Decrease in Interest Earnings and Other Miscellaneous revenue is primarily due to lowering the budgeted interest earnings in the Capital Funds. Increase in Fund Balance is related both to General Fund future planning and some Infrastructure Surtax projects taking longer than expected.

Amounts shown for Reserves are all budgeted reserves including enterprise funds, special revenue funds, and unspent bond proceeds, which are legally restricted as to their use. Undesignated reserves for the General Fund for FY 2021 are $175.6 million, 11.1% of the total fund budget. This is in accordance with the County's policy level of 8%. The availability of reserves for use in a financial emergency is one indication that a government is financially strong.

Significant changes in Culture/Recreation expenditures are primarily due to Infrastructure Surtax Fund projects that are new in FY 2021 or have not yet been completed from prior years' funding ($81.6 million) and the Library Expansion Program ($21.4 million). The increase in Human Services is attributable to an increase in contributions to other governmental agencies and contractual services. The increase in Transportation is primarily due to the increased funding in capital projects. The decrease in Other Expenses are primarily due to Engineering and Housing & Economic Sustainability. Additionally, there are large increases to Reserves in the General Fund, Engineering, Infrastructure Surtax Projects, and Water Utilities.
The Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners approved a budget with a property tax rate of 4.7815 per $1,000 of taxable value, which is 0.1952 above the calculated rollback rate. Florida Statutes limit the countywide millage rate to a maximum of 10 mills, excluding voter approved debt service millage rates.

For the FY 2021 budget, County departments maintained the same service levels as last year through implementation of efficiencies and privatization efforts. The Sheriff's budget is funded at $739,895,972. The Sheriff did not submit a request for a carry forward of funds.

The review and adoption of the annual budget is one of the most important policy-making responsibilities of the BCC. The BCC held a retreat in November 2019 and adopted six strategic priorities to govern its strategic planning efforts. County departments were encouraged to give special consideration to the following priorities: Economic Development, Housing and Homelessness, Environmental Protection, Infrastructure, Public Safety, and Substance Use and Behavioral Disorders. This budget reflects the BCC's commitment of continuing to enhance the quality of life in Palm Beach County.

Of the $38,975 million in new Ad Valorem funded capital projects for FY 2021, $17.4 million is for repair and renovation of County buildings, $9.8 million is for Information Technology Systems replacement and enhancements, $4.5 million is for Parks & Recreation, $6.5 million is for roadway improvements, $0.3 million is for environmental restoration, and $0.5 million is for other miscellaneous projects. In addition to these projects, Airports and Water Utilities capital projects are ongoing, as are projects funded by bond issues and impact fees.

A total of 11,904 positions are included in the FY 2021 budget: BCC 6,748; Sheriff 4,340; Tax Collector 328; Property Appraiser 238; Clerk & Comptroller 149; Supervisor of Elections 61, and Judicial 40.