

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 18, 2009

CONTACT: Bob St. Cyr

Statewide “Clerks in the Sunshine” Website Highlights Collier County Clerk’s Budget, Spending and Collections

Naples, FL. – Florida’s Clerks of Court today announced the new “Clerks in the Sunshine” website, which makes public review of Clerks’ budgets, expenditures and collections easier than ever before. The “Clerks in the Sunshine” website is available at www.myfloridaclerks.com.

This website follows the state trend of making government spending more open, transparent, and accountable. Florida’s Clerks have created this site to provide the public with information about how their tax dollars are being used at the local level.

“While our budgets have always been public record, posting them all in one location will make it easier for citizens to view how we are spending public dollars to achieve our constitutional mission: protecting public records and auditing local government to ensure Florida’s tax dollars are spent according to the law,” said Jim Fuller, Duval County Clerk of Court and President of the Florida Association of Court Clerks and Comptrollers.

Throughout the state, Clerks are using a variety of website applications, computer systems and departmental initiatives to enhance citizens’ access to county records, including:

- Posting county budget and investment information online
- Conducting public seminars on how to access public records using CollierClerk.com
- Providing search instructions using print, video and audio technology
- Sending emails on public records to media, homeowner, civic and community organizations

“As custodians of county records we are in a unique position to meet our state’s need for full transparency of all public records,” said Dwight E. Brock, Clerk of the Circuit Court in Collier County. “By making this information more readily available through multiple avenues like the ‘Clerks in the Sunshine’ website, every dollar that comes through this office will be viewable by the public with the just a click of a button.”

###

The Clerk of the Circuit Court, established by the Constitution of 1838, is the public trustee for the county. The Clerk provides the checks and balances in county government by acting in their capacity as Clerk to the Board, Clerk to the Court, Keeper of the Public Records, Comptroller and Internal Auditor of county funds.