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**November 21, 2024**

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### **CFHLA PAC GOES 18 FOR 22 IN GENERAL ELECTION ENDORSEMENTS**

The Central Florida Hotel and Lodging Association's PAC and PC Board of Directors would like to congratulate the 18 endorsed state and local candidates, who won their respective 2024 **General Elections** on November 5th.



CFHLA's endorsed candidates won **18 out of 22 races in the General Election, which was an 81% success rate**. This includes every CFHLA PAC endorsed candidate who ran for the Florida Senate and the Florida House.

“CFHLA PAC and PC would like to congratulate all 18 pro-hospitality candidates who won their general elections,” said **Jay Leonard, General Manager** of the [Wyndham Garden Lake Buena Vista Disney Springs Resort Area](#), and Chairman of the CFHLA PAC and PC. “Each of these candidates will be a champion for the hospitality and tourism industry, and we look forward to working with them in 2025 and beyond.”

**Robert Agrusa, President and CEO of the Central Florida Hotel and Lodging Association**, added, “Each of these winning candidates understands the importance of the hospitality and tourism industry and is committed to helping our industry continue to employ more than 464,000 jobs and return billions of dollars in tax revenue to our community. We are excited for this diverse and bi-partisan group of newly elected Central Florida officials to get started soon.”

[CLICK HERE](#) for more information about our Winning Endorsements.

**CFHLA is proud to congratulate each of these pro-hospitality candidates on their General Election victory.**

<p><b>FLORIDA SENATE</b></p>  <p><b>Keith Truenow (R)</b> <i>Senate District 13</i></p>  <p><b>Kristen Arrington (D)</b> <i>Senate District 25</i></p>	 <p><b>David Smith (R)</b> <i>House District 38</i></p>  <p><b>Doug Bankson (R)</b> <i>House District 39</i></p>	<p><b>ORANGE COUNTY</b></p>  <p><b>Scott Randolph (D)</b> <i>Orange County Tax Collector</i></p>
<p><b>FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES</b></p>  <p><b>Nan Cobb (R)</b> <i>House District 26</i></p>  <p><b>Erika Booth (R)</b> <i>House District 35</i></p>  <p><b>Rachel Plakon (R)</b> <i>House District 36</i></p>  <p><b>Susan Plasencia (R)</b> <i>House District 37</i></p>	 <p><b>LaVon Bracy Davis (D)</b> <i>House District 40</i></p>  <p><b>Johanna Lopez (D)</b> <i>House District 43</i></p>  <p><b>Leonard Spencer (D)</b> <i>House District 45</i></p>  <p><b>Jose Alvarez (D)</b> <i>House District 46</i></p>	 <p><b>Karen Castor Dentel (D)</b> <i>Orange County Supervisor of Elections</i></p> <p><b>OSCEOLA COUNTY</b></p>  <p><b>Katrina Scarborough (D)</b> <i>Osceola County Property Appraiser</i></p>  <p><b>Peggy Choudhry (D)</b> <i>Osceola County Commission, District 1</i></p>  <p><b>Brandon Arrington (D)</b> <i>Osceola County Commission, District 3</i></p> <p><b>SEMINOLE COUNTY</b></p>  <p><b>Andria Herr (R)</b> <i>Seminole County Commission, District 5</i></p>

**CFHLA PAC GOES 3 FOR 3 ON BALLOT QUESTIONS: FL CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT #3 FAILS; ORANGE HALF-PENNY SALES TAX RENEWAL PASSES; SEMINOLE ONE PENNY RENEWAL PASSES**



**Florida's Constitutional Amendment #3 Fails**





### **Orange and Seminole County Local Sales Tax Renewals both Passed Overwhelmingly**

The Central Florida Hotel and Lodging Association's Board of Directors strongly **opposed Florida's Constitutional Amendment #3**, Recreational Marijuana, which was rejected by the voters on the November 5th General Election ballot.

Additionally, the CFHLA PAC and PC Board supported the renewal of the **Orange County half-penny sales tax renewal for our local schools**. This important local initiative was **approved with more than 71% of the voters** on the General Election ballot. The tax revenue will be used for the construction of new schools and the maintenance of existing schools, to improve technologies, and boost school security.

Lastly, the CFHLA PAC and PC Board was proud to be a champion for the **Seminole County one-penny infrastructure sales tax renewal** that supports our local Seminole County schools, reduces traffic, and improves public safety and infrastructure projects. This important local initiative was also **approved overwhelmingly, with more than 73% of the voters**.

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## **TOURIST TAX REVENUES WILL FUND UPGRADES TO CAMPING WORLD STADIUM & KIA CENTER**

After nearly two years of in-depth advocacy and comprehensive discussions between Orange County residents, the tourism and hospitality industry, the Tourist Development Tax Citizens Advisory Task Force and the Board of Orange County Commissioners, we are thrilled to share that we have found a resolution surrounding the expenditures of the Orange County Tourist Development Tax.

CFHLA had originally supported a plan that utilized Orange County's TDT revenues to pay for upgrades to [Camping World Stadium](#) and the [Kia Center](#). Earlier this week, the Board of Orange County Commissioners approved an agreement with the [City of Orlando](#) to use **\$626 million** in future TDT revenues for much needed upgrades at the two venues.

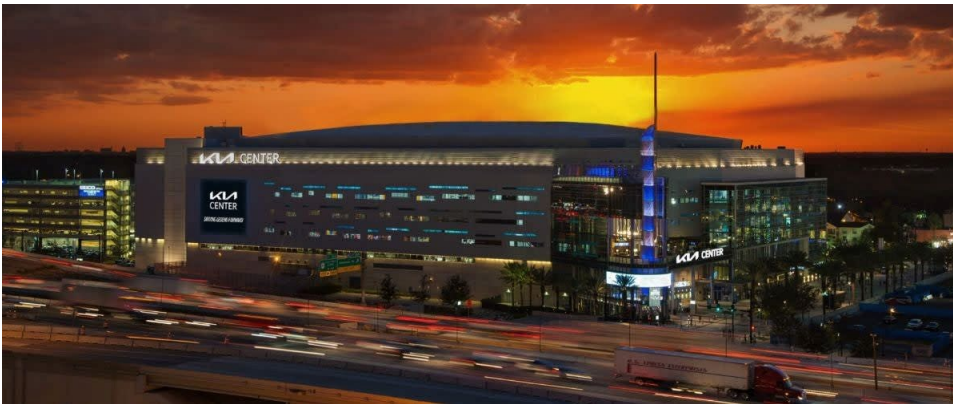
These two high-performing community venues have generated significant return on investment. Camping World Stadium will now undergo a **\$400 million** investment that will complete the stadium campus, including a state-of-the-art, 65,000+ seat venue consistent with the fan experience at modern stadiums. When finished, the stadium campus will be a world-class venue that can host over a hundred events and one million visitors annually - with two-thirds originating outside of our community.

Additionally, the Kia Center will now receive **\$226 million** for much-needed systems and technology updates. With more than 233 incredibly diverse events that were hosted in 2022 (Orlando Magic games only account for 42 games, which is less than 10% of the programming), this community venue has far exceeded expectations and it's overdue for repair and replacement of several major systems and technology that are vital to operating well into the future. Unfortunately, these items are outside the scope of annual/routine arena maintenance.

On behalf of the CFHLA Board of Directors, we'd like to say thank you to Mayor Demings and the Commissioners for their support of this approved plan, which is a **"win-win"** for Orange County and its residents. By investing in these stadiums, we are also making an



investment in the Orange County residents who live near it through Florida Citrus Sports and Lift Orlando’s commitment to leverage the venue for the benefit of its neighbors.



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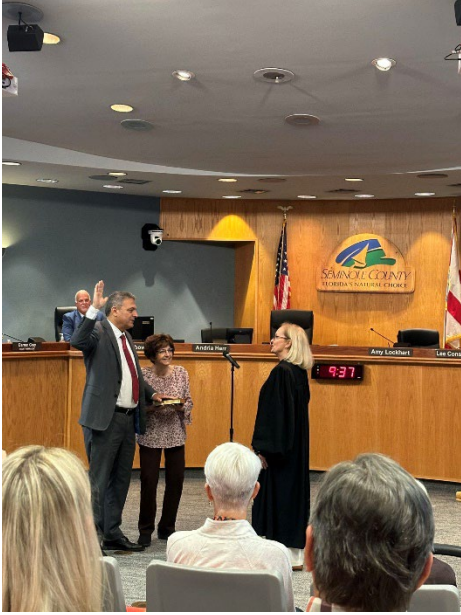
## **SEMINOLE COUNTY SWEARS IN 3 RE-ELECTED COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FOR NEW TERMS**



Congratulations to all **three CFHLA PAC** endorsed **Seminole County** Commissioners who were recently re-elected into new four year terms. CFHLA was delighted to join Commissioners **Bob Dallari**, **Lee Constantine** and **Andria Herr** as they were sworn in before family, friends, supporters and local residents earlier this week.

CFHLA is looking forward to working with each of these re-elected pro-hospitality champions throughout your new terms, as each of you ensure that our region remains the best place to work, play, live and visit.





**ORANGE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS ALSO SWORN IN THIS WEEK**



Congratulations to both of our CFHLA PAC endorsed candidates including **Stephanie Vanos** and **Melissa Byrd** who were sworn in Tuesday night to serve on the **Orange County School Board**.

CFHLA looks forward to working closely with the entire [OCPS](#) School Board in 2025 and beyond, as we help our local students succeed and create career paths for each of them to achieve their dreams.



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## **BIDEN ADMINISTRATION WILL ADD ALMOST 65K WORKER VISAS TO THIS FISCAL YEAR**

The Biden Administration has announced it will add 64,716 temporary, **non-agricultural work visas** for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2025.

[The Department of Homeland Security](#) made the announcement along with the [Department of Labor](#), and these supplemental worker visas are in addition to the **66,000 H-2B visas** Congress previously mandated for this fiscal year. The tranche of new visas include **20,000 worker visas** to go to foreign nationals from: Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Haiti, Colombia, Ecuador, and Costa Rica. The remaining **44,716 supplemental visas** will be available to returning workers who previously received an H-2B visa.

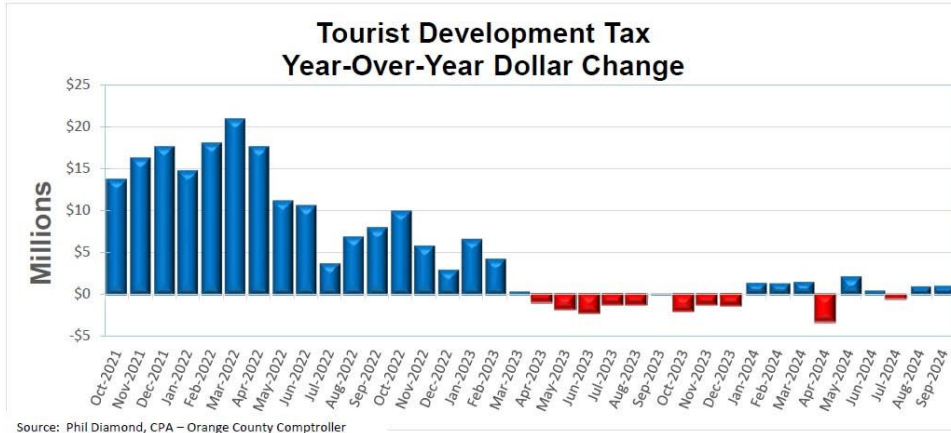
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## **REGIONAL TOURIST DEVELOPMENT TAX UPDATE**

### **Orange County**

The Tourist Development Tax (TDT) collections received by **Orange County** for the month of **September was \$25,751,900**. This represents a **4.5% increase** from the previous year, marking the highest TDT collections recorded for the month of September.

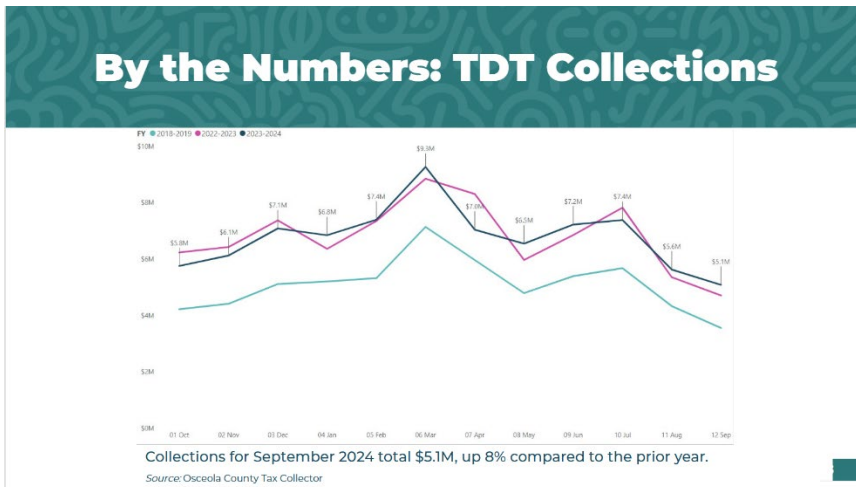
The chart below shows the monthly year-over-year dollar amount change in TDT collections since October 2021.



## Osceola County

Osceola County collected **\$5.1 million in TDT** for the month of **September, 2024**, representing an **8% increase** compared to the prior year.

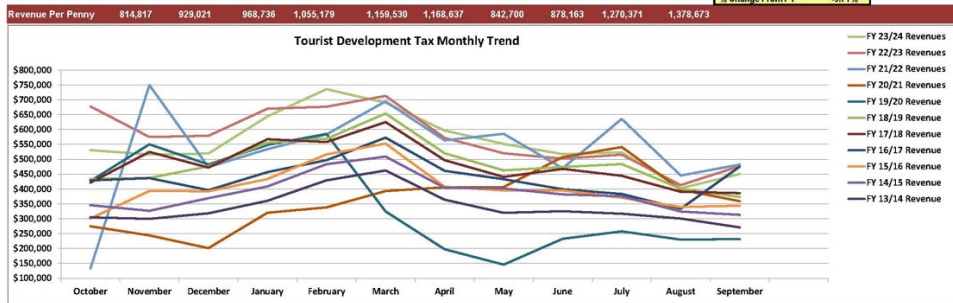
Year to date TDT collections are **\$81,345,446**, which is **down slightly by 0.3% from one year ago**.



## Seminole County

**Seminole County** has reported its **Tourist Development Tax (TDT)** collection for **September, 2024** at **\$450,667** compared to \$402,727 the previous month.

For the current FY 2023 - 2024, Seminole County has collect **\$6.68 million in TDT revenue**. This represents the **second highest TDT collection** in Seminole County history.



## DONATE

CFHLA MEMBERS - Please **consider making a small donation of \$50** via the link below to the CFHLA PAC/PC. All contributions help CFHLA expand its efforts to support Hospitality-Friendly candidates who are running for local and state offices in the future. **In the 2024 General Election, 18 of 22 or 81% of the PAC endorsed candidates were elected.**

[\*\*DONATE NOW!\*\*](#)

## IN THE NEWS

[\*\*Florida Voters Snuff out Recreational Pot Proposal - Florida Politics\*\*](#)

[\*\*Daniel Perez Confirmed as House Speaker, Vows to Support Floridians Over Special Interests - Florida Politics\*\*](#)



[Kristen Arrington Headed to Senate after Keeping SD 25 Blue](#) - Florida Politics

[David Smith Secures Fourth and Final Term in HD 38, Defeating Sarah Henry](#) - Florida Politics

[Erika Booth Takes Back HD 35 Seat for GOP in Rematch with Tom Keen](#) - Florida Politics

[Susan Plasencia Beats Nate Douglas by 465 votes in HD 37](#) - Florida Politics

[With Most ballots Counted, Leonard Spencer Unseats Indicted Carolina Amesty in HD 45](#) - Florida Politics

[Doug Bankson Secures Second Term, Fending off Marsha Summersill in HD 39](#) - Florida Politics

[Karen Castor Dentel wins Open Orange County Supervisor of Elections Job](#) - Florida Politics

[Seminole County Homeless Shelter Seeks \\$660K in Funding](#) - News 6

[Famous Disney World hotel is getting the biggest makeover in its history](#) - Florida Politics

[Osceola Co. Moves to Create Taxing District to Fund Roadwork](#) - Orlando Sentinel

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About CFHLA

[6675 Westwood Blvd #210, Orlando, FL 32821](#)

The mission of the Central Florida Hotel and Lodging Association is to represent the Central Florida Hospitality Industry, by setting the standard of excellence through advocacy, collaboration, education, recognition, and service.