

# MONROE COUNTY



CELEBRATING 200 YEARS OF THE FLORIDA KEYS  
2023 STATE OF THE COUNTY AND INFORMATION GUIDE

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## 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: July 3, 1823**

County Seat:  
**Key West**

**Commissioner Districts: 5**

**\$73,153**

Median Household Income

**4,768**

Number of Employment  
Establishments

**1.4%** Unemployment  
Rate (Jan. 20, 2023)

**47.9**

Median Age

Average  
Commute to  
Work: **18.6**  
minutes

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

*(Statistics from census.gov,  
edr.state.fl.us, floridajobs.org,  
and flhsmv.gov)*

**Monroe County is Florida's 38th most populous county with .4 percent of the state's population. There are 67 counties in Florida.**

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 2023 Monroe County State of the County and Information Guide is produced by Public Information Officer Kristen Livengood with the help of Monroe County's Senior Management Team and staff.

*Cover Photo: Two couples with the fish they caught on the Bahia Honda Bridge circa the 1920s. From the Helen Wadley Islamorada Branch of Monroe County Library Collection.*



## Looking Ahead

As we enter a milestone year for Monroe County in 2023, our commissioners and staff continue to enhance the quality of the lives of our citizens, business owners, and visitors. I am honored to serve as Monroe County Administrator for the past 14.5

years and I am proud of the remarkable accomplishments of our commissioners and 624 full-time and part-time employees in 2022.

Since the creation of Monroe County on July 3, 1823, transportation and the environment have been at the forefront of our citizens' minds, and it still rings true today. This year, the County hired a transit director with a three-year plan to work with the municipalities on transportation woes throughout the Florida Keys. With resident participation, Planning and Environmental Services submitted the top transportation priorities to the FDOT, with many of the ideas incorporated into FDOT's five-year work plan.

The Sustainability Office and our commissioners continue to lead the country in climate change and sea-level rise conversations. The recently completed Roads Elevation Study came in with a \$1.6 billion price tag for County-maintained road adaptations subject to sea-level rise by 2045. With Legislative Affairs' successful utilization of our lobbyists and close collaboration with our state and federal delegation, several 'big-picture' long-term projects were approved. For example, Congress approved initial funding of a \$2.6 billion U.S. Army Corps of Engineers program in the Florida Keys to improve resiliency by reducing damage and risk from impacts of storms and guard against potential damage from sea-level rise.

With the help of Other People's Money, as I like to say, we will continue to chase grants and other funding sources. This year, we secured \$30 million in state and federal appropriations and numerous additional grants for water quality, bridge replacements, and storm risk mitigation. We will continue to push forward with canal restoration efforts, supporting the health of our nearshore waters. Code Compliance reached an 80 percent connection rate to the central sewer system, with hopes to have all of unincorporated Monroe County hooked up in the next 18 months – another giant leap toward improved water quality in the Florida Keys. Passage of the federal coral reef protection bill authorizing \$45 million in annual funding bill caps off our environmental successes this year.

Budget and Finance produced the \$519.7 million FY23 budget, which boasts the lowest property tax rate in Florida for another year. Key West International Airport broke ground on a new concourse project that will improve service to the more than one million passengers who pass through the terminal. Project Management completed the Plantation Key Courthouse and Detention Center, the Pine Channel Nature Park, and repaired many of the County's properties damaged in previous storms. Parks and Beaches is outfitting beaches with mobility mats and sand wheelchairs and adding accessible swings at playgrounds, taking us one step closer to making recreational opportunities truly for everyone. The Building and Permitting Department successfully implemented an all-online permitting system earlier this year, creating a more streamlined process.

To make the community safer, the new Emergency Operations Center in Marathon will be home to Emergency Management, Fire Rescue headquarters, and the Sheriff's Office dispatch center. Emergency Management activated for two storms in 2022, and 18 of our firefighters, our Public Information Officer, and I deployed to help our northern neighbors in DeSoto County after Hurricane Ian. Engineering and Roads focused on completing bridge projects and significant road improvements in Key West and throughout the County. Monroe County Fire Rescue's Trauma Star provided a record number of lifesaving flights to the mainland while transporting our residents with no out-of-pocket costs. The fifth "Hot Shots" firefighter training class graduated – a program that waives tuition for residents. Unincorporated Monroe County continues to hold on to one of the best ratings in the Community Rating System, saving flood insurance policyholders millions of dollars annually in the Florida Keys.

Solid Waste championed a "Put a Lid On It" event in endangered Key Deer areas, and staff collected approximately 1.8 million pounds of locally produced debris in three weeks by Ian. Strategic Planning gathered new information on community priorities to incorporate into a refreshed 2023 strategic plan. Veterans Affairs secured more than \$5 million in annual disability payments for local Veterans, and Social Services and Guardian ad Litem advocated for our most vulnerable residents, from our youngest to our oldest. For those with a green thumb, the Extension Service guided residents in learning about local flora, fauna, and other vital Florida Keys resources. And for the bookworms and knowledge seekers, the Library System implemented a \$1 million grant and added cutting-edge technology to the five branches.

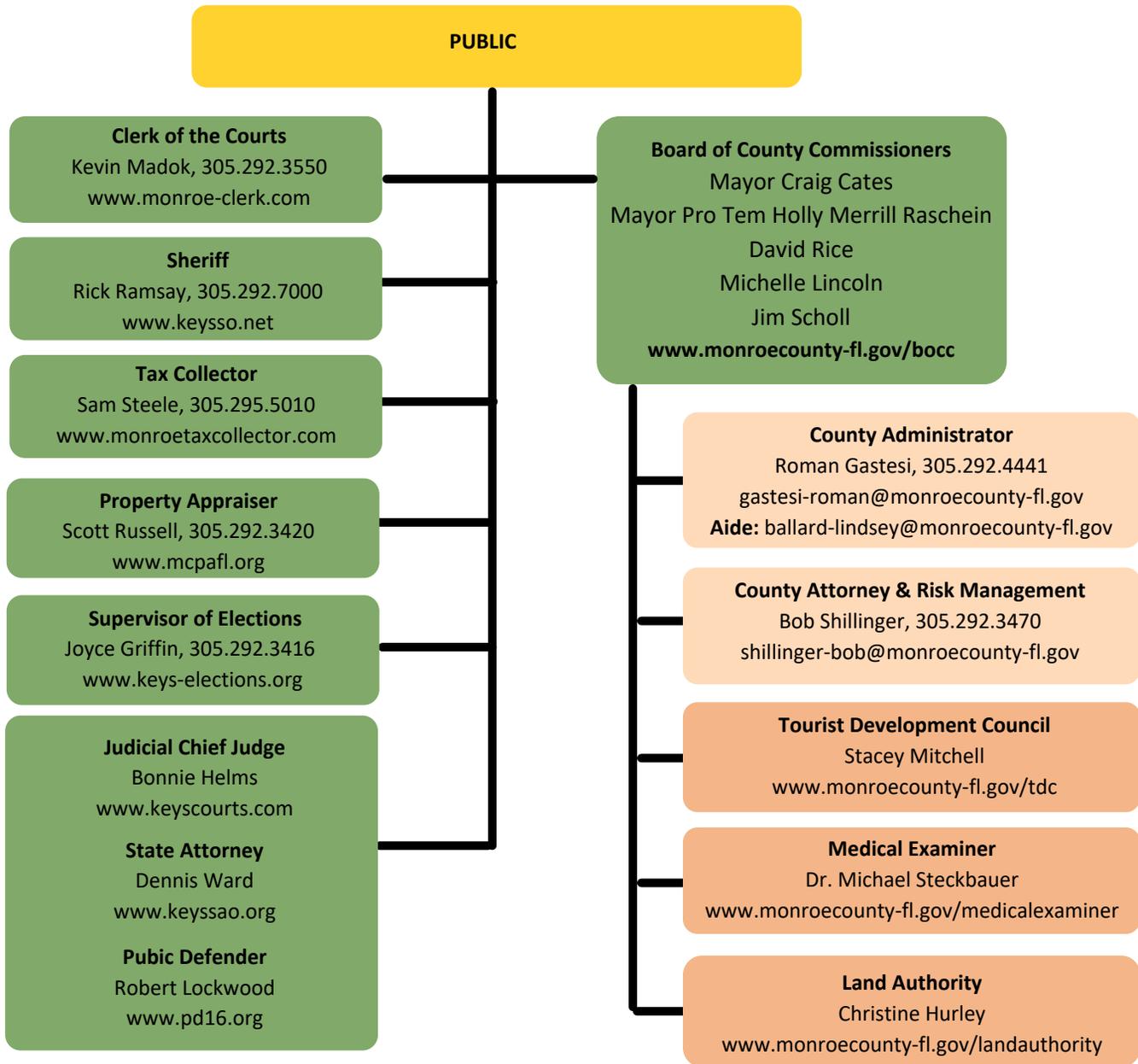
The Fleet Department received Blue Seal certifications for its high standards in maintaining County vehicles. Facilities Maintenance worked to preserve and protect the county's property and building assets. Employee Services enhanced employee well-being and safety while recruiting to fill positions in a challenging employee market. Information Technology continues to seamlessly support county operations with network, phone, server, MCTV, and applications. The County Attorney's Office handled a number of matters, including successfully litigating a case with nationwide implications that protected the security and integrity of the County's voting equipment.

As we celebrate 2023 with special 200-year touches, Monroe County is committed to creating a better life, every day, for everyone in the Florida Keys. We will continue to have open and courageous communication about our past, present, and future, and we will strive to make our island home a safe and enjoyable place to live, work, and play.

Cheers in paradise,

Roman Gastes  
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 25 departments and offices.*





## Monroe County Senior Staff Directory

[www.monroecounty-fl.gov/directory](http://www.monroecounty-fl.gov/directory)

**Assistant Administrator** Kevin Wilson, 305.453.8788, [wilson-kevin@monroecounty-fl.gov](mailto:wilson-kevin@monroecounty-fl.gov)

**Engineering & Roads** Judith Clarke, 305.295.4390, [clarke-judith@monroecounty-fl.gov](mailto:clarke-judith@monroecounty-fl.gov)

**Facilities Maintenance** William DeSantis, 305.292.4532, [desantis-william@monroecounty-fl.gov](mailto:desantis-william@monroecounty-fl.gov)

**Fleet** Daryl Greenlee, 305.292.3452, [greenlee-daryl@monroecounty-fl.gov](mailto:greenlee-daryl@monroecounty-fl.gov)

**Project Management** Cary Knight, 305.292.4527, [knight-cary@monroecounty-fl.gov](mailto:knight-cary@monroecounty-fl.gov)

**Solid Waste & Recycling** Cheryl Sullivan, 305.292.4536, [sullivan-cheryl@monroecounty-fl.gov](mailto:sullivan-cheryl@monroecounty-fl.gov)

**Airports** Richard Strickland, 305.809.5210, [strickland-richard@monroecounty-fl.gov](mailto:strickland-richard@monroecounty-fl.gov)

**Budget & Finance** Tina Boan, 305.292.4470, [boan-tina@monroecounty-fl.gov](mailto:boan-tina@monroecounty-fl.gov)

**Building & Permitting** Rick Griffin, 305.289.2521, [griffin-rick@monroecounty-fl.gov](mailto:griffin-rick@monroecounty-fl.gov)

**Code Compliance** Cynthia McPherson, 305.289.2508, [mcperson-cynthia@monroecounty-fl.gov](mailto:mcperson-cynthia@monroecounty-fl.gov)

**Employee Services** Bryan Cook, 305.292.4558, [cook-bryan@monroecounty-fl.gov](mailto:cook-bryan@monroecounty-fl.gov)

**Emergency Management** Shannon Weiner, 305.289-6018, [weiner-shannon@monroecounty-fl.gov](mailto:weiner-shannon@monroecounty-fl.gov)

**Extension Services** Alicia Betancourt, 305.292.4501, [betancourt-alicia@monroecounty-fl.gov](mailto:betancourt-alicia@monroecounty-fl.gov)

**Fire Rescue** Jim Callahan, 305.289.6004, [callahan-james@monroecounty-fl.gov](mailto:callahan-james@monroecounty-fl.gov)

**Guardian Ad Litem** Alexsa Leto, 305.292.3485, [leto-alexsa@monroecounty-fl.gov](mailto:leto-alexsa@monroecounty-fl.gov)

**Information Technology** Alan MacEachern, 305.453.8792, [maceachern-alan@monroecounty-fl.gov](mailto:maceachern-alan@monroecounty-fl.gov)

**Library System** Kimberly Matthews, 305.587.3683, [matthews-kimberly@monroecounty-fl.gov](mailto:matthews-kimberly@monroecounty-fl.gov)

**Legislative Affairs** Lisa Tennyson, 305.292.4441, [tennyson-lisa@monroecounty-fl.gov](mailto:tennyson-lisa@monroecounty-fl.gov)

**Parks & Beaches** John Allen, 305.453.8748, [allen-john@monroecounty-fl.gov](mailto:allen-john@monroecounty-fl.gov)

**Planning & Env. Resources** Emily Schemper, 305.289.2500, [schemper-emily@monroecounty-fl.gov](mailto:schemper-emily@monroecounty-fl.gov)

**Public Information** Kristen Livengood, 305.680.8226, [livengood-kristen@monroecounty-fl.gov](mailto:livengood-kristen@monroecounty-fl.gov)

**Social Services** Sheryl Graham, 305.292.4510, [graham-sheryl@monroecounty-fl.gov](mailto:graham-sheryl@monroecounty-fl.gov)

**Sustainability** Rhonda Haag, 305.453.8774, [haag-rhonda@monroecounty-fl.gov](mailto:haag-rhonda@monroecounty-fl.gov)

**Strategic Planning** Kimberly Matthews, 305.587.3683, [matthews-kimberly@monroecounty-fl.gov](mailto:matthews-kimberly@monroecounty-fl.gov)

**Transit** Richard Clark 305.570.8744, [clark-richard@monroecounty-fl.gov](mailto:clark-richard@monroecounty-fl.gov)

**Veterans Affairs** Cathy Crane, 305.295.5150, [crane-cathy@monroecounty-fl.gov](mailto:crane-cathy@monroecounty-fl.gov)

# Board of County Commissioners (BOCC)

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/bocc



**MAYOR  
CRAIG CATES**

District 1  
500 Whitehead  
Street, Suite 102  
Key West, FL 33040  
305.292.3440  
[boccdis1@monroecounty-fl.gov](mailto:boccdis1@monroecounty-fl.gov)



**MAYOR PRO TEM HOLLY  
MERRILL RASCHEIN**

District 5  
102050 Overseas  
Highway, Suite 234  
Key Largo, FL 33037  
305.453.8787  
[boccdis5@monroecounty-fl.gov](mailto:boccdis5@monroecounty-fl.gov)



**COMMISSIONER  
MICHELLE LINCOLN**

District 2  
243 Key Deer Blvd  
Big Pine Key, FL  
33043  
305.292.4512  
[boccdis2@monroecounty-fl.gov](mailto:boccdis2@monroecounty-fl.gov)



**COMMISSIONER  
JIM SCHOLL**

District 3  
530 Whitehead  
Street, Suite 102  
Key West, FL 33040  
305.292.3430  
[boccdis3@monroecounty-fl.gov](mailto:boccdis3@monroecounty-fl.gov)



**COMMISSIONER  
DAVID RICE**

District 4  
9400 Overseas  
Highway, Suite 210  
Marathon, FL 33050  
305.289.6000  
[boccdis4@monroecounty-fl.gov](mailto:boccdis4@monroecounty-fl.gov)

**EXECUTIVE AIDES:**

**Amanda Leggett**  
[Leggett-Amanda@monroecounty-fl.gov](mailto:Leggett-Amanda@monroecounty-fl.gov)

**Corie Abel**  
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**Jennifer Garcia**  
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**Arabi Luke**  
[Luke-Arabi@monroecounty-fl.gov](mailto:Luke-Arabi@monroecounty-fl.gov)

**Tamara Lamarche**  
[Lamarche-Tamara@monroecounty-fl.gov](mailto:Lamarche-Tamara@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



**2023 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.

\*Schedule subject to change

**Nelson Government Center**

102050 Overseas Highway, Key Largo  
305.453.8788

- March 22**
- June 21**
- Sept. 20**
- Dec. 13**

**Marathon Government Center**

2798 Overseas Highway, Marathon  
305.289.6036

- Jan. 18**
- April 19**
- July 19**
- Oct. 18**

**Harvey Government Center**

1200 Truman Avenue, Key West  
305.295.4385

- Feb. 15**
- May 17**
- No August meeting**
- Nov. 8**

## CELEBRATING 200 YEARS OF MONROE COUNTY

On July 3, 1823, Monroe County became the 6th county in the Florida territory, preceding Florida becoming a state in 1845. In 1823, the County took up most of yet to be populated south Florida, with the County line located just below Lake Okeechobee.

To celebrate the 200-year milestone, the County is hosting several celebrations culminating on July 3, 2023 at Lower Keys Rotary's Annual July 3rd Firework celebration at Big Pine Key Community Park where the county will attempt to regain its reign of having the world's largest key lime pie. The event will also include live music and a laser light show to accompany the fireworks. The event will start at 5 p.m. and a 30-minute fireworks show will happen shortly after 9 p.m.

Other events include:

- A free community concert featuring local musician Howard Livingston and the Mile Marker 24 Band at Coffee Butler Amphitheater in Key West on March 25 that will include a drone light show.
- Plans for a "Mango Tango" sunset celebration on the Old 7 Mile Bridge, likely to take place Friday, May 19.
- The Islamorada Chamber of Commerce is hosting a sit down Sea-to-Table locally sourced dinner on Saturday, June 10. For more information, contact 305.664.4503.
- A community family day barbecue at Rowell's Park on June 17.

More events may be added and this schedule is subject to change. More information about all 200-year events will be located on Monroe County's website and social media.

Monroe County Public Library System and the Florida Keys History Center, along with local historians like Brad Bertelli are helping curate 200-year content throughout the year. Find 200-year posts on their social media pages and be on the lookout for displays in the in the libraries to celebrate the milestone. [#flkeys200](#)



According to Dr. Johanna C. L. Engström, Assistant Professor of the Dept. of Geography at the Univ. of Florida, this is the historical border from the Atlas of Historical County boundaries. Using 2020 Census data, it is estimated the population of Monroe county today would be about 6,195,000 people if the county still had its original extent. Actual county population in 2020 was about 83,000.

Monroe County Historian Corey Malcom estimates the 1823 population to have been under 200, with most residents living in Key West.



## Remembering Mayor Emeritus Sylvia Murphy



Monroe County Mayor Emeritus Sylvia Murphy passed away on Nov. 26, 2022, after years of dedicated public service to the Florida Keys. She served four terms as a county commissioner until she retired in 2020. Before becoming a commissioner, she had a career as an EMT for Monroe County Fire Rescue. She resided in Tavernier and moved to the Florida Keys in the 1950s.



## 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](http://www.monroecounty-fl.gov)

### HURRICANE INFORMATION

[www.monroecountyem.com](http://www.monroecountyem.com)

**Information Hotline:** 800.955.5504  
(activated for emergencies)

**Sign up for ALERT!Monroe:**  
[www.monroecountyem.com/alertmonroe](http://www.monroecountyem.com/alertmonroe)

 /MonroeCountyEM

### MONROE COUNTY SOCIAL MEDIA

 /MonroeCountyBOCC

 @MonroeCounty

 @monroecountybocc

 flickr.com/monroecountybocc

 sign up at [www.nextdoor.com](http://www.nextdoor.com)

#### Monroe County Fire Rescue:

 /monroecountyfirerescue

 @monroecountyfirerescue

#### Parks and Beaches:

 /parksandbeaches

#### Guardian Ad Litem:

 /galflkeys

#### Monroe County Libraries:

See page 37.

#### Airports:

See page 9.

### 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](http://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](http://www.monroecounty-fl.gov/mctv)

**Comcast: Channel 76, AT&T U-Verse: Channel 99, Hotwire Fision: Channel 1615, ROKU, Amazon Fire TV, Online, and iOS, Android mobile applications**

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 IT and MCTV on page 33.

## Public Information Office

[www.monroecounty-fl.gov/publicinformation](http://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 25 departments. The PIO also provides the primary information for the County's Emergency Management and Fire Rescue departments.

#### Responsibilities include:

- Writes and distributes news releases
- Maintains the County's official social media communications and website
- 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.

Receive County news releases directly in your inbox at [www.monroecounty-fl.gov/notifyme](http://www.monroecounty-fl.gov/notifyme).

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



#### Public Information Officer:

**Kristen Livengood**

305.680.8226

[Livengood-Kristen](mailto:Livengood-Kristen@monroecounty-fl.gov)

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

Employees: 1

### FLORIDA KEYS MUNICIPALITIES

#### Islamorada:

[www.islamorada.fl.us](http://www.islamorada.fl.us)

#### Key Colony Beach:

[www.keycolonybeach.net](http://www.keycolonybeach.net)

#### Key West:

[www.cityofkeywest-fl.gov](http://www.cityofkeywest-fl.gov)

#### Layton:

[www.cityoflayton.com](http://www.cityoflayton.com)

#### Marathon:

[www.ci.marathon.fl.us](http://www.ci.marathon.fl.us)

### CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS

#### Sheriff's Office:

[www.keysso.net](http://www.keysso.net)

#### Supervisor of Elections:

[www.keys-elections.org](http://www.keys-elections.org)

#### Clerk of Court:

[www.monroe-clerk.com](http://www.monroe-clerk.com)

#### Tax Collector:

[www.monroetaxcollector.com](http://www.monroetaxcollector.com)

#### Property Appraiser:

[www.mcpaf1.org](http://www.mcpaf1.org)



# Key West International & Florida Keys Marathon International Airports

[www.monroecounty-fl.gov/airports](http://www.monroecounty-fl.gov/airports) or [www.eyw.com](http://www.eyw.com)



**Director: Richard Strickland**  
305.809.5210  
[Strickland-Richard@monroecounty-fl.gov](mailto:Strickland-Richard@monroecounty-fl.gov)  
Airport Employees: 20  
On-Site Fire Rescue: 14  
On-Site Sheriff's Office: 25  
Budget: \$55.4 million

Monroe County owns and operates two Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) certified airports: Key West International Airport (EYW) and Florida Keys Marathon International Airport (MTH). The airports are self-supporting Enterprise Funds, which use airport resources to provide for the operational and financial needs through fees and charges paid by airport users and tenants. Additional funding is acquired through various Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and FAA grant programs. The department oversees all services and requirements for safe and efficient operation including ensuring all regulatory requirements, planning efforts, and passenger and operators' needs are being met. 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 developed renovation projects focused on enhancing the passenger experience and efficient flow of aircraft operations. Efforts currently underway include the following:

### Concourse A - Design and CMAR

### Fuel Farm Access Roadway

### Taxiway A Bypass Taxiway



## EYW

Key West International Airport served more than one million passengers in 2022 on flights from Delta, American, United, JetBlue, Allegiant, and Silver Airways. Together, the airlines provided nonstop flights to destinations including Atlanta, New York, Newark, Chicago, Charlotte, Dallas, Washington D.C., Ft. Lauderdale, Orlando, Pittsburgh, Sanford, Tampa, Miami, Philadelphia, Boston, Houston, Indianapolis, Nashville, Cincinnati, Asheville, St. Petersburg, and Dulles. With convenient connections at these hubs, the airlines offer service to many major destination around the United States.

The airport also supports home-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 aircraft fueling is provided by Signature Flight Support, 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

EYW 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.

/KWIAEYW    /eyw\_kwia

## 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 and soon-to-be the new Emergency Operations Center. In 2022, the airport had nearly 48,000 total aircraft operations.

General aviation services and aircraft fueling are provided by Million Air General Aviation, 305.743.4222 and Million Air Jet Center, 305.743.1995.

- **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 the terminal roof replacement in 2022. Additional ongoing projects include HVAC replacement and relocation of the Automated Surface Observing System designed to support weather forecast activities and aviation operations.

**Marathon Airport Manager:**  
**Michael Legere** 305.289.6302  
[Legere-Michael@monroecounty-fl.gov](mailto:Legere-Michael@monroecounty-fl.gov)

# Budget & Finance

[www.monroecounty-fl.gov/budgetandfinance](http://www.monroecounty-fl.gov/budgetandfinance)

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



**Senior Director:**

**Tina Boan**  
305.292.4467  
[Boan-Tina@monroecounty-fl.gov](mailto:Boan-Tina@monroecounty-fl.gov)

Employees: 11  
Budget: \$5.1 million  
(includes \$3.5 million for nonprofit funding that the department manages).

*The Budget and Finance Department is made up of three offices:*

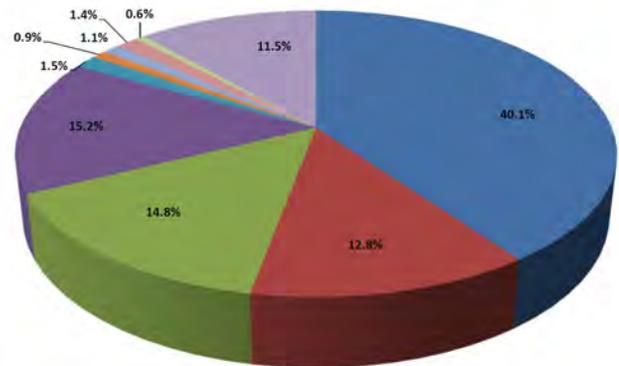
## 1. OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET (OMB)

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

## Fiscal Year (FY)23 Adopted Budget

The Board of County Commissioners adopted a \$519.7 million FY23 budget. The budget includes the Board of County Commissioners, the constitutional officers, like the Sheriff’s Office, Tax Collector, Property Appraiser, Supervisor of Elections, and Clerk of Court, and other appropriations for the Tourist Development Council, capital projects, and reserves. Monroe County has the lowest millage rate in Florida and has continued this trend for many years.

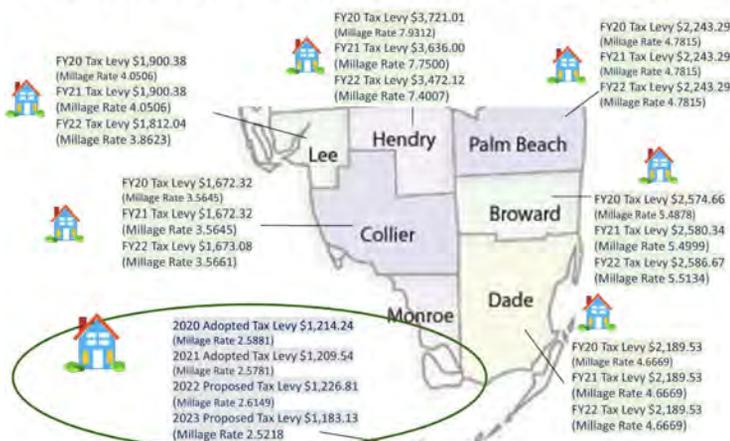
## Department Expenditure Summary



## FY23 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

- A decrease in the proposed FY23 aggregate millage rate by 4.2 percent from 3.3748 to 3.2326. A homesteaded residential property owner with an average appraised assessed taxable value of \$469,161 in 2022 will see a \$0.66 monthly decrease in their property tax for the FY23 year. The taxable value is different from the market value.
- Reflects a property value increase with a total value of \$36.8 billion, another historic high. Property values have doubled in the past 10 years.
- Reflects continued investment in roads and bridges, resilience adaptation, facilities, and public safety infrastructure. A number of notable capital projects are funded in whole or in large part with non-local funding.
- Funds expanded recreational facilities, including upgrades and amenities to existing parks and expanded library services.
- Funds higher operational costs like CPI-based increases for vendor contracts, higher cost of fuel, supplies, and materials, higher utility and property insurance costs, and higher personnel costs.

## South Florida Ad Valorem Tax Comparison FY23 Countywide Services-Property with \$469,161 Taxable Value<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Source: Florida Department of Revenue: Comparison of Property Taxes Levied

## DID YOU KNOW?

For FY23, the BOCC approved \$2.1 million in property tax revenues to 26 nonprofit human service organizations that provide needed services to vulnerable residents of Monroe County.

The budget is in effect from Oct. 1, 2022 to Sept. 31, 2023.

## 2. PURCHASING OFFICE

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

*By the Numbers in 2022:*

- Held **71** bid openings
- Processed or verified: **717** regular requisitions, **25** disaster requisitions, **137** disaster-related invoices, and **710** purchasing card transactions
- **14** - Hurricane Irma Projects in the close-out process
- Answered **225** public records requests through the County Attorney's office

## 3. GRANTS ADMINISTRATION

Oversees the funding for competitive, discretionary and mandatory grant programs funded by the BOCC. The BOCC awards approximately \$3.5 million a year in grants designed to promote the well-being of vulnerable families, children, and individuals who live in Monroe County through nonprofit organizations. Other responsibilities include facilitating meetings for the Human Services Advisory Board (HSAB) and Substance Abuse Policy Advisory Board (SAPAB) and for application implementation and monitoring of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement Residential Substance Abuse Treatment, Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant programs, and the Clerk's Drug Abuse Trust Fund. [www.monroecounty-fl.gov/hsab](http://www.monroecounty-fl.gov/hsab) and [www.monroecounty-fl.gov/sapab](http://www.monroecounty-fl.gov/sapab).

### HSAB Grant Cycle:



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.

## Transit Authority

[www.monroecounty-fl.gov/transit](http://www.monroecounty-fl.gov/transit)



**Director: Richard Clark**  
 305.809.5210  
[Clark-Richard@monroecounty-fl.gov](mailto:Clark-Richard@monroecounty-fl.gov)  
 Employees: 1  
 Budget: \$200,000

**Improving Mobility.  
 Enhancing Opportunities.  
 Connecting Communities.**

The primary goal of Monroe County Transit is to improve the quality of life for the citizens of Monroe County and its five municipalities by providing a public transit system that reduces congestion, has frequent and reliable service, and is safe to ride. To accomplish this, a modern and efficient system needs to be planned, designed, and built specifically for the uniqueness of Monroe County and its diverse communities.

- Overseas Highway is the major transportation link for each of the Keys and the only land-based link to the mainland of Florida.
- The current level of service allows for an evacuation time of 24 hours for the entire population.
- The public transit service providers are Miami-Dade Transit, Key West Transit, and Freebee, a micro-mobility service (only offered in Islamorada).

## Three-Year Plan

### Year One

- Analyze existing conditions
- Socialize long-term strategy and feasibility of the timeline
- Identify needs and types of service to fit the needs (data-driven)
- Identify transit and funding model

### Year Two

- Perform service planning
- Identify and pursue FDOT and USDOT funding
- Design an operational plan
- Identify real estate needs (bus stops, maintenance, etc.)
- Ascertain staffing needs

### Year Three

- Begin service delivery
- Positive ridership growth
- Re-evaluate performance records
- Adjust team trajectory to fit long-term strategy

## Building and Permitting

[www.monroecounty-fl.gov/building](http://www.monroecounty-fl.gov/building)  
[www.monroecounty-fl.gov/permitting](http://www.monroecounty-fl.gov/permitting)

The Building Department, in coordination with Planning and Environmental Resources, protects public health, safety, and the environment by providing permitting for construction and development in accordance with Monroe County Code and the Florida Building Code, consistent with Florida Statutes. The department coordinates 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](http://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 Code Compliance and 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.
- Coordinates administration and enforcement of County's Floodplain regulations, pursuant to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) regulations, including management of the CRS and Flood Compliance programs.
- Works with FEMA to review new floodplain regulatory mapping.
- Monitors the safe occupation of existing structures and develops guidelines 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.

### WHERE TO FIND STATUS OF PERMITS, INSPECTIONS, CONTRACTORS, OR PROPERTY INFORMATION?

**Prior to Oct. 3, 2022:** MCESEARCH  
[www.monroecounty-fl.gov/mcesearch](http://www.monroecounty-fl.gov/mcesearch)

**After Oct. 3, 2022:** Community Development  
[www.monroecounty-fl.gov/onlinepermitting](http://www.monroecounty-fl.gov/onlinepermitting)

The interfaces allow the public to review the status and information on permits, inspections, search local licensed contractors, and review property information for unincorporated Monroe County.

- Permit searches can be done by the owner's name, address of property, permit or case numbers, real estate (RE) numbers.
- Contractors can be found in a general "all" search, or by company name, category, license numbers, or contractor ID.

### PERMITTING

Permits are required in unincorporated Monroe County for:

- site preparation: land clearing, placement of fill, and excavation
- demolition
- tie-downs of habitable structures
- signs
- fences
- sheds
- 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 categories, contact the Building Department with specific questions.

**The Monroe County Building Department launched its new all-online permitting system in October 2022. Permit applications are only accepted using this online service. No paper applications or document submissions are accepted.**

**Instructional videos on registering an account, applying for a permit, and a walk-through for applicants to see the application process from start to finish can be found at [www.monroecounty-fl.gov/onlinepermitting](http://www.monroecounty-fl.gov/onlinepermitting).**



**Building Official**

**Rick Griffin**

305.289.2521

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

[monroecounty-fl.gov](http://monroecounty-fl.gov)

Employees: 44

Budget: \$6 million

#### PERMIT OFFICES

##### Key Largo:

Nelson Gov't Center  
 102050 Overseas Hwy  
 305.453.8800

##### Marathon Gov't Center

2798 Overseas Hwy, #300  
 305.289.2501

##### Big Pine Key: Library

213 Key Deer Blvd.  
 305.289.6310

##### Stock Island:

5503 College Road #203  
 305.295.3990

##### Ocean Reef:

11601 CR 905, Key Largo  
 305.453.8765

## FEMA FLOOD MAP CHANGES

[www.monroecounty-fl.gov/floodmaps](http://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.

In January 2020, FEMA held community meetings throughout the Keys, offering the public an opportunity to view and comment in person on the proposed Flood Insurance Rate Maps. Following this, Monroe County, through its Consultant, examined the maps and the accompanying Flood Insurance Studies provided by FEMA and appealed some areas based on the data used to create the maps in June 2021. No private appeals were filed.

FEMA is currently reviewing Monroe County’s appeal and documentation and has not responded as of the time of printing. Once FEMA reviews and processes the County’s appeal and the appeal has a final decision, the final FIRMs will become effective.

At this time, the County is required to formally adopt the maps by ordinance 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.

## COMMUNITY RATING SYSTEM (CRS)

[www.monroecounty-fl.gov/crs](http://www.monroecounty-fl.gov/crs)

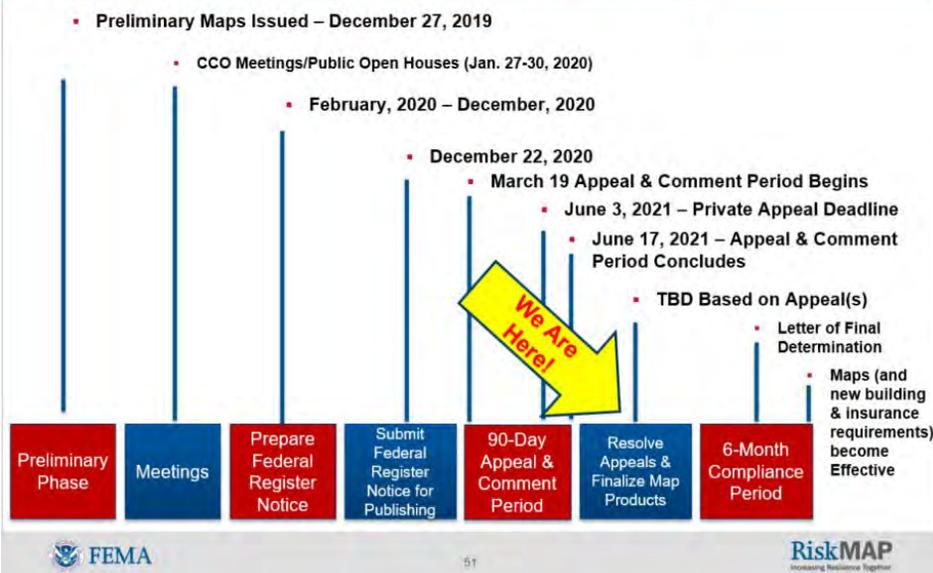
Unincorporated Monroe County is a class 3 CRS designation saving **12,892 National Flood Insurance-backed policyholders** approximately **\$576 a year**.

There are **263 CRS communities** in Florida. Unincorporated Monroe County is one of three communities to have achieved a class 3 designation. There are no class 2 or class 1 designations, so the county is among the highest performing communities in Florida.

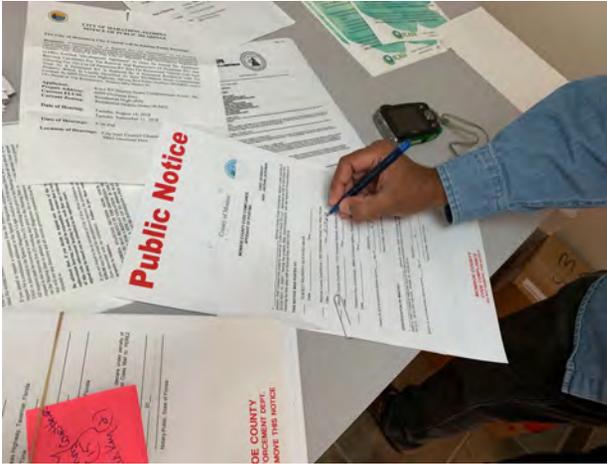
Annually, brochures are sent to homeowners identifying flood risks.

**DID YOU KNOW?** The County entered the CRS program in 2016. To date, participation in the program has saved policyholders approximately **\$30 million**.

## Monroe County Coastal Study: Post Preliminary Processing



For more information, email: [floodmaps@monroecounty-fl.gov](mailto:floodmaps@monroecounty-fl.gov)



## Code Compliance

[www.monroecounty-fl.gov/codecompliance](http://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 Monroe County citizens. The department establishes working partnerships with neighborhoods and outside agencies to assist with compliance.

In 2023, one major goal of Code Compliance is to "go live" using the new Building Department software for online permitting to track complaints. Once active, the system can forward complaints directly to Code staff for assignment. Staff meets weekly with the project developers to strategically test and problem solve to reach this goal.

Efforts will continue to resolve all open cases focusing on land clearing, unsafe structures, vacation rentals, navigational hazards, and neighborhood blight.



**Director: Cynthia McPherson**

305.289.2508

[McPherson-Cynthia@monroecounty-fl.gov](mailto:McPherson-Cynthia@monroecounty-fl.gov)

Employees: 15

Budget: \$2.3 million

### Anonymous No More:

According to State law, 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 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. It also:

- 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

# 684

new cases in 2022

# \$1.4 Mil

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

# 491

closed cases in 2022

# 12,548

Conducted inspections

#### Six General Code Inspectors:

- Address complaints/violations
- Work without permits
- Abandoned vehicles and watercraft
- High grass and weeds
- Trash and debris
- Vacation Rental
- Wastewater Connection
- Land Clearing
- Unsafe Structures

*Casework includes issuing final orders, filing liens, lien releases, recordings, collections, and mitigation.*

#### Other positions include:

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

Presented  
**440** cases  
before the  
Special  
Magistrate

#### CODE COMPLIANCE ISSUE:

**Online:** [www.monroecounty-fl.gov/codecomplaintform](http://www.monroecounty-fl.gov/codecomplaintform)

#### In-person or by phone:

**Nelson Government Center:**

305.453.8806

**Marathon Government Center:**

305.289.2810

For code case status, please visit  
[www.monroecounty-fl.gov/mcesearch](http://www.monroecounty-fl.gov/mcesearch)

## Planning and Environmental Resources

[www.monroecounty-fl.gov/planning](http://www.monroecounty-fl.gov/planning)

The goal of the 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 Monroe County 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:**

**PLANNING** 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. Services also include transportation planning, administration of the County's affordable housing programs, and Geographical Information Systems (GIS) administration. **Email Cioffari-Cheryl@monroecounty-fl.gov.**

**GIS** develops, maintains, and disseminates geographic data and GIS resources for government and public use. GIS is used for FEMA flood mapping plans and remapping district lines, among many other uses. **Email Davisson-Bryan@monroecounty-fl.gov.**



**Senior Director:**  
**Emily Schemper**  
305.289.2500  
[Schemper-Emily@monroecounty-fl.gov](mailto: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 local endangered species, in coordination with state and federal environmental agencies. The office works with the Monroe County Land Authority 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 recreational boating. The office manages Boating Improvement Funds and secures marine-related grants 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 Burtner-Brittany@monroecounty-fl.gov.**

### DERELICT & MIGRANT VESSELS

Traditionally, the 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 2022, in total, there were approximately 150 removal authorizations. Migrant vessels accounted for 1/3 of the vessels. In total, the county spent a little over \$93,000 in county funds for migrant and other derelict vessels with migrant vessels accounting for more than 67 percent of that total.

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.**



### WHAT IS ROGO: RATE OF GROWTH ORDINANCE

The Florida Keys are designated as an Area of Critical State Concern by the State Legislature where policies have been adopted to control growth based on the Florida Keys carrying capacity. The carrying capacity is the lowest time required to safely evacuate the Florida Keys in the event of a hurricane, which is based on a state-given 24-hour evacuation model.

ROGO was implemented to provide for the safety of residents in the event of a hurricane evacuation and to protect the significant natural resources of Monroe County, as required by the State of Florida.

In 2012, the State of Florida mandated no more than 1,970 new housing ROGO unit 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 cities within the Florida Keys also have limited ROGO permits to issue.

In 2020, staff processed Comprehensive Plan amendments to extend the time frame through 2026. Results of the next hurricane evacuation clearance time modeling are expected in 2023.



Hurricane Ian Community Support



Fire Chief Jim Callahan

305.289.6088

Callahan-James@monroecounty-fl.gov

Employees: 177

Budget: \$29 million



## Monroe County Fire Rescue

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/firerescue

Monroe County Fire Rescue (MCFR) operates nine fire stations in the Florida Keys from Tavernier to Key West International Airport and Trauma Star air ambulance bases in Marathon and 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
- Fleet services for all fire rescue vehicles and airport operations partnership with KWIA

Calls for service in 2022 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 wants to provide the public with the best services possible. A Customer Satisfaction Survey is available on the Fire Rescue website.

### By The Numbers

**1,183**  
patients airlifted to out-of-county hospitals

**4,263**  
medical emergency calls via ambulance & Trauma Star

**28%:** Trauma Star air transports are related to heart attacks, strokes, traffic accidents, and trauma related incidents.

Medical emergencies comprise **75%** of the total response call volume.

## Trauma Star

www.monroecounty-fl.gov/traumastar  
305.289.6010

Trauma Star is the only air ambulance service in Monroe County and is staffed by Monroe County Sheriff's Office pilots and MCFR flight nurses and paramedics who are ready to launch around the clock. The primary mission is to provide emergency air transportation for individuals who are critically ill or injured by natural causes such as heart attacks or strokes, or by a vehicle crash or other traumatic event. Trauma Star also provides interfacility transport of critical patients to out-of-county hospitals for specialty care when ordered by a physician.



**There are no out-of-pocket costs for County residents who use Trauma Star.** If a Monroe County resident qualifies for a resident fee waiver, the County will seek reimbursement from any private insurance companies, and any remaining unpaid fees will be waived. The waiver form can be found on the Fire Rescue website.



Directly after Hurricane Ian, MCFR sent 18 firefighters to DeSoto County to help in recovery. Administrator Roman Gastesi and Public Information Officer Kristen Livengood also joined in the recovery efforts.

Monroe County Fire Rescue provided medical assistance to hundreds of migrants who landed on Florida Keys shores.



# Fire Prevention

[www.monroecounty-fl.gov/firemarshal](http://www.monroecounty-fl.gov/firemarshal)

Fire Prevention provides services to help eliminate fires and works 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, fire cause investigation, life safety code enforcement, occupancy inspections, and outreach and education, especially to children. Inspection checklists for commercial properties and vacation rentals and the fee schedule for services for all commercial and vacation rental properties can be found on the Fire Marshal website.

## FIRE MARSHAL AND DEPUTY FIRE MARSHALS



**Deputy Chief of Operations & Fire Marshal:**  
**R.L. Colina**  
305.289.6342  
[Colina-RL@monroecounty-fl.gov](mailto:Colina-RL@monroecounty-fl.gov)



*Fire Prevention Week in Keys schools*



*Beat the Heat Events held in the summer*



# Fire Training

## HOT SHOTS PROGRAM

[www.monroecounty-fl.gov/hotshots](http://www.monroecounty-fl.gov/hotshots)

The Board of County Commissioners graduated a fifth class of the “Hot Shots” program in 2022. The program provides free firefighting and first responder training for qualified 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 135 graduates since the program started. Students who successfully complete all 17 performance objectives will be prepared to take the State of Florida Firefighter I and II exams.



## AIRCRAFT RESCUE FIREFIGHTING (ARFF)

Station 7 at Key West International Airport (EYW) provides fire, EMS, and ARFF services to travelers. Crash rescue equipment is stationed and maintained on-site. The ARFF unit at EYW undergoes an in depth FAA Safety inspection annually and continues to pass successfully.



## JOE LONDON FIRE ACADEMY

[www.monroecounty-fl.gov/fireacademy](http://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 43 certified firefighting training centers in Florida. The academy has a classroom facility for educating and training firefighters, as well as a training tower and burn building to prepare trainees to become state-certified firefighters. The academy offers medical and fire training for firefighter/EMTs and paramedics year-round.

become state-certified firefighters. The academy offers medical and fire training for firefighter/EMTs and paramedics year-round.



# Emergency Management

[www.monroecountyem.com](http://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.

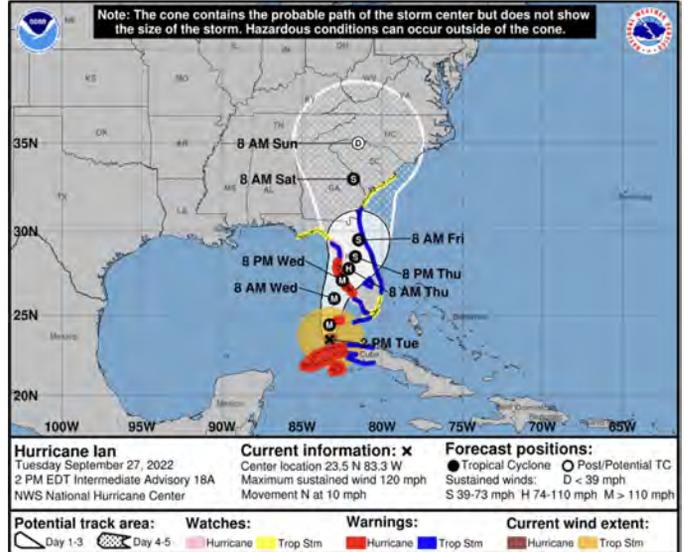
In 2022, Emergency Management continued to work with municipal and infrastructure partners to secure more than \$100 million from FEMA’s Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funding to harden and protect infrastructure from impacts of future storms.



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



In November 2022, Commissioners Rice, Merrill Raschein, Scholl, and Lincoln joined County Attorney Bob Shillinger, Radiological Planner Mary Napoli and Ocean Reef Safety officials at Turkey Point Nuclear Power Plant in south Miami. Ocean Reef, Key Largo Anglers Club, and Card Sound Road residents and visitors could be affected in the unlikely event of an accident at the Turkey Point Nuclear Power Plant, owned and operated by Florida Power & Light (FPL). More information on Turkey Point preparedness can be found at [www.monroecounty-fl.gov/turkeypoint](http://www.monroecounty-fl.gov/turkeypoint).



*Have a Plan: In 2022, Emergency Management monitored 14 named storms including Hurricane Ian in September. Hurricanes and tropical storms passing the Florida Keys can bring high winds, heavy rainfall, storm surges, and tornadoes.*



2022 marked the five-year anniversary of Hurricane Irma. The Florida Division of Emergency Management hosted a press conference in Marathon on Sept. 10 to commemorate the hurricane.



Groundbreaking at the Emergency Operations Center in October 2022.

**"Hurricane Irma showed us that this was a real need for Monroe County, a long time in the making."**

—Monroe County Commissioner David Rice on the EOC

## Hurricane Preparation

[www.monroecountyem.com/prep](http://www.monroecountyem.com/prep)

Monroe County is vulnerable to hurricanes 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 Needs to 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 storm shutters and take other protective measures, including securing lawn furniture and tying 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](http://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: [monroecountyem.com/specialneeds](http://monroecountyem.com/specialneeds)
- County shelters are pet-friendly. Register in advance: [monroecountyem.com/petsregistry](http://monroecountyem.com/petsregistry).
- Prepare a supply or evacuation kit: [monroecountyem.com/emergencykit](http://monroecountyem.com/emergencykit).



*During Hurricane Ian, a shelter opened at Key West High School. Shelters are pet friendly and should only be used if you have no other options available.*

### IF A STORM THREATENS

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



### RESIDENTIAL REENTRY

[www.monroecountyem.com/reentrystickers](http://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.

### BUSINESS EARLY RE-ENTRY PROGRAM

[www.monroecountyem.com/placardprogram](http://www.monroecountyem.com/placardprogram)

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

### CERT PROGRAM

[www.monroecounty-fl.gov/volunteermonroe](http://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.

## Coming Soon: Emergency Operations Center (EOC)

Monroe County Project Management broke ground on the 28,321 square foot EOC in October 2022 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: Spring 2024

## Employee Services

[www.monroecounty-fl.gov/EmployeeServices](http://www.monroecounty-fl.gov/EmployeeServices)

The Employee Services Department provides guidance and information to the County's 624 full and part-time 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

Manages all matters relating to the County's most valuable resource, it's employees, and is responsible for:

- Managing job recruitment, selection, and promotion
- Developing and overseeing employee compensation and job classifications
- Developing, promoting, and enforcing personnel policies
- Promoting employee career development and job training
- Providing orientation programs for new hires
- Providing guidance regarding disciplinary actions

#### GROUP INSURANCE BENEFITS

Provides and administers health, prescription, dental, vision, and life coverage to more than 2,650 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.

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



**Director: Bryan Cook**

305.292.4458

[Cook-Bryan@monroecounty-fl.gov](mailto:Cook-Bryan@monroecounty-fl.gov)

Employees: 11

Budget: \$36.4 million



*Pam Pumar retires from Monroe County on Feb. 28, 2023 after 28 and a half years with the department. She started as a staff assistant in human resources and worked her way to senior administrator. She said highlights of her career include moving from the Monroe General Hospital building on Stock Island to the Gato building, where HR is located today. She also founded a county Relay for Life team, which she was a part of every year until COVID stopped the event.*

*"It's been an honor to work for Monroe County for all of these years," she said.*

#### NEED A JOB?

[www.monroecounty-fl.gov/jobs](http://www.monroecounty-fl.gov/jobs)

Monroe County hires about 115 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.



#### 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.

**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.**

## 2022 Employee of the Year: Michaela Manning



**MICHAELA MANNING**

**EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR/THIRD QUARTER  
SENIOR COORDINATOR OF PERMITTING, BUILDING DEPARTMENT**

Congratulations to Monroe County Employee of the Year Michaela Manning. 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.

Her primary duties include ensuring her team in the Marathon office is well-trained in their positions. With the implementation of the new all-online permitting system, she embraced the challenge of working to assist all employees through the testing of the new program. Manning started with the County in March 2017.

*"Michaela has been, and continues to be, a key employee in our progress with our new electronic permitting software. We continue to laud her work and look forward to her continuing professionalism, not only with electronic permitting but with everything she does."* - Ed Koconis, Permitting Administrative Director

## 2022 Employees of the Quarter



**KEVIN KOPP, FIRST QUARTER  
CUDJOE KEY TRANSFER STATION**

Kopp was recognized for his dedication to Monroe County residents, noteworthy performance, and positive impact on the community. He started with Monroe County Solid Waste in 2019.

*"Kevin is always friendly and professional to coworkers and customers. He illustrates patience when training new staff and is always willing to stay late or come in early when needed."* - Cheryl Sullivan, Director of Solid Waste



**LEEANN McDOUGALL, SECOND  
QUARTER, FACILITIES MAINTENANCE**

McDougall was recognized for her exemplary attitude, recognized in the community and by her co-workers. She started in November 2019 and works at the Marathon Government Center.

Her peer, Systems Analyst Ken Marshall, nominated her for the award, citing her

positive impact on the organization. **"She always works tirelessly with a smile on her face,"** he said.

Middle Keys Facilities Administrator JT Null echoed the comments and added **"she is an asset to Monroe County."**



**ILZE AGUILA, FOURTH QUARTER  
PLANNING COMMISSION SUPERVISOR**

Aguila was recognized for learning GIS software to create the maps required for public notice, staff reports, and individual requests. She started with the County in 2016.

*"This skill acquisition exceeds expectations and is an immeasurable asset to the department."* - Cheryl Cioffari, Assistant Director of Planning

Going above and beyond in several instances, she also volunteered to learn the process of completing ROGO letters when the department needed assistance.

*"She shows the ability to be flexible and responsive to changing deadlines, priorities, and individual needs."* - Emily Schemper, director of the department.



## Engineering Services and Roads Maintenance

[www.monroecounty-fl.gov/Engineering](http://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.



**Director: Judy Clarke, P.E.**

305.295.4390

Clarke-Judith@  
[monroecounty-fl.gov](mailto:Clarke-Judith@monroecounty-fl.gov)

Employees: 36

Budget: \$51 million

*The department assisted or was directly responsible for more than \$25 million in grant awards for various multi-year capital projects.*

### 2023 MAJOR GOALS

- Begin Project Development and Environment (PD&E) study in anticipation of future replacement of Card Sound Bridge
- Implement GIS based asset management and work order system
- Utilize asset management system to expand county's proactive pavement maintenance program
- Update 2014 Bridge Assessment Study to develop updated 10-year bridge maintenance plan
- Submit Transportation Alternatives Program grant application to obtain funding for Crane Boulevard Shared Use Path construction phase
- Apply for and obtain Small County Outreach Program grant funds for two projects
- Successfully re-certify Monroe County in FDOT's Local Agency Program to ensure eligibility for federal grant funds.



### Card Sound Toll Authority

[www.monroecounty-fl.gov/cardsoundtoll](http://www.monroecounty-fl.gov/cardsoundtoll)

The department is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the Card Sound Toll. The electronic toll uses Toll-By-Plate, SunPass, and EZ Pass 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 travelers with two-axle vehicles that use SunPass and have an account in good standing. In 2022, 263 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.

## 2022 By The Numbers

**349** miles  
Buzz bar operations

**1,431** miles  
Mowing operations

**957.4**  
miles of sweeping

**641**

Drain Cleaning  
and Inspections

**271**

linear feet of  
trench drains  
refurbished

Sign Shop:

1,031 new signs

231 new posts installed

175 utility locates performed

STOP BARS  
REPAINTED: 534

Material pick-up: 195.87 tons of rock

**Trash Picked Up:** 2,197 bags weighing 18.6 tons

**Seaweed Removal:** 37.7 tons

**Shoulder Work:** 30 roads using 5.36 tons of material

**Material used to fill Pot Holes:** 10 tons

**Coconuts Removed:** 47.38 Tons

**Reviewed 156 right-of-way permit applications, issued permits and inspected work for conformance with permit requirements.**

## 2022 MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

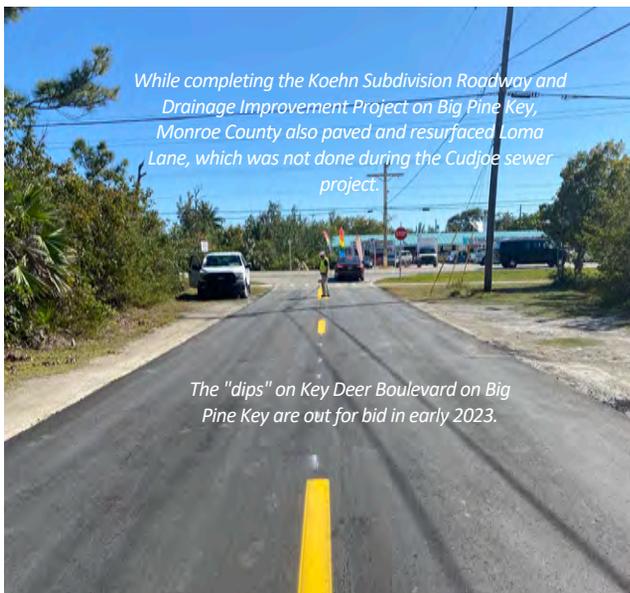
- Reached substantial completion of construction of Overseas Heritage Trail Cudjoe Connection
- Applied for and was awarded \$489,000 FDOT Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant for engineering design of Crane Boulevard (Sugarloaf) Shared Use Path.
- Installed solar powered MUTCD compliant school zone signs at Sugarloaf School
- Assisted Facilities by cleaning drains at County facilities in Key West and Marathon
- Performed hurricane debris removal and storm recovery operations at Lower Keys facilities and parks
- Performed emergency repairs on county bridge in Key Largo that was damaged by vehicle accident
- Replaced 143 ft of guardrail on Card Sound Road

## TWIN LAKES, KEY LARGO



Monroe County successfully secured a federal appropriation of \$5.4 million for the Key Largo Twin Lakes neighborhood, which when combined with the \$3.9 million Resilient Florida grant that was previously awarded results in \$9.3 million to fund the construction of the project. The neighborhood experiences frequent flooding for prolonged periods during heavy rainfall, storm surge, high tide, and King Tide events that cause damage to public roads and private properties and creates safety issues for the residents.

The project consists of road elevation and construction of a new stormwater collection system and pump station. The project encompasses 4,633 linear feet of roadway to protect 105 residential structures in the subdivision. The County coordinated with FKAA, who will be replacing the community's waterlines as a part of the project in order to eliminate future disruption in a separate project.



*While completing the Koehn Subdivision Roadway and Drainage Improvement Project on Big Pine Key, Monroe County also paved and resurfaced Loma Lane, which was not done during the Cudjoe sewer project.*

*The "dips" on Key Deer Boulevard on Big Pine Key are out for bid in early 2023.*



## DUCK KEY BRIDGE WORK

[www.monroecounty-fl.gov/duckkey](http://www.monroecounty-fl.gov/duckkey)

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. Construction is tentatively scheduled to be substantially complete in September 2023.

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.

The County approved the construction contract for the replacement of the Seaview Drive Bridge in November 2022. The contractor mobilized to the site to begin work in January 2023 and is scheduled to complete the replacement in July 2024. The new Seaview Bridge will be similar to the Bimini Bridge, with the arch geometry maintained, the crash-rated decorative railing that was specifically designed for the Duck Key bridges, and a new sidewalk along the south lane.

Upon completion of the Bimini Drive Bridge, the County will begin the replacement of the Harbour Drive Bridge. The County posts project updates every two weeks on the website.

## KEY WEST: BERTHA STREET AND 1ST STREET

[www.monroecounty-fl.gov/roadprojects](http://www.monroecounty-fl.gov/roadprojects)

Monroe County's 1st Street and Bertha Street Roadway and Drainage Improvement Project in Key West is currently underway. The work consists of reconstruction and resurfacing of the two roads, installation of a new stormwater collection system on Bertha Street, and rehabilitation of the existing stormwater collection system on 1st Street.

The county partnered with the City of Key West to include reconstruction of existing sidewalks, construction of additional sidewalks and ADA-compliant curb ramps as well as installation of landscape cut-outs. The design calls for the reconstruction of the roads using an asphalt base instead of a typical limerock in order to minimize deterioration due to high groundwater as future sea-level rise impacts are felt.

## Fleet Management

[www.monroecounty-fl.gov/fleet](http://www.monroecounty-fl.gov/fleet)

Fleet Management operates, manages and continues to improve County garages located in Rockland Key, Marathon, and Plantation Key. The department provides safety inspections, maintenance, and repairs for approximately 870 units, which include approximately 310 Monroe County Sheriff's Office vehicles.

Fleet maintains safety and environmental accountability 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 for County staff and the Monroe County School Board, even during electrical power outages. Fleet is always in hurricane 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.



**Director:**  
**Daryl Greenlee**  
 305.292.3452  
[Greenlee-Daryl@monroecounty-fl.gov](mailto:Greenlee-Daryl@monroecounty-fl.gov)  
 Employees: 20  
 Budget: \$3.4 million

### NEED A NEW VEHICLE?

[www.monroecounty-fl.gov/surplus](http://www.monroecounty-fl.gov/surplus)

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



*In 2022, Monroe County's Fleet Management Department's three maintenance shops obtained Blue Seal of Excellence certifications from the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE). The shops are the first public or private auto repair facilities in Monroe County to achieve the certification.*

*Blue Seal of Excellence certifications require at least 75 percent of technicians performing diagnostics and repairs to be ASE-certified, and at least one ASE-certified technician must cover each area of service offered in the shop. Monroe County's Fleet Management team has 15 technicians holding a total of 122 ASE certifications, with 11 Master certifications.*

## BY THE NUMBERS

# 4,388

work orders completed in addition to performing preventative maintenance, repairs, and safety inspections.

**122,415** gallons of gasoline and diesel fuel garage staff purchased and distributed in 2022.

- **71.43%** of all repairs were completed in **0-24 hours**
- **75.58%** scheduled repairs performed
- **4.42%** non-scheduled repairs performed
- Completed the sale of **8** surplus vehicles and equipment.



### 2023 GOALS

- 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.
- Promote monthly ECO-driving and Safety practices countywide.
- Obtain APWA accreditation.

## Facilities Maintenance and Public Works

[www.monroecounty-fl.gov/facilities](http://www.monroecounty-fl.gov/facilities)

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

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 Rockland Key, Big Pine Key, Marathon, and Key Largo.

### 2022 MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS INCLUDE:

- Ellis Building build out and relocation of several departments
- Acquired temporary trailers and relocated the Lower Keys Facilities Carpenter Shop and the Lower Keys Roads Sign Shop
- Repainted the Marathon Government Center
- Repainted MCFR Station 13
- Repair Dock and installed new railings at the Nelson Peace Park
- Replaced carpet in several courtrooms, hallways and offices at Freeman Justice Center
- Interior upgrades to Tax Collector's office at Harvey Government Center
- Upgraded all lighting to LED at Big Pine Library and Marathon Govt Center Annex (63rd St)



*Facilities Maintenance staff is often found helping other departments throughout the County with moving heavy and large items.*

### CORRECTION FACILITIES MAINTENANCE

**Administrator:** Dan Bensley

305.295.3997

[Bensley-Dan@monroecounty-fl.gov](mailto:Bensley-Dan@monroecounty-fl.gov)

**Admin:** Martina Lake

[Lake-Martina@monroecounty-fl.gov](mailto:Lake-Martina@monroecounty-fl.gov)

Employees: 10

The Correction Facilities Maintenance 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](mailto: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:

- 2 airports
- 23 parks and beaches
- 8 boat ramps
- 1 community pool
- 311 miles of County-maintained roads
- 26 County-owned bridges
- 5 libraries
- 3 government centers
- 3 courthouses
- 4 senior centers
- 4 museums
- 9 fire stations
- Fire training facility
- Medical Examiner's facility
- Several historic buildings
- State Attorney & Public Defender facilities
- Various other facilities throughout the Florida Keys used for County operations



*Facilities Maintenance and Public Works staff celebrate after the opening of the Plantation Key Courthouse in June 2022.*

## County Parks & Beaches

www.parksandbeaches.fun

Enjoy, Explore, Energize

Parks and Beaches strives to provide quality parks, beaches, facilities, amenities, and services to meet the recreation needs of the entire Florida Keys community by utilizing staff, volunteers, and partners. We create opportunities to enjoy life, explore nature, and energize your health.

The department maintains 23 properties, covering more than 100 acres of the island chain. Some parks have community rooms, shelters, parks and other amenities available for rent.

### BIG COPPITT KEY

#### Big Coppitt Volunteer Fire Department Park

280 Avenue F

Amenities: basketball court, roller hockey rink, handball court, tables and benches.

#### Wilhelmina Harvey Park

373 Avenue F

Amenities: playground, picnic area with an open grassy area, and a small walking trail.

### BIG PINE KEY

#### 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, pickleball, ball fields, basketball court/roller rink, and a fitness trail. There is also a community center, which can be used for meetings and parties. Open until 8:30 p.m.

#### Blue Heron Park

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

Amenities: three pickleball courts and a senior social services center.

#### Palm Villa Park

End of Palm Avenue and Wilder

This small pocket park has a picnic table overlooking Bogie Channel.

#### Pine Channel Nature Park

Completed in summer 2022. The area has a kayak and canoe hand-launch area, 9,500 feet of boardwalk, tiki huts, picnic tables, barbeque grills, and an 11-foot raised viewing deck.



#### Watson Field Park and Big Pine Key Dog Park

30150 South Street

Amenities: baseball field, sand volleyball courts, two tennis courts, and a dog park. Open until 10 p.m.



**Director: John Allen**

305.453.8748

Allen-John

@monroecounty-fl.gov

Employees: 27

Budget: \$4.8 million

### KEY LARGO

#### Friendship Park

69 Hibiscus Drive

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

#### Rowell's Waterfront Park

MM 104.5 on U.S. 1, Bayside

Phase 1 construction on the 8-acre bayfront park includes parking and bathrooms. Phase 2 will start in 2023. Amenities: picnic tables and beach area.

#### Key Largo Community Park & Pool

500 St. Croix Place

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

#### Peace Park - Behind Nelson Government Center

102050 Overseas Highway

Amenities: five pavilions, restrooms during regular business hours, and picnic tables.

### KEY WEST

#### Higgs Beach and Reynolds Street Pier

1040 Atlantic Blvd

The oceanfront park offers beach access, volleyball, tennis, pickleball, dog park, playground, barbecue pits and picnic tables.

#### 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. The park is home to staging for the annual Zombie Bike Ride.

### GEIGER KEY

#### Boca Chica Beach

354 Boca Chica Road

Secluded beach area with limited amenities.

### RAMROD KEY

#### Ramrod Park

Corner of Bay Shore and Pruitt Drive

Passive park with nice sunset views, limited amenities.

### SADDLEBUNCH KEYS

#### Bay Point Park

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

Amenities: picnic tables, playground, barbecue pits, sand volleyball, basketball court, tennis court, bocce court, and a large grassy field with a soccer net. Open until 10:30 p.m.

**SUGARLOAF KEY****Sugarloaf Shark Park**

255 Crane Blvd

Amenities: Walking trail, baseball field, soccer/football field, fitness equipment and pavilion. Open only after school hours and weekends.

**STOCK ISLAND****Bernstein Park**

6751 Fifth St.

Amenities: 5,500 square-foot community center, pavilion, playground, basketball court, walking path, elevated athletic fields, and "Fit Court." Open until 10 p.m.

**TAVERNIER****Old Settlers Park**

MM 92.5 on U.S. 1, Oceanside

A small park with a pavilion, picnic table, walking trail, benches, and playground.

**Harry Harris Park**

End of East Beach Road

The 21-acre park features pavilions, barbecue grills, picnic tables, playground, 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. Veterans are free.*



*Blowing of the conch shell has become tradition at grand-opening ceremonies.*

**LITTLE DUCK KEY****Veterans Memorial Beach**

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

The oceanside park has bathrooms and is undergoing repairs from Hurricane Irma in 2017 and Hurricane Ian in 2022.

**Boat Ramps**

[www.monroecounty-fl.gov/boatramps](http://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 and Veterans.

**BIG COPPITT KEY****Gulf View Boat Ramp****Barcelona Avenue, MM 9.3**

24°36'06" N, 81°40'00" W

The concrete ramp has one-lane intended for small boat access. There are five parking spaces in an adjacent gravel parking area.

**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 can accommodate 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 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 and a picnic table. Parking is not allowed in the neighborhood.

**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. Parking is limited to 20 trailers with an overall length of 55 feet or less. (\$40 fee for non-residents).

**RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS****Countywide**

Community partnerships, leagues and other recreational opportunities are being established. Call 305.453.8808 for more information.

## Project Management

[www.monroecounty-fl.gov/projectmanagement](http://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 department also manages all capital improvement projects for existing buildings, parks, beaches, and boat ramps and currently manages capital projects with a total multi-year capital construction budget of \$100 million.

The 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 2022, the department assisted or was directly responsible for more than \$20 million in grant awards.

#### The services provided include:

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



### GRAND OPENING 2022: Plantation Key Courthouse and Detention Center

In June 2022, the BOCC, the 16th Judicial Circuit Court, the Monroe County Sheriff's Office, and Monroe County's Constitutional Officers cut the ribbon for the new Plantation Key Courthouse and Government Facility.

The project consolidates the existing functions on the site into a new state-of-the-art 48,240 square foot facility that includes:

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



**Director: Cary Knight**

305.292.4527

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

Employees: 11

Budget: \$100 million

### GRAND OPENING 2022: Pine Channel Nature Park, Big Pine Key

Project Management completed the build-out of the area formerly known as the Big Pine Key Swimming Hole and opened it to the community in June 2022 with splashing success. Read park details on page 26.



## Infrastructure Repairs

### HURRICANE IRMA GRAND OPENING: Wilkinson Point at Harry Harris Park in Tavernier

Wilkinson Point re-opened after extensive repairs needed from Hurricane Irma in 2017.

According to local lore, the late Kay Wilkinson, a longtime resident of the neighborhood, spent most evenings on the point. As a result, the area affectionately became known as hers.

The repairs were done through Hurricane Irma repair grant funding.



### MAJOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

#### Monroe County EOC (See page 19)

**Public Defender's Key West Offices: \$4 million**  
**1892 Sheriff Residence & Jail : \$1.5 million**

- The first three construction phases of the 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-plus 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.

Tentative opening date: Mid-2023



### WORKING TOGETHER: Ghost Trap Rodeo partners across three departments

Monroe County Project Management and Solid Waste helped offset costs associated with disposal fees for a Ghost Trap Rodeo organized by the nonprofit Ocean Aid 360. Ocean Aid 360's mission is to help improve the quality of Florida's water by removing harmful derelict traps, also known as ghost traps. The event lasted three days and included 11 local boat captains hired to collect the ghost traps in the waters off the Lower Florida Keys.

Project Management became involved to meet environmental mitigation requirements associated with a sand renourishment project at Higgs Beach in Key West and agreed to collect 45 derelict lobster traps from the waters near the beach. The captains collected more than 700 lobster and stone crab ghost traps through an FWC permit. Ocean Aid 360 weighed and documented all marine debris for reporting purposes.

Monroe County used grant funding to offset some of the dump and disposal fees for the rodeo. Monroe County Marine Resources also participated in the coordination of the event.

### HISTORY SAVED: Historic Henry Flagler Railroad Mile Marker



In March 2022, Project Management, in partnership with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), worked together to save a historic Henry Flagler railroad mile marker. The more than 100-year-old concrete marker was located at mile marker 30 on Big Pine Key and was experiencing significant deterioration. There are only two other known surviving markers of this type, one in Key Largo and a restored one at Miami's Gold Coast Railroad Museum.

The restored marker can now be found at the Pine Channel Nature Park on Big Pine Key for all to enjoy and view safely. Henry Flagler's concrete mile marker system listed miles north of Key West and miles south of Jacksonville.

## Legislative Affairs

[www.monroecounty-fl.gov/legislativeaffairs](http://www.monroecounty-fl.gov/legislativeaffairs)

### The following functions are performed by the department:

- Develops Monroe County's annual federal and state legislative agendas, identifies priority legislation and appropriations, and 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.



**Director: Lisa Tennyson**

305.509.1709

[Tennyson-Lisa@monroecounty-fl.gov](mailto:Tennyson-Lisa@monroecounty-fl.gov)

Employees: 1

### 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.

### 2023 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, housing and homelessness.
- Oppose oil drilling and exploration, lease expansion, and seismic testing.



*Gastesi, left, Lincoln, and Tennyson at the nation's capitol to discuss Monroe County priorities.*

## STATE REPRESENTATION

### State Representative

#### James "Jim" Mooney

myfloridahouse.gov  
District 120  
District Office: Nelson  
Gov't Center 102050  
Overseas Hwy, Key Largo  
305.453.1202

### State Senator

#### Ana Maria Rodriguez

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

### Gov. Ron DeSantis

flgov.com  
400 S. Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399  
850.717.9337

## FEDERAL REPRESENTATION

### Senator Marco Rubio

rubio.senate.gov  
305.596.4224 - Miami  
202.224.3011 - D.C.  
Miami Office: 7400 SW  
87th Ave., Suite 270,  
Miami, FL 33173

### Senator Rick Scott

rickscott.senate.gov  
Miami Office:  
901 Ponce de Leon Blvd.  
Miami, FL 33134  
786.501.7141 - Miami  
202.224.5274 - D.C.

### Rep. Carlos Gimenez

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

## 2023 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

### Monroe County's state legislative focus includes:

Stewardship Act appropriations, protection of water quality, land acquisition needs, resilience funding, wind insurance affordability, and home rule. The 2023 session runs from March 7 to May 5.

### Priorities include:

- Secure the \$25 million Florida Keys Stewardship Act (FKSA) appropriation for water quality projects and land acquisition. Also include the FKSA in State's Land Acquisition Trust Fund, funded with documentary stamp taxes. Inclusion would elevate the FKSA to statewide importance for securing annual funding.
- Secure emergency operations center (EOC) funding for a \$6 million shortfall due to unanticipated cost escalations.
- Protect our marine environment by developing new mooring fields and continuing to address

derelict vessels. Secure state funding for implementing new moorings, derelict vessel removal, and the vessel pump-out program and secure additional revenue sources for resilient infrastructure and transportation needs.

- Balance Rate of Growth Ordinance (ROGO) protection with workforce housing needs.
- Pursue the repeal or amendment of HB 735, a preemption bill that prohibits local government occupational licensing affecting local contractors and tradespeople, passed in 2021.
- Preserve affordable wind insurance by opposing efforts to increase premiums, eliminate the cap on annual increases, reduce coverage, and reduce eligibility.
- Secure funding for resiliency projects submitted to State.
- Support home rule and fight against preemption bills.



Commissioners Cates, Lincoln, and Rice join Administrator Roman Gastesi, Lisa Tennyson, and County Attorney Bob Shillinger with Lt. Gov. Jeanette Nunez in her Tallahassee office to discuss County legislative priorities.

## FLORIDA KEYS DAY 2023

Monroe County Commissioners, senior staff, city officials, 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 2023 date is Feb. 22.

Rep. Mooney and Sen. Rodriguez's offices host the event, contact [floridakeysdays@gmail.com](mailto:floridakeysdays@gmail.com) for more information.



## Social Services

[www.monroecounty-fl.gov/socialservices](http://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 2022, 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 2022, 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](mailto: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 is made available 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.

*Social Services with the help of County staff hosted several Feeding South Florida food distributions throughout 2022.*



# Information Technology

[www.monroecounty-fl.gov/informationtechnology](http://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](mailto:MacEachern-Alan@monroecounty-fl.gov)  
 Employees: 14  
 Budget: \$3 million

### 2022 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Successfully implemented Monroe County's first online interactive permitting application, Oracle's Community Development – Code Compliance and Planning are planned for introduction in 2023.
- Extended an enterprise access and security system with Safety and Security to extend it to additional county facilities
- Upgraded and improved employee and citizen wireless access coverage across multiple core government buildings
- Installed and configured core network and phone service to multiple new locations in support of the BOCC, the Sheriff, and other Constitutional Officers
- Relunched MCTV Roku channel and launched on Amazon Fire TV, iOS and Android app stores and Hotwire Fision TV. MCTV will also launch on Apple TV in mid 2023.

### MONROE COUNTY TELEVISION (MCTV)

[www.monroecounty-fl.gov/mctv](http://www.monroecounty-fl.gov/mctv)

**TV/Multimedia Manager: Jethon Williams II**

[MCTV@monroecounty-fl.gov](mailto: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.



### 2023 GOALS

- Replace existing document management solution with a modern cloud based solution to enable easier and more secure storage and access
- Replace existing server architecture to support current and near term future requirements
- Continue to leverage the Oracle Community Development application to automate Code Compliance and Planning citizen interaction
- Continue to extend MCTV, both through additional distribution as well as through the generation of original content

## Solid Waste & Recycling

[www.monroecounty-fl.gov/solidwaste](http://www.monroecounty-fl.gov/solidwaste)

Solid Waste Management provides unincorporated Monroe County with a sustainable, environmentally-sound and cost-effective service for 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.



Monroe County Solid Waste, in partnership with Waste Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Save Our Key Deer, Florida Keys Wildlife Society, and Coast Love, hosted educational booths and a lidded trashcan giveaway at Big Pine Key Community Park in February 2022. Approximately 300 people attended the event and educational experience.

The event focused on Key Deer and Lower Keys wildlife education and awareness regarding disposing of trash properly in these critical areas. More than 85 percent of the Key Deer population is found on Big Pine Key and No Name Key, and other deer can be found through mile marker 16 in the Lower Keys. The lidded trashcans should help deter local wildlife from dumping over, eating, or being hurt by residential trash.

### 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 2023 Collection Dates:

9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Marathon: 10600 Aviation Blvd.

- April 15, 2023
- July 8, 2023
- Oct. 14, 2023
- Jan. 13, 2024

Stock Island: Bernstein Park, 6751 5th Street

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



**Director: Cheryl Sullivan**  
305.292.4536  
[Sullivan-Cheryl@monroecounty-fl.gov](mailto: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!**

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



## Solid Waste By the Numbers

- Household trash up 8 percent
- Yard waste up 14 percent
- Total Unincorporated Monroe County tonnage for 2022 was 88,394 tons

Residentially, homeowners in unincorporated Monroe County will pay \$446 in 2023 for garbage, yard waste, and recycling collection. The fee can be found on your property tax bill.

### RECYCLING REMINDERS

The recycling center accepts #1-5 plastics. An easy way to remember what plastic can be recycled is the “if the neck is smaller than the body, it can be recycled” rule. Milk jugs, water bottles, and bath products all fall within this. 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!

### LOOKING FOR FREE MULCH?

Monroe County’s yard waste contractor will offer free compost (nutrient-rich black dirt) to the residents of unincorporated Monroe County and the cities of Marathon, Key Colony Beach, Islamorada, and Layton at the County’s three transfer stations on the dates below from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. or until it is gone. Residents can fill one 32-gallon trash can or six 5-gallon buckets with compost. Proof of residency is required in the form of a driver’s license, utility bill, tax bill, etc. Residents are limited to one pick-up per household. You must bring your own shovel and be able to load the containers on your own or bring someone to assist you.

#### Dates:

- Saturday, Feb. 4, 2023
- Saturday, March 4, 2023
- Saturday, April 1, 2023

Other dates may become available - visit the website for more details.

#### Monroe County’s transfer station locations:

- Cudjoe Key, MM 21.5, Blimp Rd.
- Long Key, MM 68
- Key Largo, 1100 County Rd. 905



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

## Strategic Planning

[www.monroecounty-fl.gov/strategicplanning](http://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.

**Strategic Planning began the process of a Countywide community feedback in the spring of 2022. The process included online surveys, social media feedback, facilitated town halls meetings, and community group presentations. In 2023, 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, Strategic Planning held five town hall meetings and gathered new community feedback. The results saw Transportation and Safety on U.S. 1 rise to the number one 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. This insight helped create a Transit department for the County to focus on traffic issues.



**Senior Director**

**Kimberly Matthews**

305-587-3683

[Matthews-Kimberly@monroecounty-fl.gov](mailto:Matthews-Kimberly@monroecounty-fl.gov)

Employees: 1



*As a part of the strategic planning process, Matthews speaks with community groups throughout the Florida Keys.*

*Results of the process continue to show that Traffic and Safety on U.S. 1 is a primary priority. Issues involving public transportation ranked high in all the feedback.*

## Public Library System

[www.keyslibraries.org](http://www.keyslibraries.org)

Tracing its roots back to 1853, the Monroe County Public Library is the oldest library system in South Florida.

In 2022, Monroe County Public Library patrons checked out physical and digital books and audiobooks, DVDs, streaming films, language learning and other courses almost 347,000 times - an increase of 20 percent over the previous year. Circulation of ebooks and eAudiobooks, using Overdrive via the Libby app, increased 16 percent, while use of the Mango language learning site and app - which includes English as a second language courses - increased by more than 60 percent. The photos on the library's Florida Keys History Center's online image archive were viewed almost 3 million times in 2022.

The library provided in-person and virtual programs covering all ages, from toddlers to senior citizens, and meeting 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. Attendance was almost 54,000. Programming in 2022 included talks by such literary luminaries as Tom Perrotta, S.A. Cosby, Sam Sifton, and Meg Cabot.

**2022 Highlight:** The library system was awarded a 100 percent federally-funded \$975,469 grant in late 2021. Grant money was used in 2022 to enhance the technology and equipment while expanding access to digital, print, and online information services. Four pick-up lockers were added, along with two "Lending Machine" kiosks, at Bernstein Park on Stock Island and Murray Nelson Government Center in Key Largo, for expanded access to books and DVDs in those areas.



**Senior Director**  
**Kimberly Matthews**  
305.292.3595  
[Matthews-Kimberly@monroecounty-fl.gov](mailto:Matthews-Kimberly@monroecounty-fl.gov)  
Employees: 44  
Budget: \$3.9 million

## Florida Keys Historical Archives

[www.flickr.com/keyslibraries](http://www.flickr.com/keyslibraries)

The library's online historical photo archive has more than 40 million views of its 23,000 historical images. The collection includes some of the oldest images of South Florida.



*In March, the Florida Keys History Center accepted the donation of the 1822 logbook from the USS Shark, documenting the first time the American flag was raised in the Florida Keys.*

## PUBLIC LIBRARY BRANCHES

### KEY WEST

**Branch Manager:**  
**Kim Rinaldi**  
700 Fleming Street  
305.292.3595

[f / keywestlibrary](https://www.facebook.com/keywestlibrary)

### BIG PINE KEY

**Branch Manager:**  
**Rob Rinaldi**  
213 Key Deer Blvd.  
305.872.0992

[f / bigpinelibrary](https://www.facebook.com/bigpinelibrary)

### MARATHON

**Branch Manager:**  
**Arlene Haessler**  
3251 Overseas Hwy  
305.743.5156

[f / marathonlibrary](https://www.facebook.com/marathonlibrary)

### ISLAMORADA

**Branch Manager:**  
**Meghan Brunelli**  
81830 Overseas Hwy  
305.664.4645

[f / islamoradalibrary](https://www.facebook.com/islamoradalibrary)

### KEY LARGO

**Branch Manager:**  
**Christina Teasley**  
101485 Overseas Hwy.  
Tradewinds Shopping  
Center 305.451.2396

[f / keylargolibrary](https://www.facebook.com/keylargolibrary)

The only  
thing you  
need is a  
library card.



## Sustainability

[www.monroecounty-fl.gov/sustainability](http://www.monroecounty-fl.gov/sustainability)  
[www.keysroadsplan.com](http://www.keysroadsplan.com)

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 neighborhood streets already flood numerous times throughout the year from extreme fall “king” tides.

Rising seas now routinely affect roads and other County infrastructure, as well as some homes and businesses – and will continue to do so.

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

### Preparations include:

- Modeled the effects of sea-level rise on County roads and facilities and prepared a plan for raising 150 miles of roads to avoid the effects of sea level rise at an estimated cost of \$1.6 billion.
- Collaborate with the *Southeast Florida Climate Change Compact* on sea-level rise projections and mitigation and adaptation measures.
- Collected elevation and other data to accurately measure potential inundation to County roads and infrastructure.

### Resilience Projects:

- 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 become more resilient overall.
- Preparation of \$380 Million in road adaptation grant applications for the State's Resilient Florida program.
- Resilient redesign for Harry Harris Park - funded by DEP
- Natural Resources Adaptation Plan - funded by DEP

### Mitigation measures include:

- Energy management and reduction initiatives listed in the GreenKeys Plan.
- Plans for a renewable energy study for County infrastructure.

The GreenKeys Plan contains specific projects for resilience preparation. [www.GreenKeys.info](http://www.GreenKeys.info)



### Chief Resilience Officer

**Rhonda Haag**

305.453.8774

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

[monroecounty-fl.gov](http://monroecounty-fl.gov)

Employee: 1

Budget: \$9.1 million grant funds

### 2022 Highlights

The Federal government signed into law authorization of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) \$2.6 billion Florida Keys Coastal Storm and Sea-level Rise infrastructure resiliency project. Appropriations for the project require annual approvals by Congress. The first appropriation of \$1 million was approved in the 2022 Federal omnibus spending bill, and funds Phase 1 of the planning, engineering, and design of six U.S. 1 roadway stabilization areas in the Florida Keys. The areas total 5,500 linear feet of at mile markers 79.5, 70, 70.9, 67, 37, and 34.5, identified as vulnerable to erosion and wave energy. Estimates for the completion of the construction phase of the U.S. 1 stabilization project are \$16 million. 65% is funded by federal funds, and 35% by other local or state sources. Based on the development of a three-year USACE Florida Keys Coastal Storm Risk Management Feasibility Study, the approved Project plans for the economic, environmental, and social effects of coastal storms and sea-level rise and addresses the hardening of U.S. 1, dry floodproofing of critical infrastructure and commercial buildings, and elevating residential homes.

Future appropriations will allow for the voluntary elevations of up to 4,698 vulnerable residential homes and the dry floodproofing of 1,052 commercial and 53 critical government infrastructure buildings susceptible to storm surge damage throughout the Florida Keys. Dry floodproofing allows for essential services to resume more quickly after a storm surge event. All five municipalities were included in the Study and ultimate Project, and each has numerous elevations and floodproofings included.



*In December 2022, Monroe County officials attended the 14th Annual Southeast Regional Climate Change Compact summit hosted by the Climate Compact in Broward County. Monroe County will host the summit in Key West in 2024.*

*County Administrator Roman Gastesi and Mayor Pro Tem Holly Merrill Raschein were among the first to sign the Pledge to commit to implement the Regional Climate Action Plan 3.0 as a shared guidebook to address climate change. The plan is the voluntary framework designed to align, guide, and support south Florida's sustainability and resilience efforts.*



Canal 28 Restoration, Key Largo 2022

## Canal Restoration

[www.monroecounty-fl.gov/canals](http://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 Management Master Plan was developed to list the canals in need of restoration and recommended restoration technologies and estimated costs.

In June 2021, the Governor and Cabinet, sitting as the Administration Commission, adopted a new rule (Rule 28-20.140) amending the County's Comprehensive Plan to include a 10-year Canal Restoration Implementation Work Program. The Work Plan contains a ranked list of 96 canals that do not meet state water quality standards in terms of levels of dissolved oxygen. The list totals \$538 million in restoration projects.

As part of the Florida Keys Stewardship Act, the Florida Keys received a direct appropriation for \$20 million for fiscal year 2022-2023 to address the issues recognized and identified as environmental priorities for the Florida Keys which include water quality projects. Unincorporated Monroe County's portion of the allocation is \$5.6 million and is used exclusively to restore canals.

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.

**Canal restoration improves the overall health of nearshore waters.**

### 2022 Highlight:

**Canals:** Monroe County completed a \$1.2 million water quality improvement and restoration project on canal 84 in Rock Harbor in Key Largo. In Phase I, 32 truckloads of decaying organic vegetation were removed from the canal bottom, which was negatively affecting oxygen levels and causing a strong sulfur (rotten egg) odor. In Phase II, the canal areas that were too deep were backfilled with 235 truckloads of clean fill material that were deposited into the canal. Backfilling raises the canal bottom to an optimum depth (about 7 feet deep) to allow maximum flushing and tidal flow in and out of the canal.

Two additional restoration projects commenced in Key Largo, a \$1.6 million backfill for canal 25 and a \$2.6 million backfill for canal 28. Efforts are underway to place 3,300 truckloads of fill in these canals and will be complete in early 2023. These restorations will increase the amount of oxygen in the canals, increasing the health and marine life in them.

Canals 84, 25 and 28 were all rated as poor water quality canals that did not meet the State's minimum thresholds for dissolved oxygen levels in the canals. The restoration projects were funded by Florida Department of Environmental Protection Florida Keys Stewardship grants.

**Breakwaters:** The County received a \$2.1 million federal grant to restore the Tavernier breakwater and a \$1.3 million federal grant to restore the Rock Harbor breakwater. Restoring the breakwaters will provide much-needed resilience to these oceanside communities and help improve water quality by reducing the amount of floating seagrass entering and clogging the canals behind the breakwaters.

Additional restoration projects for other poor and fair water quality canals in the Florida Keys will come forward as additional funding allows.



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 Haag how silt decayed organic muck is removed from poor water quality canals.



# Veterans Affairs

[www.monroecounty-fl.gov/va](http://www.monroecounty-fl.gov/va)

Monroe County 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.



## 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

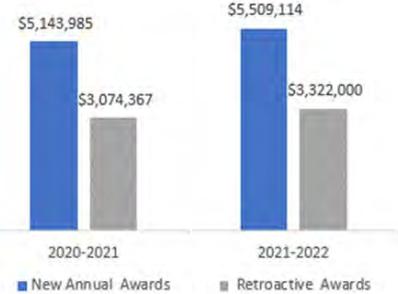
## Nonmonetary Benefits

- 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 tax deduction or exemption on their home assessment.



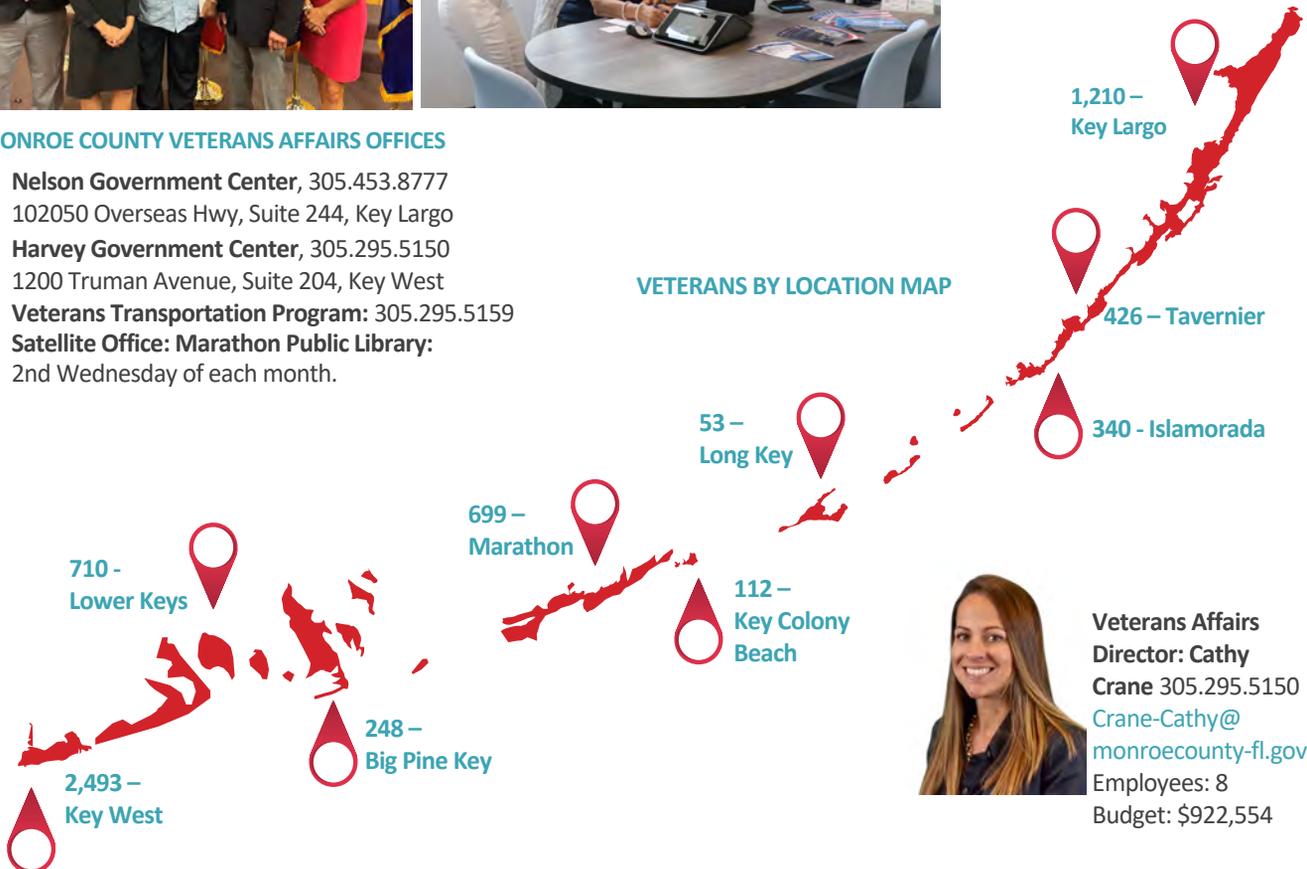
**Monroe County Veterans Affairs**  
Monetary Claims Prepared, Presented, and Favorably Adjudicated on behalf of Monroe County Veterans



## MONROE COUNTY VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICES

- **Nelson Government Center**, 305.453.8777  
102050 Overseas Hwy, Suite 244, Key Largo
- **Harvey Government Center**, 305.295.5150  
1200 Truman Avenue, Suite 204, Key West
- **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](mailto:Crane-Cathy@monroecounty-fl.gov)  
Employees: 8  
Budget: \$922,554



## County Attorney

[www.monroecounty-fl.gov/countyattorney](http://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 2022, the County Attorney’s Office processed and reviewed **559** resolutions, **46** ordinances, and **938** other agenda items, that included contracts/agreements/grants/and litigation items.

### ELECTIONS

The 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.

In 2022, the office successfully litigated a number of cases including one that protected the security and integrity of the County’s voting equipment in a case with nationwide implications. The office also represented the Canvassing Board during two countywide elections including one machine and one manual recount due to close elections.

### 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 **3,200** records requests in 2022. To make a public records request, see page 8.



**County Attorney**

**Bob Shillinger**

305.292.3470

[Shillinger-Bob@monroecounty-fl.gov](mailto:Shillinger-Bob@monroecounty-fl.gov)

Employees: 10 lawyers,

6 support staff

Budget: \$10.5 million

### RISK MANAGEMENT

- Implemented new software
- Reviewed and approved **1,038** agenda items.
- Reviewed all tort claims made against the County and determined the appropriate response.

### 2022 HIGHLIGHT:

The office assisted with the issuance of **\$40 million** in bond funding to help finance the Key West International Airport terminal expansion project.

### 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 250 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 only 304 of the more than 109,000 (0.2%) members of the Florida Bar have earned.**



## Extension Service

[www.monroecounty-fl.gov/extensionservices](http://www.monroecounty-fl.gov/extensionservices)  
[www.monroe.ifas.ufl.edu](http://www.monroe.ifas.ufl.edu)  
[www.fb.com/MonroeCountyExtension](http://www.fb.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.

For community tips and tricks sign up for the newsletter at the website or view the blog at [www.monroecounty-fl.gov/extensionblog](http://www.monroecounty-fl.gov/extensionblog).



### Director: Alicia Betancourt

305.292.4501

[Betancourt-Alicia@monroecounty-fl.gov](mailto:Betancourt-Alicia@monroecounty-fl.gov)

Employees: 4

(3 UF and 1 Monroe)

Budget: \$323,775 (grant funding)

## 2022 HIGHLIGHTS

### Horticulture Agent Michelle Mularz - Master Gardener

70 Master Gardener volunteers have donated more than 1,700 hours equal to \$47,056. The Extension and volunteers planted and maintain four demonstration gardens for residents to learn about sustainable practices such as reduced fertilizer and pesticide use, appropriate plant selection, and successful vegetable gardening techniques through visual, hands-on learning. Gardens are located at:

- J. Gilbert Reese Park, Islamorada - butterfly garden, installed in 2022
- Crane Point Hammock and Nature Center, Marathon - wildflower garden
- Grimal Grove, Big Pine Key - herb and vegetable garden, installed May 2022
- Historic Gato, Key West – highlights threatened and endangered plants of the Keys and won the 2022 state's Outstanding Demonstration Garden Award.

### Sea Grant, Marine Agent Shelly Krueger

- Shelly is the co-lead of the Florida Coral Disease Response Communication and Outreach Team. Teaches divers how to identify species of stony corals for monitoring.
- County's lead instructor for the Florida Master Naturalist program and developed a new course on Marine Habitat Restoration.
- Wrote the Sponge Habitat Restoration module and contributed to seagrass restoration, coral restoration, and artificial reefs.
- County coordinator for the new Florida Horseshoe Crab Watch program.

### Director Alicia Betancourt

- Works with senior groups and the libraries to bring consumer and finance issues to residents including online safety, and fraud.
- Leads the Climate Smart Floridians program that trains sustainability staff to offer local programs throughout the state. Authored the Handbook for Municipal Action on Climate Change.

### Extension Coordinator Brynn Morey

- Manages two websites, marketing, and grants among. Takes care of the salt water demonstration tank. Assists with programming.

## Guardian Ad Litem (GAL)

[www.monroecounty-fl.gov/gal](http://www.monroecounty-fl.gov/gal)

The Florida Statewide Guardian ad Litem represents abused, abandoned, and neglected children in the courtroom and the community. Through the collaboration of a multi-disciplinary team that includes a GAL Attorney, child welfare professional, and hopefully a trained volunteer, our team provides quality legal representation for the best interests of abused, neglected, and abandoned children while assisting the child in expressing their needs and wishes. Our unique approach allows us to support the whole child, addressing their physical, educational, mental, emotional, social, and legal needs.

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



### Circuit Director:

Alexa Leto

305.292.3485

[Leto-Alexsa@monroecounty-fl.gov](mailto:Leto-Alexsa@monroecounty-fl.gov)

Budget: \$293,000

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

57

children placed in permanent homes

144

children served

50%

less likely to return to foster care with an advocate

62

Volunteers

Presents delivered to children during the holidays: 200



## Tourist Development Council (TDC)

[www.monroecounty-fl.gov/TDC](http://www.monroecounty-fl.gov/TDC)

The Monroe County Tourist Development Council manages the 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](mailto:Stacey@fla-keys.com)

**Visitor's website:**

[www.fla-keys.com](http://www.fla-keys.com)

## Florida Keys Council of the Arts

[www.keysarts.com](http://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 Council promotes the destination for its vibrant arts community and diverse history through its ongoing partnership with the Tourist Development Council. To build audiences and raise awareness, the Council funds grants to visual and performing artists and arts organizations. To enrich and enhance Monroe County for its residents and visitors, the Arts Council supports and administers the Art in Public Places 1% for Public Art program in all government buildings and many outdoor venues.



**Executive Director: Elizabeth**

**Young 305.295.4369**

[Director@keysarts.com](mailto:Director@keysarts.com)

Employees: 3 full-time, 1 part-time

Budget: \$385,000

The Council focuses on maintaining and expanding its programming in a diverse, innovative, and equitable manner. It strives for results that strengthen the economy, promote active community engagement, and support arts education and advocacy. 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.

Connecting the public to a sense of place and community through the Arts is ongoing with year-round programming and exhibits. The Arts Council's signature project; The Connections Project: Celebrating Our Unique History shares over 300 canvases displayed together in one large mosaic and exhibits are held from Key Largo to Key West. Each canvas, created in a variety of genres, connects to the next canvas, demonstrating how the arts build community and how we inspire each other. Additional programming includes Professional Development for artists, workshops on how to apply for grants and complete public art proposals, and Gather 'Round - a series of creative conversations.

The Executive Director, Board of Directors, Advisors and Staff are engaged, educated, and passionate ambassadors for all of the arts. "The 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," said Young.

# Land Authority (MCLA)

[www.monroecounty-fl.gov/landauthority](http://www.monroecounty-fl.gov/landauthority)

The Monroe County Board of County Commissioners created the Monroe County Land Authority (MCLA) 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.

MCLA funding for land acquisition comes primarily from a half-cent tourist impact tax on lodging in the Florida Keys and a surcharge on admissions and overnight camping at state parks in unincorporated Monroe County. It also re-sells land to the State of Florida for conservation, which leverages State funding and allows for the replenishment of local funds. Fiscal and budgetary information can be found at the website.

**Executive Director:**

**Christine Hurley**

305.295.5180

[Hurley-Christine@](mailto:Hurley-Christine@monroecounty-fl.gov)

[monroecounty-fl.gov](http://monroecounty-fl.gov)

Employees: 7

Budget: \$30 million -MCLA

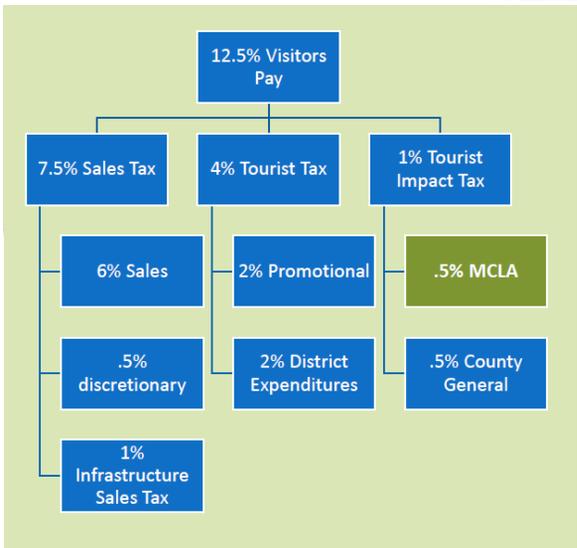
\$15 million– CDBG-DR Grant

\$2 million HMGP-FMA Grant

\$750 million County 304/316



Project Type	Transactions	Parcels	Acres	Units	MCLA Expenditures
Conservation	1,680	4,431	3,946	0	\$52,144,900
Density Reduction - FS	21	24	5	0	\$0
Density Reduction - LTF	63	78	10	0	\$0
Density Reduction - VHBP	9	10	3	0	\$0
Affordable Housing	77	162	111	1,312	\$55,795,340
Recreation	30	156	126	0	\$7,276,697
Solid Waste	1	4	74	0	\$2,212,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,881</b>	<b>4,865</b>	<b>4,274</b>	<b>1,312</b>	<b>\$117,429,436</b>



## 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) in order to prevent private property rights claims resulting from limitations imposed by the designation of an area of critical state concern. Since 2016, 24 parcels have been purchased. Email: [Rosch-Mark@monroecounty-fl.gov](mailto:Rosch-Mark@monroecounty-fl.gov).

## RESALE PROGRAM

When non-conservation, 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. In 2022, two parcels were sold on Big Pine Key that were originally acquired for \$87,000 with development rights. The lots were resold without development rights for \$60,100.

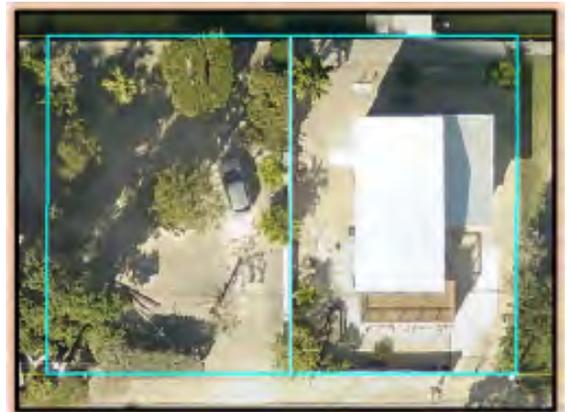
## AFFORDABLE HOUSING FUNDING

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

**MCLA has spent more than \$50 million since 1988 and assisted in the provision of more than 1,302 affordable housing units.**

## LESS THAN FEE PROGRAM

*A willing seller program allows homeowners to retain ownership of a 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.*



### FLORIDA AREA OF CRITICAL STATE CONCERN: PARTNERSHIPS WITH FDEP FOR FLORIDA FOREVER ACQUISITIONS

For decades, the State and Federal government have purchased conservation land in the Florida Keys. The BOCC partners with the Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection (FDEP) to purchase Florida Forever conservation land through the Florida Keys Stewardship Act signed in 2016. The Act enables the State to 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 agreement where MCLA assists with appraisals, surveys, and in some cases, can contract with sellers and then resell to FDEP, speeding up the process. The County works with FDEP to identify ideal properties that would fit the mission, as well as eliminate potential takings liability.

**Since 2016, the FDEP has spent \$6,834,737, retiring 122 development rights (as of December 2022).**

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.



### VOLUNTARY HOME BUYOUT PROGRAM

In the aftermath of Hurricane Irma in 2017, the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity allocated \$15 million in grant funds to the Voluntary Home Buyout Program. These funds allow MCLA to purchase the property and the home of voluntary sellers who were impacted by the hurricane. The home will be demolished, and the land will serve as open space in perpetuity or for flood mitigation. Participating homeowners may decline to sell their home at any point prior to the closing. As of Jan. 30, 2023, 14 homes have been purchased for nearly \$8 million. **11 more homes are actively being processed for acquisition in 2023.** The application period for this program is expected to close in 2023.

### FEMA FLOOD MITIGATION GRANT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (HMGP & FMA)

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

- Elevating existing home that is below minimum required flood elevation
- Demolishing existing home and reconstructing it above the minimum required flood elevation
- Selling the home so the area it is located can remain as open space

MCLA is accepting fiscal year 2023 FMA grant program applications. Closing dates will be announced later. Email: [Lalbachan-Mike@monroecounty-fl.gov](mailto:Lalbachan-Mike@monroecounty-fl.gov).

To date, MCLA has submitted applications for properties within all areas of the County, including the cities as follows:

Year		Number of Applications	Grant Amount Requested	Grant Amount Recommended for award	Active Mitigations
2018	HMGP-Elevation	4	\$756,147.00	\$756,147.00	Pending
2021	HMGP-Elevation				
	FMA-Elevation	11	\$2,142,210.00		
	FMA-Reconstruction	5	\$1,094,175.00		4 of the 5 projects submitted have moved forward for FEMA review and funding in the amount of \$785,160.00
2022	HMGP (Fire)-Elevation	6	\$1,207,445.00		
	FMA-Elevation	44	\$11,070,832.00		
	FMA-Reconstruction	13	\$5,555,148.00		

*In October 2022, the Monroe County Land Authority purchased almost an acre of coveted hardwood hammock habitat in front of the Tradewinds Shopping Center in Key Largo. Upon inspection of the site, Assistant Land Steward Jim Duquesnel discovered just how special this particular piece is when he found nearly two dozen live Florida Banded Tree Snails (Orthalicus floridensis).*

### LAND STEWARDSHIP

MCLA oversees approximately 1,800 acres of conservation lands owned by MCLA, 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 County land clearing mitigation fees and also from Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission funds. Email: [Bergh-Beth@monroecounty-fl.gov](mailto: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](http://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 took two years to complete.

### VISIT PIGEON KEY

Admission: \$25 per person, Veterans and Monroe County residents are \$23. Children and students \$20. Children under 3 are free.

A 30-passenger tram takes visitors back and forth to Pigeon Key and is included in the ticket price.



### 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](http://www.kwahs.org).**

### 1892 KEY WEST JAIL RESTORATION MUSEUM

Monroe County Project Management is starting the restoration of the 1892 Key West Jail. 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](http://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](http://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](http://www.monroecounty-fl.gov/boardsandcommittees)

Monroe County's citizen boards and committees 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:Betancourt-Alicia@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](mailto: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](mailto:Partington-Maria@monroecounty-fl.gov)

### DEVELOPMENT REVIEW COMMITTEE

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](mailto:Aquila-Ilze@monroecounty-fl.gov), or  
**Debra Roberts**, 305.289.2522  
[Roberts-Debra@monroecounty-fl.gov](mailto:Roberts-Debra@monroecounty-fl.gov)

### DUCK KEY SECURITY DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD

Provides security services for the residential areas of Duck Key.

**Contact: Ron Oestreicher**  
[ron.oestreicher@gmail.com](mailto:ron.oestreicher@gmail.com)  
[www.monroecounty-fl.gov/duckkey](http://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](mailto:Haskins-Anna@monroecounty-fl.gov)



### FLORIDA KEYS TRANSPORTATION COORDINATION COMMITTEE

The BOCC 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.

### 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](mailto:hfkf@bellsouth.net)



**Contact: Janene Sclafani,**  
Transportation Planner  
305.289.2545  
[Sclafani-Janene@monroecounty-fl.gov](mailto:Sclafani-Janene@monroecounty-fl.gov)

#### 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:Gambuzza-Dina@monroecounty-fl.gov)

#### LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD

Provides the BOCC with information and counsel concerning all matters relating to the libraries.

**Contact: Ann Rice**  
305-292-3594  
[Rice-Ann@monroecounty-fl.gov](mailto: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](mailto: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: Naomi Pagidas** 305.453.8748  
[Pagidas-Naomi@monroecounty-fl.gov](mailto:Pagidas-Naomi@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  
[Aguila-Ilze@monroecounty-fl.gov](mailto:Aguila-Ilze@monroecounty-fl.gov), or  
**Debra Roberts** 305.289.2522  
[Roberts-Debra@monroecounty-fl.gov](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:officeasst@fla-keys.com)

## Constitutional Officers

There are seven 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, Property Appraiser, State Attorney, and Public Defender. The Constitutional Officers report to the people. Each has different responsibilities mandated by state law.

### SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS

[www.keyselections.org](http://www.keyselections.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 changes, 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 2023, there are 56,128 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.monroe-clerk.com](http://www.monroe-clerk.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](http://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 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](http://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, United States Passport services, 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 KeyWest

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.keyso.net](http://www.keyso.net)

**Rick Ramsay**

Dial 911 for emergencies,  
305.292.7000 for the non-emergency

[r Ramsay@keyso.net](mailto:r Ramsay@keyso.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](http://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](http://www.monroecounty-fl.gov/medicalexaminer)



**Dist. 16 Medical Examiner**

**Dr. Michael R. Steckbauer**

305.743.9011

[MEO@monroecounty-fl.gov](mailto: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](http://www.namus.gov) or call 855.626.7600. They offer help to families in search of a missing family member.

**STATE ATTORNEY**

[www.keyssao.org](http://www.keyssao.org)



**Dennis Ward**

305.292.3400

**PUBLIC DEFENDER**

[www.pd16.org](http://www.pd16.org)



**Robert Lockwood**

305.294.2501

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

## 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](http://www.islamorada.fl.us)

**Mayor: Buddy Pinder**

**City Manager: Ted Yates**

Public Information Officer: Amanda Merren

[amanda.merren@islamorada.fl.us](mailto:amanda.merren@islamorada.fl.us)

### CITY OF KEY COLONY BEACH

[www.keycolonybeach.net](http://www.keycolonybeach.net)  
305.289.1212

**Mayor: Patricia Trefry**

**City Administrator:**

**Dave Turner**

[cityadministrator@keycolonybeach.net](mailto:cityadministrator@keycolonybeach.net)

### CITY OF KEY WEST

1300 White St., Key West  
305.809.3700

[www.cityofkeywest-fl.gov](http://www.cityofkeywest-fl.gov)

**Mayor: Teri Johnston**

**City Manager:**

**Patty McLaughlin**

Public Information Officer:

Alyson Crean

[acrean@cityofkeywest-fl.gov](mailto:acrean@cityofkeywest-fl.gov)

### CITY OF LAYTON

68260 Overseas Highway, Long Key  
[www.cityoflayton.com](http://www.cityoflayton.com)  
305.664.4667

**Mayor: Bruce Halle**

**City Administrator: Skip Haring**

[cityhall@cityoflayton.com](mailto:cityhall@cityoflayton.com)

### CITY OF MARATHON

9805 Overseas Highway  
[www.ci.marathon.fl.us](http://www.ci.marathon.fl.us)  
305.743.0033

**Mayor: Luis Gonzalez**

**City Manager: George Garrett**

[garrettg@ci.marathon.fl.us](mailto:garrettg@ci.marathon.fl.us)

Public Information Officer: Sara

Matthis [matthiss@ci.marathon.fl.us](mailto:matthiss@ci.marathon.fl.us)

## Federal Agencies in Monroe County

### NAVAL AIR STATION KEY WEST

[www.cnic.navy.mil](http://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: Danette Baso Silvers**

[danette.basosilvers@navy.mil](mailto:danette.basosilvers@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](http://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.

**Public Information: Scott Atwell**

[scott.atwell@noaa.gov](mailto:scott.atwell@noaa.gov)

### NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE KEY WEST

[www.floridakeys.noaa.gov](http://www.floridakeys.noaa.gov)

[www.weather.gov/key](http://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 Ian in 2022.

**Public Information: Jon Rizzo**

[jonathan.rizzo@noaa.gov](mailto:jonathan.rizzo@noaa.gov)

### U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION

[www.cbp.gov](http://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](http://www.nps.gov); 305-242-7700

**GREAT WHITE HERON NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, KEY WEST**

**KEY WEST NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE**

**NATIONAL KEY DEER REFUGE VISITOR CENTER**

179 Key Deer Blvd, Big Pine Key  
[www.Fws.gov](http://www.Fws.gov); 305.872.0774

### CEMETERIES IN THE KEYS

**KEY WEST CEMETERY**  
701 Pauline St, Key West

**SOUTHERN KEYS CEMETERY**

258 Ave A, Big Coppitt Key

**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](http://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](http://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 (FWC)

[www.myfwc.com](http://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. **Public Information: Jason Rafter**  
[jason.rafter@fwc.com](mailto:jason.rafter@fwc.com)

### FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH - MONROE COUNTY

[www.Monroe.floridahealth.gov](http://www.Monroe.floridahealth.gov)

[www.DOHMonroe@flhealth.gov](mailto:www.DOHMonroe@flhealth.gov) 305.293.7500

The department is responsible for keeping the residents and visitors 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: Dr. Carla Fry

1100 Simonton St, Gato Building, Key West

#### Public Information Officer: Alison Kerr

[Alison.Kerr@flhealth.gov](mailto: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

### FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

[www.FloridaDEP.gov](http://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.

### FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES 305.289.2600

#### FLORIDA HIGHWAY PATROL

[www.flhsmv.gov](http://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 (FDOT)

[www.fdotmonroe.com](http://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, 305.451.1414  
info@keylargo-chamber.org

#### 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

#### Key West Business Guild

808 Duval St, 305.294.4603  
www.gaykeywestfl.com

#### Key West Chamber of Commerce

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

#### Florida Keys Mosquito Control District

www.keysmosquito.org

Five board members are elected county-wide to represent their district. The 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  
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

Five board members represent the entire County and are appointed by Florida's governor.

**Public Information:** Krystal Waldner  
kwaldner@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: 9,593

#### School Board Members:

**District 1:** Darren Horan, 305.923.9331  
darren.horan@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 lovers. By Florida statute, each county is responsible for its own animal control. Animal Control is responsible for enforcing 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, neutering and adoption of animals in their care. Animal Control conducts investigations, issues citations, and attends court proceedings related to alleged violations. The three County shelters provide 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

In 2022, the Florida Keys SPCA in the Middle and Lower Keys and Keys West sheltered **588** dogs, **737** cats, **41** birds, **18** reptiles, **3** ferrets, **38** guinea pigs, **24** hamsters, **1** pig, **51** rabbits, **21** rats, **1** squirrel, and **1** goat. This is in addition to the intake and quarantine of **42** dogs and **2** racing pigeons from Cuban migrants.

**776 were adopted, 406 were reunited with their families, and 84 were transferred to rescue partners.**

Florida Keys SPCA spayed or neutered **1123** dogs and cats through our spay/neuter clinics and provided wellness exams for 437 pets through the FKSPCA Dogwood Clinic.

#### 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

The Upper Keys shelter handled **1,410** cases broken down into **447** animal intakes, **399** spays and neuters, adoptions of **110** dogs and cats, **68** lost and found matches, and **386** road calls.

#### 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

Since 2000, the Upper Keys shelter also completed **11,892** 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

As a fifth-generation Conch, celebrating Monroe County's 200 years is near and dear to my heart. My lineage in the Florida Keys dates back to the late 1800s and includes a grandfather who worked on the railroad and family members who lost their lives in the 1935 Labor Day Hurricane. I learned earlier this year about my great-great-grandmother's birth on Windley Key in the Upper Keys. Public service runs in my blood. My mother, Emma, was a City of Key West commissioner dedicated to the residents and is recognized for pushing to renew the beaches in Key West by having a pier named after her. My great uncle Berlin Sawyer was the sheriff of Monroe County. I raised three girls on these islands, and one of my granddaughters is a junior at Key West High School. Our islands are important historically, and preserving our way of life and the quality of life for our residents is imperative.

I thank the commissioners for entrusting me with this mayoral honor as we celebrate our 200th anniversary. I also thank the staff, who, seeing firsthand their responsibilities from Ocean Reef to Key West, I now know what their jobs entail in more detail.

There are many different priorities across our more than 100-mile-long island chain, and I look forward to working with the commissioners to make the best of our archipelago. We are all connected in one way or another. The Florida Keys islands share many things, including U.S. 1 and our environmental resources, and we must all work closely together for the future of all of the Florida Keys.

While many of the priorities have changed since 1823, when our island chain became Monroe County in the territory of Florida, many of our priorities have also stayed the same. We will continue fighting for our working families and searching for affordable housing solutions. The affordable housing discussion is not new and can be traced back to Key West Citizen articles in the early 1900s. We will continue to work toward protecting the quality of life in the Florida Keys, which brings new people to their new homes and keeps our generational families here for many more years to come. As an avid boater, I know the importance of the environment and I will continue to do what we can legislatively to balance and protect our important marine and nearshore waters for future generations to enjoy.

In addition to our waters and affordable housing, we must continue to look at ways to ensure those who work here can live here. Living on the hook is an affordable option for housing. We will continue to work closely with our state representative, Florida Fish and Wildlife, and the municipalities to implement mooring balls and onshore facilities for those who live on our waters responsibility, while taking care of problem derelict vessels that become navigational hazards and damage property during storms.



As a small automotive business owner for 15 years, businesses are important to help preserve the working class. It's the people who make the Florida Keys so special, and my priority is to keep it so they can live here. We are not just a tourist destination, but much more than that. We live in a family community, and there needs to be a balance between the residents and visitors to our beautiful islands.

From the railroad to U.S. 1 to the future of travel in the Florida Keys, Commissioner Rice was on the right track when he started the transportation committee. I look forward to implementing the committee's recommendations and working with the new transit department to move Monroe County forward in transit. In addition to the transit department, the renovations and upgrades at Key West International Airport will make air travel safer and more comfortable for our residents and visitors while pulling vehicles from the roads.

There will be a lot of small steps to see these changes, but 200 years from now, I hope our future Florida Keys generations will look back at us as pioneers of preserving the "island way" of life. I look forward to celebrating this important historical milestone with you in 2023.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Craig Cates".

Mayor Craig Cates



