

A photograph of a cypress swamp. The water is calm, reflecting the surrounding trees. Bare cypress trees with their characteristic root structures (knees) are visible in the water. The sky is blue with some white clouds.

Hernando County Budget Discussion



January 13, 2026

Important Dates

FY 2026-2027



- January 30, 2026 Budget Kickoff Meeting
- June 1, 2026 Constitutional Officer's Budgets Due
- July 1, 2026 Certification of Taxable Property Values
- July 30, 2026 Tentative Budget Special Meeting and Maximum Millage Rate
- June Capital Improvement Plan review
- Mid August TRIM Notices Mailed
- September 10, 2026 1st Public Hearing – Tentative Millage & Budget
- September 22, 2026 2nd Public Hearing – Final Millage & Budget
- October 1, 2026 FY 2026-2027 Begins

Administrator Priorities

FY 2026-2027



- Review and update rates/fees being charged to sustain County operations.
- Determine how to maintain current level of service with increased costs, inflation and growth, while also looking for ways to reduce costs for the citizens and increase efficiencies in operations.
- Monitor State Legislation regarding property tax reform, and Federal legislation with regard to funding of initiatives.
- Identify and inform BOCC of unnecessary regulations and operations.

Administrator Priorities

FY 2026-2027



- Inflation - increased cost of services, materials, and products.
- Personnel Expenses - Benefits (FRS, Ins) -Unknown.
- Road Resurfacing - Work towards expanding and funding the road resurfacing program.
- Capital Project needs:
 - County Line Road Widening
 - Ridge Manor Wastewater Plant Expansion
 - Airport Infrastructure for business expansion & relocation

Budget Priorities

FY 2026-2027



- Budget reflective of FY 26 millage rate, should this be increased for new programs and capital projects. Reinvest in road resurfacing and infrastructure.
- Increase funding for road resurfacing.
- Replenish to 25% reserves in General Fund and all other appropriate funds.

Anticipated Revenues



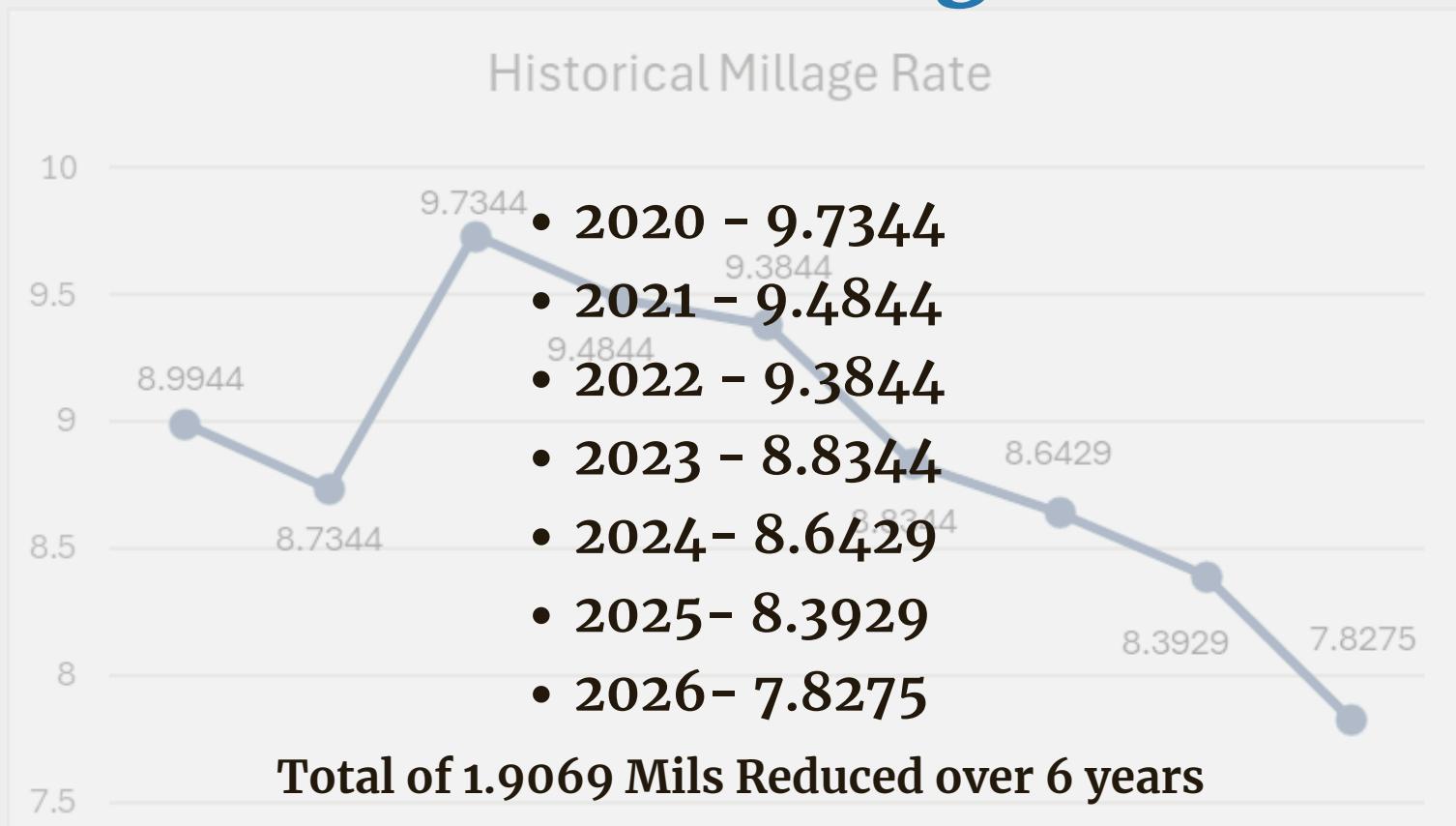
- Increase of Property Values, New Construction and Sales Tax.
- Tourist Tax (Bed Tax) continues to increase.
- Gas Taxes steady.
- Water and Sewer review in process to ensure rates are sufficient
- Stormwater and Health Department sufficient for operations & CIP.
- Fire Impact Fees to be reviewed once study is completed.
- Inmate Revenue Fund – sufficient for Jail operations & partial CIP.
- Fire/EMS rate study being updated to reflect the inclusion of the City.
- Solid Waste – review in process to ensure rates are sufficient for expansion and increased costs.
- Development Services – study to verify rates are sufficient for operations.

Potential Revenues



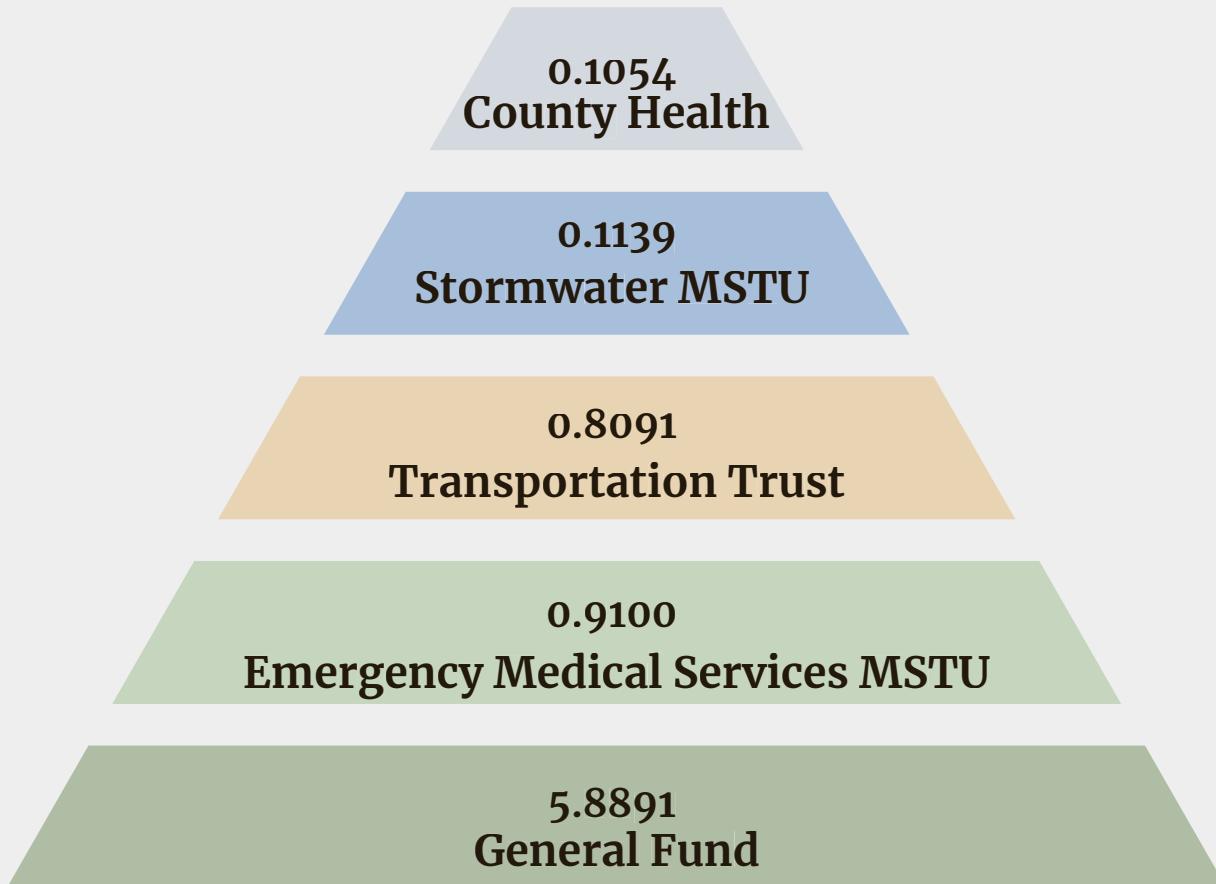
- I75 SR50 PPD Surcharge - not entire service area
- Sales Tax - potential uses

Historical Millage Rate



For a home with a taxable value of \$250,000, the property taxes paid for millage levied by the County decreased by \$476.73 from FY 2020. In FY 2026 there are 14,031 homes with a taxable value of \$250,000 or more.

FY 2025/2026 Millage Overview



Discussion



PER CAPITA TOTAL PROPERTY TAX LEVIES 2024

1	Monroe	\$4,873.55	17	Manatee	\$2,369.91	34	Glades	\$1,601.41	51	Santa Rosa	\$1,088.63
2	Walton	\$4,836.82	18	Saint Lucie	\$2,347.05	35	Hardee	\$1,591.66	52	Jefferson	\$1,056.10
3	Collier	\$3,828.88	19	Saint Johns	\$2,209.22	36	Pasco	\$1,560.82	53	Madison	\$1,052.08
4	Palm Beach	\$3,741.67	20	Flagler	\$2,176.86	37	Lake	\$1,536.23	54	Suwannee	\$1,013.81
5	Martin	\$3,656.86	21	Bay	\$2,025.78	38	Leon	\$1,529.18	55	Dixie	\$929.59
6	Miami-Dade	\$3,361.84	22	Hillsborough	\$1,991.91	39	Hamilton	\$1,494.90	56	Columbia	\$926.44
7	Broward	\$3,067.43	23	Duval	\$1,896.90	40	Taylor	\$1,470.56	57	Bradford	\$918.78
8	Franklin	\$3,061.97	24	Volusia	\$1,876.63	41	Citrus	\$1,458.57	58	Gadsden	\$881.14
9	Gulf	\$2,966.54	25	Osceola	\$1,804.17	42	Marion	\$1,382.69	59	Wakulla	\$868.66
10	Sarasota	\$2,884.84	26	Putnam	\$1,765.46	43	Escambia	\$1,296.39	60	Baker	\$825.14
11	Nassau	\$2,721.28	27	Alachua	\$1,713.68	44	Polk	\$1,295.30	61	Washington	\$778.75
12	Pinellas	\$2,607.02	28	Hendry	\$1,698.11	45	DeSoto	\$1,277.83	62	Calhoun	\$757.03
13	Orange	\$2,601.85	29	Okaloosa	\$1,669.27	46	Hernando	\$1,271.59	63	Lafayette	\$727.64
14	Charlotte	\$2,564.51	30	Seminole	\$1,665.84	47	Clay	\$1,251.60	64	Liberty	\$719.91
15	Indian River	\$2,537.54	31	Okeechobee	\$1,645.69	48	Highlands	\$1,155.25	65	Jackson	\$695.76
16	Lee	\$2,498.43	32	Sumter	\$1,644.36	49	Levy	\$1,134.99	66	Holmes	\$516.83
Statewide		\$2,397.57	33	Brevard	\$1,608.78	50	Gilchrist	\$1,117.33	67	Union	\$415.94

Includes all taxing jurisdictions in each county (counties, cities, school districts and special districts) and uses total county population.

Source: Florida Department of Revenue and Florida TaxWatch, November 2025.