



Census Update & PBC Government: from Coconuts to Courthouses

Time is running out to respond to the once-every-ten-year census. Sixty-six percent of unincorporated Palm Beach County (PBC) residents have responded; Sixty-two percent of all PBC residents have responded overall. I thank all that have responded but **I KNOW WE CAN DO BETTER!**

Self-response options and field data collection, which have been drastically impacted by the coronavirus pandemic, ends on September 30th. If you have not done so already, please file your census information to avoid having an enumerator knock on your door. Funds for local roads, schools and hospitals are determined on statistics based on census results. Talk about the census with friends and neighbors. We need your help to make sure PBC gets its share!

Back in February, I read with interest *PBC Government: from Coconuts to Courthouses*, a fascinating piece about the history of our county's government. I planned to share it before Covid came, tropical storms and everything in between. Since there is so much information available on those extremely important matters, I thought I would instead share it with you now for your enjoyment. That said, if you have any questions about those other important matters or any other issues of concern, please reach out to my office and we will do our best to assist you.

Written by an incredibly talented county staffer named Pat Truscello, the article can be found on our website by visiting, <http://discover.pbcgov.org/Pages/PBC-Government-History.aspx>. The piece includes the amazing first year when the five new commissioners did absolutely everything to establish a county and government. They hired staff, negotiated a financial arrangement with Dade County, created boundaries, districts and voting precincts, while also taking care of essentials such as paying bills, collecting taxes/fines and addressing citizen petitions. By the end of 1909, the County Commission had even passed the first Bond Referendum. Some of the information was obtained from the first book of County Commission meeting minutes from July 1909 to July 1912. I hope you enjoy it as much as I did.

As always, I invite your comments on any issue of interest to you. As your Commissioner, I am here to help you. You may write me at 301 N. Olive Ave., West Palm Beach, 33401 or at MBerger@pbcgov.org. You can call me or my staff at 276-1310 or toll free at 877-930-2205. Please visit me on the Web at www.pbcgov.com/d5.

Yours in Public Service,

Tracy Lou Berger