TOWN OF LONGBOAT KEY

TOWN MANAGER BRIEF

Stay Informed on the Property Tax Amendment
You may have seen recent news regarding the Governor's proposed property tax initiative, which would increase homestead exemption levels from $50,000 to as much as $250,000 and could potentially eliminate property taxes altogether. The proposed constitutional amendment is expected to appear on the November ballot. Residents are encouraged to learn more and review available information by visiting the Town's website (www.longboatkey.org).

Sea Turtle Nesting Season Continues
Sea turtle nesting season is in high gear and baby sea turtles are hatching every night up and down our beaches. Right now, it is more important than ever to remove obstacles from the beach and only have turtle friendly lighting. We want these little ones to find the water and not be disoriented by bright lights or blocked by beach equipment. Learn more from the Town's website.

Welcome, Town Clerk Celine Kidwell!
The Town is pleased to welcome Celine Kidwell as Longboat Key's new Town Clerk. Celine brings more than 22 years of municipal government experience in Arizona and Florida and is a Certified Municipal Clerk currently pursuing her Master Municipal Clerk designation. We are excited to have Celine join our team and look forward to the leadership, expertise, and dedication she will bring to serving the Town Commission, residents, and community.

Sandbag Filling Event – August 6
Hurricane season is underway, and preparation is key. The Town's Public Works Department will be onsite at the Broadway Beach Access on Thursday, August 6, from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. to assist residents with filling sandbags. This service is intended to help residents prepare for potential flooding and storm-related impacts.

2026 Post-Disaster Re-Entry Program
Now is the time to make sure you're prepared for hurricane season. Longboat Key utilizes a tiered re-entry decal system that prioritizes emergency responders and essential personnel before residents return when conditions are safe. Residents can pick up their 2026 Re-Entry Decals at Town Hall or the Police Department.

FY27 Budget Process Resumes in September
The Town Commission will resume budget discussions on September 14 with a Budget Workshop and Special Meeting. Final budget adoption is scheduled for September 28. Residents are encouraged to attend and learn more about how Town resources are allocated and invested in services, infrastructure, and public safety.

Fun Fact: If approved by voters, the proposed property tax amendment is projected to reduce the Town's General Fund revenue by approximately **$750,000 in the first year** and **$1.4 million in the second year**. The General Fund supports the Town's day-to-day operations and essential public services, including public safety and public works.