



An Important Message from Clerk Bock

SHARON R. BOCK
Clerk & Comptroller
Palm Beach County

Clerk & Comptroller's Office Committed to Transparency in Government



Transparency is a tenet of our American democracy. Our democratic society cannot exist without an open, transparent government that operates in the sunshine.

As citizens, we have the right to know about the decisions our government makes, and a responsibility to stay informed about the issues affecting our society.

James Madison, the father of our U.S. Constitution, wrote, "A popular Government, without popular information, or the means of acquiring it, is but a Prologue to a Farce or a Tragedy; or, perhaps both. Knowledge will forever govern ignorance: And a people who mean to be their own Governors, must arm themselves with the power which knowledge gives."

Each year in March, we celebrate James Madison's birthday by reaffirming our commitment to government transparency during "Sunshine Week." The annual observance kicked off today.

As your independently elected Clerk & Comptroller for Palm Beach County, my job is to provide access to your records and other information.

If you want to see how much the Board of County Commissioners spent on road projects, review lawsuits filed in Palm Beach County against a person or business, or look up officials records such as marriage licenses or deeds, my office is the place to go.

Records secured, maintained and made available to you by my office include:

- **Court records:** Criminal, civil and traffic court records in Palm Beach County
- **Official records:** Court judgments, deeds, liens, marriage licenses, mortgages, plats and tax deeds
- **On-demand meetings and minutes:** Minutes and videos of County Commission meetings
- **Financial reports:** Annual financial reports about County finances, revenue and spending
- **Audits:** Audits completed by the Clerk & Comptroller's office

Searching these records is as simple as visiting MyPalmBeachClerk.com. Many records are viewable on-demand from any device or tablet. I also encourage you to explore the many other resources available on my website and get involved in your government.

The structure of our local government safeguards open access to records by creating a separation of powers and duties.

The framers of Florida's Constitution intentionally established the Clerk & Comptroller as an independently elected countywide office separate and apart from the rest of County government. This separation of powers ensures there is a check and balance to safeguard public records and public funds.

I am proud to live in Florida where our right to access public records is so diligently protected.

During Sunshine Week, I reaffirm my commitment to transparency and accountability – not just during this week, but every week of the year.

Sharon R. Bock, Esq.
Clerk & Comptroller, Palm Beach County

Please be advised that Florida has a broad public records law, and all correspondence may be subject to disclosure. Under Florida public records laws email addresses are public records. If you do not want your email address released in response to a public records request, do not send electronic mail to this entity. Instead, contact this office by phone or in writing.



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Palm Beach County

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