



**Sarasota County, Florida
Clerk of the Circuit Court and
County Comptroller**

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

September 30, 2021

Sarasota County, Florida
Clerk of The Circuit Court and County Comptroller
Table of contents
September 30, 2021



	Page
FINANCIAL SECTION	
Independent Auditors’ Report	1
Basic Financial Statements	
Balance Sheet – Governmental Funds	4
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance – Governmental Funds	5
Statement of Fiduciary Net Position	6
Statement of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position	7
Notes to Financial Statements.....	8
Required Supplementary Information	
Budgetary Comparison Schedule – General Fund.....	21
Budgetary Comparison Schedule – Public Records Trust Fund.....	22
Budgetary Comparison Schedule – Court Related Functions Fund	23
SUPPLEMENTAL REPORTS	
Independent Auditors’ Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance with <i>Government Auditing Standards</i>	24
Management Letter.....	26
Independent Accountants’ Report	28



REPORT



INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

Honorable Karen E. Rushing
Clerk of the Circuit Court and County Comptroller
Sarasota County, Florida

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of Sarasota County, Florida, Clerk of the Circuit Court and County Comptroller ("the Clerk"), as of and for the year ended September 30, 2021, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Clerk's financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditors' Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express opinions on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditors' judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Honorable Karen E. Rushing
Clerk of the Circuit Court and County Comptroller

Opinions

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Clerk, as of September 30, 2021, and the respective changes in financial position thereof for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Change in Accounting Principle

As discussed in Note 11 to the financial statements, in 2021 the Clerk adopted new accounting guidance, GASB No. 84, *Fiduciary Activities*. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

Emphasis of Matter

As discussed in Note 1 to the financial statements, the financial statements referred to above were prepared solely for the purpose of complying with the Rules of the Auditor General of the State of Florida. In conformity with the Rules, the accompanying financial statements are intended to present the financial position and changes in financial position of each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information, only for that portion of the major funds, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Sarasota County, Florida attributable to the Clerk. They do not purport to, and do not, present fairly the financial position of Sarasota County, Florida as of September 30, 2021, and the changes in its financial position, where applicable, for the fiscal year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our opinions are not modified with respect to these matters.

Other Matters

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the Budgetary Comparison Schedule – General Fund, the Budgetary Comparison Schedule – Public Records Trust Fund, and the Budgetary Comparison Schedule – Court Related Functions Fund, as listed in the table of contents, be presented to supplement the financial statements. Such information, although not a required part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it to be an essential part of the basic financial reporting for placing the financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Honorable Karen E. Rushing
Clerk of the Circuit Court and County Comptroller

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated on February 3, 2022 our consideration of the Clerk's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters included under the heading *Independent Auditors' Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance with Government Auditing Standards*. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with Government Auditing Standards in considering the Sarasota County Clerk's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Carr, Riggs & Ingram, L.L.C.

Carr, Riggs & Ingram, LLC

Sarasota, FL
February 3, 2022



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS



Sarasota County, Florida
Clerk of The Circuit Court and County Comptroller
Balance Sheet – Governmental Funds

September 30, 2021

	Major Funds				Total Governmental Funds
	General Fund	Public Records Trust Fund	Court Related Functions		
Assets					
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 3,909,467	\$ 5,142,290	\$ 2,968,398	\$	12,020,155
Due from other funds	25,230	-	-	-	25,230
Due from other governments	53,622	-	90,019	-	143,641
Total assets	\$ 3,988,319	\$ 5,142,290	\$ 3,058,417	\$	12,189,026
Liabilities and fund balance					
Liabilities:					
Accounts payable	\$ 195,358	\$ 6,454	\$ 23,502	\$	225,314
Wages and benefits payable	574,707	24,173	512,924	-	1,111,804
Due to other county governments	3,075,399	-	4,861	-	3,080,260
Due to other governments	142,855	-	2,252,470	-	2,395,325
Deposits	-	-	258,100	-	258,100
Total liabilities	3,988,319	30,627	3,051,857	-	7,070,803
Fund balance:					
Restricted	-	5,111,663	6,560	-	5,118,223
Total fund balance	-	5,111,663	6,560	-	5,118,223
Total liabilities and fund balance	\$ 3,988,319	\$ 5,142,290	\$ 3,058,417	\$	12,189,026

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Sarasota County, Florida
Clerk of The Circuit Court and County Comptroller
Statement Of Revenues, Expenditures, and
Changes in Fund Balance – Governmental Funds

For the Year Ended September 30, 2021

	Major Funds			
	General Fund	Public Records Trust Fund	Court Related Functions	Total Governmental Funds
Revenues:				
Intergovernmental	\$ 10,417,800	\$ -	\$ 1,564,966	\$ 11,982,766
Charges for services	4,703,293	2,014,550	5,780,474	12,498,317
Miscellaneous income	32,569	-	-	32,569
Fines and forfeitures	-	-	1,282,654	1,282,654
Interest income	4,040	3,219	127,643	134,902
Total revenues	15,157,702	2,017,769	8,755,737	25,931,208
Expenditures:				
Current - general government:				
Personnel services	8,542,253	55,762	6,676,320	15,274,335
Operating expenditures	3,420,662	430,527	318,338	4,169,527
Capital outlay	128,103	3,478	-	131,581
Total expenditures	12,091,018	489,767	6,994,658	19,575,443
Excess of revenues over expenditures	3,066,684	1,528,002	1,761,079	6,355,765
Other financing uses:				
Distributions of excess appropriations to the Board of County Commissioners	(3,066,684)	-	-	(3,066,684)
Distributions to the Department of Revenue	-	-	(1,761,073)	(1,761,073)
Total other financing uses	(3,066,684)	-	(1,761,073)	(4,827,757)
Net change in fund balance	-	1,528,002	6	1,528,008
Fund balance, beginning of year	-	3,583,661	6,554	3,590,215
Fund balance, end of year	\$ -	\$ 5,111,663	\$ 6,560	\$ 5,118,223

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Sarasota County, Florida
Clerk of The Circuit Court and County Comptroller
Statement of Fiduciary Net Position

September 30, 2021

	Law Library Private- Purpose Trust Fund	Custodial Funds
Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 204,295	\$ 23,711,236
Due from other county governments	21,099	-
Due from other governments	-	11
Other receivables	-	476
Total assets	\$ 225,394	\$ 23,711,723
Liabilities and Net Position		
Accounts payable	\$ 218	\$ 1,836
Wages and benefits payable	2,172	-
Interest payable	-	3,977
Due to other county governments	-	363,569
Due to other governments	-	5,490,465
Due to other funds	-	25,230
Compensated absences	496	-
Deposits	-	1,515
Total liabilities	2,886	5,886,592
Net Position		
Restricted for:		
Law library	222,508	-
Individuals and other governments	-	17,825,131
Total net position	222,508	17,825,131
Total liabilities and net position	\$ 225,394	\$ 23,711,723

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Sarasota County, Florida
Clerk of The Circuit Court and County Comptroller
Statement of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position

For the year ended September 30, 2021

	Law Library Private- Purpose Trust Fund	Custodial Funds
Additions:		
Board of County Commissioners appropriations	\$ 67,077	\$ -
Taxes	21,280	-
Interest income	162	-
Miscellaneous income	75	-
Collections on behalf of other governments	-	13,923,371
Restitution collected	-	63,509
Foreclosure deposits	-	24,445,958
Tax deed sale deposits	-	3,718,497
Child support collections	-	168,017
Documentary stamps and intangible taxes	-	155,760,954
Registry deposits	-	41,777,798
Bond collections	-	1,119,643
State jury witness funding	-	6,131
Unclaimed property	-	116,200
Lien to bonds	-	402,160
Total additions	88,594	241,502,238
Deductions:		
General government:		
Personnel services	57,791	-
Operating expenditures	5,333	-
Distributions to other governments	-	14,897,470
Restitution paid	-	66,386
Return of foreclosure deposits	-	22,516,611
Tax deed sale distributions	-	3,354,533
Documentary stamps and intangible taxes paid	-	160,025,425
Registry distributions	-	39,879,034
Bond distributions	-	851,117
State jury witness funding	-	11,795
Unclaimed property	-	116,214
Lien to bond returns	-	1,052,109
Total deductions	63,124	242,770,694
Change in net position	25,470	(1,268,456)
Net position, beginning of year - restated	197,038	19,093,587
Net position, end of year	\$ 222,508	\$ 17,825,131

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Sarasota County, Florida
Clerk of The Circuit Court and County Comptroller
Notes to Financial Statements

Note 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The following is a summary of the significant accounting principles and policies used in the preparation of these financial statements.

Reporting Entity

The Sarasota County, Florida Clerk of the Circuit Court and County Comptroller (the Clerk) is a separately elected county official established pursuant to the Constitution of the State of Florida and the Home Rule Charter of Sarasota County, Florida (the County). As part of the County's Home Rule Charter, the Clerk's General Fund budget is submitted to the Sarasota County Board of County Commissioners (the Board) for approval. The Board appropriates and distributes to the Clerk, on a monthly basis, funds necessary to operate the Clerk's office.

The Clerk's annual Court-Related Functions budget is submitted to the State of Florida for approval and certification. State court system funding is allocated between the state, counties and users of the courts. Funding for the court-related functions of the offices of clerks of the circuit and county courts is provided by filing fees for judicial proceedings and services and costs for performing court-related functions. Cumulative excess of costs for performing court-related functions are returned to the Florida Department of Revenue no later than the 25th of January beginning in year 2015, and thereafter. If fees are not adequate to pay all costs related to performing court-related functions, the State may appropriate supplemental funding.

For financial reporting purposes, the Clerk is deemed to be a part of the primary government of the County and, therefore, is included as such in the Sarasota County Florida Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. However, the Clerk's financial statements do not purport to reflect the financial position or the results of operations of Sarasota County, Florida taken as a whole.

Measurement Focus, Basis of Accounting and Financial Statement Presentation

The Sarasota County, Florida, Clerk of the Circuit Court and County Comptroller financial statements have been prepared solely for the purpose of complying with the Rules of the Auditor General of the State of Florida (the "Rules"). These financial statements are the fund financial statements required by generally accepted accounting principles. However, these fund statements do not constitute a complete presentation because, in conformity with the Rules, the Clerk has not presented reconciliations to the government-wide financial statements, management's discussion and analysis, or the pension or the other post-employment benefit related required supplementary information. Also, certain notes to the financial statements may supplement rather than duplicate the notes included in the County's countywide financial statements. In conformity with the Rules, the accompanying financial statements are intended to present the financial position and changes in financial position, where applicable, of each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information, only for that portion of each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information, of Sarasota County, Florida, that is attributable to the Clerk.

They do not purport to, and do not, present fairly the financial position of Sarasota County, Florida, as of September 30, 2021, and the changes in its financial position, where applicable, for the fiscal year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Sarasota County, Florida
Clerk of The Circuit Court and County Comptroller
Notes to Financial Statements

Note 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Measurement Focus, Basis of Accounting and Financial Statement Presentation (Continued):

The accounting and financial reporting treatment is determined by the applicable measurement focus and basis of accounting. Measurement focus indicates the type of resources being measured such as *current financial resources* or *economic resources*. The basis of accounting indicates the timing of transactions or events for recognition in the financial statements.

The governmental fund financial statements are reported using the *current financial resources focus* and the *modified accrual basis of accounting*. Revenues are recognized as soon as they are both measurable and available. Revenues are considered to be available when they are collectible within the current period or soon enough thereafter to pay liabilities of the current period. For this purpose, the government considers revenues to be available if they are collected within 60 days of the end of the current fiscal period. Expenditures generally are recorded when a liability is incurred, as under accrual accounting.

The private-purpose trust funds are reported using the *economic resources measurement* focus and the *accrual basis of accounting*. The custodial fund has no measurement focus but utilizes the *accrual basis of accounting* for reporting its assets and liabilities.

Fund Financial Statements

The fund financial statements provide information about the Clerk's funds, including its fiduciary funds. Separate statements for each fund category—governmental and fiduciary—are presented. The emphasis of fund financial statements is on major governmental funds, each displayed in a separate column.

The Clerk reports the following major governmental funds:

The *General Fund* is the Clerk's primary operating fund. It accounts for all financial resources of the general government, except those accounted for in another fund.

The *Public Records Trust Fund* is a special revenue fund used to account for recording fees for record modernization and court-related technology needs of the Clerk.

The *Court-Related Functions Fund* is a special revenue fund used to account for court-related charges for services, as well as expenditures for court functions. Additionally, 10 percent of all court-related fines collected by the Clerk were deposited into the Clerk's Public Records Modernization Trust Fund until June 2017. Per Senate Bill (SB) 2506: Clerks of the Court, effective June 16, 2017, "Ten percent of all court-related fines collected by the clerk, except for penalties or fines distributed to counties or municipalities under Section 316.0083(1)(b)3, *Florida Statutes* or Section 318.18(15)(a), *Florida Statutes* shall be deposited into the fine and forfeiture fund to be used exclusively for clerk court-related functions, as provided in Section 28.35(3)(a), *Florida Statutes*."

Additionally, the Clerk reports the following fund types:

The *Law Library Fund* is a private-purpose trust used to account for resources legally held in trust for the maintenance of a law library for use by individuals, private organizations and other governments. Pursuant to Section 82-32 of Sarasota County Ordinances, the Clerk is the custodian of these funds.

Sarasota County, Florida
Clerk of The Circuit Court and County Comptroller
Notes to Financial Statements

Note 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Fund Financial Statements (Continued)

The *Fiduciary Funds* are used to account for assets received and held by the Clerk in the capacity of an agent for the County, other governmental agencies, and prevailing parties based on a court's ruling. Custodial funds are custodial in nature and do not involve measurement of changes in financial position. The Clerk has numerous custodial funds for various purposes.

During the course of operations, the Clerk has activity between funds for various purposes. Any residual balances outstanding at year end are reported as due from/to other funds and advances to/from other funds. While these balances are reported in fund financial statements.

Fund Balance Reporting and Governmental Fund-Type Definitions

Fund Balances are reported in classifications based on whether the amounts are nonspendable or spendable. Spendable amounts are further classified in a hierarchy based on the extent to which the Clerk is bound to honor constraints on the specific purpose for fund balances. The classifications are described as follows:

Nonspendable Fund Balance Description

- *Nonspendable fund balance* – Amounts that are not in a spendable form (such as inventory) or are required to be maintained intact. The Clerk had no nonspendable fund balance as of September 30, 2021.

Spendable Fund Balance Descriptions

- *Restricted fund balance* – Restricted fund balances are amounts constrained to specific purposes by their providers (such as grantors, bondholders, and higher levels of government), through constitutional provisions, or by enabling legislation. The Clerk had restricted fund balance of \$5,111,663 for records modernization and court-related technology needs and \$6,560 for public education for foreclosure proceedings as of September 30, 2021.
- *Committed fund balance* – Committed fund balances are amounts constrained to specific purposes by the Clerk, using its highest level of decision-making authority. The Clerk had no committed fund balance as of September 30, 2021.
- *Assigned fund balance* – Assigned fund balances are amounts the Clerk intends to use for a specific purpose; intent can be expressed by the Clerk or by an official or body to which the Clerk delegates the authority. The Clerk had no assigned fund balance as of September 30, 2021.
- *Unassigned fund balance* – Amounts that are available for any purpose; these amounts are reported only in the general fund. Negative balances in other funds are reported as unassigned in those respective funds. The Clerk had no unassigned fund balance as of September 30, 2021.

Sarasota County, Florida
Clerk of The Circuit Court and County Comptroller
Notes to Financial Statements

Note 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Distribution of “Excess Revenues”

In the financial statements of the Clerk, the receipts from the County, recording fees and non-court income are reflected as revenue. The Board requires the excess revenues over the Clerk’s General Fund expenditures be returned to the Board at the end of the fiscal year. The excess revenue is recorded as other financing uses.

Similarly, any court-related collected fines, fees, service charges and costs in excess of the annual approved budget are required to be submitted to the State of Florida each year for the fiscal year.

Based on the legal opinion provided by Clerks of Court Operations general counsel of the provisions of Section 28.37(3), F.S., which was adopted as policy by the Clerk of Court Operations Corporation (CCOC) Finance and Budget Committee, all excess court-related funds have been included in a fund liability, Due to Other Governments.

Budgetary Information

On or before June 1 of each year, the Clerk submits a tentative budget for the ensuing fiscal year to the Board for its Board-related functions. The budget is adopted in the same manner as the budget of the Board.

A budget is legally adopted by the Board only for the Board funded appropriations and is on a basis consistent with GAAP. Budgetary control is at the fund level. Budgetary changes within the fund are made at the discretion of the Clerk. The budget for the special revenue funds is subject to a “non-appropriated budget” review and approval process, which is outside the Board’s normal “appropriated budget” process. The Clerk’s recording and other non-court functions fund did not meet the requirements of GASB 54 for classification as a special revenue fund; therefore, the revenues and expenditures have been included in the general fund.

By June 1 of each year, the Clerk submits a tentative budget for the next fiscal year to the CCOC for its court-related functions. The CCOC certifies the budget. Budgetary control is at the fund level. Budgetary changes within the fund are made at the discretion of the Clerk. Due to the impacts of COVID19 during the fiscal year 2019 - 2020, the Budget Committee developed a Base Budget as a starting point for building a CFY 2020-21 Budget Request.

Deposits and Investments

The Clerk is authorized to invest surplus funds in accordance with Florida Statute 218.415. In addition, the Sarasota County Investment Policy will act as the established guidelines for investments. The Clerk had \$14,043,095 invested in Florida Fixed Income Trust Cash Pool (FLFIT) and \$1,013,827 in Florida Cooperative Liquid Assets Securities System Pool (FLCLASS) as of September 30, 2021.

FLFIT Preferred Deposit Pool (PDP) offers FDIC insured capacity of up to \$30M for each participating client. The PDP Pool is a resource that assists local governments in maximizing their yield while maintaining same-day liquidity and protecting principal through FDIC insured bank deposits. The pool offers a compelling strategy to generate interest income while maintaining prudent cash management. Same day liquidity for transactions entered by 1:00 p.m. EST.

Sarasota County, Florida
Clerk of The Circuit Court and County Comptroller
Notes to Financial Statements

Note 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Deposits and Investments (Continued)

FLCLASS is rated AAAM by S&P Global Ratings Services, the highest rating assigned to principal stability government investment pools. This rating reflects the conservative nature of the pool's investments as well as the excellent credit quality of the program. S&P Global Ratings monitors the pool on a weekly basis. The Board of Trustees has appointed Public Trust Advisors, LLC, to serve as the Investment Advisor and Administrator of the Program and has appointed Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. as the Custodian. Same day liquidity for transactions entered by 3:00 p.m. EST.

Capital Assets

Office furniture and equipment used in the law library activities are recorded at historical cost in the private-purpose trust fund, in accordance with Section 274.02, *Florida Statutes*. The current capitalization threshold is \$5,000. Depreciation has been provided on these assets using the straight-line method over useful lives of five years.

Amounts expended for maintenance and repairs are charged to expenditures as incurred. Upon sale or retirement of capital assets, the cost and related accumulated depreciation is removed from the respective accounts and any resulting gain or loss is included in the results of operations.

Compensated Absences

The Clerk's policy permits employees to accumulate a limited amount of annual leave, which will be paid to employees upon termination of employment.

These include accumulated annual leave, and certain other salary-related costs associated with the payment. Compensated absences are reported in governmental funds only if they have matured (i.e., if unused reimbursable leave is outstanding at fiscal year-end following an employee's resignation or retirement).

Accumulated annual leave, and certain other salary-related costs associated with the payment of annual leave, is accrued when earned in the private purpose trust fund financial statements. A liability for these amounts is reported in the private purpose trust fund on a full accrual basis.

Encumbrances

Encumbrance accounting, under which purchase orders, contracts, and other commitments for the expenditure of monies are recorded as reservations of budget, is employed as an extension of the statutory required budgetary process. Outstanding encumbrances represent material purchase commitments for goods and services which were ordered, budgeted and appropriated but which had not been received or completed at that date. Encumbrances lapse at year-end. No encumbrances were outstanding at September 30, 2021.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make various estimates. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Sarasota County, Florida
Clerk of The Circuit Court and County Comptroller
Notes to Financial Statements

Note 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Recently Issued Accounting Pronouncements

The Governmental Accounting Standards Board has issued statements that will become effective in future years. These statements are as follows:

In June 2017, the GASB issued Statement No. 87, Leases. The objective of this Statement is to better meet the information needs of financial statement users by improving accounting and financial reporting for leases by governments. This Statement increases the usefulness of governments' financial statements by requiring recognition of certain lease assets and liabilities for leases that previously were classified as operating leases and recognized as inflows of resources or outflows of resources based on payment provisions of the contract. It establishes a single model for lease accounting based on the foundational principle that leases are financings of the right to use an underlying asset.

In May 2020, the GASB issued Statement 96, Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangements. This statement provides guidance on the accounting and financial reporting for subscription-based information technology arrangements. This statement will be effective for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2022.

Subsequent Events

Management has evaluated subsequent events through the date that the financial statements were available to be issued, February 3, 2022 and determined there were no events that occurred that required disclosure. No subsequent events occurring after this date have been evaluated for inclusion in these financial statements.

Note 2: CASH AND INVESTMENTS

Custodial Credit Risk

The Clerk's policy is to follow the guidelines of Florida Statutes 219.075 and 218.415, regarding the deposit of funds received and the investment of surplus funds. Florida Statute 219.075 and 218.415 authorize the Clerk to invest in FLFIT and FLCLASS or any intergovernmental investment pool authorized pursuant to the Florida Interlocal Cooperation Act; Securities and Exchange Commission registered money market funds with the highest quality rating from a nationally recognized rating agency; direct obligations of the United States Treasury; federal agencies and instrumentalities, or interest-bearing time deposits and savings accounts held in federal or state-chartered banks and saving and loan associations doing business in Florida, provided that any such deposits are secured by collateral as may be prescribed. At September 30, 2021, the general ledger carrying balances were \$15,000 for petty cash and \$35,920,686 for pooled cash. These investments meet all of the necessary criteria to elect to measure all of the investments at amortized cost; therefore, the Clerk's investment in FLFIT and FLCLASS are reported at amortized cost. Bank deposits are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or covered by the state of Florida collateral pool, a multi-financial institution pool with the ability to assess its members for collateral shortfalls if a member institution fails.

Sarasota County, Florida
Clerk of The Circuit Court and County Comptroller
Notes to Financial Statements

Note 2: CASH AND INVESTMENTS (Continued)

Interest Rate Risk

Interest rate risk is the possibility that interest rates will rise and reduce the fair value of an investment. The Clerk limits interest rate risk by maintaining an investment portfolio with limited volatility. The investment policy states that no security shall have an estimated average return of principal exceeding five year, unless the investment in an adjustable rate security.

Credit Risk

Section 150: Investments of the GASB Codification requires that governments provide information about credit risk associated with their investments by disclosing the credit rating of investments in debt securities as described by nationally recognized statistical rating organizations. The Clerk's investment policy limits credit risk by restricting the authorized investments to securities with specific ranking criteria.

Concentration of Credit Risk

Concentration of credit risk is the risk of loss attributed to the magnitude of an investment in a single issuer. The majority of the Clerk's investments are held in collateralized bank accounts pursuant to F.S. 280.

Note 3: INTERFUND RECEIVABLES, PAYABLES, AND TRANSFERS

The following is a schedule of interfund receivables and payables as of September 30, 2021:

DUE TO/FROM OTHER FUNDS:

Due to General Fund from:

Fiduciary funds	\$ 25,230
Total due to General Fund	<u>\$ 25,230</u>

All amounts above are expected to be repaid within one year and resulted from amounts owed between elected officials/agencies or amounts borrowed to cover cash deficits at year end.

Note 4: CAPITAL ASSETS

Tangible personal property used in the Clerk's operations is recorded as expenditures in the governmental funds of the Clerk at the time assets are received and a liability is incurred. Purchased assets are capitalized at historical cost in the government-wide financial statements of the County. Capital assets related to the law library operations are capitalized directly in the private-purpose trust fund. The Clerk maintains custodial responsibility for the capital assets acquired by its office. Detailed information concerning capital assets is recorded and reported in the government-wide financial statements of the County.

Sarasota County, Florida
Clerk of The Circuit Court and County Comptroller
Notes to Financial Statements

Note 4: CAPITAL ASSETS (Continued)

The following is a summary of changes in capital assets for which the Clerk is custodian during fiscal year 2021:

For the Year Ended September 30, 2021

	Balance October 1, 2020	Additions and Transfers In	Deductions and Transfers Out	Balance September 30, 2021
CAPITAL ASSETS				
Capital assets being depreciated:				
Equipment	\$ 4,896,059	\$ 131,581	\$ 444,123	\$ 4,583,517
Software	2,964,096	-	-	2,964,096
Total assets depreciated	7,860,155	131,581	444,123	7,547,613
Less accumulated depreciation:				
Equipment	3,824,129	394,920	438,389	3,780,660
Software	1,926,664	296,409	-	2,223,073
Total accumulated depreciation	5,750,793	691,329	438,389	6,003,733
Total capital assets, net	\$ 2,109,362	\$ (559,748)	\$ 5,734	\$ 1,543,880

Note 5: ACCUMULATED COMPENSATED ABSENCES

The amount of vested accumulated compensated absences payable (related to governmental fund activities), based upon the Clerk's paid-time-off (PTO) policy, is reported as a liability in the government-wide financial statements of the County. That liability includes earned but unused PTO as well as FICA taxes and retirement contributions to any defined contribution plans related thereto. The accrued compensated absence liability related to the law library operations is recorded directly in the private-purpose trust fund. PTO is accrued based on length of employment up to a maximum of 320 hours. Non-vested amounts are not accrued and are not considered to be significant.

The change in accumulated compensated absences during the year is as follows:

For the Year Ended September 30, 2021

	Governmental Funds	Private-Purpose Trust Fund	Total
Beginning balance	\$ 841,024	\$ 891	\$ 841,915
Additions	1,259,226	4,000	1,263,226
Deductions	(1,300,017)	(4,395)	(1,304,412)
Ending balance	\$ 800,233	\$ 496	\$ 800,729

The current portion of the above liability at September 30, 2021 is \$156,289. Compensated absences are liquidated by the individual fund to which the liability is directly associated.

Sarasota County, Florida
Clerk of The Circuit Court and County Comptroller
Notes to Financial Statements

Note 6: DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLAN

Background

The Florida Retirement System (FRS) was created by Chapter 121, Florida Statutes, to provide a defined benefit pension plan for participating public employees. The FRS was amended in 1998 to add the Deferred Retirement Option Program under the defined benefit plan and amended in 2000 to provide a defined contribution plan alternative to the defined benefit plan for FRS members effective July 1, 2002. This integrated defined contribution pension plan is the FRS Investment Plan. Chapter 112, Florida Statutes, established the Retiree Health Insurance Subsidy (HIS) Program, a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan, to assist retired members of any State-administered retirement system in paying the costs of health insurance.

Essentially all regular employees of the Clerk are eligible to enroll as members of the State-administered FRS. Provisions relating to the FRS are established by Chapters 121 and 122, *Florida Statutes*; Chapter 112, Part IV, *Florida Statutes*; Chapter 238, *Florida Statutes*; and FRS Rules, Chapter 60S, *Florida Administrative Code*; wherein eligibility, contributions, and benefits are defined and described in detail. Such provisions may be amended at any time by further action from the Florida Legislature. The FRS is a single retirement system administered by the Florida Department of Management Services, Division of Retirement, and consists of the two cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit plans and other nonintegrated programs. A comprehensive annual financial report of the FRS, which includes its financial statements, required supplementary information, actuarial report, and other relevant information, is available from the Florida Department of Management Services' Web site (www.dms.myflorida.com).

Florida Retirement System Pension Plan

Plan Description

The Florida Retirement System Pension Plan (FRS Plan) is a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan, with a Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP) for eligible employees. The general classes of membership are as follows:

- *Regular Class* – Members of the FRS who do not qualify for membership in the other classes.
- *Elected County Officers Class* – Members who hold specified elective offices in local government.
- *Senior Management Service Class (SMSC)* – Members in senior management level positions.
- *Special Risk Class* – Members who are special risk employees, such as law enforcement officers, meet the criteria to qualify for this class.

Sarasota County, Florida
Clerk of The Circuit Court and County Comptroller
Notes to Financial Statements

Note 6: DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLAN (Continued)

Florida Retirement System Pension Plan (Continued)

Employees enrolled in the FRS Plan prior to July 1, 2011, vest at 6 years of creditable service and employees enrolled in the FRS Plan on or after July 1, 2011, vest at 8 years of creditable service. All vested members, enrolled prior to July 1, 2011, are eligible for normal retirement benefits at age 62 or at any age after 30 years of service, except for members classified as special risk who are eligible for normal retirement benefits at age 55 or at any age after 25 years of service. All members enrolled in the FRS Plan on or after July 1, 2011, once vested, are eligible for normal retirement benefits at age 65 or any time after 33 years of creditable service, except for members classified as special risk who are eligible for normal retirement benefits at age 60 or at any age after 30 years of service. Employees enrolled in the FRS Plan may include up to 4 years of credit for military service toward creditable service. The FRS Plan also includes an early retirement provision; however, there is a benefit reduction for each year a member retires before his or her normal retirement date. The FRS Plan provides retirement, disability, death benefits, and annual cost-of-living adjustments to eligible participants.

DROP, subject to provisions of Section 121.091, Florida Statutes, permits employees eligible for normal retirement under the FRS Plan to defer receipt of monthly benefit payments while continuing employment with an FRS participating employer. An employee may participate in DROP for a period not to exceed 60 months after electing to participate, except that certain instructional personnel may participate for up to 96 months. During the period of DROP participation, deferred monthly benefits are held in the FRS Trust Fund and accrue interest. The net pension liability does not include amounts for DROP participants, as these members are considered retired and are not accruing additional pension benefits.

Benefits Provided

Benefits under the FRS Plan are computed on the basis of age and/or years of service, average final compensation, and service credit. Credit for each year of service is expressed as a percentage of the average final compensation. For members initially enrolled before July 1, 2011, the average final compensation is the average of the 5 highest fiscal years' earnings; for members initially enrolled on or after July 1, 2011, the average final compensation is the average of the 8 highest fiscal years' earnings. The total percentage value of the benefit received is determined by calculating the total value of all service, which is based on the retirement class to which the member belonged when the service credit was earned. Members are eligible for in-line-of-duty or regular disability and survivors' benefits.

As provided in Section 121.101, Florida Statutes, if the member is initially enrolled in the FRS before July 1, 2011, and all service credit was accrued before July 1, 2011, the annual cost-of-living adjustment is 3 percent per year. If the member is initially enrolled before July 1, 2011, and has service credit on or after July 1, 2011, there is an individually calculated cost-of-living adjustment. The annual cost-of-living adjustment is a proportion of 3 percent determined by dividing the sum of the pre-July 2011 service credit by the total service credit at retirement multiplied by 3 percent. FRS Plan members initially enrolled on or after July 1, 2011, will not have a cost-of-living adjustment after retirement.

Detailed information about the County's proportionate share of FRS's net pension liability, deferred outflows/inflows of resources, and pension expense are reported in the government-wide statements of the County.

Note 6: DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLAN (Continued)

Retiree Health Insurance Subsidy Program

Plan Description

The Retiree Health Insurance Subsidy Program (HIS Plan) is a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan established under Section 112.363, Florida Statutes, and may be amended by the Florida Legislature at any time. The benefit is a monthly payment to assist retirees of State-administered retirement systems in paying their health insurance costs and is administered by the Florida Department of Management Services, Division of Retirement.

Benefits Provided

For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2021, eligible retirees and beneficiaries received a monthly HIS payment of \$5 for each year of creditable service completed at the time of retirement, with a minimum HIS payment of \$30 and a maximum HIS payment of \$150 per month, pursuant to Section 112.363, *Florida Statutes*. To be eligible to receive a HIS Plan benefit, a retiree under a State-administered retirement system must provide proof of health insurance coverage, which may include Medicare.

Detailed information about the County's proportionate share of HIS's net pension liability, deferred outflows/inflows of resources, and pension expense are reported in the government-wide statements of the County.

FRS Investment Plan

The Florida State Board of Administration (SBA) administers the defined contribution plan officially titled the FRS Investment Plan (Investment Plan). The Investment Plan is reported in the SBA's annual financial statements and in the State of Florida Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.

As provided in Section 121.4501, *Florida Statutes*, eligible FRS members may elect to participate in the Investment Plan in lieu of the FRS defined benefit plan. Clerk employees participating in DROP are not eligible to participate in the Investment Plan. Employer and employee contributions, including amounts contributed to individual member's accounts, are defined by law, but the ultimate benefit depends in part on the performance of investment funds. Benefit terms, including contribution requirements, for the Investment Plan are established and may be amended by the Florida Legislature. The Investment Plan is funded with the same employer and employee contribution rates that are based on salary and membership class (Regular Class, Elected County Officers, etc.), as the FRS defined benefit plan. Contributions are directed to individual member accounts, and the individual members allocate contributions and account balances among various approved investment choices. Costs of administering plan, including the FRS Financial Guidance Program, are funded through an employer contribution of 0.04 percent of payroll and by forfeited benefits of plan members.

Sarasota County, Florida
Clerk of The Circuit Court and County Comptroller
Notes to Financial Statements

Note 6: DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLAN (Continued)

For all membership classes, employees are immediately vested in their own contributions and are vested after 1 year of service for employer contributions and investment earnings. If an accumulated benefit obligation for service credit originally earned under the FRS Pension Plan is transferred to the Investment Plan, the member must have the years of service required for FRS Pension Plan vesting (including the service credit represented by the transferred funds) to be vested for these funds and the earnings on the funds. Non-vested employer contributions are placed in a suspense account for up to 5 years. If the employee returns to FRS-covered employment within the 5-year period, the employee will regain control over their account. If the employee does not return within the 5-year period, the employee will forfeit the accumulated account balance. For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2016, the information for the amount of forfeitures was unavailable from the SBA; however, management believes that these amounts, if any, would be immaterial to the Clerk.

After termination and applying to receive benefits, the member may rollover vested funds to another qualified plan, structure a periodic payment under the Investment Plan, receive a lump-sum distribution, leave the funds invested for future distribution, or any combination of these options. Disability coverage is provided; the member may either transfer the account balance to the FRS Pension Plan when approved for disability retirement to receive guaranteed lifetime monthly benefits under the FRS Pension Plan, or remain in the Investment Plan and rely upon that account balance for retirement income.

Contributions

Participating employer contributions are based upon statewide rates established by the State of Florida. The Clerk's contributions made to the plans during the years ended September 30, 2021, 2020, were \$1,390,934 and \$1,265,217 respectively, equal to the actuarially determined contribution requirements for each year.

Additional information about pension plans can be found in the County's comprehensive annual financial report.

Note 7: DEFERRED COMPENSATION PLAN

The Clerk's employees can voluntarily participate in Sarasota County's Deferred Compensation Plan. The County offers a deferred compensation plan created in accordance with the Internal Revenue Code Section 457. The plan, available to all County and elected official employees, permits them to defer a portion of their salary until future years. The deferred compensation is not available to employees until termination, retirement, death or unforeseeable emergency.

Note 8: POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (OTHER THAN PENSIONS)

The Clerk provides postemployment health care benefits in accordance with Section 112.0801, *Florida Statutes*, to all employees who retire from the Clerk. The Clerk is required to provide health care coverage at cost to all retirees but does not pay any portion of the premium for the retiree to participate in the Clerk's group health care plan. The liability and expense for other postemployment benefits, calculated in accordance with Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 75 Accounting and Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefits Other Than Pensions, are reported in the financial statements of the Board.

Sarasota County, Florida
Clerk of The Circuit Court and County Comptroller
Notes to Financial Statements

Note 9: RISK MANAGEMENT

The County has established various self-insurance funds, in which the Clerk participates. These funds are accounted for as internal service funds in the financial statements of the Board.

The County is also self-insured under sovereign immunity up to a maximum of \$200,000 per person, \$300,000 per occurrence for claims against the County involving negligence, including automobile and general liability. Negligence claims in excess of the statutory limits set forth in Section 768.28, *Florida Statutes*, can only be recovered through an act of the State of Florida Legislature. The County carries specific workers' compensation excess insurance for claims exceeding \$500,000. During the fiscal year ended September 30, 2021, the Clerk paid \$24,645 to the Board for workers compensation coverage.

Reserves have been established for both claims that have been reported but not paid, and for employee medical benefits claims incurred but not reported. Employee medical benefits claims exceeding \$700,000 per covered participant are covered with unlimited excess insurance. During the fiscal year ended September 30, 2021, the Clerk paid \$1,461,382 to the Board for health and dental insurance coverage.

Settled claims have not exceeded the commercial coverage in any of the past three fiscal years and there has not been a significant reduction in coverage from that of the previous fiscal year.

Note 10: COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

During the ordinary course of its operation, the Clerk is party to various claims, legal actions, and complaints. While the ultimate effect of such litigation cannot be ascertained at this time, in the opinion of counsel for the City, the liabilities which may arise from such actions would not result in losses which would exceed the liability insurance limits in effect at the time the claim arose or otherwise materially affect the financial condition of the Clerk or results of activities. At September 30, 2021, the Clerk is named as a defendant in 11 mortgage foreclosure actions.

Note 11: RESTATEMENT

A change in accounting principle was made based on the issuance of Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 84, *Fiduciary Activities*, in which the Clerk restated beginning fiduciary net position, to comply with the new standard.

	Custodial Funds
Net position, as previously reported	\$ -
Effect of restatement	19,093,587
Net position, restated	\$ 19,093,587

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Sarasota County, Florida
Clerk of The Circuit Court and County Comptroller
Budgetary Comparison Schedule – General Fund

For the Year Ended September 30, 2021

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual Amounts	Variance with Final Budget Positive (Negative)
	Original	Final		
Revenues:				
Intergovernmental	\$ 9,929,920	\$ 10,439,920	\$ 10,417,800	\$ (22,120)
Charges for services	2,868,812	2,868,812	4,703,293	1,834,481
Miscellaneous income	-	-	32,569	32,569
Interest income	12,387	12,387	4,040	(8,347)
Total revenues	12,811,119	13,321,119	15,157,702	1,836,583
Expenditures:				
Current - general government				
Personnel services	9,639,452	9,033,638	8,542,253	491,385
Operating expenditures	3,171,667	4,093,250	3,420,662	672,588
Capital outlay	-	194,231	128,103	66,128
Total expenditures	12,811,119	13,321,119	12,091,018	1,230,101
Excess of revenues over expenditures	-	-	3,066,684	3,066,684
Other financing sources (uses):				
Distribution of excess revenues:				
Board of County Commissioners	-	-	(3,066,684)	(3,066,684)
Total other financing sources (uses)	-	-	(3,066,684)	(3,066,684)
Net change in fund balance	-	-	-	-
Fund balance, beginning of year	-	-	-	-
Fund balance, end of year	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

Sarasota County, Florida
Clerk of The Circuit Court and County Comptroller
Budgetary Comparison Schedule – Public Records Trust Fund

For the Year Ended September 30, 2021

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual Amounts	Variance with Final Budget Positive (Negative)
	Original	Final		
Revenues:				
Charges for services	\$ 1,071,384	\$ 1,071,384	\$ 2,014,550	\$ 943,166
Interest income	17,600	17,600	3,219	(14,381)
Total revenues	1,088,984	1,088,984	2,017,769	928,785
Expenditures:				
Current - General government				
Personnel Services	427,303	422,694	55,762	366,932
Operating expenditures	683,451	757,560	430,527	327,033
Capital outlay	-	3,500	3,478	22
Total expenditures	1,110,754	1,183,754	489,767	693,987
Net change in fund balance	(21,770)	(94,770)	1,528,002	1,622,772
Fund balance, beginning of year	3,583,661	3,583,661	3,583,661	-
Fund balance, end of year	\$ 3,561,891	\$ 3,488,891	\$ 5,111,663	\$ 1,622,772

Sarasota County, Florida
Clerk of The Circuit Court and County Comptroller
Budgetary Comparison Schedule – Court Related Functions Fund

For the Year Ended September 30, 2021

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual Amounts	Variance with Final Budget Positive (Negative)
	Original	Final		
Revenues:				
Intergovernmental	\$ 1,712,886	\$ 1,712,886	\$ 1,564,966	\$ (147,920)
Charges for services	4,997,295	4,997,295	5,780,474	783,179
Fines and forfeitures	1,054,443	1,054,443	1,282,654	228,211
Interest income	129,735	129,735	127,643	(2,092)
Total revenues	7,894,359	7,894,359	8,755,737	861,378
Expenditures:				
Current - General government				
Personnel services	7,331,135	7,233,892	6,676,320	557,572
Operating expenditures	563,224	660,467	318,338	342,129
Capital outlay	-	-	-	-
Total expenditures	7,894,359	7,894,359	6,994,658	899,701
Excess of revenues over expenditures	-	-	1,761,079	1,761,079
Other financing sources (uses):				
Distribution of excess revenues:				
State of Florida	-	-	(1,761,073)	(1,761,073)
Total other financing sources (uses)	-	-	(1,761,073)	(1,761,073)
Net change in fund balance	-	-	6	6
Fund balance, beginning of year	6,554	6,554	6,554	-
Fund balance, end of year	\$ 6,554	\$ 6,554	\$ 6,560	\$ 6



SUPPLEMENTAL REPORTS



**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER
FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS
BASED ON AN AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN
ACCORDANCE WITH *GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS***

Honorable Karen E. Rushing
Clerk of the Circuit Court and County Comptroller
Sarasota County, Florida

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Sarasota County, Florida Clerk of the Circuit Court and County Comptroller ("the Clerk"), as of and for the year ended September 30, 2021, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Clerk's financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated February 3, 2022, which contains an emphasis of matter to refer to a basis of accounting required for compliance with state filing requirements; however, our report was not modified with respect to this matter.

Internal Control over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered Clerk's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Clerk's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Clerk's internal control.

A deficiency in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified.

Honorable Karen E. Rushing
Clerk of the Circuit Court and County Comptroller
Sarasota County, Florida

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Clerk's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and, accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the result of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Clerk's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Clerk's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

Carr, Riggs & Ingram, L.L.C.

Carr, Riggs, & Ingram, LLC

Sarasota, FL
February 3, 2022

MANAGEMENT LETTER

Honorable Karen E. Rushing
Clerk of the Circuit Court and County Comptroller
Sarasota County, Florida

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the financial statements of the general fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Clerk of the Circuit Court and County Comptroller, Sarasota County, Florida (Clerk), as of and for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2021, and have issued our report thereon dated February 3, 2022, which contains an emphasis to refer to a basis of accounting required for compliance with state filing requirements; however, our report was not modified with respect to this matter.

Auditors' Responsibility

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; and Chapter 10.550, Rules of the Auditor General.

Other Reporting Requirements

We have issued our Independent Auditors' Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting and Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of the Financial Statements Performed in Accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* and Independent Accountants' Report on an examination conducted in accordance with *AICPA Professional Standards*, AT-C Section 315, regarding compliance requirements in accordance with Chapter 10.550, Rules of the Auditor General. Disclosures in those reports, which are dated February 3, 2022, should be considered in conjunction with this management letter.

Prior Audit Findings

Section 10.554(1)(i)1., Rules of the Auditor General, requires that we determine whether or not corrective actions have been taken to address findings and recommendations made in the preceding annual financial audit report. There were no such findings or recommendations made in the preceding annual financial audit report.

Honorable Karen E. Rushing
Clerk of the Circuit Court and County Comptroller
Sarasota County, Florida

Official Title and Legal Authority

Section 10.554(1)(i)4., Rules of the Auditor General, requires that the name or official title and legal authority for the primary government and each component unit of the reporting entity to be disclosed in this management letter, unless disclosed in the notes to the financial statements. The Sarasota County, Florida Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller was established by the Constitution of the State of Florida Article VIII, Section 1(d). The Sarasota County Clerk does not have any component units.

Financial Management

Section 10.554(1)(i)2., Rules of the Auditor General, requires that we communicate any recommendations to improve financial management. In connection with our audit, we did not have any such recommendations.

Additional Matters

Section 10.554(1)(i)3., Rules of the Auditor General, requires us to communicate noncompliance with provisions of contracts or grant agreements, or abuse, that have occurred, or are likely to have occurred, that have an effect on the financial statements that is less than material but which warrants the attention of those charged with governance. In connection with our audit, we did not note any such findings.

Purpose of this Letter

Our management letter is intended solely for the information and use of the Legislative Auditing Committee, members of the Florida Senate and the Florida House of Representatives, the Florida Auditor General, Federal and other granting agencies, the Sarasota County Clerk, and applicable management, and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Carr, Riggs & Ingram, L.L.C.

Carr, Riggs, & Ingram, LLC

Sarasota, FL
February 3, 2022

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

Honorable Karen E. Rushing
Clerk of the Circuit Court and County Comptroller
Sarasota County, Florida

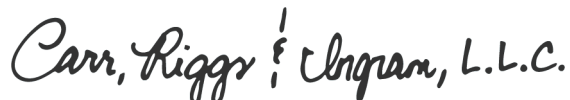
We have examined the Clerk of the Circuit Court and County Comptroller, Sarasota County, Florida (the Clerk) compliance with Section 218.415, *Florida Statutes*, regarding the investment of public funds; Section 61.181, *Florida Statutes*, regarding alimony and child support payments; and Sections 28.35 and 28.36, *Florida Statutes*, regarding clerks of court performance standards and budgets during the year ended September 30, 2021. Management of the Clerk is responsible for the Clerk's compliance with the specified requirements. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Clerk's compliance with the specified requirements based on our examination.

Our examination was conducted in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Those standards require that we plan and perform the examination to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the Clerk complied, in all material respects, with the specified requirements referenced above. An examination involves performing procedures to obtain evidence about whether the Clerk complied with the specified requirements. The nature, timing, and extent of the procedures selected depend on our judgment, including an assessment of the risks of material noncompliance, whether due to fraud or error. We believe that the evidence we obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

Our examination does not provide a legal determination on the Clerk's compliance with specified requirements.

In our opinion, the Clerk complied, in all material respects, with Section 218.415, *Florida Statutes*, regarding the investment of public funds, Section 61.181, *Florida Statutes*, regarding clerks of the courts alimony and child support payments; and Sections 28.35 and 28.36, *Florida Statutes*, regarding clerks of the courts performance standards and budgets during the year ended September 30, 2021.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the Clerk and the Auditor General, State of Florida, and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.



Carr, Riggs, & Ingram, LLC

Sarasota, FL
February 8, 2022