

# Sales Tax 2026

*January 27, 2026*

*Emily Lewis, Deputy County Administrator*



**CHARLOTTE COUNTY**  
FLORIDA

# History



SALES TAX PROGRAM IN PLACE SINCE  
1994



5 EXTENSIONS



PROVIDED OVER \$686M IN CAPITAL  
FUNDING FOR INFRASTRUCTURE,  
QUALITY OF LIFE AND PUBLIC SAFETY  
PROJECTS

# 2026 Sales Tax Focus Group

## Industry Representatives

Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce

Punta Gorda Chamber of Commerce

Tourist Development Council

Charlotte DeSoto Building Industry Association

Economic Development Partnership

Punta Gorda-Port Charlotte-North Port Association of Realtors

Charlotte County School Board

Charlotte County Airport Authority

Bob White

Sean McLaughlin

Gary Butler

Donna Barrett

Lucienne Pears

Cindy Marsh-Tichy

Mark Vianello

Ray Laroche

# 2026 Sales Tax Focus Group

## Commission Appointees

District 1	Steve Viera
District 2	Lynne Matthews
District 3	Kathi Obendorfer
	R. Eric Axelson*
District 4	Richard Russell (resigned 10/20/25)
District 5	Lawrence Yerger
At-Large	Gary Bayne

\*Note: R. Eric Axelson was appointed on September 9, 2025 to replace the Englewood Chamber of Commerce Representative who resigned from the Focus Group.

# Focus Group Update

Organizational meeting  
to be held August 19,  
2025

Has met 9 separate  
times, reviewed 40  
projects approved by  
the BCC on May 13,  
2025

Project ranking  
scheduled to start  
February 19, 2026



Infrastructure	Estimate
<b><i>Roadway Projects</i></b>	
Harborview Rd Widening (Date Street to I-75)	\$52,452,000
Edgewater Drive Widening – <i>Phase 5</i>	<i>\$41,040,000</i>
Burnt Store Road Area East/West Corridor Connector	\$46,176,000
Taylor Road	\$11,296,000
Bicycle, Pedestrian trails and Sidewalks*	\$7,500,000
<b><i>Total Roads</i></b>	<b><i>\$158,464,000</i></b>
<b><i>Water Quality Projects</i></b>	
Edgewater (Flamingo Blvd. between Samantha and SR 776)	\$10,000,000
Harborview Road (Date Street to I-75)	\$16,300,000
<b><i>Total Water Quality</i></b>	<b><i>\$26,300,000</i></b>

Infrastructure (continued)	Estimate
<b><i>Facilities Projects</i></b>	
Clerk Records Warehouse	\$9,108,000
Fleet Management Building	\$22,675,000
Mid-County Annex	\$42,080,000
Mid County Public Works Operations Facility	\$27,060,000
Babcock Ranch Community Library and Annex	\$27,197,805
<b><i>Total Facilities</i></b>	<b><i>\$128,120,805</i></b>

<b>Public Safety</b>	<b>Estimate</b>
<b><i>Charlotte County Fire/EMS</i></b>	
Fire Station 4 Replacement	\$9,337,000
Fire Station 18 - New	\$9,597,000
Fire Station 19 - New	\$9,597,000
Fire Station 20 - New	\$9,597,000
Fire Station 21 - New	\$9,597,000
Emergency Vehicle Maintenance Expansion	\$2,750,000
<b><i>Total Fire/EMS</i></b>	<b><i>\$50,475,000</i></b>
<b><i>Charlotte County Sheriff's Office</i></b>	
Jail Administration Renovation	\$6,234,000
Warehouse at CCSO HQ	\$6,524,000
<b><i>Total CCSO</i></b>	<b><i>\$12,758,000</i></b>



Quality of Life	Estimate
Bissett Park	
Phase 2 – Restroom replacement, Fishing Pier, Playground and walking path	\$4,500,000
Phase 3 – Recreation Center	\$35,100,000
Centennial Park	
Phase 2 – Master Plan, Sports Courts, Pavilions, Restrooms and additional parking	\$6,800,000
Phase 3 – Integrated water feature, lazy river, additional lap lanes, shade structures and retractable bleachers	\$11,600,000
Recreation Center Renovation	\$7,300,000
Charlotte Harbor Event & Conference Center Parking Garage	\$7,400,000
G.C. Herring Park – Phase 2	\$3,850,000
Charlotte Sports Park Paving Improvements	\$6,800,000

<b>Quality of Life <i>(continued)</i></b>	<b>Estimate</b>
Maracaibo Kidspace Park	\$8,800,000
Myakka River Park – Phase 2	\$8,100,000
Placida Passive Park - Phase 3	\$14,000,000
South County Regional Park Recreation Center Renovation	\$10,800,000
South Murdock Community Park	\$12,800,000
Tringali Community Center Replacement	\$5,600,000
William R. Gaines Jr. Veterans Memorial Park – Phase 3	\$3,300,000
Various Park Renovations*	\$7,300,000
Cultural Center Replacement	\$60,498,000
Grace Street Complex	\$3,000,000
<b><i>Total Quality of Life Projects</i></b>	<b><i>\$217,548,000</i></b>

\*scalable project depending upon funding

Schools	Estimate
School Security and Modernization	\$10,000,000
Career and Technical Education Facilities	\$5,000,000
<b><i>Total Schools Request</i></b>	<b><i>\$15,000,000</i></b>

Two projects reviewed by committee but removed from the list:

- Grace Street Annex
- Taylor Road

# Construction Program

- Conclusion
  - 36 Proposed County projects
  - 2 Charlotte County Public Schools projects
  - exceeds \$594M
  - Projected revenues \$36M annually
  - Duration of program influences tier 1, tier 2

# Discussion and Direction

- Reaffirm project mix
- Equity amongst the geographic areas of the County
- Length of program

# Next Steps

- Upcoming Program Milestones:
  - March 2026: Committee finalizes recommendations
  - April 2026: BCC to determine final project selection and length of program
  - May 2026: BCC Agenda item to approve ordinance for ballot referendum language