

Sales Tax 2026



January 27, 2026

Emily Lewis, Deputy County Administrator

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

Bob White

Punta Gorda Chamber of Commerce

Sean McLaughlin

Tourist Development Council

Gary Butler

Charlotte DeSoto Building Industry Association

Donna Barrett

Economic Development Partnership

Lucienne Pears

Punta Gorda-Port Charlotte-North Port Association of Realtors

Cindy Marsh-Tichy

Charlotte County School Board

Mark Vianello

Charlotte County Airport Authority

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

Infrastructure (continued)	Estimate
<i>Facilities Projects</i>	
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
<i>Total Facilities</i>	\$128,120,805

Public Safety	Estimate
<i>Charlotte County Fire/EMS</i>	
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
<i>Total Fire/EMS</i>	\$50,475,000
<i>Charlotte County Sheriff's Office</i>	
Jail Administration Renovation	\$6,234,000
Warehouse at CCSO HQ	\$6,524,000
<i>Total CCSO</i>	\$12,758,000

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

Quality of Life (continued)	Estimate
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
<i>Total Quality of Life Projects</i>	
<i>\$217,548,000</i>	

*scalable project depending upon funding

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

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