



# Town of Longboat Key



# 2021 Annual Report



**Premier Community, Exceptional Service**



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## The 2021 Town Commission

The Town has a Commission/Manager form of government. Seven Commissioners are elected for three-year terms. The appointed Mayor is the Commission's presiding officer. Elections are held annually as terms expire. The Town has five Commission districts and two At-Large Commission seats. All Commissioners are elected Town-wide. The Town Manager is appointed by the Commission and administers the daily operations of the Town through appointed department heads.



**Left to right:** Ken Schneier, Mayor & Commissioner District 3; Mike Haycock, Vice Mayor & Commissioner At Large; Sherry Dominick, Commissioner District 1; Penny Gold, Commissioner District 2; Debra Williams, Commissioner District 4; Maureen Merrigan, Commissioner District 5; B.J. Bishop, Commissioner At Large

### Vision

Longboat Key is a beautiful place to live, work, and visit where the natural assets of a barrier island combine with cultural and recreational amenities, visionary planning, and proactive leadership to enhance your way of life.

### Mission

To vigorously maintain and preserve Longboat Key's status as a premier residential and visitor destination that supports the historic balance between residential, recreational, tourism, and commercial attributes, through a commitment to long-term and short-term planning excellence and measurable results.



# Message from the Town Manager

I am pleased to provide the 2021 Town of Longboat Key Annual Report. This year consisted of continually responding to the various spikes and uncertainty associated with COVID-19, its variants, and limiting exposure to our citizens and employees. However, despite this ongoing challenge, we were able to step forward and build on the momentum created by the advancement of a variety of projects and initiatives as well as delivering our usual premier level of service.



Tom Harmer

In January 2021, we initiated our second Citizen Satisfaction survey. The overall results indicated that almost 99% of respondents rated the overall quality of life on Longboat Key as “excellent” or “good.”

The Utilities Undergrounding Project continues. All work is nearly complete in Phase 1, with Phases 2, 3 and 4 in progress. Overall the project remains on schedule and under budget.

We continued working on planning for Phase 2 of the Outdoor Venue at the Town Center. This included permitting, finalizing the stage design, and procuring a contractor. We are so grateful to Paul and Sarah Karon who agreed to donate funds for construction of the stage. In 2022, we are programming a small variety of events including a market, concerts and an art festival.

We successfully completed the construction of Fire Station 92 and the renovation of Fire Station 91. Earlier in the year, we received delivery on a new 75’ ladder truck.

The North end beach stabilization project was completed and successfully combined three years’ worth of projects into one. Five additional groins were added to minimize the historic erosion and over 1 million yards of material was placed. The Town was able to save a substantial amount of money through this combined project.

Financially, we received an excellent AA+ rating from S&P Global Ratings and were awarded a Certificate of Excellence for our annual audit for the 39th year.

These and other accomplishments are highlighted in this report in addition to a high-level snapshot of the revenue, expenses, and Capital Improvement Plan from October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2021 (FY21). Finally, the report also provides a look at our 2022 initiatives and legislative priorities.

The past year has likely been one of the most exciting and ambitious years for the Town. It is my fourth year serving as your Town Manager and I would like to extend my thanks and appreciation to the current and former Town Commission, Department Heads, and all Town staff for their efforts toward maintaining and safeguarding the outstanding quality of life that the citizens of Longboat Key have come to expect. I hope you enjoy looking back on 2021. I welcome your suggestions and input for how we may best serve you in the coming year.



# Strategic Plan

# Capital Improvement Program

## Strategic Plan Goals



**Community Character, Fiscal Sustainability, Environmental / Resiliency, Infrastructure, Services**

## Top Commission Priorities

- \* Advance outdoor Town Center Venue Phase 2 Improvements including stage
- \* Pursue funding methodology for canals
- \* Continue advancement of the subaqueous wastewater force main project
- \* Enhance public information regarding red tide mitigation
- \* Ensure/Convince cellular carriers to enhance their coverage on the island
- \* Pursue GMD crosswalk enhancements with FDOT
- \* Program outdoor venue 2022

The Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for the Town of Longboat Key is a community plan for short- and long-range physical development. It is intended to link the community's comprehensive vision plan with a fiscal plan and provide a mechanism for estimating capital requirements; planning, prioritizing, scheduling, and implementing projects; developing revenue policies for proposed improvements; budgeting high priority projects and keeping the public informed. Capital project funds are multi-year budgets. Amounts unexpended and open Purchase Orders are carried over to the following year budgets.

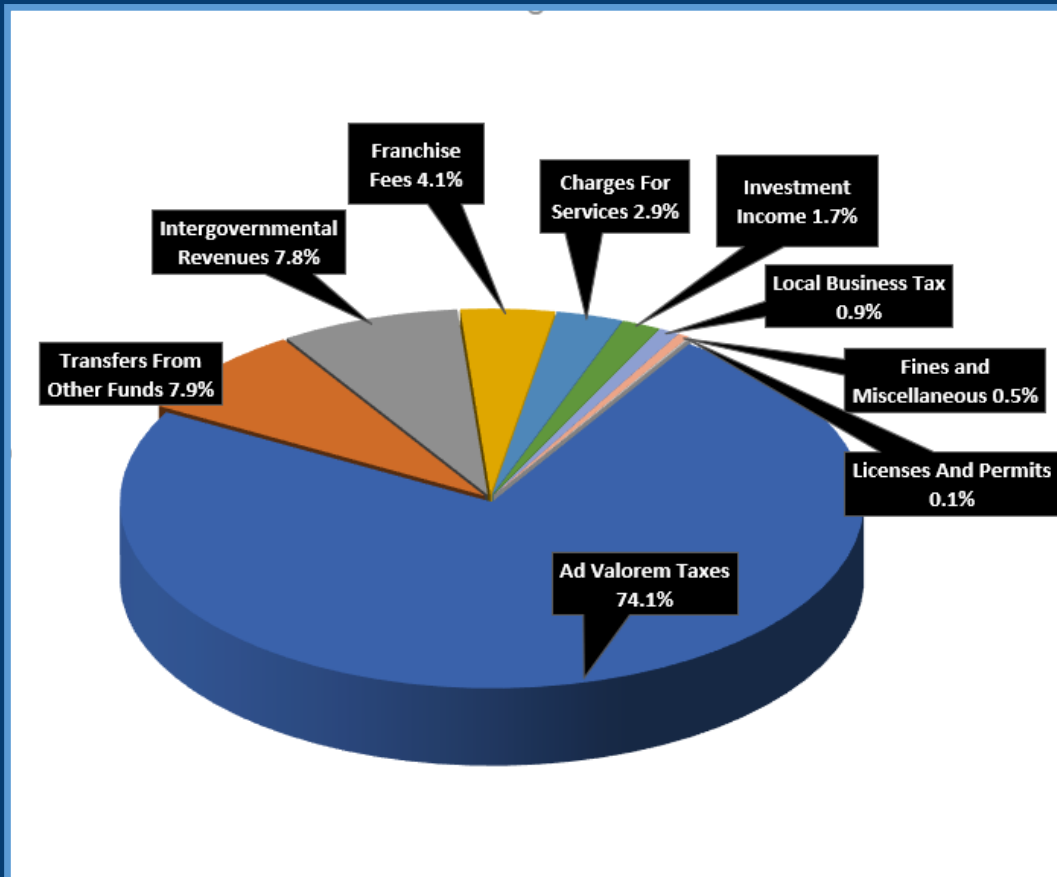
Description	FY21 Budget
General Fund Ad Valorem Tax	\$ 1,464,050
Road & Bridge Fund	\$ 142,231
Sarasota Infrastructure Fund	\$ 486,373
Law Enforcement Fund (LETF)	\$ 25,000
Miscellaneous Grant Fund	\$ 197,946
Manatee Infrastructure Fund	\$ 198,244
Facilities (Fire Station) Capital Fund	\$ 4,905,233
Streets Capital Fund	\$ 1,048,373
Land Acquisition Fund	\$ 1,239,997
Beach Capital Fund	\$ 39,611,580
Canal Fund	\$ 849,581
Parks & Recreation Capital Fund	\$ 28,424
Building Fund	\$ 65,350
Utility Capital Fund	\$ 2,894,734
GMD Undergrounding	\$ 20,380,296
Neighborhood Undergrounding	\$ 17,953,822
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 91,491,234</b>



# FY21 Financial Information

The charts on the following pages represent General Fund pre-close, unaudited revenue, operating and capital expenditures for FY21. The Town of Longboat Key's fiscal year runs from October 1 through September 30.

Revenues	2021 Actuals
Ad Valorem Taxes	\$12,493,668
Transfers From Other Funds	\$1,329,950
Intergovernmental Revenues	\$1,380,629
Franchise Fees	\$640,273
Charges For Services	\$480,420
Fines and Miscellaneous	\$266,855
Local Business Tax	\$167,807
Grants	\$149,988
Licenses And Permits	\$23,353
Investment Income	\$22,589
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$16,955,532</b>



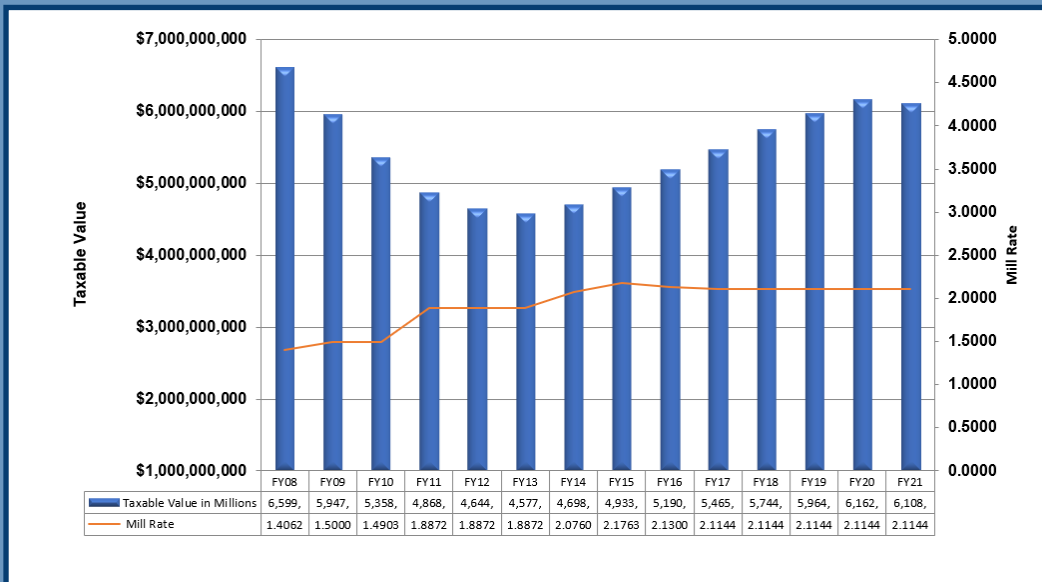
REVENUE



# Your tax dollars at work

## Assessed Valuations / Millage Rates / Property Tax

The value of all taxable property is assessed as of January 1 of each year. Sarasota and Manatee County Property Appraisers provide the Town with preliminary estimates of taxable values on or before June 1 of each year. Certification of the tax rolls occurs on July 1 of each year. Due to the recession, taxable values declined every year from 2009 through 2013 and showed the first sign of improvement in 2014. The combined certified assessed value on July 1, 2020 (FY21) was \$6,108,392,031 decreasing -0.88% (-2.81% Sarasota County and +3.61% Manatee County).

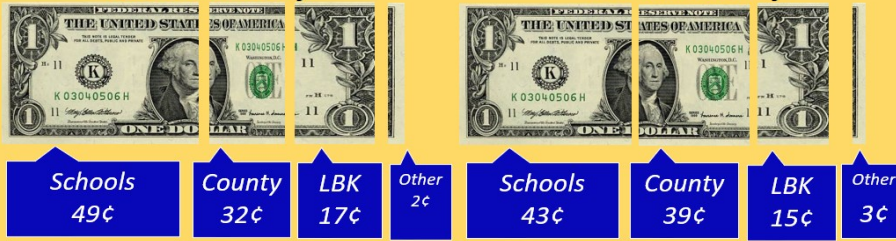


The chart above shows a thirteen-year history of taxable values since 2008.

### 2020 Tax Dollar-Beach Gulfside District



### 2020 Tax Dollar-Beach Bayside District

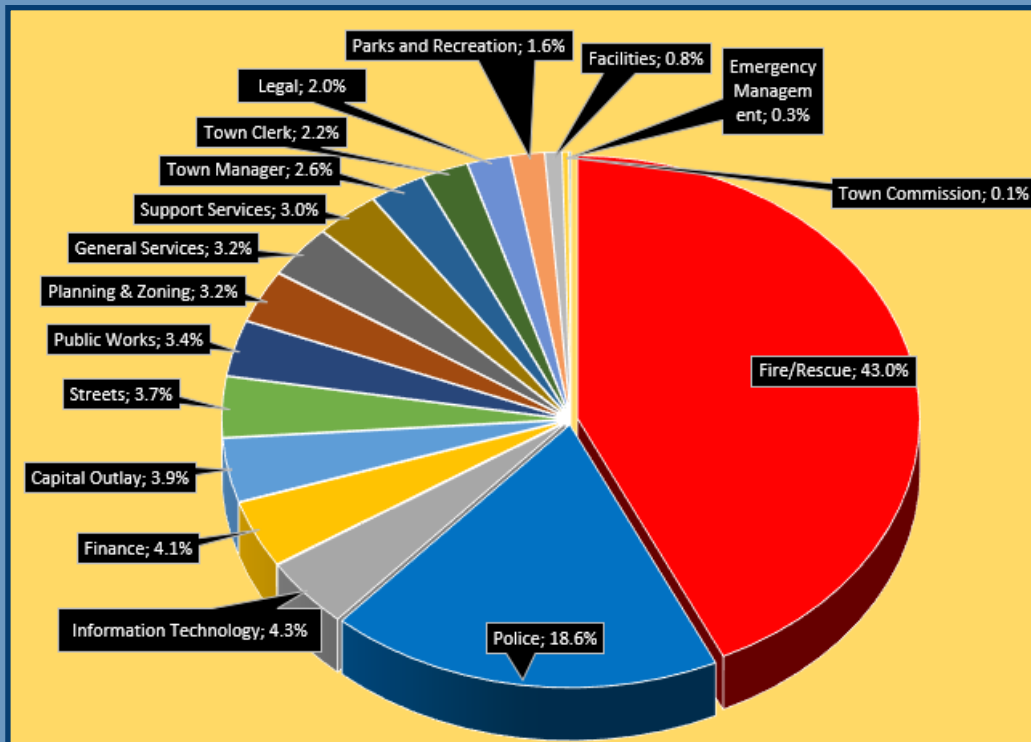


The charts on the left illustrate what your tax dollar supports depending on where you reside on Longboat Key and within which County.



# Your tax dollars at work

Expenditures FY21	2021 Actuals (unaudited)
Fire/Rescue	\$7,114,388
Police	\$3,063,198
Information Technology	\$698,354
Finance	\$676,842
Capital Outlay	\$651,655
Streets	\$616,623
Public Works	\$560,957
Planning & Zoning	\$534,806
General Services	\$523,497
Support Services	\$502,635
Town Manager	\$426,208
Town Clerk	\$359,917
Legal	\$338,609
Parks and Recreation	\$261,596
Facilities	\$133,112
Emergency Management	\$43,382
Town Commission	\$22,911
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$16,528,690</b>



**Expenditures**



# 2021 Accomplishments

- FY20 Annual Financial Certificate of Excellence (39th) and no management comments.
- All Town Financial Reserve Policies met.
- Returned \$562,125 to General Fund from FY21 (unaudited).
- Performed a comprehensive risk analysis and amended the General Fund Reserve Policy.
- Updated Credit Rating from S&P - Maintained AA+ Bond Rating for Beach Bonds.
- Issued \$21 Million in Beach Bonds at 0.72% All-in Rate of Interest.
- Refinanced the Water/Wastewater State Revolving Fund Notes saving \$148,000 in interest.
- Received CARES ACT reimbursements for COVID related expenses.
- Completed Rate Study to support future capital and operation needs of the utility water and wastewater system.
- Completed a study and implemented updated Building and Fire Fees.
- Received Barancik Foundation Grant of \$274,875 for law enforcement services enhancement.
- Secured FDLE grant to assist in COVID costs, including the purchase of two portable message boards.
- Town Commission approved Canal Navigation Maintenance Dredge program and tentative funding concept.
- Received awards of \$101,314 (Police) and \$7,718 (Fire) in WCIND Grant Funding and purchased new Marine Patrol vessel with WCIND funds.
- Obtained a matching \$1.25 million State appropriation for work related to future redundant Subaqueous Force Main.
- Town Center Phase 2 and 3 Southwest Florida Water Management District permit issued.
- Town Commission endorsed an Outdoor Venue stage concept. A private donor stepped forward to fund the stage.
- Entered into a lease agreement with the Longboat Key Historical Society to place a historic cottage at Town Center.
- Completed renovation of Fire Station 91 and construction of Fire Station 92.
- Utilities Undergrounding Project: On schedule and within budget. Phase 1 underground and street light improvements are in place.
- Completed Canal 1A Emergency Dredge, initiated the design of the Greer Island Spit Management Plan and received the FDOT and FDEP permits.
- Updated Strategic Plan and 2021-2022 initiatives.
- Replacement of all fire truck and EMS vehicle computers.
- Installation of cellular boosters and high gain antennas in all fire vehicles and Public Safety buildings for enhanced connectivity.
- Replacement and upgrade of server and storage infrastructure.
- Purchased a speed trailer to assist with traffic monitoring on the island.
- 3rd Annual tree lighting event occurred at outdoor venue at Town Center.





# 2021 Accomplishments

- Construction of major beach re-nourishment segments completed within a 5-month period, finalizing North End Stabilization Project by September.
- Successfully negotiated a Consent Order and “in-kind” project list with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection regarding subaqueous force main leak.
- New monument signs installed at Tennis Center, Town Center and Fire Station.
- Lyons Lane road drainage improvement project design complete.
- Completed State Legislature (OPPAGA) study of Two County Challenges.
- Conducted 2nd annual Citizen Survey with 18% response rate and 99% describing the overall quality of life as “excellent” or “good.”
- Published 3rd Town of Longboat Key Annual Report and Annual Report Video.
- Created a Virtual Community Open House.
- Successful launch of March and June 2021- IntroLBK 2021 Series (Virtual Citizen’s Academy).
- Produced multiple episodes of Talk of the Town.
- Continued expansion of on-line permitting and inspections program, including the addition of digital plans review and video inspections.
- Reached agreement with IAFF (Firefighters) for a new 3-year contract.
- Renewed Solid Waste contract with Waste Management for an additional three (3) years.
- Held the 70th Town Hall Art Exhibit and Artist Reception.
- Launched on-line records request platform to track and expedite public records requests.
- Completed annual Commission District audit with no redistricting required.
- Implemented an integrated virtual meeting solution to the existing Chambers to support hybrid meetings during the pandemic.
- Partnered with a Cyber Security Operations Center to monitor all Town devices 24 hours a day.
- Coordinated with LBK North Beach Volunteers for implementation of their pilot beach patrol program.
- Village Resident Parking Permit Program development. Implemented January 1, 2021.
- Marine Turtle Protection Ordinance updates adopted.
- Completed update of the Town’s Floodplain Management Plan.
- Joined the Tampa Bay Regional Resiliency Coalition.
- Completed Tasks A1 of the Sea Level Rise Study Phase 2. Funded and initiated remaining Phase 2 Tasks.
- Secured a high-water vehicle through the Florida Forestry Fire Service Loaner Program.
- Expanded jurisdiction of Special Magistrate for parking and noise citations.
- Managed COVID response, including government restrictions, Commission approved mask mandate, and regular public updates and messaging.
- Development of Zoning Code user-guide.



# Looking Ahead

## 2022 Projects and Initiatives

- Utilities Undergrounding Project – continue construction to completion in 2022 (FY23).
- Support Sarasota County’s Surtax IV planning and education.
- Submit the annual audit for the 2021 Certificate of Achievement Award.
- Present the 2022 Citizen’s Academy and IntroLBK 2022.
- Implementation of the new County Computer Aided Dispatch System.
- St. Regis building permitting review and inspections.
- Amendments to Town’s Comprehensive Plan, following Evaluation and Appraisal Review.
- Implementation of Flood Control Ordinance Updates.
- Implementation of new Sound Ordinance.
- Implement enhanced outreach and education on updated Sea Turtle Protection ordinance.
- Evaluate use of LiDAR data for 3-D digital modeling of Town buildings.
- Town Center Site Planned Unit Development Amendments.
- Surfside/Building Recertification review and recommendations.
- Review Short Term Rental Ordinance for potential update (inspections).
- Review technology to assist in monitoring advertising for short term rentals.
- Complete Design of Gulf of Mexico Drive and Broadway Street Roundabout.
- Complete Gulf of Mexico Drive Complete Streets Corridor Master Plan.
- Complete Fire Station 91 and 92 warranty period
- Obtain all permits, bid and construct initial dredge for Canal 1 Greer Island Spit Management Plan if fill is needed.
- FDOT to enhance Country Club Shores mid-block RRFB crossing with in-pavement lighting and add a pedestrian hybrid beacon (fka HAWK) at the Bayfront Park beach access as part of a pilot project.
- Construct Town Center Outdoor Venue Phase 2.
- Finalize design and construction documents for Town Center Outdoor Stage and initiate construction.
- Schedule a recognition event for volunteers and Advisory Board members.



## 2022 Projects and Initiatives continued...

- Finalize design, bid and rehabilitate New Pass Groin Structure.
- Renew Town-wide Beach Easements.
- Canal Dredge Program Assessment Methodology to Commission.
- HMGP Town Hall Project Construction initiation and completion (Windows, Generator and Roof).
- Complete Sleepy Lagoon and Buttonwood Drainage Studies with recommendations.
- Complete Lyons Lane Construction.
- Complete Durante Park boardwalk repairs.
- Finalize North Shore Beach Access beautification plan.
- Sea Level Rise Phases 3 and 4 completion.
- Intersection Paving Projects (Various Village, PD Parking, others).
- March 2022 Town Hall Art Exhibit & Artists' Reception
- Continue addressing FDEP Consent Order items. This includes in-kind project equipment acquisition, follow up to evaluation and restoration planning, as well completion of related other items.
- Upon FDEP approval, perform existing subaqueous force main pipeline assessment.
- Continue pursuing additional State appropriation for complete force main preservation project on mainland.
- Develop an overall action plan for Green (Environmental) Initiatives.
- Determine amount of CDBG grant funding for Asbestos Cement Pipe Replacement project made available to the Town. Town address remaining funding accordingly.
- Advance Asbestos Cement Pipe Replacement project to construction.
- Obtain permits for Redundant Subaqueous Force Main under Sarasota Bay.
- Continue coordinating with FDOT and City of Sarasota regarding progression of U.S. 41 and Gulfstream roundabout construction and traffic control through season.



# 2022 Legislative Priorities

1. Seek Grants and Legislative Appropriation Support for funding of a major capital project to install a redundant sub-aqueous wastewater line connecting Longboat Key to the Manatee County treatment plant on the mainland.
2. Support legislation and funding that recognizes and addresses the implementation of adaptation strategies related to sea level rise concerns.
3. Support a State-wide unified approach to improve water quality, eliminate or minimize harmful algal blooms, and improve monitoring and research coordination.
4. Support State funding for beach nourishment.
5. Support increased funding for planning and construction of transportation related improvements to address Longboat Key's traffic congestion and ingress/egress issues including:
  - a. Implementation of the Barrier Island Traffic Study recommendations to address significant seasonal traffic issues;
  - b. Evacuation route protection; and
  - c. Safety enhancements for Gulf of Mexico Drive pedestrian crossings.
6. Support a State-wide approach to the monitoring and inspection of multi-story, multi-family, residential buildings, especially in coastal areas.
7. Support legislation that provides for local control of issues on the waterways within the jurisdictional limits of a municipality.
8. Support changes to existing State law relating to vacation rentals that permit grandfathered local governments to modify existing short-term vacation rental regulations.
9. Support the expanded use of virtual / remote meeting technology by local governments for public meetings and related quorum requirements.
10. Review the 2021 OPPAGA report on the challenges of being in two counties and consider ways to address issues including inefficiencies, duplication of service, and taxation.
11. Oppose legislation that pre-empts local governments' home rule authority, including legislation relating to local impact fees and local home-based occupation regulations.
12. Support the preservation and expansion of existing state sponsored municipal funding sources including local business tax, communications services tax, tax-exempt municipal bonds, tourist (bed) taxes and gas taxes that support municipal infrastructure maintenance, repair and replacements.
13. Support long term efforts to identify sustainable transportation funding for local governments including alternatives to gas tax revenues as part of the transition to electric vehicles.

## Get Involved

The Town of Longboat Key values the participation and input of its residents. You can play a part by checking our website and learning more about our services, attending Commission meetings, volunteering, or by applying for a position on one of our advisory boards or committees.



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