



Resort Tax

Frequently Asked Questions (Updated October 21, 2019)

1. How much revenue is generated from tourism?

In the fiscal year FY 2018 alone, visitor and restaurant patronage within Surfside generated over \$3 million in resort tax revenue - benefiting both local residents and businesses. For FY 2019, the Resort Tax is projected to bring in \$3.9 million.

2. Does all of Miami-Dade County benefit from resort tax dollars?

No. Surfside is one of only three municipalities in Miami-Dade County eligible since the 1960s by Florida State Law to impose, levy and collect a resort tax of 4% on accommodations and 2% on food and beverage sales as a source of revenue. Miami Beach and Bal Harbour are the other two municipalities with the same capability. This unique revenue generating opportunity is also defined in the Town's Charter in [Sec. 69-A. Resort Tax](#).

3. Where does the money go?

Resort tax revenue has yielded a number of positive benefits and projects for the Town of Surfside. For instance, a total of 66% of resort tax revenues is invested back into the operation of the Community Center, which is fully funded by this money thus lessening the tax burden on residents.

4. How does tourism benefit the Town and its residents?

A portion of the 66% mentioned above is contributed to community enhancement programs, such as the \$124,000 earmarked in the FY 2019 budget for beach raking and litter mitigation to keep the public beach in Surfside pristine for residents and tourists.

5. What happens to the other 34%?

Defined in the Town's Ordinance No. 11-1574, a minimum of 34% of the resort tax revenue must be used to promote the Town as a tourist destination. This provision satisfies the state's requirement on the use of the revenue, and includes the following:

- Publicity and Advertising
- Promotional events

- Tourist Bureau activities

The 34% of resort tax revenue is used to fund the following initiatives, also enjoyed by residents:

- Annual holidays lights on Harding Avenue
- Popular events, including Third Fridays, First Fridays, Paddletopia, Bootcamp & Brews, History Tours and more

These programs require up to $\frac{1}{3}$ of the Resort Tax allocation to the Tourist Board.

6. Where can I find the resort tax budget?

The Tourist Resort Fund is a Special Revenue Fund within the Town of Surfside's [budget](#). The Town of Surfside created this specific fund in order to further breakdown the resort tax revenue percentages and make this information more readily available to residents.

7. Who oversees expenditures of resort tax dollars?

The Tourist Board Members, appointed by the Town's Commission, oversee the legal and appropriate expenditure of 34% of these funds through the Tourism Director and the operations of the Tourist Bureau. The Parks and Recreation Department oversees 66% of the funds.

8. Where can I learn more?

To learn more about the Town of Surfside's Resort Tax, please find additional details on the Town [website](#).