



Resort Tax

Frequently Asked Questions (Updated February 20, 2020)

1. How much revenue is generated from tourism?

In the last fiscal year (FY 2019) alone, visitor and restaurant patronage within Surfside generated approximately \$3.8 million in resort tax revenue - benefitting residents by fully funding Community Center operations at no additional cost, and providing local businesses with marketing opportunities aimed at elevating their digital and social platforms, as well as increasing patronage.

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 fully funds operations thus lessening the tax burden on residents. This includes the following:

- Community Center related events and activities
- Building and equipment maintenance and repairs
- General groundskeeping including landscaping
- Utilities and insurance
- Pool maintenance (heating and chemically treating the pool)
- Community Center staffing and all related equipment and supplies including beach lifeguards

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

As a partial result of recent development, including the Four Seasons Hotel at The Surf Club, property values in Surfside have increased. Additionally, a portion of the 66% mentioned above is contributed to the following community enhancement program:

- In the FY 2020 budget, \$127,120 is earmarked 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%?*

Pursuant to Chapter 67-930 of State of Florida law, and further 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 throughout the State of Florida and across the globe. This provision includes the following:

- Marketing
- Advertising & publicity
- Promotional events
- Additional Tourist Bureau activities, including content production, partner tradeshow support and research

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

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

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 these funds through the Tourism Director and the operations of the Tourist Bureau.

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](#).