Sarasota County

Office of the County Administrator

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March 24, 2025
Sent via email: eogdoge@laspbs.state.fl.us

Subject: Response to EOG DOGE Efforts & Inquiry Regarding Financial Condition Under Section 218.503, Florida Statute.

Dear EOG DOGE Team,

Sarasota County welcomes the opportunity to participate in the State of Florida efficiency process. Our County Commission has repeatedly demonstrated their commitment to efficiency and fiscal responsibility. As you review the publicly available information on Sarasota County you will see that not only does Sarasota County have its lowest ad valorem tax rate in more than 30 years, but it also has limited growth in the Board of County Commissioners portion of the general fund to an average increase of 4.7% since 2018. We have also led the way in modernizing many of our service delivery methods. There is always more to do, but you will see the significant efforts Sarasota County has made over the past 8 years.

We will take this opportunity to respond to your questions related to financial emergencies or distress.

1. Failure to pay short-term loans or obligations when due as a result of lack of funds.
   Sarasota County has no failure to pay short-term loans or obligations when due as a result of lack of funds.

2. Failure to make debt service payments on bonds, loans, or other debt instruments when due.
   Sarasota County has not failed to make debt service payments on bonds, loans or other debt instruments when due.

3. Failure to pay uncontested claims from creditors for more than 90 days due to lack of funds.
   Sarasota County has not had a failure to pay uncontested claims from creditors for more than 90 days due to lack of funds.

4. Failure to transfer taxes, social security contributions, or retirement plan contributions as required by law.
   Sarasota County has not had a failure to transfer taxes, social security contributions, or retirement plan contributions as required by law.

5. An unreserved or total fund balance deficit in the general fund or any major operating fund that persists for two consecutive years.
   Sarasota County does not have any unreserved or total fund balance deficit in the general fund or any major operating fund.

As you work on your efforts to ensure fiscal responsibility throughout Florida, please feel free to reach out to us at any time. If you need any assistance with our publicly available information, please let our team know.

To make sure that we don't miss anything as your team progresses, I have designated a County team member to be our Florida DOGE Coordinator. If possible, please add Karen Fratangelo, Office of Financial Management, to all communications with Sarasota County. Her email address is kfratang@scgov.net.

Sincerely,

Jonathan R. Lewis, ICMA-CM
County Administrator

C: Board of County Commissioners
Steve Botelho, Deputy County Administrator
Mark Cunningham, Assistant County Administrator
Brad Johnson, Assistant County Administrator
Joshua Moye, County Attorney