



FLORIDA'S TOURIST DEVELOPMENT TAX

5 things to know about ballot item No. 8

September 17, 2024

TOURIST TAX DOLLARS HARD AT WORK AT NO COST TO YOU!

What is the "Tourist Development Tax?"

In Florida, the Tourist Development Tax (aka the "bed tax") is collected on all short-term rentals (six months or less), including hotel/motel accommodations. A county's revenue and sales determine its tax eligibility rate – up to 6% – but residents vote on the increases



Who pays it?

As the name suggests, the tax only applies to those who make a rental transaction within Manatee County. Residents will benefit from all funds collects and will only ever see the tax if they stay in a short-term rental.

Talk about a "Sixth Penny Tax?"

Currently, Manatee County collects a five penny or 5% Tourist Development Tax, but it is eligible to collect one additional – and final – percent. This would generate approximately \$8 million annually for community projects.

How do residents benefit?

Funds collected from the bed tax are used for tourism-related projects that improve quality of life for both residents and visitors, everything from beach and shoreline renourishment to cultural enrichment efforts.



Projects supported by the 5% tax:



- Beach Renourishment and Maintenance
- Eco-Friendly, Traffic-Reducing Transportation
- Upgraded Venues for Meetings & Events
- Bradenton Area Convention Center (Generates \$30M annually)
- Premier Sports Campus (Generates \$40M annually)
- New Builds & Improved Facilities for Cultural Enrichment

- Lecom Park
- Florida Railroad Museum



- Bishop Museum of Science and Nature
- Manatee Performing Arts Center



Who else collects 6%?

Many counties around the state are currently collecting the 6% including surrounding counties like Sarasota, Pinellas & Hillsborough.

