



KEN BURKE

CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT - PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA

Clerk of the County Court • Recorder of Deeds • Clerk and Accountant of the Board of County Commissioners
Custodian of County Funds • County Auditor • Clerk of the Water and Navigation Control Authority

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Pinellas County Clerk of Court Implements Programs to Benefit Public, State Funds

TALLAHASSEE – In all 67 Florida counties, diligent work by Clerks of Court's offices has resulted in improved collection rates contributing to the nearly \$2 billion in court-related fines, filing fees and service charges passed on to the State in 2009.

Funds collected by Clerks are used to support local governments and state trust funds, including the General Revenue fund and a court-dedicated trust fund. Clerks' initiatives ranging from providing automated online services to implementing new traffic citation payment options improved collections as well as customer service.

Ken Burke, Pinellas County Clerk of the Court, has played an important role in these statewide efforts. Clerk Burke has continually updated his website to provide 24-hour access to services. In recent years, Burke began providing online access to Probate case file images to attorneys and recently added enhanced functions to the public records search.

Many Clerks have adopted convenient payment methods accessible after office hours. The majority of Florida Clerks' offices accept online or telephonic debit or credit card payments including Pinellas, which has also installed payment kiosks in public locations.

To add more than 170 extra traffic payment locations throughout Central Florida, the Pinellas Clerk partnered with AMSCOT. Such check cashing businesses have more locations and longer hours of operation including nights and weekends making them far more accessible to the public.

"Despite the state budget cuts that forced Clerks statewide to restructure their offices, one of our goals is to continue working efficiently to serve our customers," said Burke. "Unfortunately, if further cuts proposed by a Senate amendment to HB 5401 go into effect, our staff reductions will be so severe that customer service levels will certainly suffer in Clerks Offices throughout the state."

For more information about services provided by your Pinellas County Clerk's office, please visit www.mypinellasclerk.org.

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The Clerk of the Circuit Court, established by the Constitution of 1838, is the public trustee for the county. The Clerk provides the checks and balances in county government by acting in their capacity as Clerk to the Board, Clerk to the Court, Keeper of the Public Records, Comptroller and Internal Auditor of county funds.