



POLK COUNTY

Board of County Commissioners

2019 Polk Profile





BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
330 W. Church Street
PO Box 9005
Bartow, FL 33831-9005

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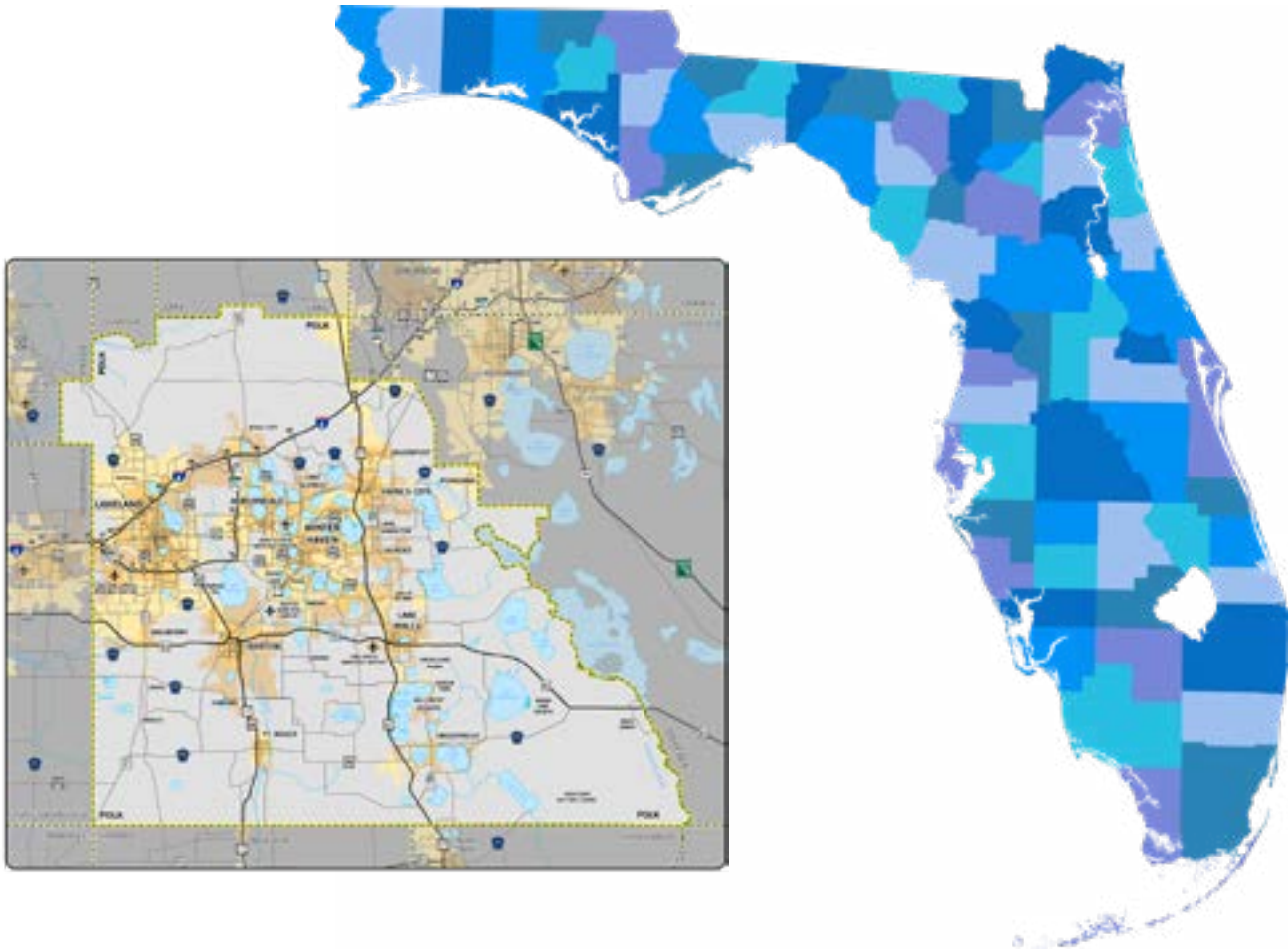


Mission:

We enhance the quality of life for people throughout Polk County.



About POLK



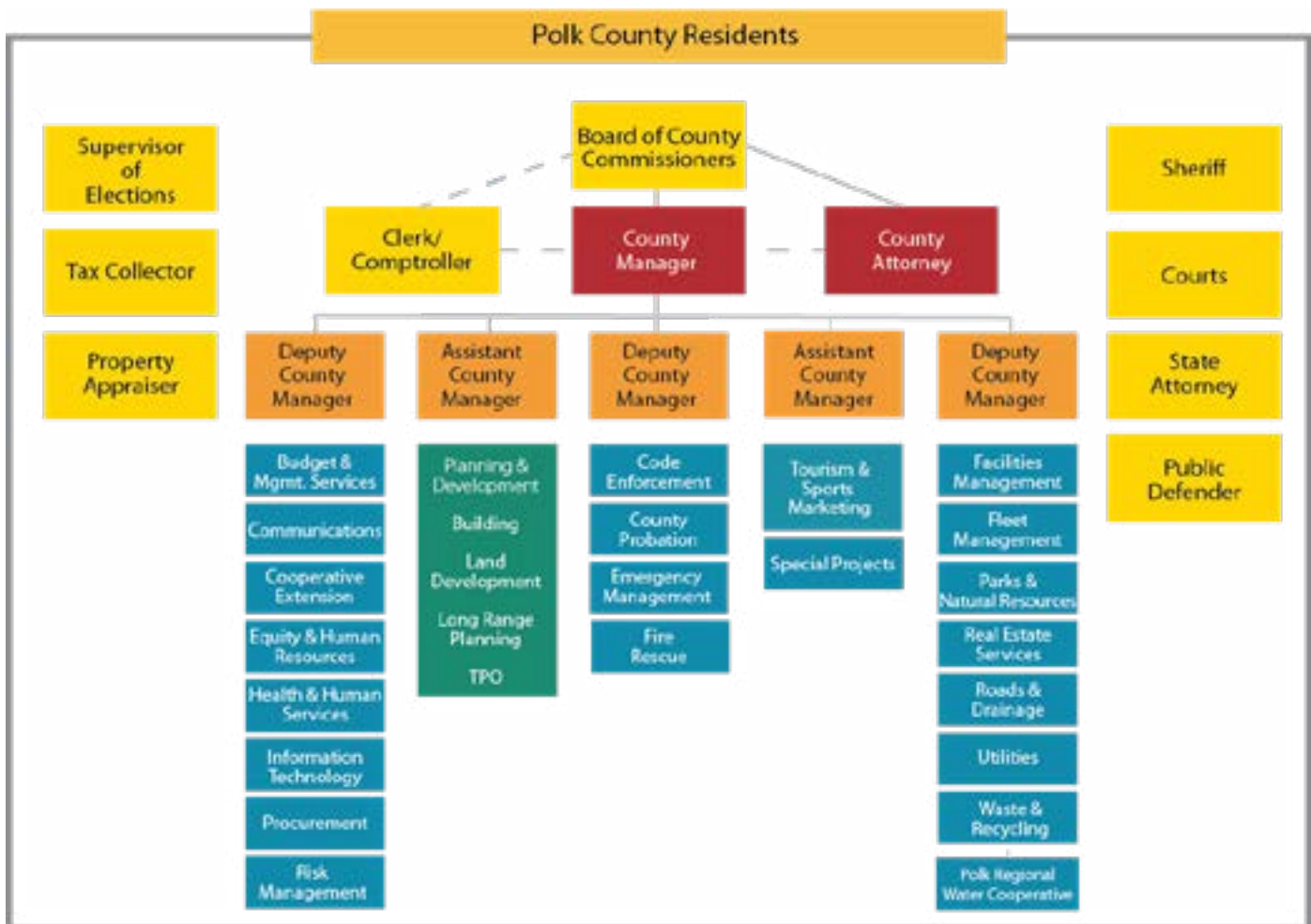
Population - 708,009 (2018 U.S. Census Estimate)
Employed Population 16+ - 300,200 (FL Research Database)
Median Age - 41
Median Household Income - \$45,988

- Polk County represents 3.2 percent of the total population of Florida
- Nine million people and a workforce of 3.5 million are within a 100-mile radius of Polk County
- Polk County has six traditional colleges/universities, including the newest state university, Florida Polytechnic University. Combined, these institutions enroll more than 19,000 students

Total Square Miles - 2,012
Square Land Miles - 1,875
Square Water Area - 135

- Polk County is Florida's fourth largest county and is larger than the State of Rhode Island
- The county has 17 municipalities, the largest being Lakeland and the second being Winter Haven. Other municipalities include Auburndale, Bartow, Davenport, Dundee, Eagle Lake, Fort Meade, Frostproof, Haines City, Highland Park, Hillcrest Heights, Lake Alfred, Lake Hamilton, Lake Wales, Mulberry and Polk City

Our STRUCTURE



Polk County Government...

- Provides fire protection and ALL ambulance services
- Coordinates emergency evacuations
- Enforces housing codes and regulations
- Determines land use and zoning
- Facilitates garbage and recycling collection
- Issues building permits
- Operates county landfill
- Administers affordable housing programs
- Provides health and welfare programs
- Preserves natural eco systems
- Builds, resurfaces and maintains roads
- Assists in developing small businesses
- Supplies drinking water
- Minimizes mosquito population
- Produces Government television (PGTV)
- Builds and maintains parks
- Preserves wildlife
- Provides wastewater collection/treatment
- Stimulates economic development
- Reviews development construction plans
- Offers agricultural education programs
- Initiates countywide clean-up projects
- Recruits sporting events and promotes tourism
- Provides public transportation
- Plans transportation to accommodate growth
- Maintains more than 12,500 street signs each year
- Monitors criminals who are on probation
- And much more!

Charter Government



County Commissioners: (Front) Rick Wilson, District 2; Martha Santiago, District 4; George Lindsey III (Chair), District 1. (Back) John Hall, District 5; Bill Braswell, District 3.

Polk County has a charter government authorized by the Florida Constitution. It may only be adopted by a vote of the local registered voters. It is a means by which local control, home rule and citizen input are enhanced. A county charter is a written document defining the powers, structure and functions of the county. The charter acts as a “mini-constitution” for the people of Polk County.

County government is granted all home rule powers of self-government as approved by the local voters that are consistent with state law.

Some of the key provisions of the Charter:

- Requires that candidates for County Commission reside in the district in which they are running at

the time that they qualify for office, in addition to maintaining residency after being elected

- Ordinances and charter amendments can be proposed by petition of the voters
- Members of the County Commission and the Constitutional Officers may be recalled from office in accordance with state law and the Governor retains the right to suspend or remove any county official from office
- Supervisor of Elections will become non-partisan.

The Charter does not affect city governments. It is not a form of annexation or consolidation. It does not affect the powers or duties of the Constitutional Officers or the School Board.

The State Legislature is the only governing body with the power to create, abolish or consolidate counties. A county cannot change its form of government, such as combining city and county governments, without a referendum.

Board of County Commissioners

The Board of County Commissioners is the governing body of Polk County. Each commissioner is elected by a countywide vote to a four-year term. In the November 2018 election, the Polk County Charter was amended to limit the number of terms to three consecutive four-year terms.

Each of Polk County’s five commissioners represents a county district and must reside in his/her district. Commissioners from districts one, three and five are elected in Presidential election years; districts two and four are elected in the intervening years.

In November, a chairman and vice chairman are elected by the members of the County Commission. The board selects committee chair/liasons who, in turn, work with the county manager and staff to establish Board policies in specific focus areas, such as tourism, community outreach and legislative issues.

They also select citizens to serve on a variety of commissions, boards and councils.

Duties

The Florida Constitution and Chapter 125 of the Florida Statutes authorize the Board of County Commissioners to exercise all powers not prohibited by law. This includes levying taxes, distributing tax monies through budgeting and appropriations, constructing and maintaining roads and bridges, providing health and welfare services, managing all county-owned property, and providing supervision of all county functions and services. County taxes support many of the activities and services of county government, including the justice system, the sheriff, circuit and county court.

The Board meets the first and third Tuesday of the month in the Boardroom of the Administration Building in Bartow. Florida’s “Government in the Sunshine” law requires that all county government business takes place in public meetings and the public be given adequate notice of such meetings. The Board’s agenda is posted before each meeting and is available on the county’s website at www.polk-county.net. Meetings are also televised by PGTV and can also be viewed on the internet at the county’s website.

County Manager

The Board of County Commissioners hires the county manager who is responsible for all the divisions within the county commission, except for the County Attorney’s Office, which answers directly to the Board. The county manager serves as the budget officer and selects, employs and supervises county personnel. In FY 19/20, the county will employ about 2,100 people.

Advisory Groups

Advisory groups play a critical role in Polk County government. State law created some groups, the BoCC created others as advisors in specific areas. County residents are encouraged to participate by expressing a desire to be appointed to these groups or make recommendations for appointments.

Constitutional Officers

Tax Collector
Joe Tedder



Supervisor of Elections
Lori Edwards



Sheriff
Grady Judd



Property Appraiser
Marsha Faux



Clerk of the Courts
Stacy Butterfield





Fire Rescue Services (FY 2018/19)

Stations	46
Employees (Full-time)	568
Assist to Outside Agencies	52
Citizen Assist/Service Calls	1,629
Fire Alarm	2,150
Fire Calls	2,873
Hazardous Conditions	488
Medical Calls	81,472
Other	439
Rescue Call Special Detail	20
Technical Rescue	83
Traffic/Transportation Incidents	8,112
Total	97,697

Source: Polk County Fire Rescue Division



Police Protection-Sheriff (FY 2018/19)

Employees (total)	1,977
Sworn	701
Certified	347
Civilian	690
Total Crimes in Polk County	6,642
Marine/Agriculture Calls for Service	1,809
911 Calls for Service	320,684
Traffic Crashed Investigated	10,919
Calls for Animal Control	36,812
Daily Average Jail Population	2,612
Jail Bookings	29,808

Source: Polk County Sheriff's FY 2019/20 Strategic Plan and Budget



Water and Wastewater Utilities

Water (September 2019)

Plants	36
Connections	68,482
Average Daily Flow Pumped (mgd)	15.112
Average Daily Flow Permitted (mgd)	31.646

Wastewater

Wastewater Facilities	7
Pumping Stations	333
Connections	51,083
Average Daily Treatment (mgd)	6.9
Averaged Permitted Daily Capacity (mgd)	11.609

Public Access Reclaimed Water

Facilities	3
Connections	8,313
Average Daily Reuse Flow (mgd)	5.38
Average Daily Resue Flow Permitted (mgd)	7.515

Source: Polk County Utilities Division

Annual Review FY 2018/19

County Parks

Regional Parks	6
Specialty Parks	52
Neighborhood Parks	28
Community Parks	16
Park Acres	2,864
Lighted Ballfields	83
Lighted Multi-purpose Fields	43
Boat Ramps	50
Boat Ramp Lanes	58
Docks	21

Source: Polk County Parks and Natural Resources Division



Environmental Lands

Acres Acquired	26,194
Land Acquisition Cost	\$110,694,293
Acquisition Partners	\$79,413,108
18 of 32 properties	
County's Land Acquisition Cost	\$31,281,185
Cost of Land Sold to State	\$1,788,965

Source: Polk County Parks and Natural Resources Division



Public Works (FY 2018/19)

Tons of Solid Waste Collected*	655,778
Annual Collections per Household*	52
Households Serviced*	142,140
Annual Curbside Waste Pickups*	7,931,280
Cost per Pick-Up*	\$0.93
Street Miles-Center Lane**	2,765
Street Lights**	2,527
Sidewalk Miles**	440

Sources: Polk County Waste & Recycling Division

Polk County Roads & Drainage Division



Libraries

Number of Libraries	17
Library Materials	916,902
Annual Circulation	2,147,662
Registered Borrowers	368,148

Source: Polk County Library Cooperative



Polk County Trends & Issues

In 2014, post recession, Polk County needed immediate action on funding sources for multiple services to sustain adequate service levels. Long term we needed a fundamental review of our business plan and strategies of county services.

Polk engaged a facilitator and began immediate discussions with the Board and senior staff to determine short-term actions. Over the next five years, staff and stakeholders completed strategic plans for each division.

The context analysis process of Polk County's strategic

plan was to describe the current environment and emerging or potential trends that the organization must address strategically.

There are three parts to the context analysis: key trends, which drive the specific challenges that Polk County is facing, the 12 specific challenges themselves, and various scenarios the could arise from these trends and challenges. All of this valuable information will help the Board determine policy direction to address Polk's rapidly growing population and urbanizing environment.

Seven Key Trends

Seven key trends exist which represent challenges and opportunities for Polk County Government. These trends drive more specific challenges. Understanding these trends is critical for developing effective strategies.



1. Urbanization & population growth

- Most fundamental change driver
- Concentrated north of SR 60
- Three impacts include expansion of services, infrastructure and employees

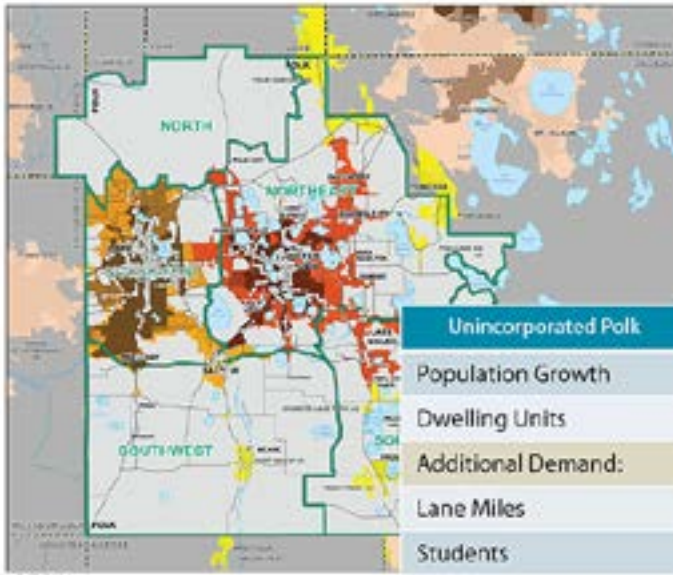
2. Revenue Growth

- 4 to 6.5% annually
- Will it be equal to additional costs?

3. Limitations on Revenue Options

- Legislative preemption

Growth: 4th fastest growing metro in the U.S. in '18



2018
673,028*

2040
Population > 880,000

Unincorporated Polk	N	NE	NW	SE	SW	Growth
Population Growth	3,603	118,109	60,711	19,582	4,622	206,627
Dwelling Units	1,716	56,242	28,910	9,325	2,201	98,394
Additional Demand:						
Lane Miles	0	226	62	36	0	324
Students	669	21,940	11,278	3,638	859	38,384
Fire Calls	756	24,769	12,732	4,107	969	43,333



4. Cost of Operating Government

- Obtain and retain employees
- Acquire technology, tools and supplies
- Regulatory costs
- Internal infrastructure



6. Competition for Skill

- Competitive market for employees
- Visit or use approaches other than employees



5. Rising Costs to the Public

- Inflation
- Increased cost of water



7. Leadership transition

- Board
- Senior management

Countywide Taxable Value



	Population*	Square Miles**	2019 Tax Rolls Taxable Values***	% of Change
Auburndale	16,246	35.58	\$ 1,294,628,314	7.65%
Bartow	19,342	52.38	\$ 734,260,171	9.87%
Davenport	5,602	3.82	\$ 326,683,270	23.41%
Dundee	4,662	11.57	\$ 205,260,453	10.41%
Eagle Lake	2,574	3.80	\$ 94,148,755	18.70%
Fort Meade	5,993	8.48	\$ 113,264,411	5.39%
Frostproof	3,130	19.08	\$ 134,570,577	5.05%
Haines City	24,298	21.04	\$ 1,309,579,759	13.01%
Highland Park	258	1.09	\$ 12,579,372	1.11%
Hillcrest Heights	253	8.70	\$ 14,808,162	20.20%
Lake Alfred	5,950	12.98	\$ 209,369,071	11.21%
Lake Hamilton	1,380	4.10	\$ 85,700,041	6.74%
Lake Wales	105,586	20.20	\$ 774,811,825	5.65%
Lakeland	15,791	74.94	\$ 6,879,175,997	6.67%
Mulberry	3,865	7.11	\$ 214,953,758	7.13%
Polk City	2,088	5.07	\$ 162,781,114	52.52%
Winter Haven	42,828	40.80	\$ 2,588,705,471	9.16%
Unincorporated Polk	413,182	1678.98	\$ 21,893,450,285	6.85%

* Population Source: 2018 BEBR population estimate

** Polk County Information Technology Division

*** 2019 Polk Property Appraiser Tax Rolls