



Immediate Release

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Media Contact

Josh Boatwright, Public Information Specialist, (727) 464-4600

Penny for Pinellas referendum vote is Tuesday, Nov. 7

Citizens can learn about the Penny online at www.pinellascounty.org/penny

- Countywide referendum on Penny for Pinellas 10-year renewal is Nov. 7
- Early voting Oct. 28 - Nov. 5 at Supervisor of Elections offices
- Citizens can learn about the Penny at www.pinellascounty.org/penny

On Tuesday, Nov. 7, 2017, Pinellas County voters will decide on the 10-year renewal of the Penny for Pinellas 1-percent sales tax, which funds long-term, capital infrastructure projects countywide.

Early voting for the countywide referendum runs Oct. 28 – Nov. 5 at Supervisor of Elections offices.

The deadline to request a ballot to be mailed is Wednesday, Nov. 1, at 5 p.m. To request a mail ballot, email MailBallot@VotePinellas.com or call (727) 464-VOTE (8683). Registered voters can also request a mail ballot, find early voting locations and hours as well as other election information at www.votepinellas.com.

The Penny is not a new tax; if renewed, the local sales tax rate in Pinellas County would remain the same.

The renewal referendum is scheduled in advance of the current Penny's expiration at the end of 2019 to provide adequate time to plan for potential projects, which can take several years.

Ahead of the vote, the county has sought broad public input on future Penny projects from thousands of citizens through open house meetings, an online survey and the county's annual Citizen Values Survey.

Based on that input, the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners has approved proposed projects in these key areas:

- **Water Quality, Flood and Sewer Spill Prevention** to enhance water quality, prevent sewer spills and reduce neighborhood flooding
- **Roads, Bridges and Trails**, including lanes, intersections, bridges, sidewalks and multiuse trails
- **Safe, Secure Community** with new fire stations, law enforcement vehicles, emergency shelter space and other public safety projects
- **Preserving Parks and Our Environment** with renovations and enhancements to park facilities and preservation of environmental land
- **Community Vitality** with new or upgraded libraries, community and recreation centers, and land for developing housing that's affordable

The Penny is shared between the county and 24 cities, each of which sets its own priorities for the Penny.

Pinellas County has a variety of informational tools about the Penny available online, including interactive maps of past and future proposed projects, FAQs, videos and more – visit: www.pinellascounty.org/penny.

The county is also sharing information and updates on social media using the hashtag #PennyforPinellas.

Penny Facts

- 1-percent sales tax paid by everyone who spends money in the county
- One-third is paid for by tourists and seasonal visitors
- Not a new tax; the Penny has been in effect since 1990
- The Penny is collected in Pinellas and stays in Pinellas
- Shared between the county and 24 cities
- Funds long-term capital infrastructure projects, such as water quality, flood and sewer spill prevention projects, roads, bridges, trails, parks, environmental land, public safety facilities and other projects that support the local community
- Not collected on groceries and medications; only collected on the first \$5,000 of a single purchase

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