WHY COUNTIES MATTER
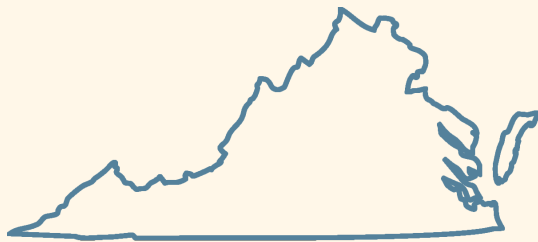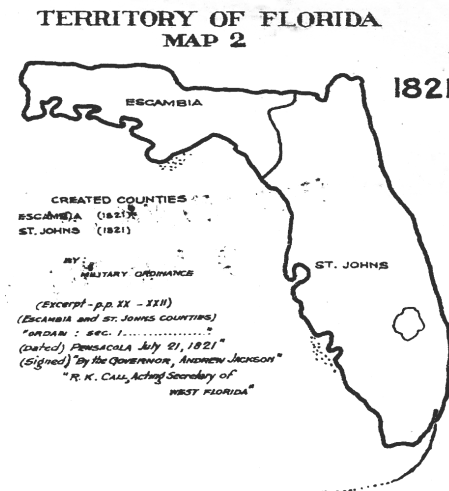
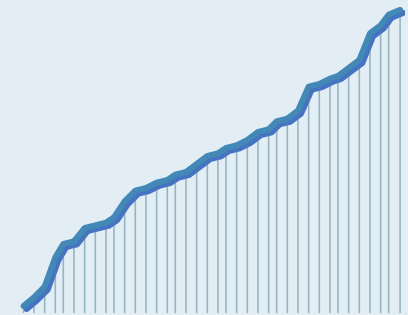# History

Virginia created the first counties in 1617 to lighten the load of Jamestown's administrative responsibilities

TERRITORY OF FLORIDA
MAP 2

1821

ESCAMBIA

CREATED COUNTIES

ESCAMBIA (1821)
ST. JOHNS (1821)

BY
MILITARY ORDINANCE

(Except - p.p. XX - XXII)
(Escambia and St. Johns Counties)
"ORDAIN : SEC. I....................."
(Dated) Pensacola July 21, 1821"
(Signed) "By the Governor, Andrew Jackson"
"R. K. Call, Acting Secretary of
WEST FLORIDA"

ST. JOHNS

Before Florida was a state, its territory was split into two counties: Escambia and St. Johns

The number of counties continued to grow to accommodate Florida's growing population until 1925 when it stabilized at 67

What Counties Do

- Fund Public Health and Human Services
- Maintain the Justice System (Courts, Law Enforcement)
- Hold Elections
- Run Library Systems
- Run Fire Rescue Departments
- Support Economic Development
- Emergency Management
- Implement Workforce Development & Affordable Housing
- Maintain Parks
- Protect Natural Resources
- Issue Building Permits
- Collect Trash and Handle Recycling
- Maintain Infrastructure
- Support Veterans

Florida Counties...

21m+

Provide services for over 21 million Floridians

Recycle nearly 18.9 million tons of trash annually

Run 82 library systems with 559 service outlets and more than 67 million annual visits

Maintain 70,372.1 miles of public roads

Put 21,000 Sheriff's Deputies on Florida's streets

Counted over 8.4 million ballots during the 2018 Election

Invest nearly $16 million annually in economic and workforce development for veterans

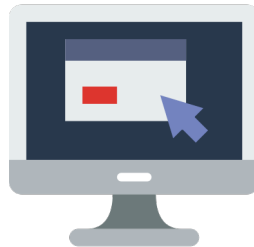FAC FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES
All About Florida

How Our County's Innovating

Heading goes here

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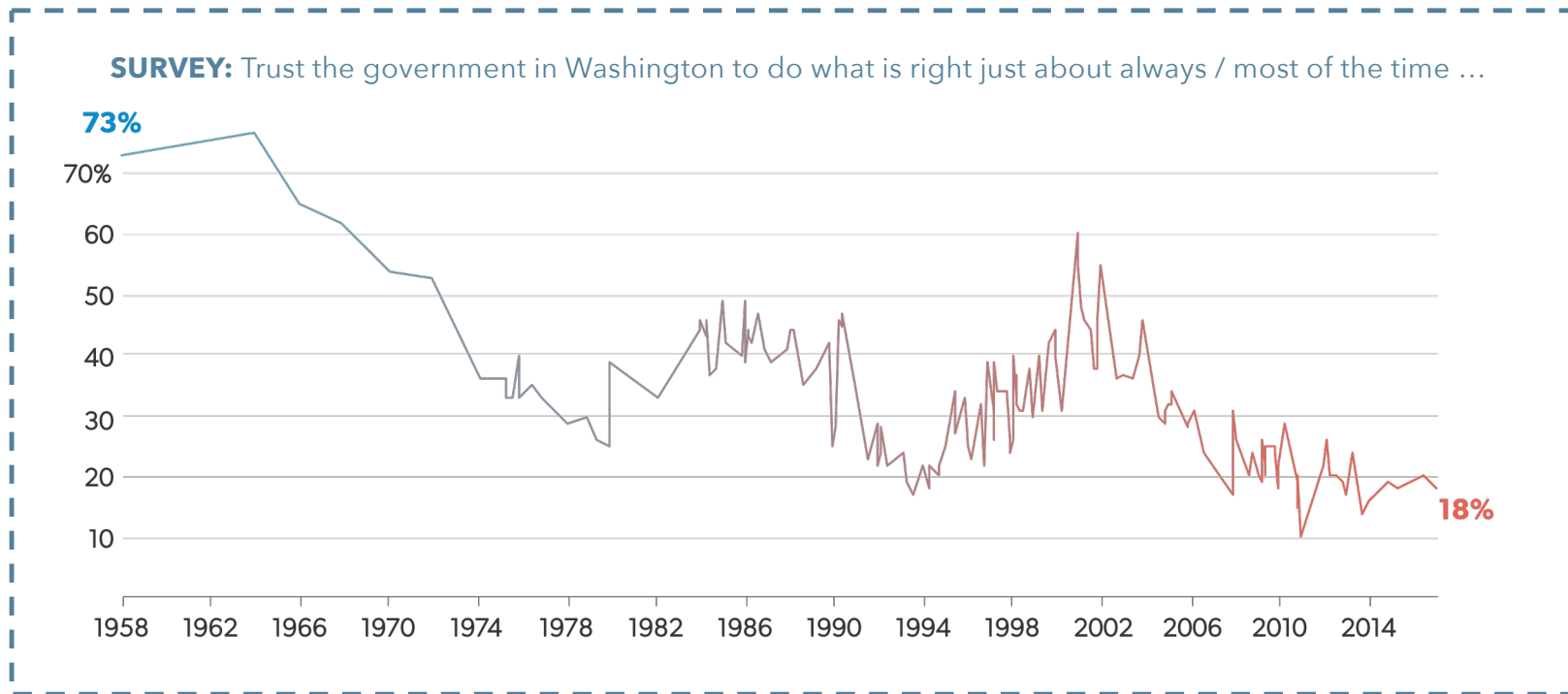
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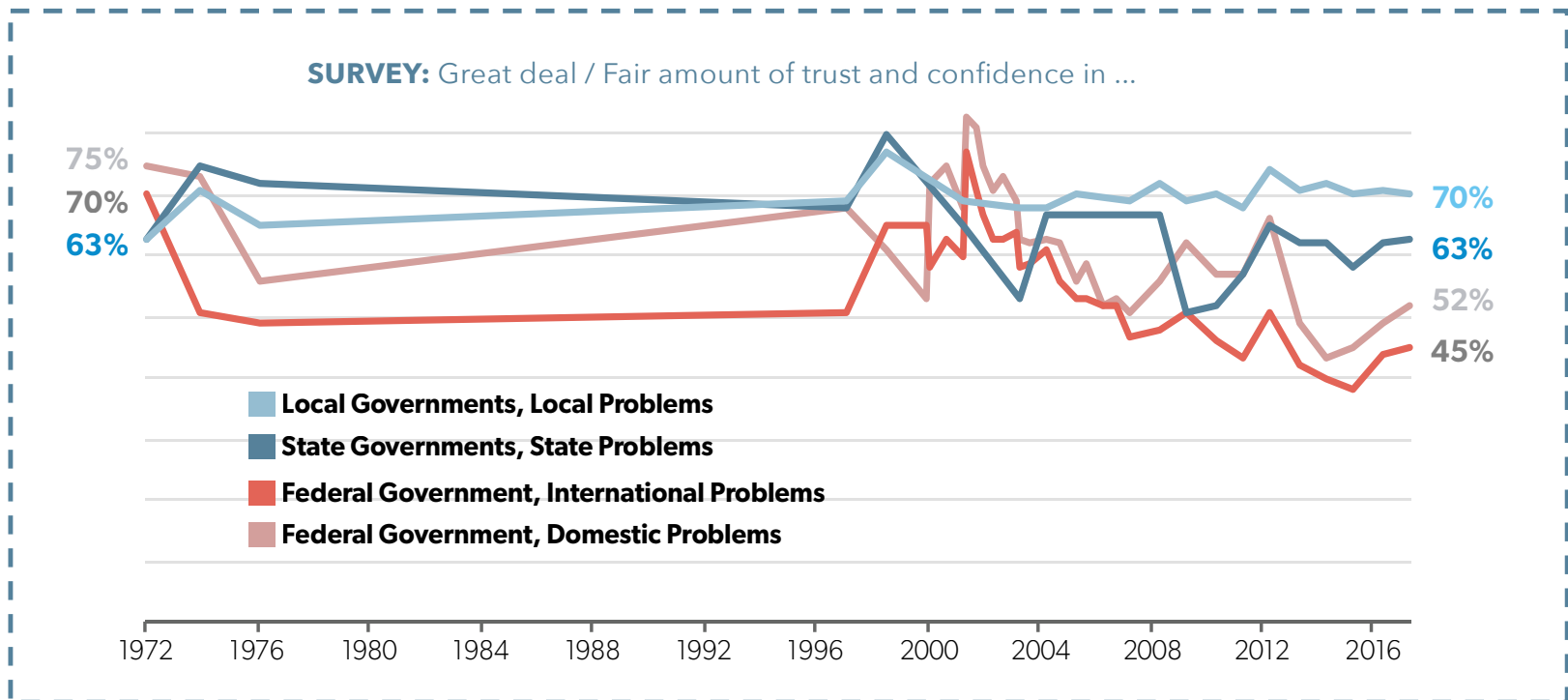
Counties Solve Problems

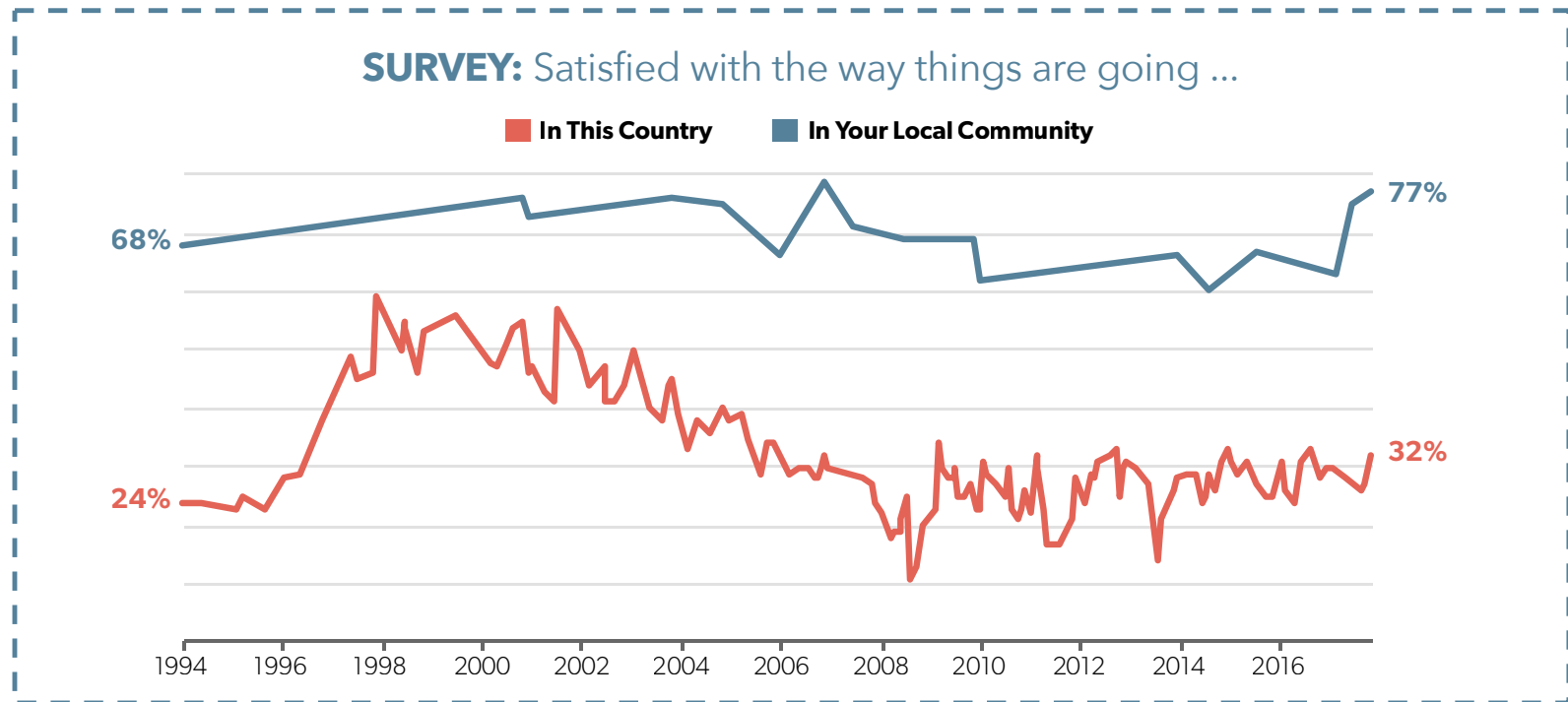## Trust in Washington at All-Time Low

SURVEY: Trust the government in Washington to do what is right just about always / most of the time …

Source: https://www.aei.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/BowmanAbrams.13.pdf

Counties Solve Problems

Trust in Local Gov. at All-Time High

SURVEY: Great deal / Fair amount of trust and confidence in ...

- Local Governments, Local Problems
- State Governments, State Problems
- Federal Government, International Problems
- Federal Government, Domestic Problems

75%
70%
63%

70%
63%
52%
45%

1972 1976 1980 1984 1988 1992 1996 2000 2004 2008 2012 2016

Source: https://www.aei.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/BowmanAbrams.13.pdf

Counties Solve Problems

Community Vs. Country Satisfaction

SURVEY: Satisfied with the way things are going ...

Source: https://www.aei.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/BowmanAbrams.13.pdf

Everybody Lives in a County

Large, Medium & Small

LARGEST COUNTY
Miami-Dade

POPULATION
2,779,332

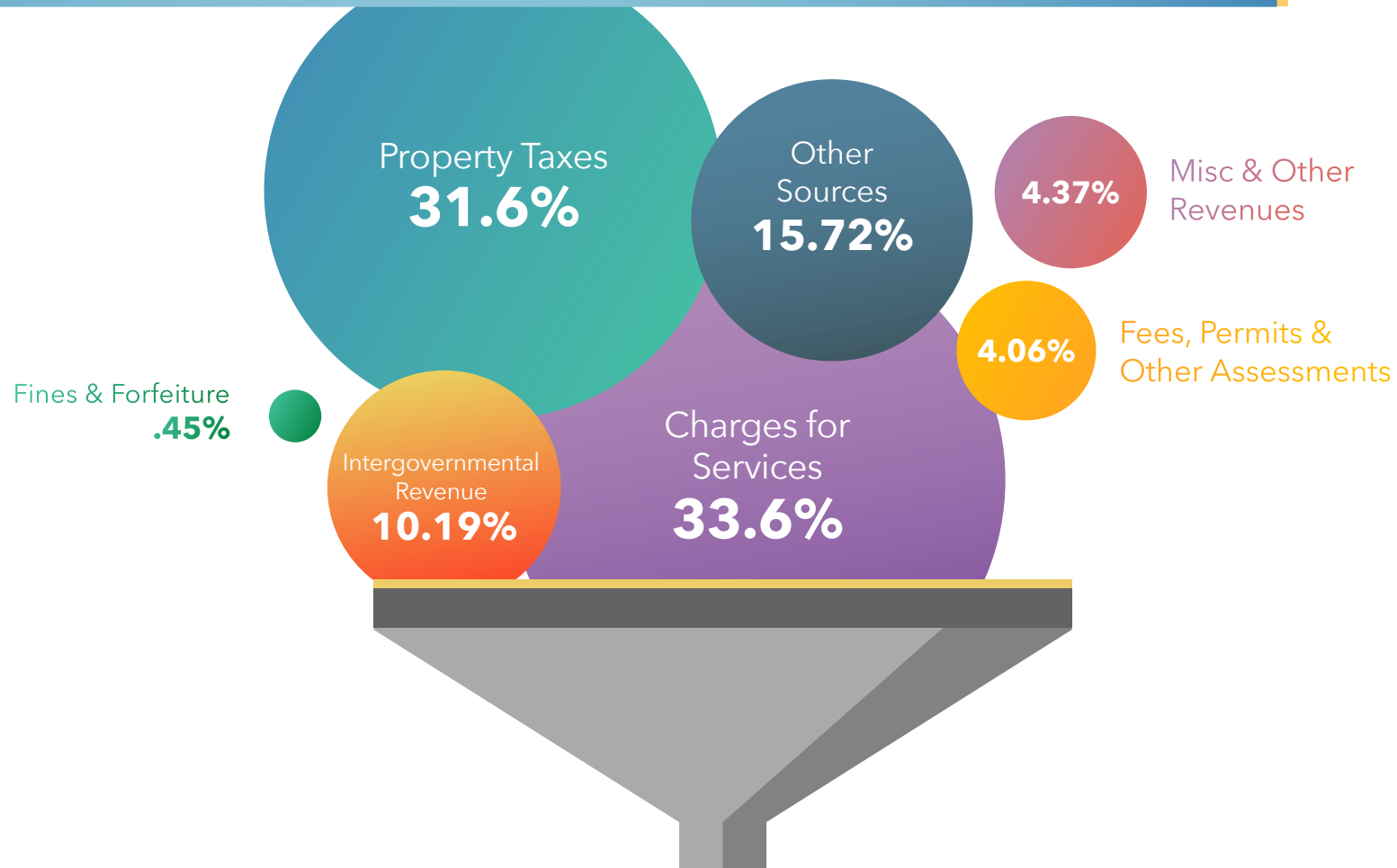**31**
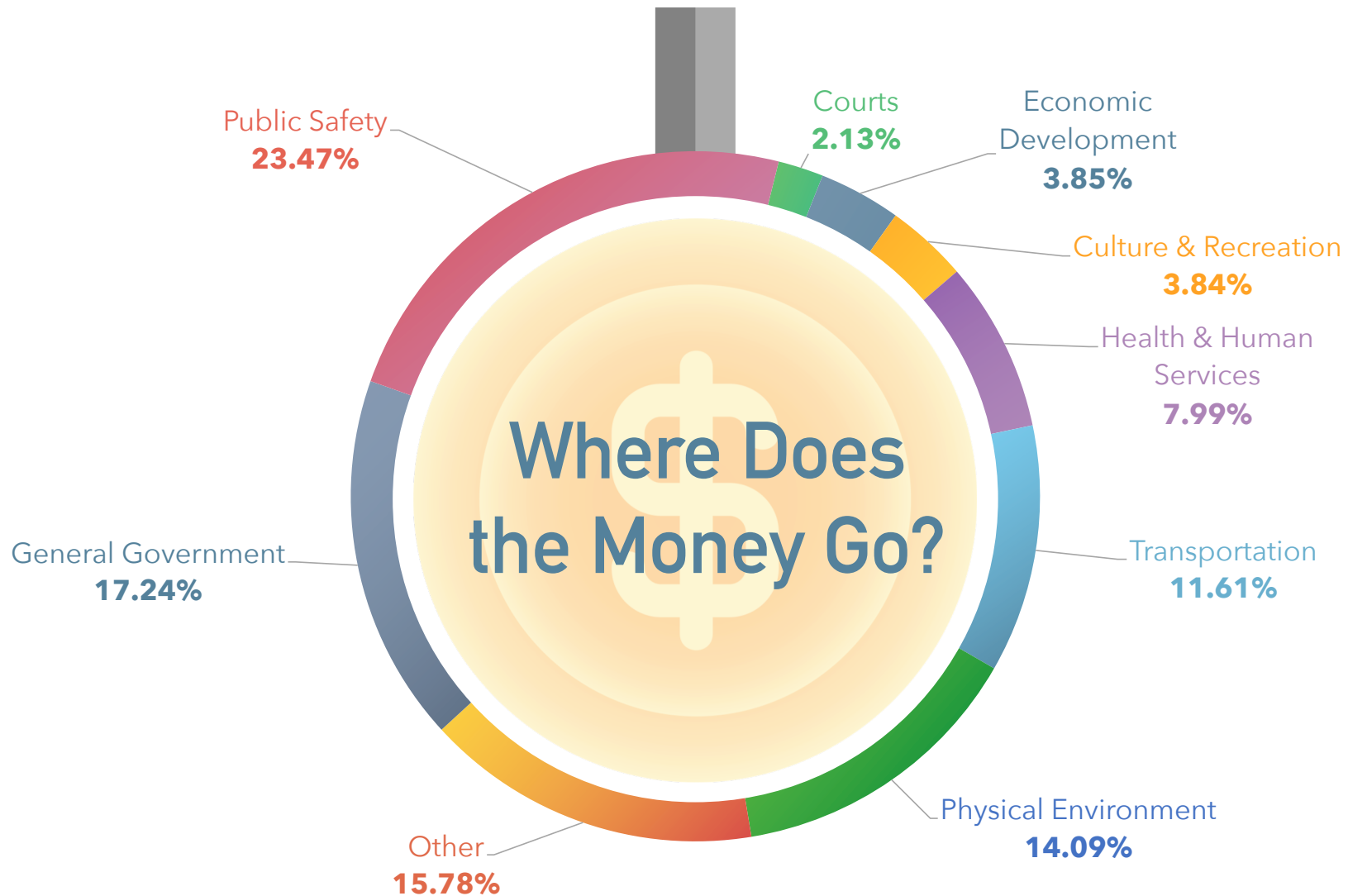Medium Counties

10,948,167
Total Population

SMALLEST COUNTY
Lafayette

POPULATION
8,501

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Where Does the Money Come From?"

Property Taxes
31.6%

Other Sources
15.72%

4.37% Misc & Other Revenues

4.06% Fees, Permits & Other Assessments

Fines & Forfeiture
.45%

Intergovernmental Revenue
10.19%

Charges for Services
33.6%

Where Does the Money Go?

Courts
2.13%

Economic Development
3.85%

Culture & Recreation
3.84%

Health & Human Services
7.99%

Transportation
11.61%

Physical Environment
14.09%

Other
15.78%

General Government
17.24%

Public Safety
23.47%

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FLORIDA
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COUNTIES
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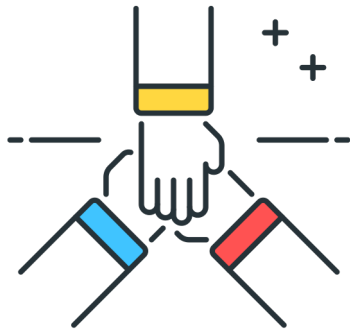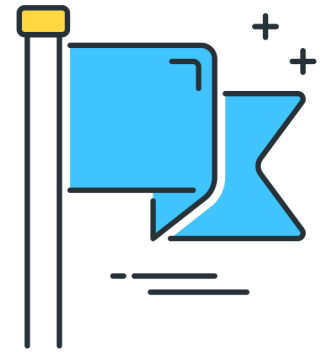
Why Counties Matter

Counties give local communities room to solve local problems with local solutions

Counties give us local access to government services

Counties save us from taking a trip to Tallahassee every time we need to conduct government business

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