



August 19, 2025



CHARLOTTE COUNTY
FLORIDA

What is It?

The **1-cent discretionary sales surtax**:

- Adds **1% to the existing sales tax**, making the total sales tax rate 7% in counties that implement it.
- Applies to **most taxable purchases** up to the first **\$5,000** of a single item.
- Is used to fund **local infrastructure** and **capital improvement projects**.

How is it Used?

Revenue from this tax is typically restricted to specific uses such as:

- Road construction
- Public safety facilities and equipment
- Parks, libraries, and recreational facilities
- Stormwater and utility infrastructure
- School construction or improvements (in counties where schools get a share)

Each county identifies projects that will be funded by the tax.

Who decides

- **Voters** decide whether to approve or renew the tax—through a **referendum every 6 years**.
- The **Board of County Commissioners** oversees how the funds are budgeted and allocated based on a list of approved projects.

Revenue Distribution

- Funds are shared between the **county government** and **municipalities (cities)** based on a formula (typically population-based).
- A portion may also go to **constitutional officers** (e.g., Sheriff) for capital-related needs.

City of Punta Gorda – 9.17%

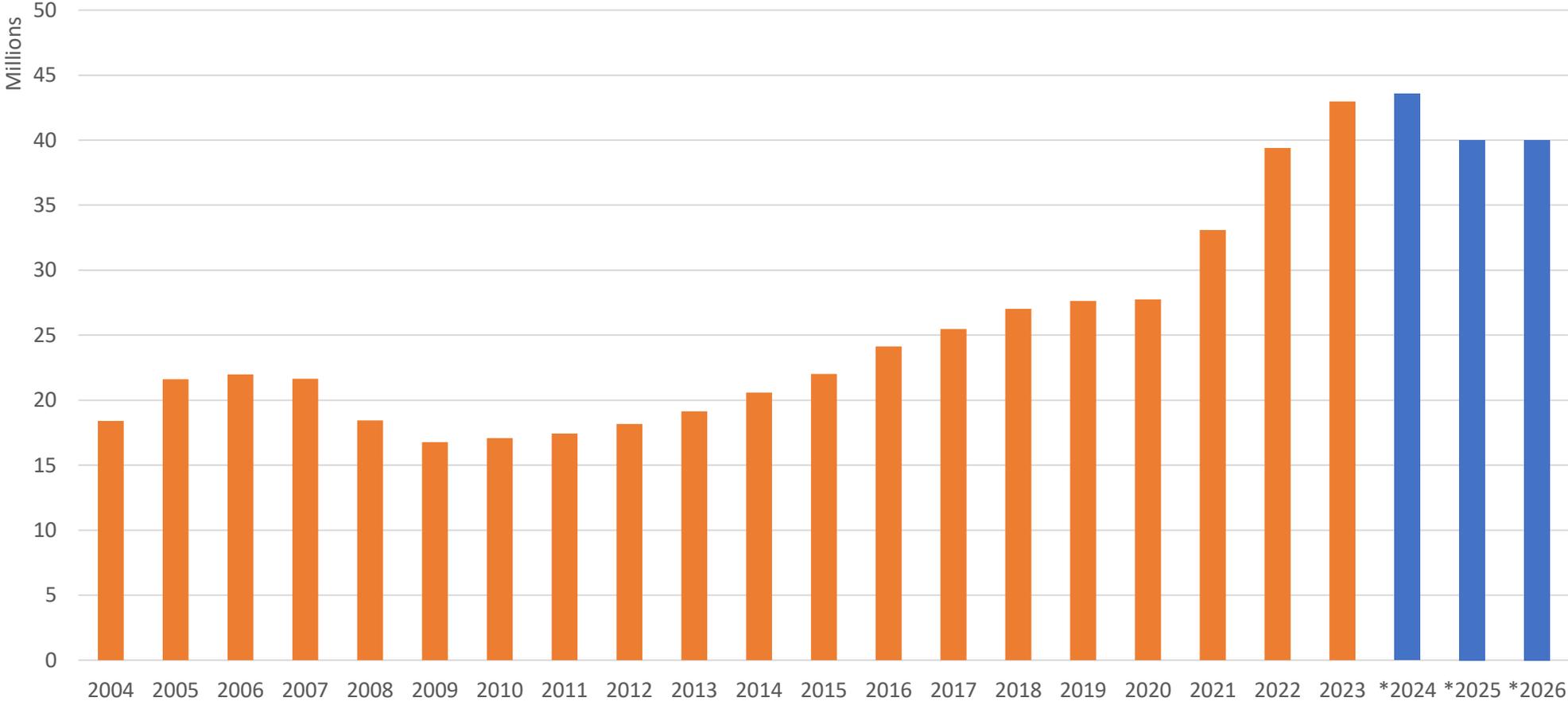
Charlotte County – 90.83%



Why It Matters

- It helps **reduce the burden on property taxes** by providing an alternative revenue source.
- **Tourists and visitors** contribute to local infrastructure since they also pay sales tax.
- It allows counties to **fund capital projects without borrowing**, saving interest costs.

Sales Tax Revenue



* Projected



Sales Tax Revenue

Actual Revenue
(Jan 2021 - Oct 2024) 153,206,542

Projected
(Nov 2024 - Dec 2026) 85,641,679

Total Projected Revenue 238,848,221

Sales Tax Revenue

2026 Sales Tax Initiative Assumptions:

- Annual collections - \$37.6M
- Total Over 6 years - \$226M
- 50% Dedicated to Road Projects - \$113M