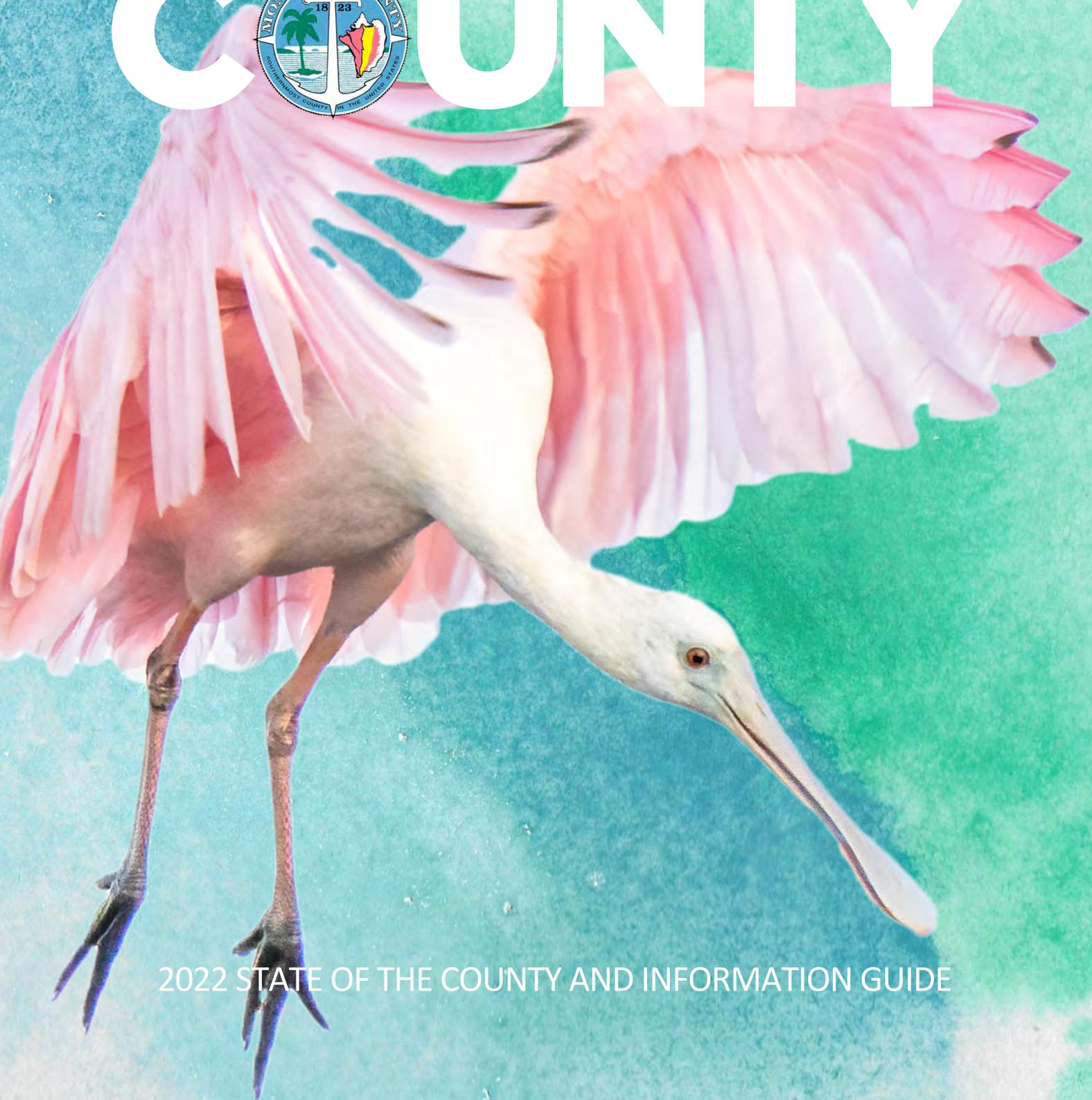


MONROE COUNTY



2022 STATE OF THE COUNTY AND INFORMATION GUIDE

Table of Contents

- 2 Table of Contents, County Statistics
- 3 Message: Administrator Roman Gastesi
- 4-5 County Organizational Chart/Senior Staff
- 6 Directory Board of County Commissioners
- 7 Tribute to Mike Forster
- 8 Stay in the Know About Monroe
- 9 Airports: Key West & Marathon
- 10 Budget & Finance
- 11 Purchasing & Grants Management
- 12 Building and Permitting
- 13 FEMA Flood Map Changes, CRS
- 14 Code Compliance, MCeSearch
- 15 Planning & Environmental Resources
- 16 Fire Rescue, Trauma Star
- 17 Fire Marshal, Training, ARFF
- 18 Emergency Management & Hurricane Prep
- 19 COVID-19
- 20 Employee Services
- 21 Employees of the Quarter
- 22-23 Engineering & Roads
- 24 Fleet Management
- 25 Facilities Maintenance & Public Works
- 26-27 County Parks & Beaches, Boat Ramps
- 28-29 Project Management
- 30 Legislative Affairs: Federal
- 31 Legislative Affairs: State
- 32 Social Services
- 33 Information Technology/MCTV
- 34-35 Solid Waste & Recycling
- 36 Strategic Planning
- 37 Libraries
- 38 Sustainability
- 39 Canal Restoration
- 40 Veterans Affairs
- 41 County Attorney
- 42 Extension Service & Guardian Ad Litem
- 43 TDC & Council of the Arts
- 44-45 Land Authority
- 46-47 County Historic Properties & Museums
- 48-49 Citizen Boards & Committees
- 50-51 Constitutional and District Officers
- 52 Municipalities & State Partners
- 53 Federal Partners
- 54 Local Quick References & Animal Control
- 55 Message: Mayor David Rice

Monroe County Statistics

82,874

Population
2020 U.S. Census

Approx. 84.9
people per
square mile .4
percent of
Florida's
Population

Area:

3,738

Square Miles
(73 Percent Water)

Islands:

1,783

of 1 acre or larger

Established: 1823

County Seat:
Key West

Districts: 5

\$70,033

Median Household Income

4,768

Number of Employment
Establishments

7.6%

Unemployment
Rate

48.4

Median Age

Average
Commute to
Work: **18.4**
minutes

Number of Registered
Boats: **24,244**

*(Statistics courtesy of
census.gov, edr.state.fl.us, and
flhsmv.gov)*

Monroe County is the southernmost county in the continental United States and consists of the entire Florida Keys chain, the surrounding waters, and a mostly uninhabited region of Everglades National Park and Big Cypress National Preserve on the mainland.

The 2022 Monroe County State of the County and Information Guide was produced by Public Information Officer Kristen Livengood with the help of Monroe County's Senior Management Team.

Cover photo by Kristie Killam, Park Ranger for the Florida Keys National Wildlife Refuges Complex, of a Roseate Spoonbill migrating through the Florida Keys in 2021.



Looking Ahead

2021 was a challenging year for Monroe County. With all the tribulations that Monroe County has endured, our commissioners and staff have continued the forward press to enhance the quality of the lives of our

citizens, business owners, and visitors. There is nothing more important to us than the health, safety, and wellbeing of our residents and visitors as we spent the last two years learning how to adapt. I am honored to serve as Monroe County Administrator for the past 15 years, and I am proud of our residents, commissioners, and 579 Monroe County employees.

Emergency Management continues its partnership with the Monroe County Florida Department of Health, community partners, and the municipalities for COVID-19 and its various strains, in addition to activating for two tropical storms in 2021. Information Technology is diligently automating services for residents, including the new permitting system, which will go live in 2022. Engineering and Roads were busy with bridge projects on Duck Key, significant road improvements in Key West, and roads elevation projects throughout the County. Solid Waste supported on-site collection on Duck Key to accommodate bridge closures, while Monroe County saw an increase in all areas of debris management.

The Office of Sustainability and our County Commissioners continue to lead the country in climate change and sea-level rise adaptation conversations. The County is committed to continuing the Roads Vulnerability Analysis and Capital Plan for County-maintained roads, which has recommendations to help maintain access to homes in unincorporated Monroe County to the year 2045. Canal restoration efforts are also in full force, supporting the health of our nearshore waters. Strategic Planning held town halls gathering new community feedback and reaffirming safety on U.S. 1 as a number one priority. And, unincorporated Monroe County received one of the best ratings in the country for coastal communities in the Community Rating System, saving flood insurance policyholders millions of dollars annually in the Florida Keys.

Facilities Maintenance always strives to maintain the highest cleaning standards at County-maintained properties and buildings, and with the hiring of a director for the newly created Parks and Beaches, Monroe County's open spaces will continue to thrive for residents and visitors. Project Management completed capital projects at the Marathon library and Cudjoe Key fire station, and a Plantation Key Courthouse grand-opening will be happening in early 2022. On the brink of a major renovation project, Key West International Airport hosts six airlines offering 21 nonstop destinations and hub airport connections. In 2021, the airport served more than one million passengers, the most it's ever seen.

Legislatively, the County secured \$26 million from the legislature, most of that in Stewardship funding – the most we have ever seen – while continuing to push for the funding to be placed in the annually allocated Land Acquisition Trust Fund. This year, the Governor has it listed, and we have high hopes that it will stay, securing money for the Florida Keys environment for years to come. Budget and Finance advocated for reimbursements of COVID-19 and storm-related expenses while producing and administering the \$457.3 million FY22 budget.

Monroe County Fire Rescue and Trauma Star continued to provide a record number of lifesaving services and flights to the mainland, all while transporting our residents with no out-of-pocket costs. Fire Rescue graduated its fourth “Hot Shots” class, waiving tuition fees for residents at its fire training academy, and secured SAFER grant funding to hire new firefighters to protect people and property in the Florida Keys. Social Services, Veterans Affairs, and Guardian ad Litem advocated for our most vulnerable residents, many of whom are in even greater need during the pandemic. And, the Extension Service guided residents in gardening, sustainability, and other vital Florida Keys resources.

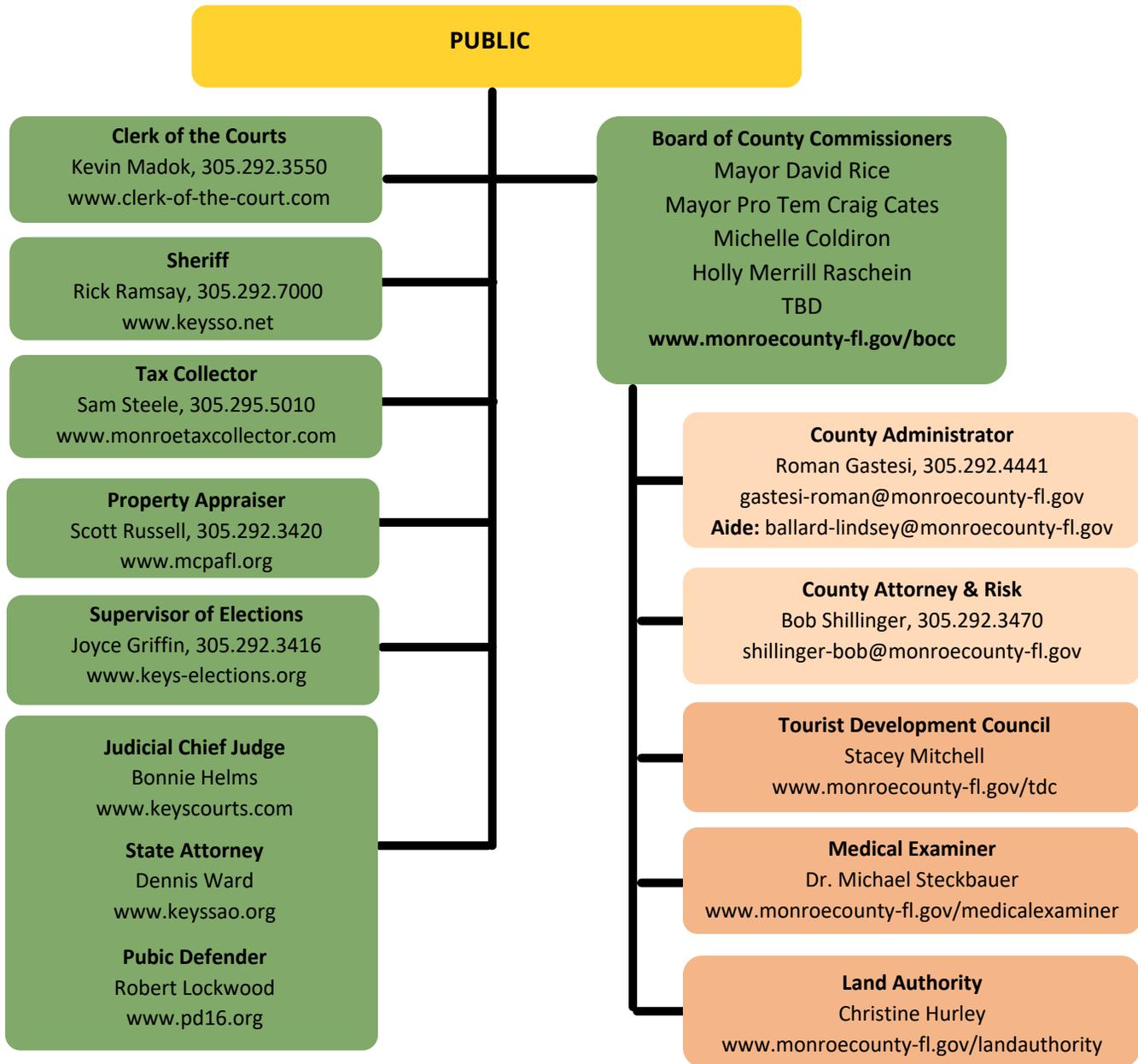
From Ocean Reef to Key West, Planning and Environmental developed new ROGO criteria and re-implemented mobile marine sewage pump-outs to protect our marine environment. Code Compliance focused on illegal vacation rentals, unsafe structure abatement, and illegal clearing of our critical habitat. Fleet continued maintenance of county vehicles. Employee Services worked with local hospitals to ensure employees and locally insured residents had access to in-network emergency room care. The County Attorney's office reviewed 1,306 documents, including 44 ordinances and 490 resolutions. The County's five libraries were awarded a \$1 million grant, the greatest amount awarded to a Florida library, to update technology. The library system also had its biggest year on record, reaching over 64,000 e-circulation by the end of 2021.

Our purpose remains steady; Monroe County is committed to creating a better life, every day, for everyone in the Florida Keys. In 2022, Monroe County will continue to have open and courageous communication with our community. We will be here for you. This is a community we can all be proud of, and we will continue to strive to make our island home a safe and enjoyable place to live, work, and play.

Cheers in paradise,

Roman Gastesi
Monroe County Administrator





Monroe County Organizational Chart

The County Administrator, Roman Gastesi, has the overall responsibility for the daily operations of Monroe County's government, with the exception of the Constitutional offices. The Constitutional Officers are elected by the public and include the Clerk, Sheriff, Tax Collector, Property Appraiser, and Supervisor of Elections. The County Administrator, County Attorney, Land Authority, Medical Examiner, and Tourist Development Council are appointed by and answer directly to the Board of County Commissioners.

The County Administrator and his Assistant County Administrator, Kevin Wilson, oversee the County's 24 departments and offices that cover a broad range of services and activities.

Pictured: Wilson receives his Years of Service Award from 2021 Mayor Michelle Coldiron at a BOCC meeting.





Monroe County Senior Staff Directory

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/directory

Assistant Administrator Kevin Wilson, 305.453.8788, wilson-kevin@monroecounty-fl.gov

Engineering & Roads Judith Clarke, 305.295.4390, clarke-judith@monroecounty-fl.gov

Facilities Maintenance William DeSantis, 305.292.4532, desantis-william@monroecounty-fl.gov

Fleet Daryl Greenlee, 305.292.3452, greenlee-daryl@monroecounty-fl.gov

Project Management Cary Knight, 305.292.4527, knight-cary@monroecounty-fl.gov

Solid Waste & Recycling Cheryl Sullivan, 305.292.4536, sullivan-cheryl@monroecounty-fl.gov

Airports Richard Strickland, 305.809.5210, strickland-richard@monroecounty-fl.gov

Budget & Finance Tina Boan, 305.292.4470, boan-tina@monroecounty-fl.gov

Building & Permitting Rick Griffin, 305.289.2521, griffin-rick@monroecounty-fl.gov

Code Compliance Cynthia McPherson, 305.289.2508, mcperson-cynthia@monroecounty-fl.gov

Employee Services Bryan Cook, 305.292.4558, cook-bryan@monroecounty-fl.gov

Emergency Management Shannon Weiner, 305.289-6018, weiner-shannon@monroecounty-fl.gov

Extension Services Alicia Betancourt, 305.292.4501, betancourt-alicia@monroecounty-fl.gov

Fire Rescue Steven Hudson, 305.289.6004, hudson-steven@monroecounty-fl.gov

Guardian Ad Litem Alexa Leto, 305.292.3485, leto-alexa@monroecounty-fl.gov

Information Technology Alan MacEachern, 305.453.8792, maceachern-alan@monroecounty-fl.gov

Parks & Beaches John Allen, 305.504.4581, allen-john@monroecounty-fl.gov

Planning & Env. Resources Emily Schemper, 305.289.2500, schemper-emily@monroecounty-fl.gov

Social Services Sheryl Graham, 305.292.4510, graham-sheryl@monroecounty-fl.gov

Veterans Affairs Cathy Crane, 305.295.5150, crane-cathy@monroecounty-fl.gov

Legislative Affairs Lisa Tennyson, 305.292.4444, tennyson-lisa@monroecounty-fl.gov

Sustainability Rhonda Haag, 305.453.8774, haag-rhonda@monroecounty-fl.gov

Strategic Plan & Libraries Kimberly Matthews, 305.292.4540, matthews-kimberly@monroecounty-fl.gov

Public Information Officer Kristen Livengood, 305.680.8226, livengood-kristen@monroecounty-fl.gov

Board of County Commissioners (BOCC)

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/bocc



**MAYOR
DAVID RICE**
District 4 9400
Overseas Highway,
#210 Marathon, FL
33050;
305.289.6000
boccdis4@monroecounty-fl.gov



**MAYOR PRO TEM
CRAIG CATES**
District 1
500 Whitehead
Street, Suite 102 Key
West, FL 33040;
305.292.3440
boccdis1@monroecounty-fl.gov



**COMMISSIONER
MICHELLE COLDIRON**
District 2
243 Key Deer Blvd
Big Pine Key,
FL 33043;
305.292.4512
boccdis2@monroecounty-fl.gov



**COMMISSIONER HOLLY
MERRILL RASCHEIN**
District 5
102050 Overseas
Highway, Suite 234 Key
Largo, FL 33037;
305.453.8787
boccdis5@monroecounty-fl.gov

**COMMISSIONER
TO BE ANNOUNCED**
District 3
530 Whitehead
Street, Suite 102 Key
West, FL 33040;
305.292.3430
boccdis3@monroecounty-fl.gov

Aides:

Tamara Lamarche
Lamarche-Tamara@monroecounty-fl.gov

Amanda Leggett
Leggett-Amanda@monroecounty-fl.gov

Jennifer Garcia
Garcia-Jennifer@monroecounty-fl.gov

To Be Announced

Corie Abel
Abel-Corie@monroecounty-fl.gov

CONSTITUTIONAL ESTABLISHMENT

Article VIII, Section 1(e) of the Florida Constitution states that except when otherwise provided by county charter, the governing body of each County shall be a Board of County Commissioners composed of five members serving staggered terms of four years.

After each decennial census, the BOCC shall divide the County into districts of contiguous territory as nearly equal in population as practicable. One commissioner residing in each district shall be elected by the voters.

Mission

To enhance quality of life by providing outstanding public service responsive to the needs of our citizens, our unique community and our environment.

Vision

Creating a Better Life Every Day for Everyone in the Florida Keys



MONROE COUNTY BOCC MEETINGS

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/meetings

The BOCC holds monthly meetings that are open to the public. The dates and agendas are posted on the website. Meetings start at 9 a.m. Due to the geographical challenge of the 100-mile island chain, the meetings are held on a rotating basis at three sites. The BOCC also holds public budget meetings and other special meetings during the year.

**Murray Nelson
Government
& Cultural Center**

102050 Overseas
Highway, Key Largo
305.852.7161

**March, June,
September,
December**

**Marathon
Government Center**

2798 Overseas
Highway, Marathon
305.289.6036

**January, April, July,
October**

**Harvey Government
Center**

1200 Truman
Avenue, Key West
305.295.4385

**February, May,
August, November**

Remembering Commissioner Mike Forster



“It is with an extremely heavy heart that we have lost our beloved colleague. Mike passionately gave his all to the Florida Keys. He fed everyone with food, with love, with encouragement, with positive words, and with hugs. He considered us all one Keys family. Mike never said, ‘we can’t do it,’ but always ‘let’s figure out how we can.’ He passionately fought for all to have a quality of life to sustain living in the Keys with housing, fair wages, and protection of the environment. He showed his love for the Keys environment and people with all of his heart and soul. Rest in Peace, my friend.”

- Monroe County Commissioner Michelle Coldiron



Stay in the Know About Monroe

There are several ways to stay up-to-date with County government

MONROE COUNTY WEBSITE

www.monroecounty-fl.gov

Find the Board of County Commissioners, the budget, all County departments, County projects, County parks and museums, legislative advocacy for the Keys, permitting rules, hurricane preparedness and relief, links to department emails and phone numbers, and more.

HURRICANE INFORMATION

www.monroecountyem.com

Information Hotline: 800.955.5504
(activated for emergencies)

Sign up for ALERT!Monroe:
www.monroecountyem.com/alertmonroe

 /MonroeCountyEM

MONROE COUNTY SOCIAL MEDIA

 /MonroeCountyBOCC

 @MonroeCounty

 @monroecountybocc

 flickr.com/monroecountybocc

Monroe County Fire Rescue:

 /monroecountyfirerescue

Key West Airport:

 /KWIAEWY

 /eyw_kwia

Guardian Ad Litem:

 /galflkeys

Monroe County Libraries:

www.keyslibraries.org

Sign up to receive County news releases directly to your email at

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/notifyme.

You can also sign up for custom calendars and alerts for meeting notifications for specific boards or advisory committees, bid notifications, employment openings, and more.

PUBLIC RECORDS

The County Attorney's Office manages the County's responsibilities under Florida's Public Records Act. Requests can be submitted at www.monroecounty-fl.gov/publicrecordsrequest.

Additional information on Public Records can be found on page 41.

MONROE COUNTY TV (MCTV)

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/mctv

Comcast: Channel 76, AT&T U-Verse: Channel 99, ROKU, Amazon Fire TV, Online & Mobile Applications (iOS, Android)

Information Technology (IT) operates MCTV, the in-house government television station that covers regular and special meetings of the BOCC, including Planning Commission, Code Enforcement hearings and other live, pre-recorded, and original content. MCTV also covers local election coverage, approaching weather and emergency information, video bulletin board, and NOAA weather audio. See more on MCTV on page 33.

Public Information Office

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/publicinformation

The Public Information Officer's (PIO) primary responsibility is to provide accurate and timely information to the public and media about the actions, policies and public meetings of the Monroe County Board of County Commissioners and the County's 24 departments. The PIO also provides the primary information for the County's Emergency Management and Fire Rescue.

Responsibilities include:

- Writes and distributes news releases
- Maintains the County's official social media communications
- Creates content and maintains the official websites of Monroe County, Monroe County Fire Rescue, and Monroe County Emergency Management
- Responds to questions from residents and the media
- Arranges press conferences, ceremonies, and public meetings
- Works with state, federal and other local government entities to ensure County residents receive information about programs and opportunities.



Public Information Officer:

Kristen Livengood

305.680.8226

[Livengood-Kristen](#)

[@monroecounty-fl.gov](https://www.monroecounty-fl.gov)

Employees: 1

FLORIDA KEYS MUNICIPALITIES

Islamorada:

www.islamorada.fl.us

Key Colony Beach:

www.keycolonybeach.net

Key West:

www.cityofkeywest-fl.gov

Layton:

www.cityoflayton.com

Marathon:

www.ci.marathon.fl.us

CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS

Sheriff's Office: www.keysso.net

Supervisor of Elections:

www.keys-elections.org

Clerk of Court:

www.clerk-of-the-court.com

Tax Collector:

www.monroetaxcollector.com

Property Appraiser:

www.mcpafl.org



Key West International & Florida Keys Marathon International Airports

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/airports or www.eyw.com



Director: Richard Strickland
305.809.5210
Strickland-Richard@monroecounty-fl.gov
Airport Employees: 20
On-Site Fire Rescue: 13
On-Site Sheriff's Office: 25
Budget: \$55.4 Million



Monroe County owns and operates two airports: Key West International Airport (EYW) and Florida Keys Marathon International Airport (MTH). The airports are self-supporting Enterprise Funds, which uses airport resources to provide for the operational and financial needs through budgeted fees and charges levied to airport users and tenants with based operations at the airports. Additional funding is acquired through various Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) grant funding programs. The department oversees all services at the airports from landscaping to air service development, and all requirements for the safe and efficient operation of the airports. The diverse staff of professionals work to consistently ensure that all regulatory requirements, planning efforts, and passenger and operators' needs are being met. Both of Monroe County's airports are FAA certified under the Federal Aviation Regulation (FAR) Part 139 standards for Certification of Airports conducting commercial operations. The airports play a vital role in the community's transportation network in lessening roadway congestion, enhancing the economic foundation, and offering convenient travel options for residents and visitors alike.

Key West International Airport's Master Plan: The airport has developed projects focused on enhancing the passenger experience and efficient flow of aircraft operations. Recently completed projects include an upgraded baggage handling system, departure hall renovations, the rehabilitation of Taxiway A and the reconfiguration of the Airport's access road. Additional efforts currently underway include the following:

[Concourse A - Design and CMAR](#)

[Fuel Farm Access Roadway](#)

[Taxiway A Bypass Taxiway](#)

Key West International Airport (EYW)

Key West International Airport served more than one million passengers in 2021 on flights from Delta, American, United, JetBlue, Allegiant, and Silver Airlines. Together, the airlines operating from EYW provided nonstop flights to destinations including, Atlanta, New York, Newark, Chicago, Charlotte, Dallas, Washington D.C., Ft. Lauderdale, Orlando, Sanford, Tampa, Miami, Philadelphia, Boston, Houston, Indianapolis, Nashville, Cincinnati, Asheville, St. Petersburg, and Dulles. With convenient one-stop connections at these hub airports, the airlines offer service to nearly every major destination around the world.

The airport supports numerous based and transient general aviation aircraft. Last year, EYW handled approximately 33,000 general aviation aircraft operations and pumped more than 3.5 million gallons of aircraft fuel. General aviation services and all aircraft fueling is provided by the Fixed Based Operator (FBO): Signature Flight Support, www.signatureflight.com, 305-296-5422.

- **Total Land Area:** 334 Acres
- **Elevation:** 3 feet above sea level
- **Runway:** 9-27, 5,076 x 100 feet
- **Average Commercial Flights Per Day:** 60
- **Based Aircraft:** 25

Key West airport has a unique history due to its compact size and strategic geographic location. Originally called Meacham Field, the airport had its first scheduled flight in 1928 and was used during WWII by the United States Army.

Florida Keys Marathon International Airport (MTH)

Marathon airport provides private aeronautical, emergency, business, and ground transportation services to the Middle Keys. The airport houses Florida Keys Mosquito Control District, Monroe County Sheriff's Office, and Trauma Star operations. In 2021, the airport had nearly 48,000 total aircraft operations.

General aviation services and aircraft fueling is provided by Marathon General Aviation, 305.743.4222; www.marathonga.com and Marathon Jet Center, 305.743.1995; www.marathonjetcenter.com.

- **Total Land Area:** 197 Acres
- **Elevation:** 5 feet above sea level
- **Runway:** 7-25, 5,008 x 100 feet
- **Based Aircraft:** 65

Marathon airport completed several improvement projects in 2021 including the rehabilitation of the terminal interior and security light replacement. Additional ongoing projects include the terminal roof and HVAC replacement and T-hangar rehabilitation to be completed in 2022.

Marathon Airport Manager: Michael Legere 305.289.6302, Legere-Michael@monroecounty-fl.gov

Budget & Finance

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/budgetandfinance

The mission of the Budget and Finance Department is to provide effective development and implementation of Monroe County's budget; promote efficient, sound financial management; ensure governmental procurement regulations are followed countywide; facilitate financially responsible grant funding; and maintain the highest standards of ethics, integrity, and prudent expenditure of public funds. **The Budget and Finance Department is made up of three offices:**



Senior Director: Tina Boan
 305.292.4467
Boan-Tina@monroecounty-fl.gov
 Employees: 11
Budget: \$5.1 Million
 (includes \$3.5 million for nonprofit funding that the department manages).

1. OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

The Office of Management and Budget develops, implements and monitors annual operating and capital budgets, and provides financial analysis and revenue and expenditure forecasting. It performs multi-year budget forecasts, analyzes the effect of the State budget on the County budget, and prepares financial information for the Board of County Commission and the public.

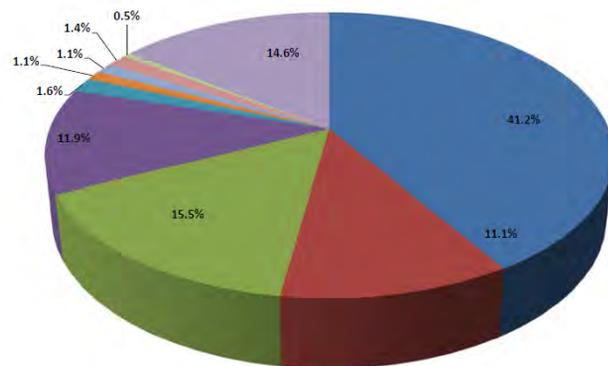
- Collaborate and consult with Monroe County departments to develop the annual operating and capital budgets.
- Publish, administer and monitor all Monroe County budgets; provide financial analysis, multi-year forecasting, and financial reporting.

FY22 Adopted Budget

The Monroe County Board of County Commissioners adopted the Fiscal Year 2022 budget and millage rate reflecting a property value increase with a total value exceeding \$32 billion, a historic high. The budget assumes an economic return of 2019 revenue levels with modest growth and includes return to pre-COVID-19 operational levels with Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation increases for vendor contracts, state-mandated retirement rates, higher cost of fuel and materials, increased utility costs, vehicle replacements, and modest salary adjustments. The budget focuses on continued stabilization of fund balances which has shown prudent to financial resilience during Hurricane Irma and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Total FY22 Budget - \$457,311,773

- BOCC Operating - 41.2%
- Capital Projects, inc Debt Svc - 11.1%
- Sheriff - 15.5%
- Tourist Development Council - 11.9%
- Tax Collector - 1.6%
- Judicial, State Attorney, Public Defender - 1.1%
- Property Appraiser - 1.1%
- Clerk of the Courts - 1.4%
- Supervisor of Elections - 0.5%
- Budgeted Transfers, Cash Bal & Resv - 14.6%



South Florida Ad Valorem Tax Comparison FY21 Countywide Services-Property with \$500,000 Taxable Value¹



¹ Source: Florida Department of Revenue: Comparison of Property Taxes Levied

The county-wide certified millage rate adopted by the BOCC for Fiscal Year 2022 is 1.4 percent above the rolled-back millage rate from 2.4586 to 2.6149. Ad valorem taxes collected overall will be \$107.09 million, which includes direct funding of \$1.398 million to fund the Florida Department of Health in Monroe County. The Monroe County Board of County Commissioners adopted the fiscal year (FY) 2022 \$457,311,773 budget on Sept. 15, 2021. The certified aggregate millage rate is 3.3748 which is 5.43% over the rolled-back millage rate of 3.2009. The budget includes the Board of County Commissioners, the constitutional officers (sheriff, supervisor of election, clerk of court, property appraiser, tax collector, judicial sector, state attorney and public defender), the Tourist Development Council, capital projects, and reserves.

The budget is in effect from Oct. 1, 2021 through Sept. 30, 2022.

2. PURCHASING OFFICE

The Purchasing Office provides quality purchasing and contracting support to all County departments in a timely, cost-effective, professional manner while following a strict code of ethics.

- Provides high quality, best value purchasing and procurement activities to maximize the purchasing power of public funds and promote fair and open competition.
- Ensures governmental procurement regulations are followed county-wide.
- Provides procurement support in a timely and professional manner to all County departments.

Purchasing administers the requisition-to-purchase order process, purchasing card program and disaster-related procurement and payments. In 2021, the department successfully held 55 bid openings via Zoom, and processed or verified: 873 regular requisitions, 25 disaster requisitions, 140 disaster-related invoices, and 329 purchasing card transactions. In addition, it secured 18 payments from FEMA and the State for Hurricane Irma work, and answered 207 public records requests through the County Attorney's office.

In addition, the department collaborated with the Clerk's office and other county departments on the conversion and implementation of the new finance platform Workday. The Workday conversion integrated the County Procurement Card program, allowing processes to streamline electronically.

3. GRANTS ADMINISTRATION

The Grants Administration Office oversees the funding for competitive, discretionary and mandatory grant programs funded by the BOCC. The BOCC awards approximately \$3.5 million each year in grants designed to promote the well being of vulnerable families, children, and individuals who live in Monroe County. Though this grant program does not provide personal financial assistance, it does provide funding opportunities to a variety of local nonprofit organizations.

The Grants Administration Office applies for and administers some pass-through grants and oversees contracts related to discretionary and mandatory nonprofit grant awards that are distributed by the County. Other responsibilities include facilitating meetings for the Human Services Advisory Board (HSAB) and Substance Abuse Policy Advisory Board (SAPAB). The department is also responsible for application implementation and monitoring of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement Residential Substance Abuse Treatment, Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant programs, and the Clerk's Drug Abuse Trust Fund.

HSAB GRANT CYCLE:



For more information about Grants Administration programs, visit www.monroecounty-fl.gov/hsab and www.monroecounty-fl.gov/sapab.

Hurricane Irma Recovery

as of 11/30/2021

\$37.8 Million

Federal and State Public Assistance Reimbursement

- **Obligation review complete on all projects**
- **87% of expenses have been reimbursed through Public Assistance Reimbursement and Insurance Proceeds**
- **\$3.8 million in repairs have been made to our parks, beaches and other recreational facilities**

For Fiscal Year 2022, the BOCC approved \$2,050,000 in ad valorem property tax revenues be awarded to 30 nonprofit human service organizations that provide needed services to vulnerable residents of Monroe County.

The BOCC awards grants to nonprofit organizations meeting human needs through an interdisciplinary knowledge base, focusing on prevention and remediation of problems and maintaining a commitment to improving the overall quality of life of service populations who live in Monroe County. The board is charged with the responsibility of reviewing the grant applications and recommendations for grant awards.

Building and Permitting

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/building

The Building Department, in coordination with the Planning and Environmental Resources Department, protects public health, safety, and the environment by providing effective permitting for construction and development in accordance with Monroe County Code and the Florida Building Code, consistent with Florida Statutes. The Building Department coordinates permitting with other departments to ensure consistency with the Monroe County Comprehensive Plan and Land Development Code.

Monroe County Codes can be found at www.monroecounty-fl.gov/codes.

- Provides plan review, permitting, and inspection services for compliance with the Florida Building Code, the Monroe County Code, and all other life safety codes.
- Coordinates unsafe structure abatement with the Code Compliance Department and the Office of the County Attorney.
- Provides contractor registration and licensing and testing programs.
- Provides staff support for the Contractor's Examining Board and the Construction Board of Adjustment and Appeals.
- Provides coordinated administration and enforcement of County's Floodplain regulations, pursuant to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) regulations, including management of the County's Community Rating System (CRS) that saves flood insurance policyholders on their premiums annually, and Flood Compliance Programs.
- Works with FEMA to review new floodplain regulatory mapping.
- Explores options on how to monitor the safe occupation of existing structures in Monroe County.
- Develops guidelines and criteria for minimum requirements for structures four stories or more, built prior to Jan. 1, 2000, with some exemptions. There are 23 properties identified in unincorporated Monroe County, all located in the Upper Keys, that fit the criteria.

PERMITTING

Permits are required in unincorporated Monroe County for the following:

- site preparation, including land clearing, placement of fill, and excavation
- demolition
- tie-downs of habitable structures
- signs
- fences
- sheds
- any new construction and remodeling work of principal and accessory structures
- all work in the electrical, mechanical, and plumbing trades
- all work subject to the County floodplain management requirements
- resource extraction
- any work involving life safety

There are certain residential exceptions for several of these categories. Contact the Building Department with specific questions.



Building and Permitting

Building Official: Rick Griffin

305.289.2521

[Griffin-Rick@](mailto:Griffin-Rick@monroecounty-fl.gov)

monroecounty-fl.gov

Employees: 49

Budget: \$6 million

PERMIT OFFICES

Key Largo: Murray Nelson
Government Center
10205 Overseas Hwy
305.453.8800

Marathon:
Government Center
2798 Overseas Hwy.
Suite 300
305.289.2501

Big Pine Key:

Big Pine Library
213 Key Deer Blvd.
305.289.6310

Stock Island:

5503 College Road
Suite 203
305.295.3990

Ocean Reef:

11601 CR 905, Key Largo
305.453.8765



FEMA FLOOD MAP CHANGES

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/floodmaps

The County received preliminary Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) floodplain maps in 2019 that demonstrate newly modeled recommended regulatory elevations and risk areas for wave action. Current County zones include AE, VE, and X zones. New zones, like the Coastal AE zone, were added to the maps, and now include a boundary that shows a LiMWA zone, where waves can also be expected to impact the strength of structures. Per Florida Building Code, structures in a Coastal A zone are also required to be constructed strong enough to withstand wave action.

The elevation and coastal boundary are used to determine where finished floors or structural elements must be constructed to withstand wave action during a flood. These maps are currently being reviewed by County staff and technical consultants before FEMA establishes new map boundaries.

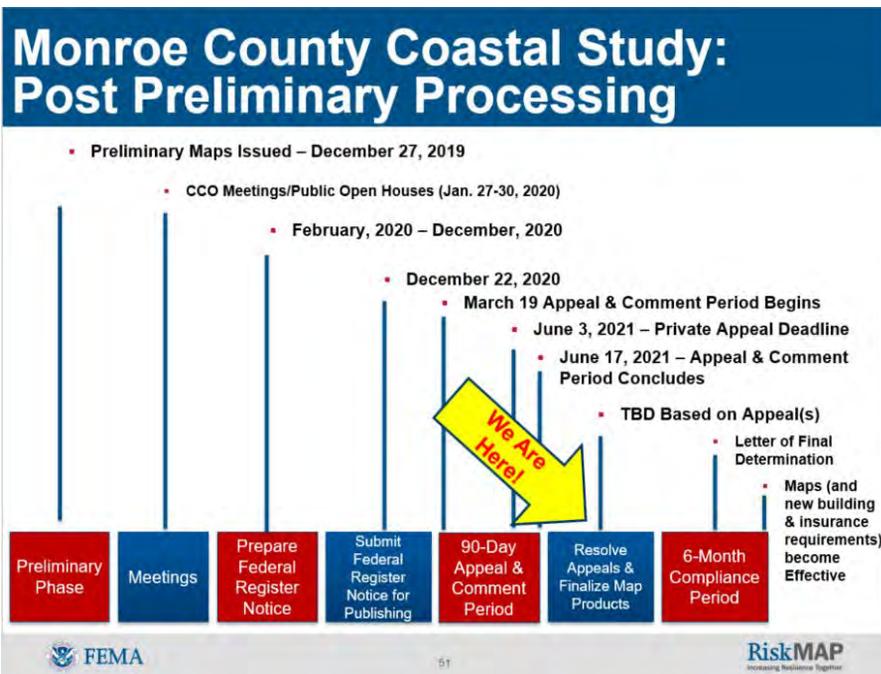
In January 2020, FEMA held Community meetings throughout the Keys, offering the public an opportunity to view and comment in person on the proposed PRELIMINARY Flood Insurance Rate Maps. Following this, Monroe County, through its Consultant, examined the maps and the accompanying Flood Insurance Studies provided by FEMA.

Monroe County completed the initial phases of the Map Review and Adoption Process. The Appeal and Comment Period ran from March 19 to June 17, 2021. No private appeals were filed. During the course of the County's review, the consultants decided to appeal the FIRMs and the data they were based on. The County submitted its appeal to the updated FIRMS on June 14, 2021. FEMA is currently reviewing Monroe County's appeal and documentation. FEMA will respond at a date to be determined. Once FEMA reviews and processes the County's Appeal, the final FIRMs will likely become effective in late-2022/early-2023.

At this time, the county is required to formally adopt the maps by ordinance and for residents to be eligible for the National Flood Insurance Policy. The maps will be used when reviewing permits to establish finished floor elevation and determine building and site design requirements to reduce future risk of flooding. New lender requirements may go into effect along with flood insurance requirements, as well as changes in flood insurance rates as a result of map changes.

All new FEMA mapping elevations will be done in a different datum (NAVD88). Staff will be available to assist the public in understanding how these proposed changes will impact each property owner.

For more information, email: floodmaps@monroecounty-fl.gov.



FLOOD INSURANCE REMINDER

If you are eligible for flood insurance, the Board of County Commissioners urges homeowners to purchase a flood policy now even if you are self-insured or in an X Zone. Under today's existing rules existing flood policies can be grandfathered in and can be assumed by future buyers.

COMMUNITY RATING SYSTEM (CRS)

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/crs

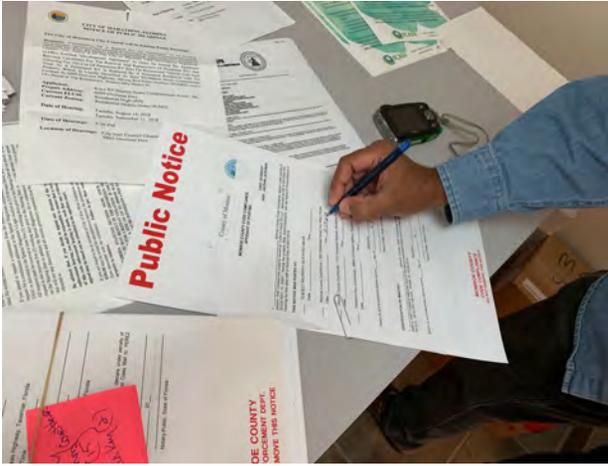
Unincorporated Monroe County learned this year that while in the process to move from a CRS class 5 to a class 4 designation, it qualified for a class 3 designation saving flood insurance policyholders hundreds of dollars yearly.

Achieving a preliminary Class 3 rating in the CRS will increase annual savings to flood insurance for 14,400 policyholders in unincorporated Monroe County to \$7.5 million dollars annually in April 2022. There will be an annual average savings of \$522 per policyholder.

Monroe County will be the only class 3 in a coastal community. There are only two other class 4 designated counties in Florida.

Annually, brochures are sent to homeowners identifying flood risks.

The County entered the CRS program in 2017. Cumulatively to date, the County has saved policyholders approximately \$22 million.



Code Compliance

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/codecompliance

Code Compliance provides an equitable and effective method of enforcement of building, zoning, land development, environmental and other County codes to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Monroe County. The department establishes working partnerships with neighborhoods and outside agencies to assist with compliance.

MCESEARCH

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/mcesearch

The interface allows the public to review the status and information on permits, inspections, search local licensed contractors, see code compliance cases, and review property information for unincorporated Monroe County. The website is a single point access search tool. Permit and code compliance searches can be done by the owner's name, address of property, permit or case numbers, real estate numbers, or inspector. Contractors can be found in a general "all" search, or by company name, category, license numbers, or contractor ID.



Director: Cynthia McPherson
 305.289.2508
McPherson-Cynthia@monroecounty-fl.gov
 Employees: 19
 Budget: \$1.9 million

In 2021, the Florida legislature passed House Bill 60: A person designated as a code inspector may not initiate an investigation of a potential violation by an anonymous complaint. A person who reports a potential violation of a code or an ordinance must provide his or her name and address to the governing body of the respective board of county commissioners before an investigation occurs. This does not apply if the code inspector has reason to believe that the violation presents an imminent threat to public health, safety, or welfare or imminent destruction of habitat of sensitive resources.

Code Compliance performs field inspections and investigates complaints relating to ordinance violations.

- Prioritizes safety violations related to unsafe structures, work without permits, land clearing, sewer connections, and vacation rental violations based on elected official goals for compliance
- Coordinates removal of abandoned vehicles/vessels, trash and debris, and maintenance of overgrown lots
- Issues Courtesy Notices for less extreme violations and/or Notices of Violation, with emphasis placed on voluntary compliance, but if a property owner doesn't respond, Code Compliance will proceed with enforcement measures to achieve compliance
- Provides assistance and information to Special Magistrate and the public regarding Monroe County Code of Ordinances
- Coordinates litigation efforts with the County Attorney's Office
- Provides collections of fines/liens related to violations
- Coordinates with the real estate industry during the sale of property with violations or fines

By the Numbers

1,036

new cases in 2021

\$2.2 Mil

totaled collections of fines, costs, and after-the-fact fees.

1,537

closed cases in 2021

15,378

Conducted inspections

Specialty inspectors:

- Vacation Rental
- Wastewater Connection
- Land clearing
- Unsafe Structures

Six General Code Inspectors:

- Address complaints/violations
- Work without permits
- Abandoned vehicles and watercraft
- High grass and weeds
- Trash and debris

Other positions include:

- Collections facilitator
- Research analyst
- Liaison to the special magistrate
- Administrative personnel

Cases include work without permits, unsafe structures, land clearing, trash and debris, abandoned vehicles/watercraft, wastewater connections, collections/new liens and mitigation.

CODE COMPLIANCE ISSUE:

Online: www.monroecounty-fl.gov/codecomplaintform

In-person or by phone:

Murray Nelson Government

Center: 305.453.8806

Marathon Government Center:

305.289.2810

Presented
627 cases
 before the
 Special
 Magistrate

Planning and Environmental Resources

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/planning

The goal of the Planning and Environmental Resources Department is to foster sustainable, quality development in the County, while conserving and promoting stewardship of the County's fragile environment, and the unique character of the diverse island communities. The department is responsible for the administration of the adopted Monroe County Year 2030 Comprehensive Plan and Land Development Code through the review of all development proposals for compliance with these plans.

The department's functions are handled by the following offices:

THE PLANNING OFFICE reviews all development proposals for compliance with the comprehensive plan, including community character, growth management provisions and environmental compliance; and processes amendments to the Comprehensive Plan and Land Development Code based on changing conditions and applicant requests. The Department's services also include transportation planning, administration of the County's affordable housing programs, and Geographical Information Systems (GIS) administration for both the Department and other County entities as needed. **Email** Cioffari-Cheryl@monroecounty-fl.gov.

GIS develops, maintains and disseminates geographic data and GIS resources to enhance county functions and provides resources making geographic data available to the public. The GIS Office is also an integral component of the new FEMA flood mapping plans and remapping district lines after the Census. **Email** Davidsson-Bryan@monroecounty-fl.gov.

RATE OF GROWTH ORDINANCE (ROGO)

In 2012, based on hurricane evacuation clearance time modeling and Monroe County's status as an Area of Critical State Concern, the State of Florida mandated that no more than 1,970 new housing unit permits (ROGO permits) be issued within unincorporated Monroe County through the year 2023. Based on the evacuation modeling, this total number of housing units brings the Florida Keys up to its required maximum 24-hour evacuation clearance time. The incorporated municipalities within the Florida Keys also have limited ROGO permits to issue.

In 2020, staff processed amendments to the Comprehensive Plan to extend the time frame for issuance of the remaining permits an additional three years, through 2026, in order to leave time to consider the next hurricane evacuation model, which is planned to occur following the 2020 US Census. Results of the next hurricane evacuation clearance time modeling are expected in 2022.



Senior Director:
Emily Schemper
 305.289.2500
Schemper-Emily@monroecounty-fl.gov
 Employees: 35
 Budget: \$5.8 million

ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES conducts the review of applications for compliance with environmental regulations, such as habitat identification, landscaping, stormwater, land clearing, and FEMA required review of potential endangered species impacts under the Permit Referral Process. Staff work to protect the sensitive environment and endangered species of the county, in coordination with state and federal environmental agencies. In addition, this office works in coordination with the Monroe County Land Authority, the Land Steward, and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection on land acquisition initiatives for conservation and retirement of development rights. **Email** Roberts-Michael@monroecounty-fl.gov.

MARINE RESOURCES works to protect the nearshore marine environment, ensure public water access, and provide waterway infrastructure for the recreational boating public. The Office manages Boating Improvement Funds and secures marine-related grants, which are used to remove derelict vessels, maintain channel markers, and provide for pump-out service throughout the Keys. The Office also develops boating regulations in coordination with FWC for boater safety as well as anchoring and mooring management. **Email** Hitchins-Celia@monroecounty-fl.gov.

2021 HIGHLIGHT

Monroe County's Marine Resources Derelict Vessel Program removes an average of 60 derelict vessels each year in partnership with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) Division of Law Enforcement and pre-qualified marine contractors. In 2021, Monroe County facilitated the removal of 80 derelict vessels from public waters in the Florida Keys. The total spent on removals in 2021 was \$468,611. Removal of these vessels results in significant safety improvements in recreational boating access and recovery of sensitive marine habitats.



To report a derelict vessel, contact the FWC Division of Law Enforcement at 888-404-FWCC.



Fire Chief Steve Hudson
305.289.6005
Hudson-Steven@monroecounty-fl.gov
Employees: 151
Budget: \$25 million

Monroe County Fire Rescue

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/firerescue

Monroe County Fire Rescue (MCFR) operates nine fire stations located throughout the Florida Keys from Tavernier to Key West International Airport and Trauma Star air ambulance bases in Marathon and at Lower Keys Medical Center. The certified firefighters are cross-trained as paramedics, flight medics, emergency medical technicians (EMT's), and Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting personnel (ARFF).

Responsibilities include:

- Fire suppression
- Aircraft Emergency Response (ARFF)
- Advanced emergency medical response and transportation (air and ground)
- Fire prevention and safety education
- All-hazards disaster preparedness
- Countywide firefighting and EMS training
- In-house fleet services for all fire rescue vehicles and airport operations partnership with KWIA.

Calls for service in 2021 included structure fires, woodland fires, brush fires, trash fires, vehicle fires, marine/boat fires, gas leaks, water-related rescues, vehicle extrication calls, hazardous material spills, aircraft incidents, and medical emergency calls. MCFR experienced a 30 percent increase in medical call volume from 2020.

MCFR wants to provide the public with the best services possible. A Customer Satisfaction Survey is available on the Fire Rescue website.

By The Numbers

4,309

medical emergency calls via ambulance & Trauma Star

1,246

patients airlifted to out-of-county hospitals

1 out of 3: Trauma Star air transports are related to heart attacks, strokes, traffic accidents, and trauma related incidents.

Trauma Star

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/traumastar
305.289.6010

Trauma Star is the only air ambulance service in Monroe County. It is jointly operated by Monroe County Fire Rescue and the Monroe County Sheriff's Office. Trauma Star has bases in Marathon and Key West staffed with Sheriff's Office pilots and MCFR flight nurses and flight paramedics around the clock and ready to launch at a moment's notice. Trauma Star's primary mission is to provide emergency helicopter transportation for individuals who are critically ill or injured either by natural causes such as heart attacks or strokes or by other causes such as a vehicle crash or other traumatic event. Trauma Star also provides inter-facility transport of critical patients to out-of-county hospitals for specialty care when ordered by a physician.



No Out-of-Pocket Costs for Monroe County Residents

There are no out-of-pocket costs for County residents who use Trauma Star. In the past, private air ambulances in the Keys have charged County residents tens of thousands of dollars in out-of-pocket costs for transport to mainland hospitals. If you qualify for the resident fee waiver, Monroe County will seek reimbursement from any private insurance companies, however any remaining unpaid fees will be waived. The waiver form can be found on the Fire Rescue website.



On May 11, 2021, Firefighter Herve Thomas of Big Pine Key died unexpectedly in the line-of-duty. Our deepest sympathies are with his surviving wife Nicole and daughter Naima.

Fire Prevention

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/firemarshal

Fire Prevention provides services that help eliminate fires and work to prevent accidents from happening, including inspections of businesses and multi-unit residences for compliance with the Florida Fire Prevention Code. The department provides building construction plan review, definitive fire cause investigation, life safety code enforcement, occupancy inspections, and outreach and education, especially to children. Inspection checklists for commercial properties and vacation rentals can be found on the fire rescue website.

FIRE MARSHAL AND DEPUTY FIRE MARSHALS



**Deputy Chief
of Operations & Fire
Marshal:**

R.L. Colina

305.289.6342

[Colina-RL@](mailto:Colina-RL@monroecounty-fl.gov)

monroecounty-fl.gov



*Fire Prevention Week
in Keys' schools*



*Beat the Heat
Events held in the
Summer*



*Pizza deliveries for
annual coloring contest
winners*

AIRCRAFT RESCUE FIREFIGHTING (ARFF)

Station 7 at Key West International Airport (EYW) protects the airport by providing fire suppression, EMS, and ARFF services to the traveling public. The station is staffed 24/7, 365 by a total of 13 ARFF firefighters, with 3 to 4 firefighters on duty per shift. Crash rescue equipment is stationed and maintained at the airport. The ARFF unit at EYW undergoes an in depth FAA Safety inspection annually and continues to



Fire Training

HOT SHOTS PROGRAM

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/hotshots

The Monroe County Board of County Commissioners graduated a fourth class of the "Hot Shots" program in December 2021 at the county's Joe London Fire Training Academy facility. The program provides free firefighting and first responder training for qualified Monroe County residents in exchange for a commitment to volunteer for three years or work as a professional firefighter anywhere in the Florida Keys. There have been a total of 108 graduates since the program started. Students who successfully complete all 17 performance objectives of the firefighter program will be prepared to take the State of Florida Firefighter I and II examinations.

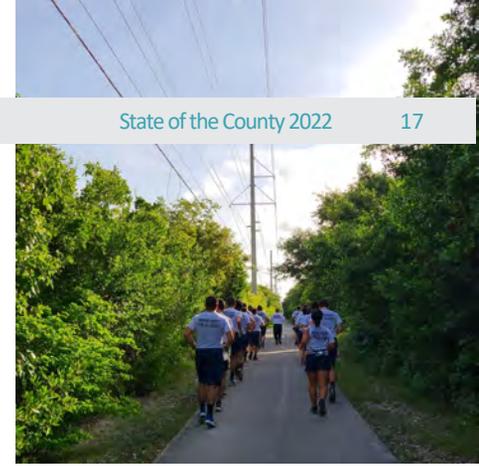


JOE LONDON FIRE ACADEMY

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/fireacademy

Monroe County owns and operates the Joe London Fire Training Academy located on Grassy Key. Rebuilt in 2017, it is one of only 43 certified firefighting training centers in Florida. The academy has a modern classroom facility for educating and training firefighters, as well as a training tower and burn building for practical learning to prepare trainees to become state-certified firefighters. The academy offers medical and fire training for our firefighter EMTs and paramedics year-round.

In 2021, the BOCC authorized a fee schedule for inspection services for all commercial and vacation rental properties. Learn more on the Fire Marshal's webpage.





Emergency Management

www.monroecountyem.com

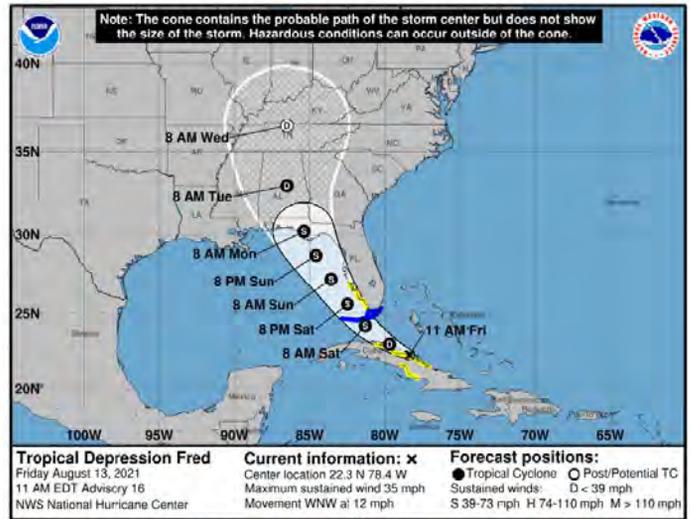
Emergency Management prepares Monroe County to mitigate against, respond to, and recover from any event that might threaten the safety of the County’s residents and visitors or impact property and infrastructure.

Emergency Management provides planning, preparedness, and coordination of response activities to events that might impact the infrastructure of Monroe County or the safety of its residents and visitors. Emergency events include weather events, like hurricanes, tornadoes, and waterspouts, hazardous materials accidents, mass migration, terrorist activities, large fires, air crashes, civil disorder, nuclear incidents at Turkey Point, or pandemics.

In 2021, Emergency Management continued to work with municipal and infrastructure partners to secure more than \$100 million from FEMA’s Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funding to harden and protect infrastructure from impacts of future storms.



Director: Shannon Weiner
 305.289.6012
Weiner-Shannon@monroecounty-fl.gov
 Employees: 7
 Budget: \$987,366
 (\$414,875 in grant funding)



Have a Plan: In 2021, Emergency Management monitored 21 named storms and 7 tropical cyclones including Tropical Storm Fred in August. Hurricanes in the Florida Keys can bring high winds, heavy rainfall, storm surges, and tornadoes.



The County activated its Emergency Operations Center for two storms in 2021. It continued monitoring COVID-19 throughout the year.



COVID-19 Response

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/COVID19

Monroe County Emergency Management has monitored the ongoing changes of COVID-19 and its variants since early 2020 with its community partners like the Florida Department of Health in Monroe County and local hospitals. Monroe County also helped facilitate the vaccination roll out in early 2021. Monroe County residents remained in the top 5 of most vaccinated counties throughout 2021.

As of January 2022, the CDC guidance included updated isolation, quarantining, and testing guidance. The Florida Department of Health in Monroe County continues to urge those who are sick to stay home to prevent infectious diseases, especially COVID-19, from spreading and to get vaccinations and boosters if you have not already. Information on vaccinations can be found at monroe.flhealth.gov/vax and updated testing sites can be found at monroe.flhealth.gov/testing.

Hurricane Preparation

www.monroecountyem.com/prep

Monroe County is vulnerable to hurricanes because of its geography and has been hit by big storms including the 1935 Category 5 Labor Day Hurricane that destroyed Henry Flagler's railroad and most recently Hurricane Irma in 2017.

THE ATLANTIC HURRICANE SEASON RUNS JUNE 1 TO NOV. 30

Everyone who lives in the Florida Keys should have a plan.

- Determine your evacuation destination: to a relative, friend, motel, hotel, or public shelter (as a last resort).
- Gather needed supplies for at least three days, including cash medicine and pet food.
- Keep gas in your vehicle and make sure it is in good working order.
- Put up your storm shutters and take other protective property measures, including securing lawn furniture and tie down boats.
- Review your insurance policies and coverage and take photos and/or video footage of your property. Visually inspect your home and property.
- Charge your cell phone and make sure you have batteries for your portable radio.
- Follow official instructions and monitor official sites.

SHELTERS

www.monroecountyem.com/shelters

In-county shelters are only available during Category 1 or 2 storms. For stronger storms, shelters are located in Miami. All shelters should be a last resort. Additional services are not provided at shelters. Plan to bring bedding and snacks for up to 72 hours.

- Register in advance - Special medical needs:
www.monroecountyem.com/specialneeds
- County shelters are pet-friendly. Register in advance: www.monroecountyem.com/petsregistry.
- Prepare a supply or evacuation kit:
www.monroecountyem.com/emergencykit.

IF A STORM THREATENS

The best place to get information is through official channels, found on page 8.



REENTRY

www.monroecountyem.com/reentrystickers

Plan to stay at your evacuation destination until it is safe to come back. Monitor official sites for reentry information. Do not congregate at checkpoints entering the Keys.

PLACARD PROGRAM

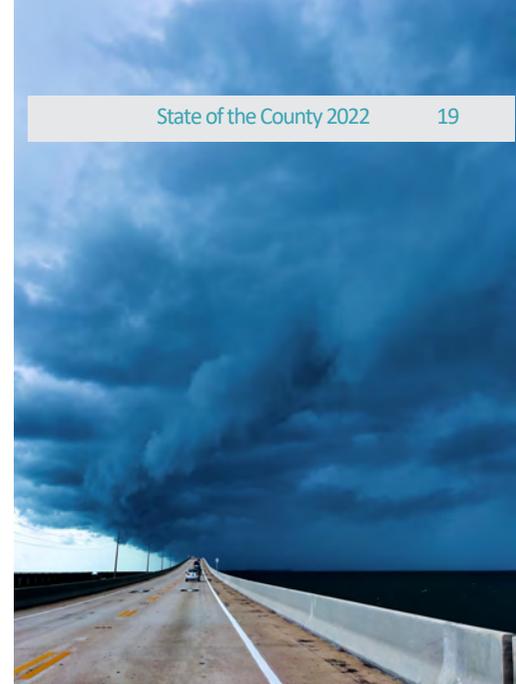
www.monroecountyem.com/placardprogram

Businesses or organizations that are not represented within the EOC but believe they have an essential response mission can apply for the Business Reentry Placard Program. The placard program enrollment period and applications are announced on the website.

CERT PROGRAM

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/volunteermonroe

Citizens who go through Monroe County's Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) become part of the volunteer Monroe Emergency Reserve Corps (MERC) and can obtain early reentry placards.



7 Mile Bridge during Elsa Squall. Photo by Lower Keys resident Anzhelika Tagirovna

Coming Soon: Emergency Operation Center (EOC)

Monroe County Project Management started the design phase of the 28,321 square foot Monroe County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in 2021 at the Florida Keys Marathon International Airport. The design will withstand 220 mph winds with an impact rating for Wind-borne Debris Missile Criteria for Hurricane Shelter Safe Rooms. The first floor elevation will be 17 feet above ground to account for wave action.



- The EOC will be self-sustaining for 72 hours for up to 150 people, including food, water, electric, and wastewater storage with emergency communications via satellite phone/internet service.
- Occupants will include: Emergency Management offices and Incident Command Center, 911 call center (24/7/365 operation), and Fire Rescue headquarters.
- Cost: \$30.9 million funded through direct 2020 State legislative appropriation, FEMA/FDEM HMGF Grant, and FDOT airport grant.
- Target completion: Summer 2023

Employee Services

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/EmployeeServices

The Employee Services Department provides guidance and information to the County's more than 570 employees and the public. The department works to maintain a ready workforce that is talented, fairly-compensated, healthy, diverse, and safety-minded while keeping pace with the evolving needs and goals of Monroe County.

The department includes:

HUMAN RESOURCES

Administers personnel actions, position recruitment, policies and procedures, compensation, and employment law compliance for BOCC employees.

Monroe County transitioned in July 2021 to an online based system to make business processes more efficient while eliminating paper processes. The implementation of Workday software utilizes current technology solutions which speed up Human Resource business transactions that include: recruiting, onboarding, time and absence tracking, learning, talent and performance management, and compensation. Through self-service functions in Workday, employees have been empowered to handle business processes more independently.

GROUP INSURANCE BENEFITS

Provides and administers health, prescription, dental, vision, and life coverage to more than 2,400 BOCC and Constitutional Officer employees, retirees, and dependent spouses and children.

The County continues to offer health plan participants an opportunity to reduce the cost of employee premiums via the Passport to Wellness Program. Participants can save \$300 each year by participating in the preventative health screenings.

In 2021, Capital RX took over as the pharmacy provider for active employees for pharmacy. Express Scripts became the pharmacy plan provider for Medicare Eligible Retirees.

Despite healthcare industry costs rising, the department has been able to maintain employee/retiree costs for medical, dental, vision and supplemental life.

When the department discovered that a physician's group at two local hospitals was out-of-network with the County's employee health plan, as well as being out-of-network on other health insurance plans used by residents in the community, the Employee Services/Benefits department worked closely with local hospitals, the physician's group, and insurance companies to quickly negotiate these services to fall under in-network rates. These efforts help keep healthcare affordable in our community and continue to save money for all residents of Monroe County (including our County employees).

NEED A JOB?

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/jobs

Monroe County hires about 100 employees each year in a variety of positions and departments. For job openings and employment applications, visit the website or apply in person at computer kiosks located in the Historic Gato Building in Key West, Marathon Government Center, and the Key Largo library. Monroe County staff can also be found at numerous job fairs hosted throughout the county during the year.



In addition to serving County employees, the Benefits and Safety offices provide services to the Monroe County Land Authority and the five Constitutional Officer agencies: Monroe County Sheriff's Office, Property Appraiser, Clerk of the Court, Tax Collector, and Supervisor of Elections.

SAFETY AND SECURITY

Provides safety training and programs as well as workers' compensation to more than 1,700 BOCC employees and Constitutional Officer employees. Manages security programs and systems for County employees, buildings, and other assets.

The County continues to work towards enhancing safety and security for employees, the public, and county assets through expansion of access control systems.



Director: Bryan Cook

305.292.4458

Cook-Bryan@monroecounty-fl.gov

Employees: 11

Budget: \$34 million

2021 Employee of the Year: Julie Cuneo

Congratulations to Monroe County Employee of the Year Julie Cuneo. Employee Services facilitates the Employee of the Quarter nominations and Monroe County's Senior Management Team selects an Employee of the Quarter from a pool of employees nominated by their peers or supervisors and an Employee of the Year from the four winners. These employees are chosen for going above and beyond their own work responsibilities while showing a continual demonstration of the values of Monroe County.



Cuneo oversees the purchasing department and took over as the lead for the Hurricane Irma recovery. **"She is outstanding in everything she does and is always willing to pitch in to help anyone,"** said Tina Boan, director.

In addition, since the implementation of the new program, Workday, Cuneo has been a reliable resource for the financial processes of the system. Megan Fiore-Abreu, of Employee Services, who recommended Cuneo as Employee of the Quarter said, **"Julie takes time to sit to demonstrate what we needed to learn and know to perform our every day duties. Workday has been a learning curve for all employees and with Julie's help it has made the transition a lot easier."**

JULIE CUNEO

EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR/THIRD QUARTER

MANAGEMENT & BUSINESS SERVICE ADMINISTRATOR, BUDGET

2021 Employees of the Quarter



LISSET BAUTISTA, FIRST QUARTER LEAD CASE MANAGER, SOCIAL SERVICES

Bautista fostered valuable connections with outside agencies for food, services, repairs, furniture, personal care items, and volunteers while performing her regular day-to-day duties. These connections have been invaluable during COVID-19 and Hurricane Irma recovery.

She feeds 210 households weekly, of which 162 have residents are over the age of 60. She also volunteers annually for Toys For Tots. In addition, she has a positive impact on her Social Services team and throughout other County departments.

"She understands that this is often a thankless job but still makes it all happen for the benefit of the public and her clients," said co-worker Anna Marie Haskins, who nominated her for this award.



RICHARD SANDS, SECOND QUARTER MAINTENANCE, PARKS & BEACHES

Sands stepped in to fill a critical position when staffing shortages became a problem for the Marine Resources Office's vessel pump-out program earlier this year. He is recognized for assisting with the service after a new contract with the previous vendor could not be established.

"Without his assistance during the past three months, this service could not have continued operations and would likely have resulted in negative impacts to our nearshore water quality and public health," said Monroe County Marine Resources Administrator Celia Hitchins. **"Richard has demonstrated the values of Monroe County and our commitment to protecting the nearshore waters of the Florida Keys."**



MICHELLE ROBINSON FOURTH QUARTER SENIOR BIOLOGIST, PLANNING

Robinson has been the lone biologist in the Upper Keys and has worked to ensure that inspections are completed and permit review keeps moving forward, in addition to maintaining an excellent level of community service.

When the Code Compliance biologist section left, she took on all restoration inspections that used to be done by Code in addition to her day-to-day work.

"She is notably courteous and professional with applicants and other members of the public," said Emily Schemper, director. **"I have never received a complaint about her, which is a significant accomplishment for anyone working in her position. "**

Engineering Services and Roads Maintenance

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/Engineering

The department includes Engineering Services, Upper and Lower Keys Roads Maintenance Departments, and the Card Sound Toll Authority.

Responsibilities include:

- Management of engineering design, permitting and construction of county transportation infrastructure including roads, sidewalks, bridges, shared-use paths, and associated stormwater management systems.
- Review of right-of-way permit applications, issuance of permits and inspection of work for conformance to county requirements.
- Review of property development/redevelopment applications and road abandonment applications for impacts on county roads and rights-of-way.
- Performing ongoing maintenance on 311 miles of county-maintained roads and 26 bridges, including cutting vegetation, fixing potholes, cleaning storm drains, repairing roadway shoulders, addressing flooding complaints, installing signage, sweeping, and maintaining bicycle and shared-use paths.
- Operating and maintaining the Card Sound All Electronic Tolling System.



Director: Judy Clarke,
P.E. 305.295.4390
Clarke-Judith@monroecounty-fl.gov
Employees: 36
Budget: \$29,083,626

2022 GOALS

- Complete 20-year Stormwater Needs Analysis for Monroe County Roads and submit to Office of Economic & Demographic Research (EDR) and Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) by July 31, 2022, as required by 403.9302, F.S.
- Work with FDOT Planning and Local Agency Program personnel to initiate Project Development & Environment (PD&E) phase for eventual replacement of Card Sound Bridge in 2030.
- Implement GIS based roadway asset management and work order system.
- Utilize asset management system with pavement analysis capabilities to expand County's proactive pavement maintenance program.



Card Sound Toll Authority

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/cardsoundtoll

The electronic toll uses Toll-By-Plate, SunPass, and EZ Pass, that was just introduced in May, 2021 allowing motorists to travel from Canada to Florida using the same transponder. No cash is accepted at the toll. The toll funds maintenance costs of the road and future repair and replacement of the five bridges along Card Sound Road.

Two discount programs are available for Monroe County residents with two-axle vehicles that use SunPass and have an account in good standing. In 2021, 230 annual passes were sold. More information on the monthly discount program, which requires no enrollment, and the annual pass program can be found on the website.

2021 By The Numbers

479 miles
Buzz bar operations

1,636.9 miles
Mowing operations

563.48
miles of sweeping

206 8,413
Drain Cleaning and Inspections
linear feet of pavement striping for bicycle lanes

Sign Shop:

1,131 new signs

300 new posts installed

287 utility locates performed

**STOP BARS
REPAINTED: 38**

Material pick-up: 195.87 tons of rock

Trash Picked Up: 2,654 bags weighing 45,956 tons

Seaweed Removal: 52.67 tons

Shoulder Work: 57,554 feet

Material used to fill Pot Holes: 13 tons

Coconuts Removed: 31.25 Tons

Reviewed 155 right-of-way permit applications, issued permits and inspected work for conformance with permit requirements.

2021 ENGINEERING AND ROAD SERVICES ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Completed engineering design and permitting for the No Name Key Bridge approach and guardrail repairs project.
- Identified several areas of subsidence on Key Deer Boulevard, Big Pine; initiated design work.
- Completed engineering design and permitting for Boca Chica Road Hurricane Irma Repairs project.
- Completed the repair of two culverts in the Cudjoe Gardens subdivision.
- Initiated engineering design and permitting for milling and resurfacing of the county's portion of Card Sound Road and coordinated with Ocean Reef residents to identify potential enhanced traffic control/safety devices.
- Commenced construction of the 1st Street and Bertha Street Roadway and Drainage Improvement Project.
- Commenced construction of the Koehn and Big Pine Shores Roadway and Drainage Improvement Project.
- Revised design criteria of Sands Subdivision and Twin Lakes Sea Level Rise Adaptation Pilot Projects to reflect updated 2019 sea-level rise projections and revised plans.
- Evaluated stormwater disposal via outfall vs. injection well to determine if a cost savings could be realized in the two Sea Level Rise Adaptation Projects.
- Applied for grant funds for Twin Lakes Adaptation Project through the Resilient Florida Grant Program and FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP).
- Completed engineering design and permitting for the Florida Keys Overseas Heritage Trail connection at Cudjoe Gardens.
- Design and permitting phase and construction phase of the Tubby Creek and Mosquito Creek Bridge Replacement Project; funding was advanced by one year to FY 2023 and FY 2025, respectively.
- Performed stop sign warrant and traffic study at 2nd Ave. & 2nd St, Stock Island and converted intersection to a four-way stop condition.
- Lower Keys Roads staff pumped rainwater from Avenue C and D, Big Coppitt regularly during heavy rain events to protect homes from flooding
- Roads staff installed french drain on Front Street, Stock Island and refurbished the french drains on Cutthroat Drive, Cudjoe
- Assisted Facilities with debris removal and hauling and placement of material to level county's Rockland Key property.
- Upper Keys Roads repaired 78 ft. of walking path at Key Largo Park
- Installed No Parking signs on county right-of-way in Sunset Point subdivision
- Installed barricades on Loquat Road
- Repaired 893 ft. of road at County Fire Training Facility in Grassy Key, using 7.5 tons of crushed rock.



- **Implemented phases III and IV of the Pavement Preservation Project with 55 miles of recently paved county roads treated in the spring and 23 miles treated in the fall.**



DUCK KEY BRIDGE WORK

- Completed temporary bridge strengthening work to remove weight limit restrictions posted by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) on the Bimini Drive, Harbour Drive, and Seaview Drive bridges.
- Completed engineering design and permitting for the Harbour Drive Bridge Replacement Project on Duck Key and continued the engineering design and permitting to 90 percent complete milestone for the Seaview Drive Bridge Replacement Project.
- Coordinated with Florida Keys Aqueduct Authority to have water, sewer, and reclaimed water lines installed underwater as residents requested.
- Manned Duck Key bridges 7 days a week to ensure reduced weight limits were adhered to.

The work to replace the Bimini Drive Bridge on Duck Key began in September 2016 when the county initiated the federally and state required Cultural Resource Assessment Survey that is required prior to replacing historically notable transportation infrastructure. The four bridges that connect the islands on Duck Key are considered significant due to the arch geometry and decorative railings.

The engineering design met the current design standards while maintaining the historic arch geometry and decorative railing aesthetic; a sidewalk was added on one side to accommodate pedestrians. Due to the unique geometry and the narrow right-of-way the design team spent a considerable amount of time evaluating construction methods and materials to guarantee that the contractor would not encounter constructibility issues during the work.

Construction of the new bridge began in December 2020 and is scheduled to be substantially complete in January 2023.

Upon completion of the Bimini Drive Bridge, the county will replace two additional Duck Key bridges: Harbour Drive Bridge and the Seaview Drive Bridge.

Fleet Management

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/fleet

Fleet Management operates, manages and continues to improve County garages located in Key West, Marathon, and Plantation Key. The Department provides safety inspections, maintenance, and repairs for approximately 850 units which include approximately 300 Monroe County Sheriff Department vehicles.



Fleet's Nate Brewer

BY THE NUMBERS

4,241

completed work orders from the crews at the three County garages in addition to performing preventative maintenance, repairs, and safety inspections.

179,314.36

gallons for gasoline and diesel fuel garage personnel purchased, distributed and billed for in 2021 at the three fueling facilities in Key West, Marathon, and Key Largo.

2021 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 79.63% of all repairs were completed in 0- 24 hours
- 76.17% scheduled repairs performed and 23.83% non-scheduled repairs performed
- Completed the sale of 46 surplus vehicles and equipment.
- Promotes monthly ECO-driving and Safety practices county-wide.

Fleet maintains safety and environmental accountability at the three garages including large capacity fuel tanks, fuel pumps, and backup generators. The department provides fuel 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at the fully automated sites. Fuel is available to County staff and the Monroe County School Board, even during electrical power outages.

Fleet is always in hurricane planning and preparation mode with in-house maintenance, inspections, repairs and refueling for Monroe County's 70-plus emergency generators.

Additionally, the Fleet Department:

- Resolves manufacturer's vehicle and equipment safety recalls.
- Manages outside warranty, accident repairs, and other outsourced contract maintenance and repairs.
- Operates and maintains a preventative maintenance and repair tracking system, a fuel management tracking system, and the GPS vehicle and equipment tracking system.
- Manages and administers County Fleet contracts and written agreements.
- Responsible for acquiring and disposing of more than 500 county vehicle equipment units.



Director:

Daryl Greenlee

305.292.3452

Greenlee-Daryl@monroecounty-fl.gov

Employees: 20

Budget: \$3.4 million



Fleet's Lyle Tabb

NEED A NEW VEHICLE?

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/surplus

Fleet Management sells surplus vehicles and equipment 3 to 4 times annually.

2022 GOALS

- Progressively improve garages, garage tools, equipment, and facilities.
- Provide simple driving practices and basic operator maintenance steps that can help save money and help protect the environment at the same time.
- Encourage operators to check tire air pressure monthly.
- Provide vehicle/safety inspections and maintenance measurements through monthly "Preventative Maintenance Due" reports.



Tammy Acevedo and Tania Stoughton run fleet's business administration.

Facilities Maintenance and Public Works

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/facilities

Facilities Maintenance and Public Works is responsible for the day-to-day maintenance and operations of more than 100 County-owned parks or buildings. When a facility needs significant repair or improvement, the department collaborates with the Project Management department.

The department maintains more than 1 million square feet of County space and leased properties throughout the Keys. These include public facilities and offices, correctional facilities, historic properties, museums, parks, beaches, and boat ramps. The department also is responsible for testing air quality, certifying and maintaining alarm systems, and maintenance of elevators.

The department has offices in Key West, Big Pine Key, Marathon, and Key Largo.

2021 MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS INCLUDE:

- Installed new shade sails and replaced worn shade sails throughout the county.
- Installed new sod at Key Largo ballfields
- Full build-out of new firefighter's sleeping quarters in Layton
- Moved the Marathon Public Defender's Office and the State Attorney's Office with build-out of new spaces
- Joint project between Project Management and Facilities of build-out and relocation of the Roads Department to a temporary trailer on Rockland Key
- Replaced damaged hurricane shutters on the Marathon Government Center
- Jetting and cleaning of injection wells
- Installed plexiglass barriers in several offices and common spaces throughout all Monroe County Buildings
- Ongoing COVID disinfecting of playgrounds and County buildings

CORRECTION FACILITIES

Director: Dan Bensley 305.295.3997

Bensley-Dan@monroecounty-fl.gov

Admin: Martina Lake

Lake-Martina@monroecounty-fl.gov

Employees: 10

The Correction Facilities Department provides 24-hour, routine and emergency maintenance to Monroe County Sheriff's Office's (MCSO) three detention facilities, three substations, the headquarters building, and the Trauma Star hangar. The employees are skilled from plumbing to locksmithing and provide the best support services for maintaining multiple well-functioning and safe facilities throughout Monroe County.

- Provide routine maintenance to all MCSO buildings.
- Ensure that all accreditation standards are met by Correction Public Works employees.
- Assist with the development of new MCSO buildings and improvements.



Facilities Director:

William DeSantis

305.292.4532

DeSantis-William@monroecounty-fl.gov

Employees: 82 Budget:

\$10.1 million

Infrastructure

The County owns and is responsible for vital infrastructure throughout the Florida Keys, including some infrastructure located within Monroe County's five municipalities.

The County's infrastructure responsibilities:

2 airports

20 parks and beaches

8 boat ramps

1 community pool

311 miles of County roads

26 County bridges

5 libraries

3 government centers

3 courthouses

1 courthouse museum

1 assisted living facility

4 senior centers

4 museums

9 fire stations

Fire training center

Medical Examiner's facility

Several historic buildings

Facilities for State Attorney & Public Defender

And other facilities throughout the Florida Keys used for County operations.



County Parks & Beaches

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/parks

Unincorporated Monroe County maintains 20 parks and beaches, covering more than 100 acres of the island chain. Some parks have rentable community rooms and other amenities. All parks are open from 7:30 a.m. until sunset unless otherwise noted.

BIG COPPITT KEY

Big Coppitt Volunteer Fire Department Park

280 Avenue F

The park includes a basketball court, roller hockey rink, bocce courts, horseshoe pits, and a handball court. It also has six tables and benches.

Wilhelmina Harvey Park

373 Avenue F

The family-friendly park has a playground and swing set area, a picnic area with an open grassy area and a small walking trail. The park is pet-friendly.

BIG PINE KEY

Blue Heron Park

Lytton's Way, left, from U.S. 1 and Wilder Road

The park has three pickleball courts and a community building with some programming.

Watson Field Park and Big Pine Key Dog Park

30150 South Street

It features a baseball field, sand volleyball courts, two tennis courts, and a dog park with a grassy playing field. Open until 10 p.m.

Palm Villa Park

End of Palm Avenue and Wilder

This small pocket park has a picnic table and playground.

Big Pine Key Community Park

31009 Atlantis Road, at the end of Sands Road

This 10-acre waterfront park has a playground, skate park, tennis, bocce, shuffleboard, pickleball, and a fitness trail. There is also a community center, which can be used for meetings and parties. Open until 8:30 p.m.



Coming Soon:

Big Pine Key Swimming Hole & Nature Center

See Page 26 for more information.



Director: John Allen

786.847.3358

[Allen-John](#)

[@monroecounty-fl.gov](#)

Employees: 1

KEY LARGO

Friendship Park

69 Hibiscus Drive

This 3-acre park has a playground, baseball diamond, basketball courts, and shaded structures. Open until 8:30 p.m.

Rowell's Waterfront Park

MM 104.5 on U.S. 1, Bayside

This 8-acre park along the Bay opened as a passive park in 2016. Phase 1 construction on the park started in 2021, which includes parking and bathrooms.

Key Largo Community Park & Pool

500 St. Croix Place

This 14-acre park features the Jacobs Aquatic Center, playing fields, a fitness course, tennis courts, volleyball nets, basketball courts, handball, and skateboarding amenities. Admission fees apply for the pool. Open until 9 p.m.

Murray E. Nelson Government Center Park

102050 Overseas Highway

This park is at the back of the government center. It features five pavilions, restrooms, and picnic tables. Kayaks and canoes can be launched at the park.

KEY WEST

Higgs Beach

1040 Atlantic Blvd

The oceanfront park offers swimming, snorkeling, beach volleyball, tennis, and pickleball. It includes a dog park and a large sandy playground with barbecue pits and picnic tables. The County is working on a project to renovate the area, which includes relocating Atlantic Boulevard for safety reasons.



Key West Pines Park

3501 South Roosevelt Blvd

This picnic area under Australian pines is a good place to watch planes take off from Key West International Airport or the beautiful sunrises over the water. Pets are allowed. The park is home to an annual food truck festival and staging for the annual Zombie Bike Ride.

GEIGER KEY**Boca Chica Beach**

354 Boca Chica Road

This relatively secluded beach is a great spot to see a multitude of sea life.

RAMROD KEY**Ramrod Park**

Corner of Bay Shore and Pruitt Drive

The park is vacant and sandy. Visitors can enjoy walking or relaxing on the sand while watching the sunset.

SADDLEBUNCH KEYS**Bay Point Park**

6 West Circle Drive, MM 15 on U.S. 1

The park features benches, picnic tables, and barbecue pits. There is a sand volleyball court, a basketball court, a tennis court, and a bocce court. It also has a sandy playground, a large grassy field, and a soccer net. Open until 10:30 p.m.

STOCK ISLAND**Bernstein Park**

6751 Fifth St.

Bernstein Park was renovated in August 2018 and includes a 5,500 square-foot community center, playground, basketball court, walking path, elevated athletic fields, and field lighting. There is also a "Fit Court" on the property. Open until 10 p.m.

TAVERNIER**Old Settlers Park**

MM 92.5 on U.S. 1, Oceanside

This historic location has been transformed into a small park with a pavilion, picnic table, walking trail, and playground. Benches are scattered throughout the park to provide visitors with a place to enjoy the scenic ocean views.

Harry Harris Park

End of East Beach Road

The 21-acre park features pavilions, barbecue grills, picnic tables, a playground, a basketball court, ball fields, and a protected beach and swimming area.

Non-resident fees: \$8 fee for adults, \$5 for 3-17 and 65+. Holiday rates: \$15 for adults, \$10 for youth and seniors. Residents are free with proof of residency.

LITTLE DUCK KEY**Veterans Memorial Park and Beach**

West end of the 7 Mile Bridge, MM 40 on U.S. 1

The oceanside park had extensive damage from Hurricane Irma in 2017, but the beach is open. The permanent bathrooms and one pavilion at the site need further renovations and will remain closed. There are portalet facilities on site available for use.

Boat Ramps

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/boatramps

Unincorporated Monroe County has eight boat ramps that are available for public use. The County ramps are free for Monroe County residents.

**BIG COPPITT KEY
BARCELONA RAMP**

**Gulf View Boat Ramp,
Barcelona Avenue, MM 9.3**

24°36'06" N, 81°40'00" W The ramp has a one-lane concrete ramp intended for small boat access to Waltz Key Basin.

There are 5 parking spaces in an adjacent gravel parking area. The County recently improved the ramp.

BIG PINE KEY

**Koehn Avenue, MM 30.8
Bayside**

The ramp is intended for small boats and kayaks only and will accommodate light to moderate use. Limited parking on the road shoulder.

Eden Pines, MM 30.8 Bayside

No parking, launch only. The neighborhood ramp is intended for small and large boats.

CUDJOE KEY

Blimp Road, MM 21.2 Bayside

Dirt shoulder parking at the end of the street. The ramp is intended for small and large boats.

GEIGER KEY

Geiger Key Boat Launch, next door to Geiger Key Marina, Atlantic

The ramp is intended for small boats and kayaks only and will accommodate light to moderate use.

KEY LARGO

**Mike Forster Memorial Park,
24 Sunset Road, Bayside, MM 95.2**

25°02'59" N, 80°29'21" W One paved/concrete ramp surface. The ramp is intended for small boats and kayaks only and will accommodate light to moderate use. The parking area is pearock with six truck/trailer spaces, trash cans, and a picnic table.

LITTLE TORCH KEY

**State Road 4A, MM 28.5
Bayside**

The ramp is intended for small and large boats. There is limited parking across the street for trailers.

TAVERNIER

**Harry Harris Park,
50 Beach Rd, MM 92.5, Atlantic
25°01'28" N 80°29'39" W**

A concrete double ramp is separated by a finger pier and was resurfaced in 2019. The ramp is intended for small and large boats and is heavily used. Parking is limited to 20 trailers. (\$40 fee for non-residents).

Project Management

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/projectmanagement

See Projects in Real Time

Project Management debuted job site construction cameras in 2019. The job site cameras are solar-powered and upload images to a cloud-based system every minute. Images are assembled within the cloud to create a time-lapse video of the construction site. County staff and the engineering team can view the site in real-time with streaming high definition video or on-demand historical surveillance video from start to finish of the project. The camera data is also uploaded to the project's webpage for anyone who is interested from the public.

Monroe County Project Management contracts and builds all new public facilities for Monroe County, manages assigned special projects, and serves as the Tourist Development Council's grant compliance inspection service.

The office also manages all capital improvement projects for existing buildings, parks, beaches, and boat ramps. The department currently manages capital projects with a total multi-year capital construction budget of \$100 million.

The Project Management Department provides information and resources needed to make informed decisions.

The majority of work is funded by the One-Cent Infrastructure Sales Tax. Grant awards account for significant supplemental capital funding.

In 2021, the office assisted or was directly responsible for more than \$20 million in grant awards.

The services provided include:

- Facilities Five Year Capital Planing
- Capital Improvement Construction
- Capital Expansion Construction
- Cost Forecasting
- Scheduling



BIG PINE KEY SWIMMING HOLE AND NATURE CENTER

The Big Pine Key Swimming Hole and Nature Center at the Lower Keys Scenic Viewing Area, an extension of the Overseas Heritage Trail, is under construction with an estimated completion date in summer 2022. The area will have 17 parking spaces, bike racks, restrooms, a kayak and canoe hand-launch area, 9,500 square feet of boardwalk, tiki huts, picnic areas with tables, benches, and barbeque grills, and an 11-foot raised viewing deck. The park will be fully ADA accessible.



Director: Cary Knight

305.292.4527

[Knight-Cary@](mailto:Knight-Cary@monroecounty-fl.gov)

monroecounty-fl.gov

Employees: 11

Budget: \$100 million

EAST MARTELLO FIELD UPGRADES & DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS

In 2021, Monroe County completed extensive grading, drainage, fencing, lighting, and electrical upgrades to the East Martello parade grounds in Key West. The field is a popular event field for larger community events like Zombie Bike Ride, outdoor concerts, and annual summer children's educational programming from Key West Art and Historical Society (KWAHS). The improvements were funded through a Tourist Development Council capital improvement grant. Working with the Save a Tree Foundation, the field was replanted with biodiverse, salt-tolerant native plants and trees, including royal poincianas.



Infrastructure Repairs

HURRICANE IRMA

In 2022, Project Management will be finishing \$21 million of damage repair caused by Hurricane Irma at 48 structures, 17 parks, 7 boat ramps, and 3 tower sites.

In 2020, Monroe County was granted \$4.9 million in a Historic Resources Disaster Supplemental subgrant. Three County projects ranked in the top seven projects out of 19 applications submitted statewide. Damages to the historic properties stem from Hurricane Irma in 2017. The projects include:

Key West Lighthouse

\$138,932 with outbuilding, irrigation, and lighting repairs were completed in 2021.

Fort West Martello

\$500,000 for citadel and archway repairs. Construction was completed in 2021.



Pigeon Key

Honeymoon Cottage and commissary foundation work for \$482,550. Monroe County hosted its first virtual walk-through for bid proposals in January 2021. The project will complete in the summer of 2022.



MAJOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

- **Finished: Monroe County Library Marathon Branch (see page 37 for details)**
- **Monroe County Emergency Operations Center (See page 19 for details)**

- Public Defender's Key West Offices: \$4 million
- 1892 Sheriff Residence & Jail Museum: \$1.5 million
 - The first three construction phases of the jail museum are complete with a replacement of the roof. New guttering and downspouts complement the pressed metal shingles and historic air vents on the roof. Selective demolition of interior and exterior buildup from the last 130+ years is being done. Along with cleaning out and taking down walls, the county is remediating all environmental hazards (lead, asbestos and mold) to today's standards. Replacing or repairing the doors and windows (including the bars) is also underway. The final phase will be the build-out of the facility to make it a museum.



Plantation Key Courthouse and Detention Facility \$34 million

The project will consolidate the existing functions on the site into a new state-of-the-art 48,240 square foot facility. The new space will include:

- 16th Judicial Circuit of Florida
- Monroe County Clerk of the Court
- State Attorney's Office
- Monroe County Sheriff's Office
- Monroe County Facilities Maintenance

The tenants will continue to work in the old building adjacent to the construction while the new facility is built. According to Upper Keys historian Jerry Wilkinson, the original building, the sheriff's substation, was built in 1958 with additions, like the courthouse and other government offices, dedicated in 1967.

Tentative opening date:
Late 2022

Expected opening date: March 2022

Monroe County Fire Rescue Station 11 Servicing the Cudjoe Key Area Opens



Monroe County and Monroe County Fire Rescue held a ribbon-cutting ceremony in May to open the new Cudjoe Key Fire Station 11. The 3,708 square foot building has a 4,299 square foot garage bay and is rated for category five hurricanes with 200 mph wind speeds. The new location has a stainless-steel restaurant-style kitchen and can sleep up to 8 people in the quiet interior bunkrooms.

Legislative Affairs

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/legislativeaffairs

The Office of Legislative Affairs regularly performs the following functions:

- Develops Monroe County's annual federal and state legislative agendas, identifies priority legislation and appropriations, determines specific strategies for achieving those priorities.
- Advances County's federal and state legislative priorities while guarding against legislation with negative impacts for Monroe County.
- Directs and manages federal and state lobbyists, assigns tasks, confers weekly, and tracks progress.
- Monitors congressional and state legislation, agency regulatory actions, preemptions, and budgets for potential impacts to Monroe County; advises Commissioners and staff with appropriate actions.
- Schedules and manages legislator and agency meetings, fly-ins, etc. and prepares itineraries, written materials, and legislative packages.
- Prepares all written legislative communications including talking points, tri-folds, leave-behinds, and resolutions.
- Represents Monroe County in statewide and national legislative organizations, like FAC, Small County Coalition, Climate Compact, Gulf Coast Parishes and Counties, and NACO.
- Informs and apprises municipalities of Monroe County's federal and state legislative agendas.

The Office oversees and monitors:

- Restore Act Program in response to the Deep Water Horizon Oil Spill in 2010
- Local Multi-Year Implementation Plan and monitoring of the Gulf Consortium's State Expenditure Plan, management of local pot and Consortium pot grant funds, and development and submission of applications for this funding
- Everglades Restoration and protection of Florida Bay
- Licensing and remediation activities related to the Turkey Point Nuclear Facility.



Director: Lisa Tennyson

305.292.4444

Tennyson-Lisa@monroecounty-fl.gov

Employees: 1

2022 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

This year the County's federal priorities include:

- Support protection of affordable flood insurance and the reauthorization of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) with reforms that address Risk Rating 2.0.
 - Affordable flood insurance protects property owners, property values, local tax revenue, and economic activity. Monroe County remains highly concerned about the new impacts of Risk Rating 2.0 on premiums, as well as the ongoing impacts of the current and unsustainable glide paths (18 percent for homes, and 25 percent for commercial properties.)
- Support federal investment in infrastructure and resilience projects. The County is in the midst of a massive effort to make the Keys more resilient in the face of sea level rise and persistent severe flooding (\$1.8 billion county road elevation/drainage program) and more investment from the federal government will flow down to local governments to help our local initiatives.
- Support funding for the following Army Corps of Engineers programs that directly benefit Monroe County:
 - Coastal Storm Mitigation Program
 - Florida Keys Water Quality Improvement Program
 - Everglades Restoration
- Support other legislation, like Emergency Watershed Program changes that benefit canal debris removal, coral reef conservation efforts, congressional funding for hurricane and disaster recovery funding, and programs for seniors, Veterans, social services, and housing and homelessness.
- Oppose oil drilling and exploration, lease expansion, and seismic testing.



STATE REPRESENTATION**State Representative
James "Jim" Mooney**

State House District 120
District Office: 102050
Overseas Hwy, Key Largo
305.453.1202
www.myfloridahouse.gov

State Senator**Ana Maria Rodriguez**

State Senate District 36
District Office:
8401 NW 53rd Terrace,
Doral, FL 33166
850.487.5039
www.flsenate.gov

Gov. Ron DeSantis

400 S. Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399
850.717.9337

2022 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA**Monroe County's state legislative focus includes:**

Stewardship Act appropriations, protection of its water quality, land acquisition needs, resilience funding, wind insurance affordability, and vacation rental regulations. **Priorities include:**

- Stewardship Appropriation: The county will be seeking legislative appropriations of \$20 million for water quality, \$5 million for land acquisitions, and Monroe County being included in the State's Land Acquisition Trust Fund.
- Support legislative efforts to improve boating safety and regulations including the reduction and prevention of derelict vessels, addressing long-term anchoring of vessels, and ensuring sufficient funding to remove and dispose of derelict vessels.
- Support Mobile Vessel Pump-Out Program Appropriation to protect the water quality of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary.
- Support funding for Monroe's resilience projects included on the new Resilient Florida project list.

- Support legislative efforts to exempt Monroe County from the new 11%-15% glide path for annual rate cap increases, preserving our rate cap increase to 10%. Monroe County pays the highest Citizens premium rate in the State despite having the strongest building codes.
- Support efforts to seek an exemption to Monroe County's permit allocation system for a new affordable housing development for Sheriffs, police, and first responders.
- Support legislative efforts to promote affordable housing and the full appropriation of the Sadowski Trust Fund.
- Support efforts to protect home rule authority, conferred to local governments in the State constitution. The preservation of home rule is essential to the operation of county governments in Florida, and allows counties to develop and implement county-based solutions to local problems.

**FEDERAL
REPRESENTATION****Senator Marco Rubio**

www.rubio.senate.gov
305.596.4224;
202.224.3011 Miami
Office: 7400 SW 87th
Ave., Suite 270, Miami,
FL 33173

Senator Rick Scott

202.224.5274
www.rickscott.senate.
gov

Rep. Carlos Gimenez

District 26
202.225.2778
www.gimenez.house.
gov
Key West office: 1100
Simonton St., Suite
1-123



Monroe County's Roman Gastesi, Legislative Affairs Director Lisa Tennyson, and Chief Resilience Officer Rhonda Haag visit Tallahassee to discuss County projects.

Florida Keys Day 2022

Monroe County Commissioners, senior staff, officials from Florida Keys municipalities, community leaders, and local business owners travel to the state capital for the Annual Florida Keys Day, a day set aside in Tallahassee to discuss all things Florida Keys related. The day was canceled in 2021 due to COVID-19, but will be hosted again on Feb. 10, 2022 with limited public meetings. The famed reception will be held in the courtyard featuring conch fritters and key lime pie on a stick. For more information, contact floridakeysdays@gmail.com.



Social Services

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/socialservices

Monroe County Social Services provides a holistic approach to case management, interim financial assistance, medical assistance, and other life-sustaining supportive assistance to eligible individuals and families in need of these services throughout Monroe County. Social Services assists a growing and diverse population with a number of long-standing local, state, and federal programs.

Offices:

- Key West: Gato Building
- Key Largo: Tradewinds Plaza
- Satellite office: Marathon, 63rd Street Government Annex

Services and programs include:

- **Assistive Device Loaner Program:** Loans equipment like wheelchairs, walkers, hospital beds, electric scooters, shower chairs, bedside commodes, etc. This program is need-based, not eligibility-based.
- **Consumable Supplies:** Provides adult diapers/briefs, bed pads, wipes, disposable gloves, nutritional drinks, etc. to eligible individuals who cannot afford them.
- **Energy Assistance:** The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program is a federally-funded program that helps low-income households with home energy bills.
- **Indigent/Pauper Cremations and Burials:** Coverage of final expenses for those deemed indigent or paupers. In 2021, Social Services handled approximately 70 cremations.
- **Medical Assistance:** Medical or Dental financial help can be provided in emergency situations.
- **Nutrition Services:** Hot, fresh, congregate meals or frozen home delivered meals provided throughout all areas in the Florida Keys.

In 2021, approximately 32,000 meals were provided to seniors countywide.

- **In-Home Services:** Homemaking, personal care, chore, companionship for the elderly, shopping assistance, in-home or facility-based respite, and group and individual caregiver training to eligible elderly and disabled individuals throughout Monroe County.
- **Feeding South Florida (FSF) Partner:** Many older adults throughout Monroe County are homebound due to the inability to drive, lack of transportation, illness, or inability to travel alone. To ensure these seniors receive proper nutrition necessary for a healthier life, Social Services partners with FSF to conduct intake, determine eligibility, then deliver food boxes to homes on a weekly basis. Boxes contain fresh fruits and vegetables, meat, canned foods, beans, pasta, and more.



Senior Director:

Sheryl Graham

305.292.4510

Graham-Sheryl@monroecounty-fl.gov

Employees: 40

Budget: \$12.6 million
(includes \$8.8 million in grants)

- **Alzheimer's Disease Initiative and Older Americans Act:** Provides in-home service to the elderly and disabled adult citizens of Monroe County.
- **State Housing Initiative Partnership (SHIP):** Administers funding countywide to assist homeowners with SHIP Disaster Mitigation, SHIP Sewer Lateral Connections, and SHIP Rehabilitation. SHIP Homeownership Assistance via a 30-year forgivable loan for eligible applicants.

- **Prescription Medication Assistance:** Covers the cost of prescription medications and/or over-the-counter medications as prescribed by a physician for eligible individuals who either have no insurance, inadequate insurance, or cannot afford the co-payment.
- **Weatherization Assistance Program:** This federal program assists Monroe County's income-eligible families improve the energy efficiency of their homes with critical repairs, renovations, and installation of cost-saving energy measures.
- **Monroe County Transit (MCT):** Door-to-door transportation for the elderly, disabled, and transportation disadvantaged. This allows transportation disadvantaged citizens to remain independent by assisting them in getting to and from required trips, medical appointments, etc. Citizens who are 60 years and older ride free.

For the past 7 years, Monroe County Social Services staff in Key Largo have collected and distributed toys for registered Toys For Tots children in the Upper Keys. This year, they provided toys and bikes for 53 children in need in the Upper Keys.



Information Technology

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/informationtechnology

Monroe County Information Technology (IT) provides efficient, reliable, and cost-effective technology, telephone, and video services to County employees, the Constitutional Officers, the Public Defender, State Attorney's Office, 16th Judicial Circuit Court, Medical Examiner, Land Authority, Tourist Development Council, and the Arts Council. The department strives to be innovative and resourceful to support the IT needs of Monroe County.

Services include:

- End user computing support from the Service Desk, supplies and maintains desktops/laptops, monitors, phones, software, printers, etc.
- Infrastructure support services for IT infrastructure, including the data center, networks, servers, telecommunications, hardware, etc.
- IT applications support for enterprise software, business systems, and web integration.
- IT services for project management and procurement.
- TV broadcast and audio-visual needs through Monroe County Television (MCTV).



Director: Alan MacEachern
305.453.8792
MacEachern-Alan@monroecounty-fl.gov
Employees: 14
Budget: \$3 million

2021 ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND 2022 GOALS

- Successfully implemented a disaster recovery solution enabling a "turn on" at an offsite facility in the event of a local disaster
- Introduced an enterprise access control system with Safety and Security to extend it to additional County facilities in 2022
- Introduced an enterprise building automation system with support for Monroe County's largest 9 facilities with plans to extend it to additional County facilities in 2022
- Continued upgrading network architecture across all buildings to improve performance and resilience
- Installed and configured Monroe County core network and phone service to multiple new locations in support of the BOCC, the Sheriff and other Constitutional Officers
- Managed the selection and procurement of the Oracle Fusion Permitting and Licensing software to replace our legacy Community Plus application with roll-out planned for later in 2022

MONROE COUNTY TELEVISION (MCTV)

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/mctv

TV/Multimedia Manager: Jethon Williams II

MCTV@monroecounty-fl.gov 305.295.5128

MCTV live-broadcasts all meetings of the BOCC, including special meetings and the annual budget meetings and other county board and committee meetings. See page 8 for channel details.

MEETING BROADCASTS

All televised County meetings are rebroadcast one week following the original broadcast and are posted to Video On Demand one day later. Recordings of BOCC, Planning Commission and other meetings can be found on the MCTV Video on demand system. Duplication requests for meetings can be submitted via the online Duplication Request Form or downloaded from Video On Demand.

MCTV also broadcasts information in the event of a hurricane or other local emergency as well as National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) weather audio.

MCTV's primary programming consists of live, pre-recorded programs and original content as well as Local, State and Federal Public Service announcements. MCTV also airs children's educational programming on Saturday mornings and afternoons.



- Continued upgrading desktop and server equipment to meet performance and security requirements
- Upgraded the MCTV Video On Demand website to reflect modern video consumption, playback and video sharing capabilities.
- Added closed captioning to MCTV live broadcasts and streams as well as captions on all content hosted on MCTV Video On Demand.
- Relunched MCTV Roku channel and launched MCTV on Amazon Fire TV. MCTV also released its mobile apps on IOS and Android.

Solid Waste & Recycling

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/solidwaste

Solid Waste Management provides Unincorporated Monroe County with a sustainable, environmentally-sound and cost-effective service for municipal solid waste. Through education, cost management, and customer service, the department supports the needs of the businesses and residents of Unincorporated Monroe County. Additionally, the department promotes “Reduce, Reuse, Recycle” through community events and helps to assist in creating a viable and safe environment for future generations.

Solid Waste is responsible for:

- Municipal Solid Waste
- Vegetation/Yard Waste
- Construction Debris
- Pollution Control on County “Right-of-Ways”
- County Owned Transfer Stations (Key Largo, Long Key, Cudjoe)

THREE COUNTY TRANSFER STATIONS & RECYCLING CENTERS

At the transfer stations, garbage, construction debris, and yard waste are collected and hauled off the islands for appropriate disposal. Residents can drop off items directly at the three County transfer stations. Hours: 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Includes electronic waste.



Solid Waste continues to assist private citizen groups, like the Conch Republic Marine Army, Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, and many others in removing hurricane debris with highway cleanups.

COUNTY HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION

Household hazardous waste is collected at each transfer station as follows:

- **Cudjoe Key:** First and third Wednesdays of each month, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- **Long Key:** First and third Fridays of each month, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- **Key Largo:** Appointment only. Call 305-745-4307
- **Key Largo (Corner of Atlantic and Homestead avenues behind Walgreens):** Second and fourth Wednesday of each month, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Household Hazardous and E-Waste Collection Dates:

9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Marathon: 10600 Aviation Blvd.

- Jan. 8, 2022
- April 9
- July 9
- Oct. 8
- Jan. 14, 2023

Stock Island: Bernstein Park, 6751 5th Street

- Jan. 15, 2022
- Feb. 19
- March 19
- April 9
- May 21
- June 18
- July 16
- Aug. 20
- Sept. 17
- Oct. 15
- Nov. 19
- Dec. 17
- Jan. 21, 2023



Director: Cheryl Sullivan
 305.292.4536
Sullivan-Cheryl@monroecounty-fl.gov
 Employees: 17
 Budget: \$22.3 million

Report Illegal Dumping! Call 9-1-1 if you see illegal dumping in action!

With our partners, new strategies, and enhanced equipment Solid Waste hopes to reduce illegal dumping numbers in 2022.

The recycling initiative of household hazardous waste and electronic waste continues to be a key focus. Monthly collection points throughout the county allow residents to dispose of chemicals and electronic waste in an environmentally safe manner.

STOCK ISLAND TO 7 MILE BRIDGE

Waste Management
 Contact: 305.296.8297

Cudjoe Key Transfer Station: MM
 21.5, Blimp Rd. 305.745.2513



Monroe County saw an increase in all areas of debris management in 2021.

- Household Trash up 10 percent
- Recycling up 10 percent
- Yard Waste up 5 percent

Total Monroe County Resident tonnage for 2021 was: 43,503 Tons

- Household Hazardous Waste up 80 percent
- Pollution Control/Illegal Dumping up over 150 percent

RECYCLING REMINDERS

The recycling center accepts 1-5 plastics but offered an easy way to remember what plastic can be recycled. Milk jugs, water bottles, and bath products all fall within the “if the neck is smaller than the body, it can be recycled” rule. Red Solo cups do not. And, always remember to remove the lid, which can also be recycled.

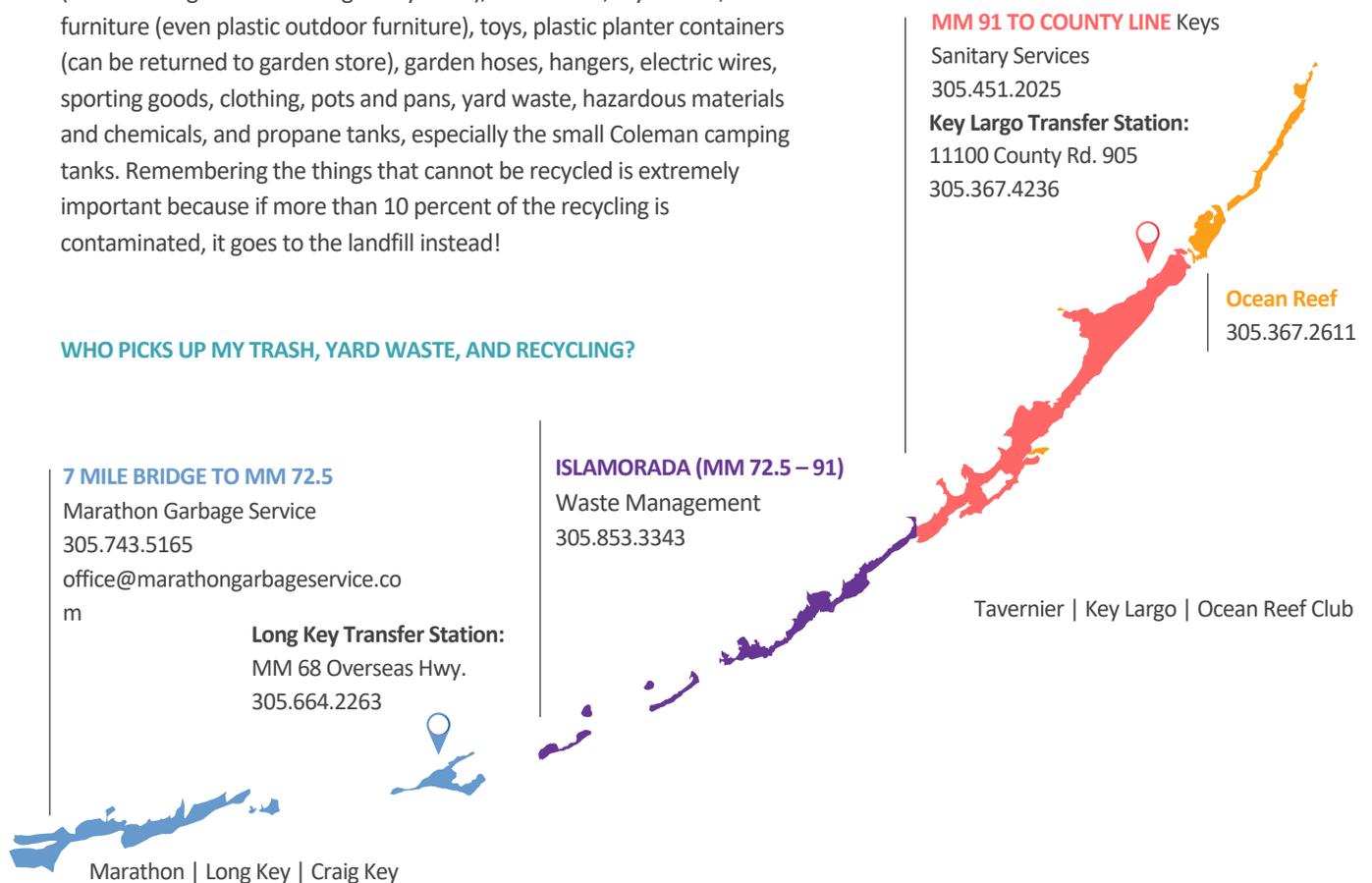
According to a municipal solid waste report, only 1 out of 3 plastic water bottles make it to a recycling center. Tin, aluminum, cartons, cardboard, and newspaper are always accepted.

Reminders of things that CANNOT be recycled include plastic grocery bags (can be brought back to the grocery store), food waste, Styrofoam, furniture (even plastic outdoor furniture), toys, plastic planter containers (can be returned to garden store), garden hoses, hangers, electric wires, sporting goods, clothing, pots and pans, yard waste, hazardous materials and chemicals, and propane tanks, especially the small Coleman camping tanks. Remembering the things that cannot be recycled is extremely important because if more than 10 percent of the recycling is contaminated, it goes to the landfill instead!

WHO PICKS UP MY TRASH, YARD WASTE, AND RECYCLING?

Residentially, homeowners in unincorporated Monroe County pay \$407 a year for garbage, yard waste, and recycling collection. The fee can be found on your property tax bill.

2021 Highlight: Monroe County Solid Waste Management and Marathon Garbage provided on-site support for the temporary Trash Debris Site for Duck Key Residents. Staff was on site 3 days a weeks to assist and monitor trash collection from November 2020 until bridge strengthening was completed in November 2021.



Strategic Planning

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/strategicplanning

The Office of Strategic Planning develops plans and initiatives for greater government accountability, organizational efficiency, and continuous improvement.

The office manages the County's strategic and tactical planning processes along with a performance-based measurement system. The long-range Strategic Plan details the BOCC's priorities for the challenges facing our community with the purpose of deliberately shaping our community's future, while the annual Tactical Plan aligns individual Departments' efforts with the County's strategic priorities and objectives. The county's performance measurement reporting creates a transparent, accountable, and meaningful process that will result in positive Community and organizational improvement.

The Office of Strategic Planning will begin a County-wide community feedback process in the spring of 2022. This will include online surveys, social media and facilitated town halls and presentations to community groups. The feedback from the process will be incorporated into a refresh of the goals and objectives of the ongoing BOCC Strategic Plan and provide insight for the Tactical and Management Plans.

In March 2019, the Commission adopted the five-year 2020 Monroe County Strategic Plan, created using 18 months of intensive research and feedback from the community collected before and after Hurricane Irma in 2017. The Plan's priorities and direction for County services are turned into action in the FY2021 Tactical Plan and supported through the FY21 budget process. The plan outlines specific areas of concern and priority in the three areas of Quality of Life, Economy, and Environment, which can be seen on page 6.

In the spring of 2021, the Office of Strategic Planning held five town hall meetings and gathered new community feedback. The results saw Transportation and Safety on US 1 rise to the number 1 issue for those who responded. The BOCC reaffirmed the priorities outlined in the 2020-2025 Strategic Plan in a special meeting in May and those priorities were utilized in the County's budget preparation for FY22.



Senior Director :
Kimberly Matthews
 305.292.4540
Matthews-Kimberly@monroecounty-fl.gov
 Employees: 1

Library Services

www.keyslibraries.org

The first Monroe County public library opened in Key West in 1853. Today, it is the oldest library system in South Florida.

In 2021, despite COVID-19, the libraries logged more than 5 million e-visits to web resources and continued to offer curbside and virtual services. The libraries reopened to public visits in March 2021.

The five branches offered 1,700 virtual programs for patrons of all ages, drawing 37,768 participants for outreach presentations. The programs cover all ages, from toddlers to senior citizens, and meet a broad base of interests, including story times, musical presentations, author talks, specialty clubs, art workshops and displays, computer classes, and programs featuring Florida Keys history, flora and fauna.

Monroe County libraries offer free access to the internet through library computers and through wireless access that enables patrons to use their own laptops and other mobile devices. On the website, users can renew books, stream films, locate book clubs, and discover e-books. The library also provides Libby, an app by Overdrive, to borrow free e-books and audiobooks instantly to take them anywhere on their devices.

Since March 2020, the library has grown its digital collection significantly. The library system had its biggest year on record for eBooks and eAudiobooks, reaching more than 64,000 circulations by the end of 2021. Mango, the library system's learning language app, had 2,852 sessions during the last year, with more than 719 hours spent learning. Kanopy, the library system's streaming movie service, had 765 films played. Virtual programming in 2021 included talks by such literary luminaries as Judy Blume, Lily King, and Patricia Engel, and reached hundreds of viewers from across the nation.

2021 Highlight: In late 2021, Monroe County Public Library was awarded a record-breaking American Rescue Plan Act grant. The \$975,469 grant was the greatest amount awarded to a Florida library and the highest ever bestowed to Monroe's libraries. The 100 percent federally-funded grant includes a suite of technology and equipment solutions for library patrons to confidently access services while expanding access to digital, print, and online information services.

Director of Libraries:
Kimberly Matthews
 305.292.4540
Matthews-Kimberly@monroecounty-fl.gov
 Employees: 44
 Budget: \$3.9 million



Florida Keys Historical Archives

www.flickr.com/keyslibraries

A modest 2002 grant started something that grew quite big. Monroe County library's online historical photo archive has more than 30 million views of its 25,000 historical images. The collection includes some of the oldest images of South Florida and have been published in Newsweek, The Smithsonian, The Guardian, and Nature as well as featured on Animal Planet, the BBC, Food Network, NPR, Travel Channel, and CNN, among others.

Marathon Branch Grand Opening

In July 2021, the state of the art, user-centric Marathon branch opened to the public. The building was funded through the one-cent infra-structure sales tax. The new design is open and modern with flexible space that incorporates state-of-the-art technology and solar energy into the design.

- Total Square Feet: 13,969
- First floor: 7,904 (The first floor includes the 1,400 square feet adult education center)
- Second floor: 6,875 square feet
- Built to a 200-mile per hour wind load with finished first floor 2 foot above the floodplain.



The new space includes a holds locker for after-hours access to items requested, tablets and laptops available to borrow while in the library, a self-checkout system, small group study/meeting rooms, and a large community room. Highlights of the new library are a Redbox-style media box for DVD selection and an interactive children's area. The upstairs features a teen room for gaming, study room, homework center, and activity center with a 3-D printer, Cricut, sewing machines, watercolor painting, and more.



LIBRARY BRANCHES

KEY WEST

Branch Manager:

Kim Rinaldi

700 Fleming Street

305.292.3595

 / keywestlibrary

MARATHON

Branch Manager:

Lorenia Diaz

3251 Overseas

Hwy 305.743.5156

 / marathonlibrary

KEY LARGO

Branch Manager:

Christina Teasley

101485 Overseas Hwy,

Tradewinds Shopping

Center 305.451.2396

 / keylargolibrary

BIG PINE KEY

Branch Manager:

Rob Rinaldi

213 Key Deer Blvd.

305.872.0992

 / bigpinelibrary

ISLAMORADA

Branch Manager:

Interim Meghan Brunelli

81830 Overseas Hwy

305.664.4645

 / islamoradalibrary

The only thing you need is a library card.

Sustainability

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/sustainability
www.keysroadsplan.com

RESILIENCE

Monroe County is ground zero for experiencing the impacts of global climate change and sea level rise. Along the chain of islands that barely juts above the sea, many streets already are flooding numerous times throughout the year from extreme fall “king” tides.

Rising seas have begun to affect roads and other County infrastructure, as well as some homes and businesses – and will continue to do so into the future.

The Office of Sustainability prepares the County to be more resilient to the effects of climate change and sea-level rise.

Preparations include:

- Gathering research and modeling the effects of sea-level rise on County roads and facilities.
- Collaboration with the Southeast Florida Climate Change Compact on sea-level rise projections and mitigation and adaptation measures.
- Collecting elevation and other types of data to more accurately measure the potential inundation to County roads and infrastructure. Set standards for implementation of adaptation measures.

Projects include:

- Performed an Updated Vulnerability Assessment of County infrastructure to determine the impacts of climate change and to meet the requirements of the new Resilience Florida Grant Program.
- Coordination with the 5 municipalities to assist in their road elevation planning work to evaluate the impacts of sea-level rise on more than 200 miles of municipal roads, helping the Keys to become more resilient overall.

Mitigation measures include:

- Development of sustainability policy formulation and plan development
- Energy management and reduction initiatives listed in the GreenKeys Plan
- Alternative energy and fuel source options
- Green purchasing policy development and guidance
- Sustainable capital development processes

The mission of the Office of Sustainability is to develop mitigation and resilience adaptation projects and environmental improvements that foster a resilient and livable community and a sustainable future.



Chief Resilience Officer

Rhonda Haag

305.453.8774

[Haag-Rhonda@](mailto:Haag-Rhonda@monroecounty-fl.gov)

monroecounty-fl.gov

Employee: 1

Budget: \$600,000

2021 Highlights

- In June, the BOCC affirmed its commitment to continuing the work being performed under the Roads Vulnerability Analysis and Capital Plan for County-maintained roads – which has recommendations for \$1.8 Billion in roads elevation projects to help maintain access to homes in unincorporated Monroe County to the year 2045.
- In September, the commanding general of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers signed the Chief’s Report for the Florida Keys Coastal Storm Risk Management (CSRM) Study, recommending the study’s findings for authorization by Congress. The plan significantly adds to the County’s current efforts to promote resiliency and reduce the risks of coastal storm damage. Over \$3.5 Billion in projects were identified, and include home elevations, business and critical infrastructure flood-proofing and U.S. 1 shoreline stabilization in six areas.



Key Largo resident Stephanie Russo meets with State Chief Resilience Officer Wes Brooks and Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection Deputy Secretary Adam Blalock to explain the effects of sea-level rise in her neighborhood. Chief Resilience Officer Rhonda Haag shows Blalock what the street looks like during high tide events.

The GreenKeys Plan contains specific projects for resilience preparation. www.GreenKeys.info





Canal Restoration

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/canals

Monroe County embarked on a canal restoration program in 2014 after a study showed that 311 of the 502 canals throughout the island chain did not meet the State's minimum water quality criteria and are a source of nutrients and other contaminants to nearshore waters. A canal restoration program is underway, restoring the water of the canals throughout the Keys. Initiatives include:

- Canal restoration projects to improve the water quality in the canals.
- A grant funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to improve the overall water quality of the canals, nearshore and coastal waters of the FKNMS. The grant work includes the following three Tasks:
 1. Seaweed Barrier Technology Evaluation
 2. Canal Workplan Bridging Documents that connects the goals and objectives of the State's Department of Economic Opportunity Canal Work Plan with the technical directives presented in the Monroe County Canal Restoration Guidance Document
 3. Sargassum Control Master Plan

Canal restoration improves the overall health of nearshore waters.

Projects are implemented in the environmental restoration area that supports the County's sustainability initiatives, such as the canal restoration projects and post hurricane marine debris removal from the hundreds of canals located in the Keys. Sustainability is the quality of not being harmful to the environment or depleting natural resources and thereby supporting long-term ecological balance. The County's goal is to continually employ new technologies to protect the environment and best serve the residents and visitors.

2021 Highlights:

- In June, the County BOCC approved a FL Keys Canal Restoration Project Ranking List of 96 canals with an estimated restoration cost of \$500 million. This sets the path forward for environmental improvement projects to restore the canal waters of unincorporated Monroe County, implementing federal RESTORE and state Stewardship grant funds as received by the county on an annual basis.
- In June, DEP presented the results of a 2-year partnership with the County on water quality monitoring efforts under the Reasonable Assurance Document (RAD) program to help determine which areas of the County meet and do not meet State water quality standards. Overall progress in increasing water quality has resulted, with other areas still requiring restoration efforts.
- In June, the University of Miami presented the results of 2 years of water quality monitoring efforts and explained the connection between canal water quality and nearshore water quality. The effort was funded by the County as support for the County's canal restoration program.

Contractors at a Key Largo canal restoration project show State Chief Resilience Officer Wes Brooks, Monroe County Administrator Roman Gastesi, and Monroe County's Chief Resilience Officer Rhonda how silt decayed organic muck is removed from poor water quality canals.



Veterans Affairs

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/va

Monroe County Department of Veterans Affairs provides entitlement assistance for more than 6,500 full-time veterans, 2,500 seasonal veterans, active-duty military personnel, and their families in the Florida Keys. Each year the Veterans Affairs Department has more than 18,000 client interactions while providing a wide variety of services including:

Monetary Compensation

- Service-related disabilities
- Non-service-connected pensions
- Burial benefits
- Survivor’s benefits
- Educational and vocational rehabilitation benefits
- VA home loan eligibility assistance
- Appeals of any denied benefit
- Board of Veterans Appeals Virtual Hearing Representation

Nonmonetary Benefits

- Military service medal, decoration, and award issuance or replacement
- Military service records or document requisitions
- VA Healthcare application assistance
- Courtesy Veterans Transportation Program
- Documentation assistance with the Department of Veterans Affairs for Disabled Veterans license tags, property tax exemptions, and educational benefits
- Virtual Medical Examination and Virtual Office Appointment Services



Eligible resident veterans with a VA certified service-connected disability of 10 percent or greater are entitled to a deduction or exemption on the assessment of their home for tax exemption purposes. In 2021, 878 Monroe County veteran-owned parcels were awarded a deduction or exemption due to having a service-connected disability.



MONROE COUNTY VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICES

- Murray Nelson Government Center
102050 Overseas Hwy, Suite 208 Key Largo 305.453.8777
- Harvey Government Center
1200 Truman Avenue, Suite 204 Key West 305.295.5150
- Veterans Transportation Program 305.295.5159
- Satellite Office: Marathon Public Library:
2nd Wednesday of each month.

VETERANS BY LOCATION MAP



Veterans Affairs
Director: Cathy Crane
 305.295.5150
Crane-Cathy@monroecounty-fl.gov
 Employees: 8
 Budget: \$849,009



County Attorney

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/countyattorney

The County Attorney's Office provides high quality, cost-effective legal services to the Board of County Commissioners, the County Administrator, the Senior Management Team, County departments, and County advisory boards. The legal staff provides counsel on virtually every major decision made by the BOCC and County staff. Staff lawyers handle topics ranging literally from A (airport law) to Z (zoning).

BOCC AGENDAS

- Staff attorneys review every contract, inter-agency agreement, bid solicitation, resolution, and ordinance considered by the commission
- During 2021, the County Attorney's Office processed and reviewed a total of 1,306 agenda items, including 490 resolutions, and 44 ordinances.

ELECTIONS

The County Attorney's Office provides legal counsel to the Supervisor of Elections and the County Canvassing Board. During election years, the County Attorney's Office guides the Canvassing Board through primary and general elections. In addition, the office represents the Supervisor of Elections and the Canvassing Board in election related suits in state and federal courts.

2020 CENSUS

The 2020 Census data puts Monroe County's population at 82,874 as of April 1, 2020 – an increase of 9,757 more people than in the 2010 census.

The County Attorney's Office worked with the County's GIS office during 2021 to draft new County Commission district maps that reapportioned population among the five commission districts. The new district maps that take effect with the 2022 election cycle are compliant with the U.S. and Florida Constitutions, as well as Florida Statutes.



County Attorney

Bob Shillinger

305.292.3470 Shillinger-Bob@monroecounty-fl.gov

Employees: 10 lawyers,
6 support staff
Budget: \$9.5 million
(\$6.6 million Risk & \$2.9 million County Attorney)

RISK MANAGEMENT

- Implemented a new software program (EBIX) to track certificates of insurances, which ensures that the County and its vendors are properly insured.
- Reviewed and approved 1,038 agenda items.
- Reviews all tort claims made against the County and determines the appropriate response.

PUBLIC RECORDS

The County's Records Management Liaison Officer (RMLO) is in the County Attorney's Office. The RMLO coordinates the County's response to public records requests and ensures compliance with the Public Records Act and the Records Retention regulations. The office processed 3,065 records requests in 2021. To make a public records request, see page 8.

LITIGATION

- Staff lawyers represented the County in more than a thousand cases in state and federal court as well as administrative hearings.
- These efforts fulfill the Board's directive to emphasize prosecuting Vacation Rental Ordinance violations and collecting outstanding code compliance fines and costs in the amount of \$1.329 million in FY21. Collected fines and costs are deposited in the County's general fund, reducing property taxes.
- Staff lawyers also worked with the State of Florida to reimburse the County for costs associated with two long- outstanding Takings cases arising from the State imposed growth limits that had led to the County's Rate of Growth Ordinance (ROGO). In both cases, the plaintiffs had sought over \$30 million in damages but, due to the efforts of the County Attorney's Office, the Courts awarded less than \$1 million.

The County's 10 lawyers have more than 240 years of experience practicing law and the expertise to handle most matters in-house. Seven of the County's lawyers are board- certified by the Florida Bar as experts in City, County, and Local Government law - a distinction that only 304 of the over 109,000 (0.2%) members of the Florida Bar have earned.

Extension Service

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/extensionservices

www.monroe.ifas.ufl.edu

[www.fb.com/MonroeCountyExtension](https://www.facebook.com/MonroeCountyExtension)

In the Florida Keys, the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF-IFAS) Monroe County Extension Service provides timely and relevant solutions to improve resident's lives. The Extension Service is dedicated to bringing current, science-based answers to all local horticulture, climate change, energy, small business, and water quality questions – for free.

The Extension Service provides programs like Master Gardener, Sustainable Floridians, Florida Keys Water Watch, Florida Master Naturalist, and other programs.

Highlights Reel

For community tips and tricks sign up for the newsletter at the website or view the blog at www.monroecounty-fl.gov/extensionblog.



Director: Alicia Betancourt

305.292.4501

Betancourt-Alicia@monroecounty-fl.gov

Employees: 4

(3 UF and 1 Monroe

County) Budget: \$236,934

2020 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Environmental Horticulture Agent Michelle Leonard-Mularz held the first Master Gardener course since 2015. Nineteen interns, representing each County District, completed the 9-week training. 43 Master Gardeners donated more than 2,100 hours helping residents identify and address horticultural related issues in their gardens and landscapes. This has an estimated value to Monroe County of \$51,470 in volunteer services, which represents one full-time employee.
- Leonard-Mularz also received a grant from Florida Wildflower Foundation to install a wildflower demonstration garden at the Historic Gato Cigar Building in Key West. The garden will not only serve as an educational tool emphasizing Florida Friendly Landscaping practices, but it will serve as a pathway for pollinators and have a visual impact in an area that is so heavily utilized by travelers, pedestrians, bicyclists, automobile drivers, and buses. The garden was installed in 2020.
- Marine Agent Shelly Krueger is co-leader for the Florida Coral Disease Outbreak Response Communications and Outreach Team, a partnership with federal agencies, that holds bi-weekly conference calls regarding the stony coral tissue loss disease outbreak in the Florida Reef Tract and the Caribbean. Krueger co-developed a program that trained more than 240 divers to identify and report the disease at Seafan.net/SEAGRANT. She also speaks about the disease on a national and international level.
- Krueger is also the outreach and communication leader for the Florida Keys Community Sponge Restoration Program, in partnership with FWC and nonprofits and universities. In 2019, more than 15,000 sponges at six sponge nurseries in the Florida Keys were restored.
- The Community Development Agent Alicia Betancourt completed the development of two new programs: Climate Smart Floridians is a statewide initiative, which will help people improve resilience and reduce per-sonal and household climate change impacts and The Handbook for Municipal Action on Climate Change to help small local governments be climate-resilient.

Guardian Ad Litem (GAL)

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/gal

Guardian ad Litem (GAL, established in 1980, mandates that every abused, neglected, or abandoned child who enters the dependency court system be provided with an advocate to protect the child's best interest. GAL through a professional team of staff and volunteers ensures the highest quality of representation is provided to children that are involved in dependency court proceedings and children involved in criminal court proceeding as witnesses or victims of felonious crimes. The program identifies resources and constructs a comprehensive plan to achieve permanency for children and their families.

GAL is supported by Voices for Florida Keys Children, Inc., a nonprofit organization. Voices is guided by an all-volunteer board dedicated to help children who are served by GAL.



Circuit Director:

Alexa Leto

305.292.3485

Leto-Alexsa@monroecounty-fl.gov

Budget: \$210,000

Employees: 8

(3 County, 5 State)

CORE VALUES

- **Commitment to Children:** our most important priority.
- **Communication Built on Trust:** Being honest and straightforward with the children we represent in keeping with their age level and maturity.
- **Collective Empowerment:** implement the best decisions to meet the children's needs through volunteers, attorneys, and staff.
- **Collaboration:** develop relationships that promote the well-being of the whole child.
- **Courtesy:** ensure children are treated with respect and dignity.

By The Numbers

74

children placed in permanent homes

159

children served

87

volunteers

50% less likely to return to foster care with an advocate

Presents delivered to children during the holidays: 200



Tourist Development Council

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/TDC

The mission of the Monroe County Tourist Development Council is to manage Monroe County's tourism marketing efforts to assure long-term economic stability resulting from visitor-related revenues. The TDC pledges to benefit residents and visitors by utilizing those financial contributions to improve Florida Keys environmental and community resources. The tourism council also prioritizes working to enhance residents' quality of life and minimize their property taxes through safeguarding the health of the county's primary industry.

The TDC has various advisory committees and board members comprised of 54 volunteers who represent all facets of the community. It is the legislative extension of the BOCC to appoint nine TDC members and five At large District Advisory Committee seats. TDC revenues fund marketing efforts and infrastructure improvements like beach maintenance and bricks-and-mortar projects. In fiscal year 2021, the TDC allocated \$6 million for capital-related projects that lessened tax burdens on residents and contributed to the resident's quality of life. The BOCC approves all TDC policies, funding, and expenditures.

The TDC began a commission free reservation booking engine that was adapted to our web site using an outside company called RootRez. Lodging entities were given the tools necessary to register and profit from this new source of bookings.

As the pandemic continued the TDC maintained its health and safety messaging, and selling points emphasized the many sustainability-focused "only in the Keys" activities that set us apart from other destinations. The TDC partnered with several local, county and state officials creating and deploying a campaign addressing lobster mini season, a first between the TDC, its agencies of record and several law enforcement and government agencies.



Director: Stacey Mitchell

305.296.1552

Stacey@fla-keys.com

Visitor's website:

www.fla-keys.com

Florida Keys Council of the Arts

www.keysarts.com

The Florida Keys Council of the Arts is the designated local Arts Agency by Florida Statute and is committed to its leadership role as the community's umbrella organization for arts and culture.

The Florida Keys Council of the Arts is the leading arts and cultural organization in the Florida Keys. The Council provides services and grants to visual and performing artists, arts organizations, students, and the public, striving to instill a passion for and participation in the arts. To enrich and enhance the arts and cultural community, the Arts Council promotes the Art in Public Places program, and advances the destination for its rich and diverse history.



Executive Director: Elizabeth Young

305.295.4369

Director@keysarts.com Employees: 3

full, 1 part

Budget: \$385,000

"To enrich and enhance the cultural community, we promote the destination for its rich and diverse history," says Young.

The cultural arts play a fundamental role in the lives of our residents and visitors. The Arts have been and continue to be the signature of what makes our community unique and an international destination. Our focus is to maintain and expand our programming in a diverse, innovative and equitable manner. We strive for results that strengthen the economy, promote active community engagement, and provide support for arts education and advocacy.

Outreach and advocacy are ongoing activities. We connect the public to a sense of place and community with the Art in Public Places commissioned permanent art collection. We advocate in a leadership role by gaining knowledge through our participation in Americans for the Arts, Florida Association of Local Arts Agencies (FALAA), and Florida Association of Public Art Professionals (FAPAP) initiatives.

The Executive Director is an Executive Board member of FAPAP, attends monthly phone meetings and the annual conference, connecting her to public art trends, challenges and best practices. Arts Council's Board Members and Advisors are engaged, educated and passionate ambassadors for all of the arts.

Their commitment to the organization and knowledge of the economic impact of the arts within the County is essential to our advocacy efforts for continued growth and relevance.

Land Authority (MCLA)

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/landauthority

The Monroe County Board of County Commissioners created the Land Authority in 1986 to purchase property in the Florida Keys for conservation, recreation, the protection of property rights, and affordable housing. Many of the properties bought were conservation lands consisting of tropical hardwood hammock, pinelands, and wetlands that provide many environmental benefits, including habitat for endangered species and migrating birds, and lands that help protect water quality.

The County reorganized MCLA in 2021 and consolidated programs from various County departments to streamline services for our citizens. Programs that encourage homeowners to apply for grant funding to elevate, demolish/rebuild, or sell at risk homes that encourage sustainability were added to the Land Authority management.

The Land Authority's funding for land acquisition comes primarily from a half-cent of the tourist impact tax charged on lodging in the Keys and a surcharge on admissions and overnight camping at state parks in unincorporated Monroe County.

Fiscal and budgetary information regarding the Land Authority can be found at the website.

DENSITY REDUCTION

The Density Reduction Program goal is to purchase lands that do not consist of significant habitat for the purpose of retiring the density (Transferable Development Rights or TDRs) in order to prevent private property rights claims resulting from limitations imposed by the designation of an area of critical state concern. Since 2016, 23 properties have been purchased. [Email: Guerra-Cynthia@monroecounty-fl.gov](mailto:Guerra-Cynthia@monroecounty-fl.gov).

RESALE PROGRAM

The MCLA manages the County's density reduction efforts. When buildable lots are acquired under the Density Reduction Program, they may be resold to homeowners of contiguous properties or to Property Owner Associations, without the ability of the purchaser to ask for a Rate of Growth Ordinance (ROGO) allocation to build a residential unit with all density stripped from the land.

11 parcels have been resold on Duck Key. They were originally acquired for \$927,000 with development rights. The County successfully resold them without development rights for \$425,494, an average of \$38,681 per Transferable Development Right (TDR).

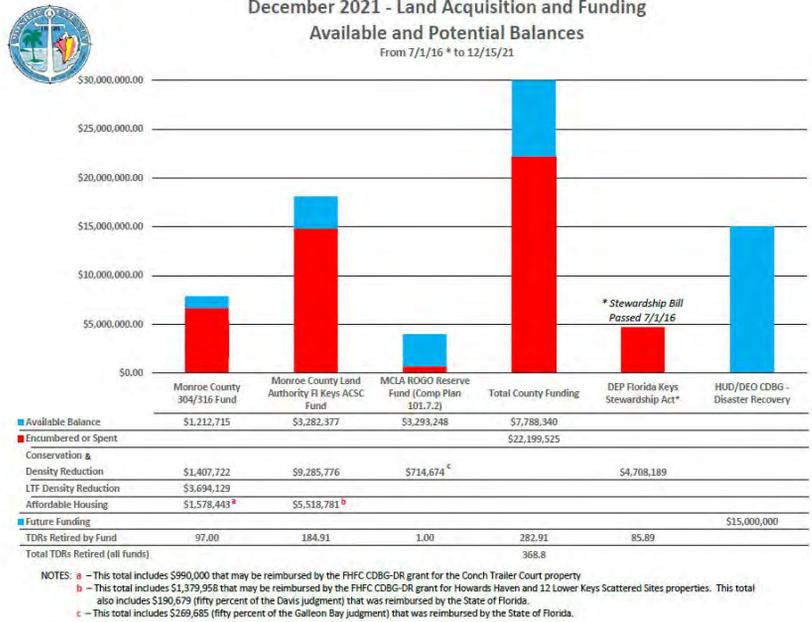


LESS THAN FEE PROGRAM

It is a willing seller program that allows a homeowner to retain ownership of an contiguous, vacant lot and use it for legally allowed accessory uses like a pool, open yard, or garage in exchange for selling the right to build a home on that lot in perpetuity. Accessory structures must be permitted and comply with Land Use Regulations.



Executive Director:
Christine Hurley
 305.295.5180
Hurley-Christine@monroecounty-fl.gov
 Employees: 6
 Budget: \$19.7M -MCLA
 \$15M – CDBG-DR Grant
 \$6M HMGP-FMA Grant
 \$1.25M County 304/316



STATE OF FLORIDA AREA OF CRITICAL STATE CONCERN – DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (DEP) PARTNERSHIP FLORIDA FOREVER ACQUISITIONS

For decades the State of Florida and Federal Government have purchased conservation land in the Florida Keys. The County Commission renewed a partnership with the DEP to work jointly toward the purchase of Florida Forever conservation land in the Keys when the State Legislature approved the Florida Keys Stewardship Bill in 2016. The Stewardship indicated the State could spend up to \$5 million annually toward acquisition of land within the Florida Forever Program.

These areas include:

- North Key Largo Hammocks
- Coupon Bight / Key Deer
- The Florida Keys Ecosystem

The County and DEP have an interlocal agreement whereby the Land Authority acts as an agent for DEP, assisting with appraisals, surveys, and in some cases, the Land Authority can contract with sellers and then resell to DEP, speeding up the process.

The County works with DEP to identify ideal properties that would fit the Florida Forever mission, as well as eliminate potential takings liability. Since 2016, with the passage of the Stewardship Act, Florida DEP has spent or encumbered approximately \$4,651,460, retiring 84.89 development rights (as of November 2021).

The State’s long-standing acquisition efforts in the Florida Keys is essential to reduce future liability. DEP should aggressively pursue land acquisition in the Florida Keys because over 3,500 privately-owned vacant, undeveloped parcels lie within the Florida Forever project boundaries.

The goal is for DEP to spend \$5 million annually on acquisition in the Florida Forever boundary.

Expenditures by DEP, since passage of the Stewardship Bill through November 2021:

Year	Expenditures
2016	\$0
2017	\$163,549
2018	\$1,892,396
2019	\$1,228,794
2020	\$1,257,174
2021	\$78,047

AFFORDABLE HOUSING FUNDING

The MCLA may provide funding to local governments or other agencies for land acquisition for use as affordable housing or they may contribute funding toward the construction of affordable housing at the request of a local government. The Land Authority funding may not be used to purchase environmentally sensitive land for affordable housing.

VOLUNTARY HOME BUYOUT PROGRAM

In the aftermath of Hurricane Irma, the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity allocated \$15 million of Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery funds to the Monroe County Voluntary Home Buyout Program. These funds allow Monroe County to purchase the property and the home of voluntary sellers who were impacted by Hurricane Irma. The home will be demolished, and the land will serve as open space in perpetuity or for flood mitigation, such as stormwater management or recreational purposes. Participating homeowners may decline to sell their home at any point prior to the closing. Applications for the program are being accepted. Email: Guerra-Cynthia@monroecounty-fl.gov.

FEMA FLOOD MITIGATION GRANT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (HMGP & FMA)

The FEMA Flood Mitigation Grant programs are funded by the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and administered by the State of Florida Department of Emergency Management (DEM). The primary purpose is to eliminate flood risk to ensure the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) remains solvent. These grants are offered to communities that want to provide a funding source for property owners within a community that want to remove flood risk by:

- Elevating their existing homes that are below minimum required flood elevation
- Demolishing their existing homes and reconstruct them above the minimum required flood elevation
- Selling their homes, so the area where they are located remain as open space.

Monroe County is accepting fiscal year 2022 FMA grant program applications. Closing dates will be announced later. Email: Lalbachan-Mike@monroecounty-fl.gov.

This program began after Hurricane Irma hit the Keys in late 2017. To date, the County has submitted applications for properties within all areas of the County, including the cities as follows:

Year	HMGP (available after a storm)	FMA (available annually)	Elevations	Demo/ Reconstruction	Acquisitions	Grant Amount
2018	YES		4			\$785,295
2018	YES				6	\$2,428,930
2021		YES	11			\$2,145,367
2021		YES		5		\$1,094,805

LAND STEWARDSHIP

The MCLA oversees approximately 1,800 acres of conservation lands owned by the Land Authority, the County, or the State of Florida including large tracts and individual lots within neighborhoods. Newly purchased conservation land typically needs restoration to remove invasive exotic vegetation and to plant native vegetation. Conservation lands protect important wildlife areas and preserve the character of neighborhoods. Funding for land stewardship comes from mitigation fees the County charges on land clearing activities and also from state Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission funds. Email: Bergh-Beth@monroecounty-fl.gov.

County Historic Properties & Museums

TAKE A STEP BACK IN TIME

Monroe County owns and maintains multiple historic properties, four of which have been developed into museums. Some of the historic properties maintained by the County include the 1890 Courthouse in Key West, the 1916 Gato Cigar Factory in Key West, the 1914 Truman School now serving the public as the Harvey Government Center in Key West, the 1892 Key West Sheriff Residence and Jail, and the 1936 Tavernier School.

Museum locations include Pigeon Key, a small island two miles offshore of Marathon, the Key West Lighthouse and Keeper's Quarters, and the East and West Martello Civil War Forts.

PIGEON KEY

www.pigeonkey.net

While Henry Flagler was building the Overseas Railway to Key West in the early 1900s, more than 400 workers lived in the railroad village on Pigeon Key, located in the path of the Old Seven Mile Bridge. Pigeon Key had a post office, commissary and one-room school while the bridge was being built from 1908 to 1912.

When a hurricane destroyed the railway in 1935, Pigeon Key became the headquarters for the Florida Road and Toll Bridge District. Starting in 1968, the island served for 20 years as an environmental field station for international researchers studying tropical marine and island ecologies with the University of Miami. In 1993, the Pigeon Key Foundation assumed stewardship and began restoration efforts to turn it into a museum.

In 2017, Hurricane Irma caused substantial damage to the 1912 Commissary and the 1940 Honeymoon Cottage knocking both structures off their foundations. In 2018, the Pigeon Key Foundation asked the County to manage the repair and restoration of these two buildings. Shoring, repair, and construction began in early 2020 and will take two years to complete.

PIGEON KEY FERRY

The ferry makes daily departures at 10 a.m., noon, and 2 p.m. from Pigeon Key Visitor's Center, 2010 Overseas Highway in Marathon. The ferry cost includes historical tour and island access.

\$12 per person. Monroe County residents \$9. Children under 5 are free.

A new 60-passenger tram to take visitors back and forth to Pigeon Key is expected to be operational in spring 2022.



THE OLD 7 MILE BRIDGE

A 2.2 mile section of the historic Old 7 Mile Bridge, paralleling the Florida Keys Overseas Highway, reopened in 2022 so residents and visitors can once again use it for cycling, walking, running, rollerblading, watching sunrises and sunsets, and to access Pigeon Key.

The project was part of a 30-year agreement between Monroe County, the City of Marathon and the Florida Department of Transportation to fund restoration along with a maintenance program to ensure the landmark's preservation.

Nicknamed "Old Seven," the bridge was built as part of railroad magnate Henry Flagler's Florida Keys Overseas Railroad that was completed in January 1912, connecting the Keys with each other and mainland Florida for the first time. The span is the gateway to historic Pigeon Key, a tiny island nestled beneath the old bridge that was once home to about 400 workers constructing the railroad.

"The Old Seven Mile Bridge is very important to the Keys, the history of the Keys, and a viaduct to get to Pigeon Key, which in itself is beautiful, but the bridge itself is over 100 years old," said Roman Gastesi, the Monroe County Administrator. "It's something that we've been able to get together and collaborate with the city of Marathon, with the state of Florida, and get it rehabbed like it is, and it's been a great project."

Restoration work included structural steel and spalling and bridge joint system repairs; new decking, pedestrian and bicycle handrails; and other physical enhancements to make the span safer for recreational use.

In 1938, the original railroad bridge was converted to carry automobiles. In 1982, the new Seven Mile Bridge (actually 6.79 miles long and one of the world's longest segmental bridges) debuted alongside the historic one and the old bridge's steel swing span, which had facilitated marine traffic, was removed.

Although vehicular traffic on the restored bridge is prohibited, an adjacent parking lot has been modified to accommodate up to 35 parked vehicles. The City of Marathon, with the help of Monroe County, also purchased a property adjacent to the bridge that will be retrofitted for additional parking a short walk from the entrance of the bridge.

EAST AND WEST MARTELLO CIVIL WAR FORTS

In 1822, the U.S. Navy surveyed sites for a fort to command the harbor in Key West. In 1836, the U.S. Army and a French military engineer drew up plans for a set of nine forts to command Key West harbor. The high cost led to revising the plan to just Fort Zachary Taylor and two Martello Towers.

The two towers built in the mid-1860s on what is now South Roosevelt Boulevard were never armed or involved in a battle.

They were used during the Spanish American War in 1898 for quartering troops and from 1914-44, they were used for radio stations and an anti-aircraft battery on the beach.

In 1947, the Army-owned towers became the property of Monroe County. The West Tower had become an eyesore to the shoreline with pressure in 1949 to demolish it and put in a new beach area. County Commissioner Joe Allen convinced the County Commission to stop the demolition.

The Key West Garden Club entered into a land-lease agreement with the County. The West Tower was declared a National Historic Site by the State of Florida in 1976 and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The Key West Art & Historical Society restored the East Tower and opened Fort East Martello Museum in 1950 as the first museum in the Keys.

In 1972, it was added to the U.S. National Register of Historic Places. The museum now houses the imaginative metal sculptures of Stanley Papio and Robert the Doll, a supposedly haunted doll belonging to the late artist Robert Eugene Otto.

In 2018, the County started restoration of the historic brick at both the East and West Martello. In 2021, East Martello received drainage upgrades, road and parking repairs, new roofing and a re-vamped grass field - perfect for concerts and festivals. Funding was provided by the Monroe County Tourist Development Council.

Admission for the Fort East Martello Museum is \$16 for adults, \$8 for children (7 and up), children under 7 are free, \$12 for students with ID, for Monroe County residents and seniors 62 and older. Active military is free. www.kwahs.org.



1892 KEY WEST JAIL RESTORATION MUSEUM

Monroe County Project Management started the restoration of the 1892 Key West Jail in early 2020. The first phase includes roof replacement, door and window restoration, and spalling repairs. In the second phase, non-historic features of the building will be removed and fire protection, required ADA access, restrooms, and museum facilities will be added. The tentative opening date is in 2022. To read the full historical structure report, visit www.monroecounty-fl.gov/keywestjail.

A CONDENSED HISTORY OF THE KEY WEST JAIL

The 1892 jail had been specifically designed to mimic the Monroe County Courthouse, built just two years earlier. Both the jail and courthouse were considered impressive civic accomplishments, and symbols of Monroe County's position as the most populous city in Florida at that time with the U.S. Census showing more than 18,000 citizens in Key West.

The 1892 jail was the fifth jail built at the historic Jackson Square. In 1907, a 10-foot high concrete wall was built around the jail and in 1910 the jail was expanded to increase capacity with a two-story concrete cell block.

In 1952, the front of the old jail was demolished and replaced with a new jail and office for the Monroe County Sheriff. In 1965, the sheriff's office was replaced with a courthouse annex. This annex was expanded in the 1980s. At that time, the north section of the 1907 wall was removed. Today, only the rear portion of the 1892 building remains, along with the entire 1910 addition and the 1910 cell block.

KEY WEST LIGHTHOUSE AND KEEPERS' QUARTERS MUSEUM

938 Whitehead Street

www.kwahs.org

After the first Key West Lighthouse was destroyed in an 1846 hurricane, a new lighthouse that stood 50 feet tall was constructed. In 1894, the growth of trees and taller buildings in Key West led to it being raised so the light was about 100 feet above sea-level.

Admission for the Lighthouse is \$17 for adults, \$8 for children (7+), children under 7 are free, \$12 for students with ID, Monroe County residents, and seniors 62 and older. Active military is free.

The Coast Guard decommissioned the Key West Lighthouse in 1969 and it was turned over to Monroe County. The County leases it to the Key West Art & Historical Society as a museum. One item on display is the first-order Fresnel lens from Sombrero Key Lighthouse. Future plans include the restoration of the Oil House into exhibition space, which will display how the lighthouse was fueled.

Citizen Boards & Committees

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/boardsandcommittees

Monroe County has citizen boards and committees that contribute to the government in a variety of ways; some serve as advisory groups to the Board of County Commissioners, while others work on issues and projects in the community.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Works on affordable housing opportunities for residents and workforce and fulfills Florida Statute requirements regarding the Local Housing Assistance Plan.

Contact: Cheryl Cioffari 305.289.2562
Cioffari-Cheryl@monroecounty-fl.gov

ART IN PUBLIC PLACES

The five-person BOCC-appointed committee reviews and recommends proposals for commissioned permanent public art. Projects are funded by the "1% for Art" ordinance created in 2001. It strives to promote and support the vibrant arts community by enhancing public buildings throughout Monroe County.

Contact: Elizabeth Young
305.295.4369
Director@keysarts.com

CLIMATE CHANGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Makes recommendations to the BOCC regarding appropriate mitigation and adaptation policies needed to address climate change issues.

Contact: Alicia Betancourt
305.453.8774
Betancourt-Alicia@monroecounty-fl.gov

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT CITIZENS ADVISORY TASK FORCE

Assists Monroe County by conducting neighborhood revitalization and housing rehabilitation programs using Community Development Block Grant funds.

Contact: Tina LoSacco 305.292.4426
Losacco-Tina@monroecounty-fl.gov

CONSTRUCTION BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT AND APPEALS

Hears discrepancies in interpretations of the current County building codes.

Contact: Maria Partington
305.289.2583 Partington-Maria@monroecounty-fl.gov

CONTRACTORS EXAMINING BOARD

Interprets and makes rules and regulations, hears public complaints, and unlicensed contracting violations. Hears contractor complaints and concerns during the Industry Input section at each meeting.

Contact: Maria Partington
305.289.2583 Partington-Maria@monroecounty-fl.gov

DEVELOPMENT REVIEW COMMITTEE

A committee that reviews applications for development approval and reviews applications for amendments to the text of the Comprehensive Plan, Land Development Code, and map amendments.

Contact: Ilze Aquila, 305.289.2529
Aquila-Ilze@monroecounty-fl.gov, or
Debra Roberts, 305.289.2522 Roberts-Debra@monroecounty-fl.gov



FLORIDA KEYS TRANSPORTATION COORDINATION COMMITTEE

The Board of County Commissioners approved a resolution in July 2019 to create the committee to study and research traffic issues and create formal recommendations for the governing bodies of the five municipalities and the BOCC.

DUCK KEY SECURITY DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD

Provides security services for the residential areas of Duck Key.

Contact: Ron Oestreicher
ron.oestreicher@gmail.com
www.monroecounty-fl.gov/duckkey

FLORIDA KEYS COUNCIL FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Implements special projects that advocate for residents and visitors with disabilities and their families.

Contact: Anna Haskins
305.292.4591
Haskins-Anna@monroecounty-fl.gov



Contact: Janene Sclafani,
Transportation Planner
305.289.2545
Sclafani-Janene@monroecounty-fl.gov

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Designates and regulates historical properties within the unincorporated area of the County. **Contact: Diane E. Silvia** 305.292.6718
hfkf@bellsouth.net

HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD

Reviews funding requests from non-profit human services agencies and makes recommendations to the BOCC. **Contact: Janet Gunderson** 305.292.4470
Gunderson-Janet@monroecounty-fl.gov

KEY WEST INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AD HOC COMMITTEE ON NOISE

Acts as a conduit for information to and from their constituents on issues related to airport and aircraft noise.

Contact: Deborah Lagos 305.294.9595
deborah.murphy.lagos@gmail.com

LAND AUTHORITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Makes recommendations to BOCC on matters related to Land Authority property acquisitions. **Contact: Dina Gambuzza**, 305.295.5180 Gambuzza-Dina@monroecounty-fl.gov

LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD

Provides the Board of County Commissioners with information and counsel concerning all matters relating to the libraries.

Contact: Ann Rice 305-292-3594 Rice-Ann@monroecounty-fl.gov

OLDER AMERICANS ADVISORY BOARD

Makes recommendations to BOCC regarding services or programs that would benefit older American citizens of the County.

Contact: Pam Martin
305.853.0907
pmflkeys@aol.com

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

The 5-person BOCC-appointed board reviews existing facilities, programs, expenditures, and revenues and makes recommendations for improvements, additional facilities, and programs.

Contact: Debra Martinez 305.295.4307
Martinez-Debra@monroecounty-fl.gov

PLANNING COMMISSION

The 5-person BOCC-appointed board serves as the local planning agency. Reviews proposed development amendments to the text of the Comprehensive Plan, Land Development Code, and map amendments, and provides recommendations to the BOCC.

Contact: Ilze Aquila, 305.289.2529 Aquila-Ilze@monroecounty-fl.gov, or **Debra Roberts** 305.289.2522
Roberts-Debra@monroecounty-fl.gov

SHARED ASSET FORFEITURE FUND ADVISORY BOARD

Recommends grant funding to private, non-profit organizations using money from the Sheriff's Office's forfeitures and seized assets.

Contact: Michelle Quad 305.292.7090,
mquad@keysso.net

SUBSTANCE ABUSE ADVISORY BOARD

Reviews and recommends applications for funding under the Florida Department of Law Enforcement's Byrne Justice Assistance Grant Program and the Clerk's Drug Abuse Trust Fund. This board also serves as the County's Planning Council for the Florida Department of Children and Families Office of Criminal Justice, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse.

Contact: Janet Gunderson 305.292.4470
Gunderson-Janet@monroecounty-fl.gov

TOURIST DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Sets an overall direction for the Monroe County tourism marketing effort to assure long-term sustained growth in tourism revenues and sustainability of resources. **Contact: Katrina Cool** 305.296.1552

officeasst@fla-keys.com

Constitutional Officers

There are five Constitutional Officers in the Florida Keys. They are elected by voters in the entire county. They are Sheriff, Clerk of the Court, Supervisor of Elections, Tax Collector, and Property Appraiser. The Constitutional Officers report to the people. Each has different responsibilities mandated by state law.

SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS

www.keys-elections.org

Joyce Griffin

305.292.3416, Employees: 9



The Supervisor of Elections oversees all elections in Monroe County. On the website, residents

can register to vote, request Vote-By-Mail ballots, check voting status, check where to vote, request signature and address, and change party affiliation. Residents also can find information on candidates running for office, or learn how to become a candidate for county elections.

Supervisor of Elections offices:

- **Key West:** 530 Whitehead Street, #101
- **Marathon:** 10015 Overseas Hwy.
- **Key Largo:** 102050 Overseas Hwy., #137

As of January 2022, there are 57,392 active registered voters in the County.

Election results are available starting from 1932, sample ballots can be viewed starting from 1987 and total voters who came out to vote in any of the elections starting in 1958, when Monroe County only had 11,544 registered voters.

CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT & COMPTROLLER

www.clerk-of-the-court.com

Kevin Madok

305.292.3550, Employees: 88



The Clerk of Court serves as the Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer of the County and is the ex-officio Clerk to the BOCC.

The Clerk is the custodian of all official records and is in charge of all records relating to the Circuit and County criminal, civil, juvenile, probate and traffic departments, including traffic citation and other court-related payments. The Clerk also serves as the County Auditor and County Recorder.

Key West Traffic/Criminal

500 Whitehead St | 305.295.3963

Key West Civil/Recording/Records 530

Whitehead St | 305.292.3440

Marathon Office

3117 Overseas Hwy | 305.289.6027

Plantation Key Office

88820 Overseas Hwy, Islamorada
305.852.7145

Plantation Key Roth Office

50 High Point Road, Islamorada 305.852.7145

PROPERTY APPRAISER

www.mcpafl.org

Scott Russell

305.292.3420, Employees: 37



The Monroe County Property Appraiser is responsible for identifying, locating, and fairly valuing all

property within the county for tax purposes. Determining fair and equitable value for your property is the only role of this office. The property appraiser does not create value; the value is made by buying and selling real estate in the marketplace. The property appraiser has the legal responsibility to study those transactions and appraise your property accordingly.

Main Office

305.292.3420
500 Whitehead Street (rear of building), Key West

Marathon Satellite Office

305.289.2550 MM 48, 2798 Overseas Hwy, Suite 310, Marathon

Upper Keys Satellite Office

305.852.7130 MM 88.7, 88700 Overseas Hwy Islamorada



TAX COLLECTOR

www.monroetaxcollector.com

Sam Steele

305.295.5000 Employees: 61

The tax collector is an agent to collect state and government revenue and public funding. The tax collector is responsible for the collection of ad valorem taxes, non-ad valorem taxes, motor vehicle and vessel registration, title applications, collection of vehicle and vessel sales tax, issuance of hunting and fishing licenses, driver's license services, concealed weapons, local business tax, issuance of hurricane re-entry stickers for Monroe County residents, and collection of tourist development taxes.

The tax collector works with information provided by the Property Appraiser's Office for the tax roll, which consists of real estate taxes, tangible taxes, and assessments, like fire, solid waste, and sewer.

Main Office Key West

1200 Truman Ave., Suite 101
305.295.5000

Marathon Branch

3015 Overseas Highway
305.289.6034

Plantation Key Branch

Annex Building, 88800 Overseas Hwy
305.852.7150

Key Largo Branch

Tradewinds Shopping Center 101487 Overseas Hwy, 305.853.3562

Key West Driver License Office 3304

N. Roosevelt Blvd. 305.293.6338

Big Pine Key Branch

247 Key Deer Blvd. 305-872-4751
(Tues-Thurs 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.)

SHERIFF

www.keyssso.net

Rick Ramsay

Dial 911 for emergencies, 305.292.7000 for the non-emergency switchboard

r Ramsay@keyssso.net

Employees: 600



The Monroe County Sheriff's Office is the primary law enforcement agency serving the residents and visitors of the

Florida Keys from Key Largo to Key West. Law enforcement duties include traditional road patrol, the operation of county detention facilities, and the service of civil papers.

On the Sheriff's website, users can find information about arrest data, active warrant information, victim resources and more.

Administrative Headquarters

305-292-7000

5525 College Road, Key West

DON'T MISS OUT ON THE ANIMAL FARM: free of charge, the second and fourth Sunday of the month from 1 to 3 p.m.

Freeman Substation

20950 Overseas Hwy, Cudjoe Key

Marathon Substation

3103 Overseas Highway

Islamorada Substation

86800 Overseas Highway

Roth Building

50 High Point Road, Islamorada

Key Largo Substation

102050 Overseas Highway

JUSTICE SYSTEM: 16TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT

www.keyscourts.net

Chief Judge: Bonnie Helms

Trial Court Administrator:
Holly Elomina 305.292.3423

Freeman Justice Center

302 Fleming Street, Key West

Marathon Courthouse

3117 Overseas Highway

Plantation Key Government Center

88820 Overseas Hwy, Tavernier

Medical Examiner

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/medicalexaminer



Dist. 16 Medical Examiner:

Dr. Michael R. Steckbauer

305.743.9011,

MEO@monroecounty-fl.gov

Employees: 2

Monroe County built a state-of-the-art Medical Examiners facility on Grassy Key

in 2008 to store records and perform examinations and testing in the morgue. The Medical Examiners Act was enacted in 1970 to establish minimum and uniform standards in death investigations. Florida's 67 counties are served by 25 Medical Examiner Districts appointed by the governor in 3-year terms.

By statute, the Medical Examiner determines cause and manner of death of a human being under the following circumstances: criminal violence, accidents, suicides, the sudden unexplained death of an otherwise healthy person, unattended by a practicing physician or other recognized practitioner, in a prison or penal institution, in police custody, suspicious or unusual circumstances, criminal abortion, poisoning, diseases that threaten public health, and employment-related diseases, injuries, or toxic agent.

The medical examiner also determines the cause and manner of death when a dead body is brought into the state without proper medical certification; when the body is to be cremated, dissected, or buried at sea; and when requested by the District Attorney.

The medical examiner's primary tool is an autopsy, which is a post-mortem examination. During an autopsy, everything is documented in a "case file," with photographs taken at all stages of the process. When an investigation is complete, a death certificate listing the cause and manner of death is filed with the Department of Vital Records for the State of Florida.



Monroe County participates in the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs). The system helps find unclaimed persons who have been identified, but the family has not been found to be notified by Local Law Enforcement. Anyone can search the NamUs database at www.namus.gov or call 855.626.7600. They offer help to families in search of a missing family member.

To request a copy of an autopsy report, the request form is available at www.monroecounty-fl.gov/medicalexaminer. The form can be emailed to meo@monroecounty-fl.gov, or mailed to the Medical Examiner's Office, 56639 Overseas Highway, Marathon, FL 33050.

STATE ATTORNEY

www.keyssao.org



Dennis Ward

305.292.3400

PUBLIC DEFENDER

www.pd16.org



Robert Lockwood

305.294.2501

Municipalities

There are five municipalities in the Keys. Each has its own elected mayor, council and government for the operations of their city. The rest of Monroe County is known as “unincorporated Monroe County,” and it is governed by the Monroe County Board of County Commissioners.

ISLAMORADA, VILLAGE OF ISLANDS

86800 Overseas Highway, Islamorada
305.664.6400

www.islamorada.fl.us

Mayor: Pete Bacheler

City Manager: Vacant at Time of Publishing

Public Information Officer: Katie Atkins

katie.atkins@islamorada.fl.us

CITY OF KEY COLONY BEACH

www.keycolonybeach.net
305.289.1212

Mayor: Patricia Trefry City

Administrator:

Dave Turner

cityadministrator@keycolonybeach.net

CITY OF KEY WEST

1300 White St., Key West
305.809.3700

www.cityofkeywest-fl.gov

Mayor: Teri Johnston

City Manager:

Patty McLaughlin

Public Information Officer:

Alyson Crean

acrean@cityofkeywest-fl.gov

CITY OF LAYTON

68260 Overseas Highway, Long Key
www.cityoflayton.com
305.664.4667

Mayor: Bruce Halle

City Administrator: Skip Haring

cityhall@cityoflayton.com

CITY OF MARATHON

9805 Overseas Highway
www.ci.marathon.fl.us
305.743.0033

Mayor: John Bartus

City Manager: George Garrett

garrettg@ci.marathon.fl.us

Public Information Officer: Sara Matthis

matthiss@ci.marathon.fl.us

Federal Agencies in Monroe County

NAVAL AIR STATION KEY WEST

www.cnic.navy.mil

Monroe County and Naval Air Station Key West have a long history of cooperation and mutual partnership. This collaboration has contributed economic, public safety and environmental benefits for the community at large, and has also enhanced operational and readiness requirements for the Department of Defense, Department of Homeland Security, National Guard units, federal agencies and allied forces supported by Naval Air Station Key West.

Public information officer: Trice Denny

Andrea.Denny@navy.mil

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

The Coast Guard has stations in Islamorada and Marathon. It also operates Sector Key West, which is responsible for 55,000 square miles, including Cuba and the Bahamas. The Coast Guard protects the maritime border, environment and marine commerce. They conduct search and rescue and law enforcement operations, and in the event of a disaster, Coast Guard works with Monroe County Emergency Management.

Station Islamorada: 305.664.8077

Station Marathon: 305.743.1991

Sector Key West: 305.292.8713

NOAA

www.floridakeys.noaa.gov

NOAA also is responsible for the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, which protects 2,900 nautical miles of Florida Keys coastal and ocean waters.

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE KEY WEST

www.floridakeys.noaa.gov
www.weather.gov/key

For all things weather-related, the County entrusts the experts at NWS for updated forecasts and other expertise. Daily forecasts can be found on the NWS website and during a hurricane event, like Hurricane Irma in 2017 and Tropical Storm Eta in 2020.

U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION

www.cbp.gov

In the event of an emergency, U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents become a part of Monroe County's Emergency Management team. The agency is also responsible for border security and detaining illegal immigrants, preventing human trafficking, and checking people in and out at the Key West Port of Entry located at 301 Simonton St, Room 105, Key West; 877.227.5511.

FEDERAL PARKS IN THE KEYS

DRY TORTUGAS NATIONAL PARK 70 Miles West of Key West
www.nps.gov; 305-242-7700

GREAT WHITE HERON NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, KEY WEST KEY WEST NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, AND NATIONAL KEY DEER REFUGE VISITOR CENTER
179 Key Deer Blvd, Big Pine Key
www.fws.gov; 305.872.0774

CEMETERIES IN THE KEYS

Key West Cemetery

701 Pauline St, Key West

Southern Keys Cemetery

258 Ave A, Key West

African Refugee Cemetery

Higgs Beach, Key West

Memorial Gardens of the Keys

31211 Ave. A, Big Pine Key

Pioneer Cemetery

81801 Overseas Hwy, Islamorada

State Agencies in Monroe County

In Monroe County, many branches of government at the federal, state, and local levels work in the Keys - some directly serve the local residents and some have bigger missions to serve Florida or the country. Monroe County BOCC works with other government entities at all levels for the good of the County and its citizens.

STATE PARKS IN THE KEYS

www.floridastateparks.org

Bahia Honda

36850 Overseas Hwy, Bahia Honda 305.872.2353

Curry Hammock

56200 Overseas Hwy, Marathon 305.289.2690

Dagny Johnson Hammock

County Road 905, MM 106, Key Largo 305.676.3777

Florida Keys Overseas Heritage Trail

90 linear miles of trail: Key Largo to Key West;
305.853.3571

Fort Zachary Taylor

601 Howard England Way, Key West 305.292.6713

Indian Key

Offshore Islamorada, 305.664.2540

John Pennekamp Coral Reef

MM 102.5, Key Largo
www.Pennekamppark.com, 305.664.3777

Lignumvitae Key Botanical

77200 Overseas Hwy, Islamorada, 305.664.2540

Long Key

67400 Overseas Hwy, Long Key 305.664.4815

San Pedro Underwater Archaeological Preserve

Remains of a Dutch-built ship off Indian Key
305.664.2540

Windley Key Fossil Reef Geological State Park

84900 Overseas Hwy, Islamorada, 305-664-2540

FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

www.myfwc.com

FWC has many entities in the Keys, including law enforcement, licenses and permitting, conservation and research. On the law enforcement side, the FWC officers overlap with Monroe County Sheriff's Office on the water and near coastal communities to respond as backup or primary on water-related issues and public safety. The agency also brings in supplemental officers and equipment to support Emergency Management.

On the research side of FWC, the agency keeps track of economically stimulating fisheries like lobster and stone crab, which is important not only for the County but also for the State. It also helps create awareness about invasive species, like lionfish, and is the State agency tasked with testing antibiotics for the coral disease outbreak.

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH - MONROE COUNTY

www.Monroe.floridahealth.gov
www.DOHMonroe@flhealth.gov

The department is responsible for helping to keep the residents in the Florida Keys healthy. From environmental health to preventative planning for those who are pregnant to those looking for elderly care, and everyone in between. The Florida Department of Health in Monroe County is also a partner for special needs care during evacuation events and has helped Monroe County in the past with issues like screw-worm and mosquito-related incidents. The local department was the lead agency for the COVID-19 pandemic that started in locally in March 2020.

Administrator: Bob Eadie

305.293.7500

1100 Simonton St, Gato Building, Key West

Public Information Officer: Alison Kerr

305.676.3820

Alison.Kerr@flhealth.gov

Environmental Health

553 College Rd, Stock Island, 305.676.3908

102050 Overseas Hwy, Key Largo

305.676.3941

Public Health and Mental Preparedness

105 Olivia St, Key West

305.293.7500

Health Care Centers

1100 Simonton St, Key West

3333 Overseas Hwy, Marathon

50 High Point Rd, Tavernier

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

www.FloridaDEP.gov

The DEP is the State's lead agency for environmental management and stewardship, divided into three areas: land and recreation, regulatory, and ecosystem restoration. In Monroe County, DEP has been an integral agency for the County's canal restoration, stormwater and sustainability projects.

DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES 305.289.2600

FLORIDA HIGHWAY PATROL

www.flhsmv.gov

The state law enforcement agencies have officers who are stationed in the Keys to provide a variety of functions, often working collaboratively with local law enforcement. 850.617.2000

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

To find current F-DOT projects in Monroe County, visit
www.fdotmonroe.com.

Monroe County Commissioners and Sheriff Rick Ramsay join FDOT District 6 Secretary Stacy Miller at the ribbon cutting of the Old 7 Mile Bridge in January 2022.



Quick References

FLORIDA KEYS CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

Key Largo Chamber of Commerce

www.keylargo-chamber.org
106000 Overseas Hwy
info@keyslargochamber.org 305.451.1414

Key West Business Guild

www.gaykeywestfl.com
808 Duval St, 305.294.4603

Key West Chamber of Commerce

www.keywestchamber.org
510 Greene St, 305.294.2587
info@keywestchamber.org

Greater Marathon Chamber of Commerce

www.floridakeysmarathon.com
1222 Overseas Hwy, 305.743.5417
info@floridakeysmarathon.com

Islamorada Chamber of Commerce

www.islamoradachamber.com
87100 Overseas Hwy, 305.664.4503
info@islamoradachamber.com

Lower Keys Chamber of Commerce

www.lowerkeyschamber.com
31020 Overseas Hwy, Big Pine Key
info@lowerkeyschamber.com 305.872.0752

Florida Keys Mosquito Control District

www.keysmosquito.org

Five board members are elected countywide to represent their respective districts. The board's mission is to control mosquitoes efficiently in an environmentally sensitive manner while protecting the public from health threats and nuisance issues that could impact the local economy.

Director: Andrea Leal 305.292.7190 **Public Information: Chad Huff** 305.292.7190 x 131,
chuff@keysmosquito.org

Comcast Service Center

1010 Kennedy Dr, Suite 200, Key West 300
Sombrero Rd, Marathon
800.266.2278

AT&T and U-Verse

1113 Key Plaza, Key West
5109 Overseas Hwy, Marathon
305.296.5007; 855.293.7676

Florida Keys Aqueduct Authority

www.fkaa.com, 1100 Kennedy Dr, Key West,
305.296.2454

The five board members each represent the entire County and are appointed by Florida's governor.

Public Information: Julie Cheon
jcheon@fkaa.com, 305.295.2150

Monroe County School District

www.keysschools.com

Five board members elected countywide to represent their respective districts.

Superintendent: Theresa Axford

305.293.1400,
Theresa.Axford@keysschools.com

Total Enrollment: 8,951

School Board Members:

District 1: Bobby Highsmith 305.923.9331

bobby.highsmith@keysschools.com

District 2: Andy Griffiths, 305.296.2639

andy.griffiths@keysschools.com

District 3: Mindy Conn 305.293.1400 x53323,

mindy.conn@keysschools.com

District 4: John Dick, 305.395.0657

john.dick@keysschools.com

District 5: Sue Woltanski, 305.240.1565

sue.woltanski@keysschools.com

Florida Keys Electric Cooperative

www.fkec.com, 91630 Overseas Hwy.,
Tavernier, 305.852.2431

The nine-person elected electric company board represents four districts in the Middle and Upper Keys from the 7 Mile Bridge to Ocean Reef, and to the County line on the 18-Mile Stretch.

Keys Energy Services

www.keysenergy.com, 1001 James St., Key West, 305.295.1000

The five-seat elected governing board for the Lower Keys electric company represents the 7 Mile Bridge to Key West.

Communications: Julio Torrado

Julio.Torrado@keysenergy.com,
305.295.1023

Animal Control

The three animal shelters in Monroe County are community resources for pet owners and pet lovers. By Florida statute, each county is responsible for its own animal control. Animal Control is responsible for enforcing animal control regulations, protecting the public from the dangers and nuisances of uncontrolled, dangerous, or feral animals, and protecting animals from cruelty, abuse, and abandonment. They are also responsible for the spay and neutering and adoption of animals in their care. Animal Control officers conduct investigations, issue citations, and attend court proceedings related to alleged violations. The three County shelters provide all animals in their custody with proper care, nutrition, and shelter.

KEY WEST AND THE LOWER KEYS

MM 0 through MM 16.5

Florida Keys SPCA

5711 College Rd.,

Key West

305.294.4857

After-Hours: 305.304.5964

www.fksPCA.org

BIG PINE KEY AND THE MIDDLE KEYS

MM 16.5 through MM 70

Florida Keys SPCA

10550 Aviation Blvd.

Marathon

305.743.4800

After-Hours: 305.394.7806

KEY LARGO AND THE UPPER KEYS

MM 70 through MM 112

Humane Animal

Care Coalition

105951 Overseas Hwy,

Key Largo

305.451.0088

www.humaneanimalcoalition.com

In 2021, the Florida Keys SPCA in the Middle and Lower Keys and Keys West sheltered 655 dogs, 1,088 cats, 62 birds, 31 reptiles, 1 ferret, 7 guinea pigs, 19 hamsters, 1 pig, 16 rabbits, 3 rats, and 1 skunk.

A total of 632 were adopted, 656 were reunited with their families and 48 were transferred to rescue partners.

Florida Keys SPCA spayed or neutered 739 dogs and cats through our spay/neuter clinics and provided wellness exams for 372 pets through the FKSPCA Dogwood Clinic.

The Upper Keys shelter handled 1,569 cases broken down into 484 animal intakes, 517 spays and neuters, adoptions of 104 dogs and cats, 62 lost and found matches, and 402 road calls. Since 2000, the Upper Keys shelter also completed 11,512 spays and neuters -- all free of charge to Upper Keys residents through donations from Humane Animal Care Coalition and private citizens.

From the Mayor's Desk

First, let me express my gratitude to my fellow commissioners who allow me to serve as Mayor of the Board of County Commissioners for the coming year and to serve our Florida Keys communities.

As a child, I read the “Railroad that went to Sea” about the beauty of the Florida Keys. With the enthusiasm of a young child, I dreamed that one day I would visit – little did I know! Today, after living in the Florida Keys since 1973, I can sometimes see the Keys through the eyes of that child and feel the obligation to protect this beauty for generations to come. This goal, balanced with the need to support our residents with a healthy economy, defines the difficult decisions we face both today and in the future.

The County has continued to deal with the COVID pandemic this year in a positive and responsible manner. County staff and leadership, with guidance from Bob Eadie of the Monroe County Health Department, have continued to make the health and safety of our residents a top priority. After some initial delays were addressed, the vaccine roll-out went smoothly with vaccines available at community clinics throughout the Keys and at pharmacies.

I sadly must acknowledge the loss of our Commissioner Mike Forster this past year. He was deeply committed to the Upper Keys community and served as a strong voice for them. Governor DeSantis appointed our past Legislative Representative Holly Raschein to fill his seat. She is a strong, capable person who is able to take over Mike’s goals and continue to serve the Upper Keys community. The previous losses experienced by Commissioner Craig Cates’ family and his own battle with the illness emphasize the personal pain that has changed our lives. It also, as with other struggles we have faced, brought out the strength and resilience of our Keys’ family.

Many positive things have happened in Monroe this past year, with projects that are scheduled to be completed in the year ahead. This year, the new state-of-the-art Marathon library opened its doors to the Middle Keys community.



The Plantation Key Government Center is nearing completion and will open in 2022. The new courtrooms and attached jail facility, Clerk’s Office and other county service offices will provide a modern judicial facility for the Upper Keys. The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at the Marathon Airport property has its grant funding in place. The permitting is nearly finalized and work will begin in 2022 with completion scheduled for late 2023.

The County is addressing rising water issues and doing evaluation studies of roads, facilities and neighborhoods. The estimate of the total cost currently is in the billions. We have received word that Monroe County has been awarded \$5 million in funding from the Department of Environmental Protection Statewide Resilience Program targeted for our two pilot road elevation projects identified in the Upper Keys: Stillwright Point and Twin Lakes neighborhoods in Key Largo that experience sustained flooding from King Tides, seasonal heavy rainfall accumulation and evolving sea level rise conditions. The County will continue to seek Federal and State funding in the years to come to combat these issues.

We are working closely with FDOT to address US 1 traffic congestion issues in 2022. The Board of Commissioners, working with the Florida Keys Transportation Coordination Committee and input from the cities, will be submitting a list of recommended projects from the 2021 Transportation Master Plan to FDOT. These are relatively small projects in cost that offer substantial traffic flow enhancement. This will become an annual process with FDOT for incorporation in their 5-year work plan to improve travel conditions on US1.

We will continue to look forward, and with the help of our citizens, work toward a beautiful, stronger and more resilient Florida Keys for the future.

Sincerely,

Mayor David Rice



