount Street
Pensacola, FL 32501
(850) 595-4146

Juvenile Justice Center

1800 St. Mary's Street
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 Barnhart - District 1
(850) 595-4910

Commissioner Wright - District 2
(850) 595-4920

Commissioner Young - District 3
(850) 595-4930

Commissioner Banjanin - District 4
(850) 595-4940

Commissioner Gilley - 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

470 South Highway 29
Cantonment, FL 32533

Century Branch Office

Billy G. Ward Century Courthouse
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