

## Myths vs Facts

**MYTH: A new city would add a sales tax.**

FACT: Florida cities are not allowed to collect sales tax. The state sales tax rate is 6%, and the most sales tax counties currently levy is 1.5%. Both inside and outside city limits in Escambia County, sales tax is 7.5%. As a municipality, a significant portion of existing sales and gas taxes would return to our area.

**MYTH: Our area doesn't have the revenue base to support a new city.**

FACT: Per capita, Perdido is near the top of revenue producers for Escambia County, at *over \$60 million annually*. Perdido's taxable real estate value is \$3.54 billion. Current impact fees, franchise fees, permit fees, etc., would become municipal revenue sources. This will be detailed in the feasibility study.

**MYTH: Cities require high property taxes.**

FACT: In DeBary, Florida, property taxes are lower inside city limits than in the surrounding unincorporated county - *living inside the city is cheaper than outside its limits!* Grant-Valkaria's millage rate for 2022 was 1.3038. Fort Myers Beach recently raised its property tax millage from 0.97 to 0.99. Siesta Key proposed a total of 0.5 mills in property tax. These incredibly low property tax rates are thanks to government lite. Perdido's Phase One results of the feasibility study show that because the area already generates so much revenue, **Perdido can incorporate without the need to raise additional tax revenue.** Existing MSTU taxes, along with other revenue (sales tax and other state-shared revenue), would return to the area.

**MYTH: Government costs quite a bit to run.**

FACT: Operational overhead of government-lite cities our size is around \$5 per capita per month, according to general fund budgets of comparable cities like Grant-Valkaria, DeBary, or even a larger city like Westin. Government-lite cities are exceptionally cost-effective when compared to full-service counterparts.

**MYTH: This is the first time municipal incorporation has been discussed.**

FACT: Throughout the early 2000s, citizens discussed municipal incorporation of Perdido, resulting in the founding of Envision Perdido in 2008. Further discussions motivated the PK Master Plan. The topic has resurfaced on a number of occasions, even as a question on the 2020 PKA Owners Survey.

**MYTH: Perdido would have to fix Perdido Key Drive and beach accesses after a hurricane.**

FACT: Experts advise we avoid taking ownership of vulnerable resources. As such, ownership of Perdido Key Drive and beach accesses would likely remain with the county, along with responsibility for their cleanup and repair. This is similar to how Fort Myers Beach operates. While counties in Florida are responsible for the distribution of FEMA dollars, municipalities help guide and focus recovery efforts.

**As a municipality, Perdido's citizens would gain a unified local voice, the ability to make local decisions, and a seat at the table.**