



**SHARON R. BOCK**  
Clerk & Comptroller  
Palm Beach County

July 2016

## **Show Me the Money! Clerk's Got Your Checks & Balances**

When your hard-earned money is used to pay property taxes, you need assurance that those tax dollars are properly managed and spent. One of the most important aspects of my job as your independently elected Clerk & Comptroller is to guarantee the protection of your county tax dollars. As Palm Beach County's accountant, treasurer, auditor and financial watchdog, my office independently reviews all county expenses to ensure that there are checks and balances. We also invest county money to maximize earnings.

Last month, I delivered the annual [State of the County](#) report to the county commission. The report offered a retrospective view of how the county managed and spent taxpayer dollars in Fiscal Year 2015. Key financial highlights for 2015 include:

- The county's fund balance or unspent revenue (excluding airports and water utilities) increased \$18 million after declining for the previous six years.
- Property tax revenue, the county's main source of income, increased for the third year – \$60.6 million or 7%.
- Tourist Development tax collections were \$42.7 million – a 26.3% increase and a new record high.
- Public safety expenditures continued to comprise the largest portion of the county's general government spending – \$792 million.
- Capital spending for items such as roads and bridges has declined almost 50% in the past six years.

I respect what the Board of County Commissioners do for our citizens; they hear the needs of our community. However, as revenues show an increasingly healthy local economy, I want to reiterate how crucial it is to align the budget with Board-directed priorities when the new fiscal year begins October 1.

To further help you understand the economic forces that shape the community, each year, my office compiles and releases [Checks & Balances: Your Guide to County Finances](#). This easy-to-read, user-friendly guide includes a wealth of information about the community we live in and how our tax dollars are spent by county leaders. By reading [Checks & Balances](#), you'll take

an important step toward understanding and participating in Palm Beach County's financial future.

For more information about county finances and the financial reports available from the Clerk & Comptroller's office, visit [www.mypalmbeachclerk.com/countyfinances](http://www.mypalmbeachclerk.com/countyfinances).

It is an honor and a privilege to serve as your Clerk & Comptroller, and I remain committed to transparency in how your tax dollars are managed and spent.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sharon R. Bock". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sharon R. Bock, Esq.

Clerk & Comptroller, Palm Beach County

Video:

[http://www.pbcgov.com/countycommissioners/bcc\\_meeting\\_videos.htm?id=BCC/2016/bcc6-07-16am](http://www.pbcgov.com/countycommissioners/bcc_meeting_videos.htm?id=BCC/2016/bcc6-07-16am) (Start time code: 1:22:00)