



**Levy County Public Information Strategic Plan Objective 2.3.6:
Present a formal plan to the Board of County Commission for
consideration and possible action on delivering an annual
State of the County.**

August 12, 2024

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Public Information Strategic Plan

The Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) approved the Levy County Public Information Strategic Plan during their March 19, 2024 meeting. This plan was developed to provide a data-driven evaluation of the priorities of the community, the BoCC Members, and the Members of the BoCC Management Team. The identified priorities were used as the foundation for strategic initiatives, goals, and objectives that were designed to guide the work efforts of the new Public Information Officer position through July 2025. The following is a summary of the Public Information Strategic Plan Goals.

2024-2025 Public Information Strategic Plan Goals



Objective 2.3.6

Present a formal plan to the Board of County Commission for consideration and possible action on delivering an annual State of the County.

History of the State of the Union

Each year, before a joint session of Congress, the president fulfills their constitutional duty to "give to the Congress Information of the State of the Union." Presidents George Washington and John Adams delivered their messages in person, but in 1801 Thomas Jefferson chose to send his in writing. That precedent held until Woodrow Wilson decided to deliver his message in person in 1913, a tradition that continues today. Franklin Roosevelt referred to it as the "State of the Union Address," a title that became official during the Harry Truman administration.

The format of the delivery of the State of the Union has evolved with technological advances:

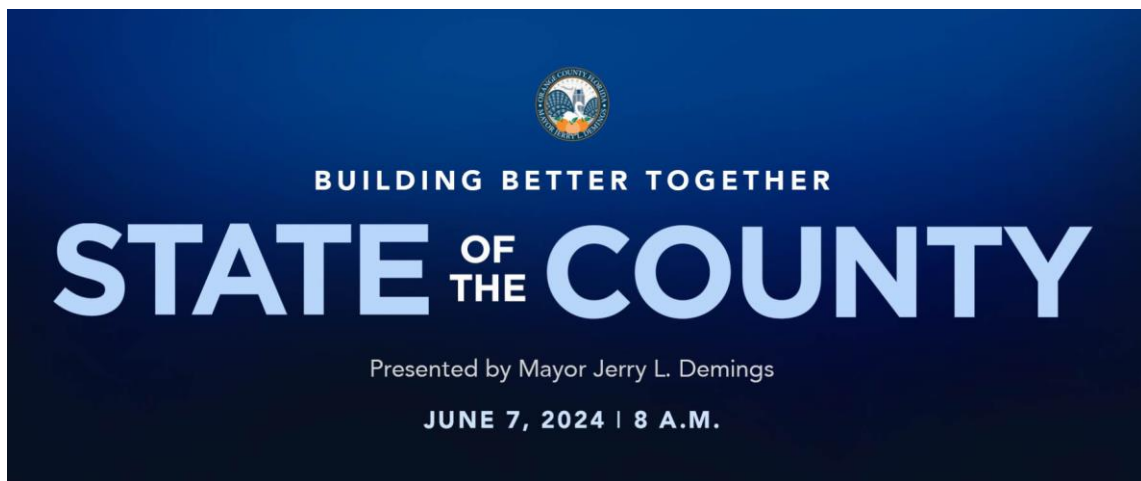
- First radio broadcast of Message: President Calvin Coolidge, 1923.
- First television broadcast of Message: President Harry Truman, 1947.
- First televised evening delivery of Message: President Lyndon Johnson, 1965.
- First live webcast on the Internet: President George W. Bush, 2002.
- First high-definition television broadcast of Message: President George W. Bush, 2004.

Research of State of the County Presentations

Florida Counties have embraced various formats for providing an annual State of the County to their communities. Below are samples of some of the more common formats.

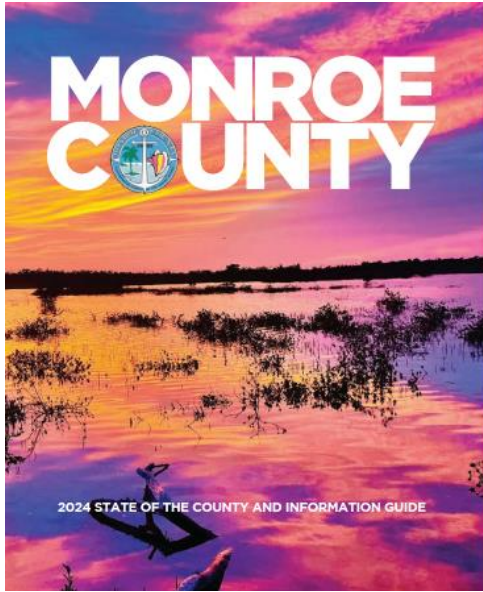
Formal Presentation: Orange County

Orange County's State of the County was delivered as a formal presentation by the Mayor at the Orange County Convention Center. The Mayor highlighted the County Government's accomplishments and challenges over the past year and emphasized its strategic public, private, and philanthropic partnerships that have fostered a community culture of building better together. The 2024 State of the County presentation lasted approximately an hour and a half and can be viewed at the following link.



<https://www.orangecountyfl.net/BoardofCommissioners/Mayor/StateoftheCounty.aspx>

Written Report: Monroe County



According to the Monroe County website, “Monroe County's Public Information Office publishes a State of the County and Information Guide, which summarizes the accomplishments of Monroe County government for the past year and outlines the plans and goals for the upcoming year.

In addition to Monroe County government departments, the report includes information for local, state, and federal agencies in the Florida Keys; the responsibilities and contact information of the five Constitutional Offices; and contact information for a variety of government agencies, utilities, schools, and more in the Florida Keys.”

Excerpts from the report are included below. The Monroe County State of the County can be viewed at the link below.

OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT & BUDGET (OMB)
www.monroecounty-fl.gov/budget

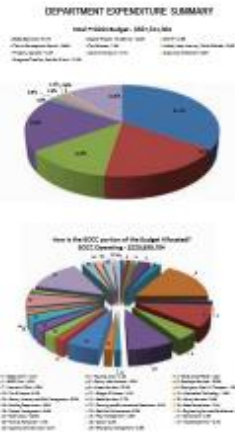
OMB provides effective development and implementation of Monroe County's budget; protects efficient, sound financial management; ensures governmental procurement regulations are followed countywide; facilitates financially responsible grant funding; and maintains the highest standards of ethics, integrity, and prudent expenditure of public funds.

THE DEPARTMENT IS MADE UP OF THREE OFFICES:

- OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET (OMB)**
 - Develops, publishes, implements, administers and monitors annual operating and capital budgets.
 - Provides financial analysis and revenue and expenditure forecasting.
 - Performs multi-year budget forecasts, analyzes the effect of the State budget on the County budget, and prepares financial information in collaboration with Monroe County departments for the Board of County Commission and the public.

Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24) Adopted Budget
The Monroe County Board of County Commissioners finalized the FY24 \$627 million budget in September 2023. The budget includes the Board of County Commissioners, the constitutional officers, like the Sheriff's Office, Tax Collector, Property Appraiser, Supervisor of Deeds, and Clerk of Court, and other departments for the Tourist Development Council, capital projects, and revenues.

DID YOU KNOW?
For FY24, the BOCC approved \$2.2 million in property tax increases to 30 nonprofit human service organizations that provide needed services to vulnerable residents of Monroe County.



2023 BY THE NUMBERS

- Held 57 bid openings
- Processed or waived: 2,897 regular requests, 40 disaster requests, 112 disaster-related evictions, and \$99 purchasing card transactions
- 39 out of 65 - Hurricane Irma projects in the close-out process and 17 Hurricane Ian projects are in development or obligated.
- Assessed 163 public records requests through the County Attorney's office



FY24 GRANT FUNDING HIGHLIGHTS
HSAB: \$2,203,225 (30 organizations)
BOCC Direct Line-Items: \$175,797
SAMH/ Baker Act: \$818,291
Fall In House Substance Abuse Treatment Program (IIP): \$304,432



+ HSAB: \$2,203,225 (30%)
+ SAMH: \$818,291 (23%)
+ BOCC DIRECT LINE-ITEMS: \$175,797 (5%)
+ IIP: \$304,432 (9%)
Grand Total=\$3,871,790

FY24 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS
Countywide millage rate: 2.7151 or \$271.91 per \$100,000 of value, the lowest in Florida again. Reflects a property value increase with a total taxable value of \$41.2 billion, another historical high. Property values have doubled in the past 10 years.

2. PURCHASING OFFICE
Provides quality purchasing, procurement, and contracting support to all County departments in a timely, cost-effective, professional manner while following a strict code of ethics that promotes fair and open competition.

3. GRANTS ADMINISTRATION
Oversees the funding for competitive, discretionary, and mandatory grant programs funded by the BOCC. The BOCC awarded approximately \$3.5 million in grants designed to promote the well-being of vulnerable families, children, and individuals who live in Monroe County through nonprofit organizations. Other responsibilities include facilitating meetings for the Human Services Advisory Board (HSAB) and Substance Abuse Policy Advisory Board (SAPAB) and for application implementation and monitoring of the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant programs, and the Clerk's Drug Abuse Trust Fund.

Funds higher operational costs like CNA-based increases for vendor contracts, higher cost of fuel, supplies, and materials, higher utility and property insurance costs, and higher personnel costs.



1) www.monroecounty-fl.gov/bud
2) www.monroecounty-fl.gov/bud

Service Director
Tina Boon
306-290-4462
tboon@monroecounty-fl.gov
Employees: 10
Budget: \$6.2 million (includes \$1.9 million operating, \$1.3 million employee housing, and \$3.5 million in nonprofit funding)

South Florida Ad Valorem Tax Comparison FY2024 Countywide Services - Per \$100,000 of Value

The budget is effective from Oct. 1, 2023 to Sept. 30, 2024. The FY25 Budget timeline will be posted at www.monroecounty-fl.gov/calendar when announced.

<http://www.monroecounty-fl.gov/525/State-of-the-County>

Video Production: Marion County

Marion County produced a 31-minute video based on the theme of the movie *Top Gun* for the State of the County. The video can be viewed at the link listed below.



<https://www.marionfl.org/our-county/state-of-the-county>

Board of County Commission Decision

Levy County Public Information Strategic Plan Objective 2.3.6 is to “Present a formal plan to the Board of County Commission for consideration and possible action on delivering an annual State of the County.” By submission of this report, the Goal has been achieved. The following is suggested for Board consideration:

1. Is the BoCC interested in delivering an annual State of the County?
2. If the Board desires to deliver an annual State of the County, a determination should be made as to:
 - A. What format will the State of the County be delivered – Presentation, Written Report, Video, or something else?
 - B. When is the BoCC interested in initiating the annual State of the County – October at the start of the fiscal year, November when new commissioners take office, January at the start of the calendar year, or during another time of year?

Staff Recommendation

Considering the available staff resources in Levy County, a reasonable start to an annual State of the Union presentation could be a written report presented at a public meeting. The public presentation would celebrate the year’s accomplishments, while a written report could serve as a reference to the community and explain the county’s organizational structure and department accomplishments.

The annual State of the County address could evolve into a more elaborate presentation in future years.