

# Sales Tax 2026

*Prepared for the Board of County Commissioners  
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**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

# Focus Group 2020

- 21 member committee
- Members represented a wide variety of community groups and organizations as well as residents appointed by the BCC
- 11 meetings held
- Reviewed over 30 projects

# Focus Group 2020

## Process:

- Weights for each scoring criteria determined by an average of the group's individual weight suggestions
- Scored each project individually
- Average scores were multiplied by the weights to determine ranking

# Focus Group 2020

## Results:

- Ranking of projects based on scores and weights
- List of recommended projects in two tiers:
  - Tier 1 projects equal the estimated revenue generated by the sales tax extension
  - Tier 2 projects are additional recommendations should funds be available

# Sales Tax 2026

- Approve 2026 focus group membership
- Discuss education budget
- Review County projects to be presented to focus group
- Provide direction if external projects will be considered

# 2026 Sales Tax Timeline

Date	Action
August 12, 2025	Focus Group to convene organizational meeting
March 2026	Focus group to hold final meeting and determine list of projects that will be recommended to BCC
April 14, 2026	BCC to determine: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Length of extension</li><li>• Selection of projects</li></ul>
May 12, 2026	BCC to approve ordinance for ballot referendum

# 2026 Sales Tax Focus Group

Organization	BCC Appointment
Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce	District 1
Punta Gorda Chamber of Commerce	District 2
Englewood Chamber of Commerce	District 3
Charlotte County Tourist Development Council	District 4
Charlotte Desoto Building Industry Association	District 5
Economic Development Partnership	At-Large
Punta Gorda-Port Charlotte-North Port Association of Realtors	
Charlotte County School Board	
Charlotte County Airport Authority	



# Focus Group Process

- Mirror process from 2020
- Organizational meeting to be held late summer 2025
- Independently facilitated or internally facilitated
- Project ranking complete by early spring 2026

# Educational Program

- Speaking engagements
- Signage at past and current projects
- Print Materials
- Media outreach



# Construction Program

- Project Slate developed from Capital Needs
  - Capital Needs > Projected Sales Tax revenues
  - Attention to life-cycle costs, minimal O&M growth
  - Prioritization provided by Focus Group (*tier 1, tier2*)
- Categories
  - Public Safety, Infrastructure, Quality of Life
- Estimates based on current construction estimates
  - Multiplier will be added based on projected construction timeline

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>

# Edgewater Drive Phase 5



- *Widening from Samantha Ave to Hwy776*

# Water Quality Projects



- Utility System improvements and relocations for road expansion projects
- Potable Water
- Sanitary Sewer
- Reclaimed Water



# Mid County Annex

Will provide access to Government Services in centralized location





<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>

# Fire/EMS Projects



- Replacement of #4 and expansion of Emergency Vehicle Maintenance Warehouse
- New stations 18, 19, 20 and 21 to meet growth demands

# CCSO Projects

- Warehouse for essential equipment and resources at HQ



- Renovation of Jail Admin kitchen & laundry facilities to gain efficiencies

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



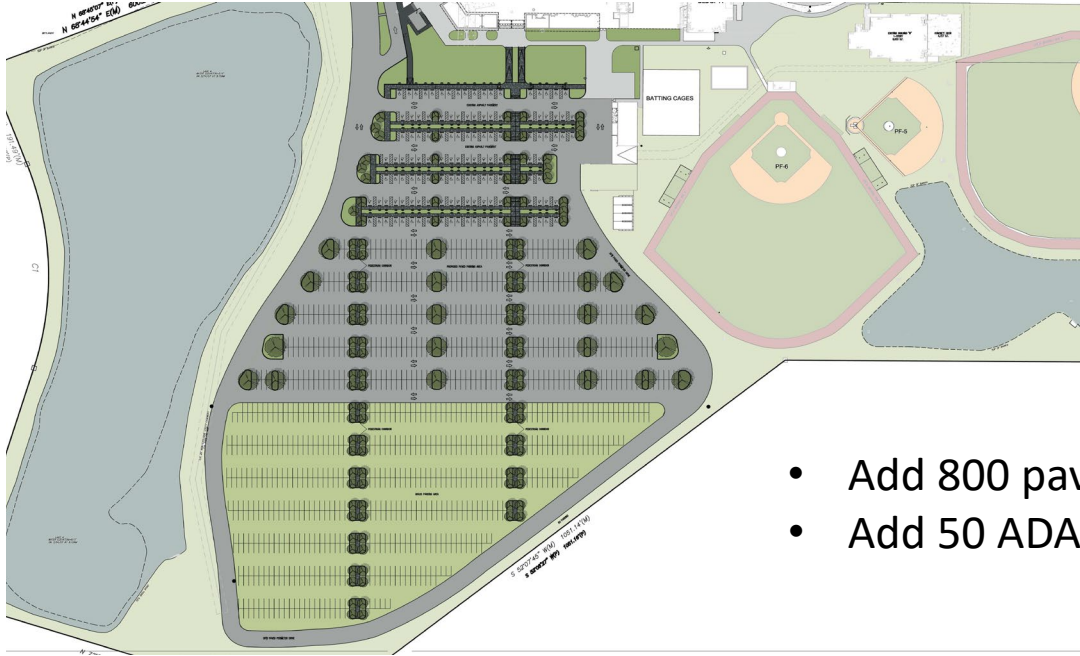
# Bissett Park



- Phase 2 includes walking paths, playground, restroom facilities and 12ft fishing pier
- Phase 3 includes construction of recreation center, fitness rooms and catering kitchen



# Charlotte Sports Park Parking Improvements



- Add 800 paved parking spaces
- Add 50 ADA accessible parking spaces

# Various Park Improvements

Restroom and pavilion replacements at various parks





# Construction Program

- Conclusion
  - 38 Proposed projects
  - exceeds \$593M
  - Projected revenues \$36M annually
  - Duration of program influences tier 1, tier 2
- Prioritization by committee
- Process for adding projects to this list

# External Projects

- Charlotte County Public Schools Request
- Discussion and direction on RFP process for other external projects, if desired
- Committee review and ranking

# Next Steps

- Program Milestones:
  - August 2025: Focus Group Convenes
  - Ongoing monthly or bi-monthly meetings
  - 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