



KEN BURKE, CPA

CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT AND COMPTROLLER - PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA
Clerk of the County Court • Recorder of Deeds • Clerk and Accountant of the Board of County Commissioners • Custodian of County Funds • County Auditor • Clerk of the Water and Navigation Control Authority

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Pinellas Clerk's Financial Transparency Site Receives Award



Left to right: Pinellas Clerk Ken Burke and FGFOA President Barry Skinner

The Florida Government Finance Officers Association (FGFOA) awarded Pinellas County Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller, Ken Burke, the 2016 Advanced Commitment to Excellence (ACE) Award in the category of Innovative and Outstanding Work in Technology Utilizing Transparency. The award presented to Clerk Burke during the 2016 FGFOA Conference, commended the financial transparency site he created called "Spending in the Sunshine."

The FGFOA ACE Award aims to highlight the importance of innovation in government finance and serves as a platform for members to share and celebrate successes with the end goal of learning from one another. "Having our financial transparency website be recognized in our community, as well as nationally, is a huge compliment to our efforts," stated Clerk Burke. "My goal was to ultimately set an example of what constitutes open government and give citizens access to information that is rightfully theirs, right at their fingertips."

About the Spending in the Sunshine Site

"Spending in the Sunshine" is a financial transparency website that goes beyond state standards and surpasses the level of transparency many governmental offices offer. It is centered on the public's right to open government and was designed to provide easy access to expenditures processed within Pinellas County government. With this site, information on financial transactions ranging from vendor invoice payments to the salary of every Pinellas County government employee, is just a click away on the Clerk's webpage (www.mypinellasclerk.org) through a tab titled "Spending in the Sunshine." Since its official release date of March 17, 2014, the program has been well received by the public, garnering over 15,000 site hits and has already been recognized nationally by the National Association of Counties (NACo) with its 2014 Achievement Award in the category of Civic Education and Public Information.

About FGFOA

The Florida Government Finance Officers Association (FGFOA) was founded in 1937 and serves more than 2,800 professionals from state, county and city governments, school districts, colleges and universities, special districts, and private firms. For more information, visit <http://www.fgfoa.org>

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ABOUT THE CLERK'S OFFICE:

The Clerk of the Circuit Court was established as a public trustee by the Florida Constitution in 1838. The Clerk of the Circuit Court serves as the Clerk of Courts, the Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners, Auditor, Recorder and Custodian of all county funds.