



A VENDOR'S GUIDE TO DOING BUSINESS WITH PASCO COUNTY

INTRODUCTION:

The Purchasing Department is responsible for procuring all goods and services necessary for the operating departments under the control of the Board of County Commissioners. The procurement of goods and services for Constitutional Officers are handled upon request and as needed. The following agencies are independent of the Board of County Commissioners and should be contacted directly for their respective purchasing opportunities:

Pasco County Clerk and Comptroller	(352) 523-2411
Pasco County Property Appraiser	(352) 521-4433
Pasco County Sheriff's Office	(727) 847-5878
Pasco County Supervisor of Elections	(352) 521-4302
Pasco County Tax Collector	(727) 847-8165
Pasco County School District	(813) 794-2221

The Purchasing Department exists to procure, in a timely manner, the goods and services necessary to enable the operating departments to achieve their respective objectives and meet the needs of Pasco County residents. Furthermore, it is the responsibility of the Purchasing Department to ensure that all procurement activity is conducted in compliance with the *Purchasing Ordinance*, applicable State and Federal laws and regulations, and approved policies and procedures. Open competition works to eliminate the appearance and opportunity for favoritism and inspires public confidence that all purchases are awarded fairly and equitably. The Purchasing Department is committed to maintaining the integrity of the process, maintaining favorable business relationships, fostering fair and open competition and maximizing value.

This guide has been developed to provide general information for vendors. For more information or assistance, please contact the Purchasing Department at (727) 847-8194.

LOCATION:

The Purchasing Department is located within the West Pasco Government Center Complex at 8919 Government Drive in New Port Richey, Florida.

OFFICE HOURS:

The Purchasing Department is open to the public from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (local time), Monday through Friday, except for holidays observed by the County.

AUTHORIZED PURCHASES:

Purchases are authorized only if a duly-issued purchase order is issued in advance of the transaction or a Pasco County Purchasing Card is used. Vendors providing goods or services without demanding a signed purchase order or valid Purchasing Card, do so at their own financial risk. Pasco County is not liable for payments for goods or services ordered without a duly-issued purchase order or valid Purchasing Card. Please insist on a purchase order or Purchasing Card prior to delivering any goods or services.

PURCHASING ORDINANCE:

The *Purchasing Ordinance of Pasco County* governs the purchase of all goods, supplies, equipment, materials, construction and services for the Board of County Commissioners, including the branches, departments, divisions, sections, and agencies under their control, regardless of the funding source, except as otherwise provided by law.

BID OPPORTUNITIES AND VENDOR REGISTRATION:

The Pasco County Board of County Commissioners has joined the Florida Online Bid System by BidNet to improve communication and reduce costs associated with vendor notification and management. To view Pasco County's solicitations, and the solicitations of all of the other participating agencies, we invite you to register online. Please visit www.FloridaBidSystem.com, and use the "Vendor Registration" link, select a service plan (automatic notification or search-only access) and complete the registration form. If you are already registered as a vendor on this system, there is no need to register again for Pasco County. Remember registered vendors may search the website for new bid and quote opportunities at NO cost.

The system offers a value-added option if a vendor wishes to receive automatic notifications of solicitations; however, there is a charge of \$89.95 per year or approximately \$7.50 per month. It is important to note that this fee covers all of the agencies that are using the Florida Bid System and not just for a single county or agency. Vendors are not compelled or required to subscribe to this value-added service. Vendors who are not interested in this option may still manually search for opportunities at no cost.

Like other bid notification services, the Florida Bid System also offers vendors basic, search-only access for free. Like these other services, there is no cost to the County to use the Florida Bid System. Developing and supporting an in-house system to mimic the full functionality of the Florida Bid System, at no cost, is simply impractical and economically unreasonable. For more information about the Florida Bid System please feel free to contact BidNet by calling toll free 1-800-835-4603. To expedite your request, please ask for the Florida Online Bid System.

VENDOR APPOINTMENTS:

Pasco County takes its relationships with vendors very seriously. Time is an important commodity and this guide is published with the intent of providing for the most effective use of time, both yours and ours. As a courtesy, and for our relationship to be more productive, vendors are seen by appointment only. We respectfully request that you call ahead to schedule an appointment so that we can properly prepare for your visit and ensure you receive the best service in a timely manner.

GIFTS AND GRATUITIES:

Employees of the Pasco County Board of County Commissioners are prohibited from accepting any gratuity—whether material or edible—from anyone doing business (actual or potential) with the County. Such gratuities include, but are not limited to, flowers, candy, food, wine, liquor and anything free (pens, pencils, letter openers, etc.) or discounted.

PURCHASE PROCEDURES:

Please refer to each respective solicitation document for procedural instructions and information. If you require clarification or need assistance, please contact our office and we'll be happy to help.

PROCUREMENT METHODS:

Pasco County uses numerous methods to procure the goods and services necessary to support its operations. The methods include, but are not limited to, Invitations for Bid (IFB), Requests for Proposals (RFP), Requests for Statements of Qualifications (RSQ) and Requests for Quotations (RFQ). When necessary, architectural, engineering and other professional services are procured in accordance with the Consultants' Competitive Negotiation Act (CCNA) as prescribed in § 287.055, *Florida Statutes*.

At times it is also necessary to procure goods and services in an emergency and without competition due to limited sources and other exceptional conditions. The conditions for such exceptional procurement are detailed in the *Purchasing Ordinance of Pasco County*.

INVOICES:

To receive payment for products or services rendered, the vendor must submit an original invoice showing the purchase order number to:

Pasco County Board of County Commissioners
Attention: Clerk & Comptroller
38053 Live Oak Avenue
Dade City, FL 33523-3894

Invoices should not be directed to the ordering department, unless otherwise specified on the Purchase Order. Failure to send invoices directly to the address above could delay payment.

TAXES:

Pasco County is exempt from most taxes imposed by state or federal government. Tax exempt numbers are on file and available by contacting the Purchasing Department.

PURCHASING THRESHOLDS:

Purchases Less Than \$1,000.00:	Requires Available Funding
Competition Requirement:	None (Three Quotes Suggested)
Documentation Requirement:	None (Written Quote Suggested)
Method of Purchase:	Purchasing Card (Preferred) or Purchase Order
Minimum Approval:	Cardholder (Purchasing Card) or Purchasing Director (Purchase Order)

Purchases from \$1,000.00 to \$2,500.00:	Requires Available Funding
Competition Requirement:	None (Three Quotes Suggested)
Documentation Requirement:	Written Quote Required for Recommended Vendor
Method of Purchase:	Purchasing Card (Preferred) or Purchase Order
Minimum Approval:	Cardholder (Purchasing Card) or Purchasing Director (Purchase Order)

Purchase from \$2,500.01 to \$15,000.00:	Requires Available Funding
Competition Requirement:	Informal Solicitation of at Least Three Businesses (Three Quotes Suggested)
Documentation Requirement:	Written Quotes Required
Method of Purchase:	Purchase Order
Minimum Approval:	Purchasing Director

Purchases from \$15,000.01 to \$25,000.00:	Requires Available Funding
Competition Requirement:	Informal Solicitation of at Least Three Businesses (Three Quotes Suggested)
Documentation Requirement:	Written Quotes Required
Method of Purchase:	Purchase Order
Minimum Approval:	County Administrator

Purchases Over \$25,000.00:	Requires Available Funding
Competition Requirement:	Formal Solicitation of Sealed Bids or Proposals
Documentation Requirement:	Bid or Proposal Response and Related Documentation
Method of Purchase:	Purchase Order and/or Contract
Minimum Approval:	Board of County Commissioners

PURCHASING STAFF:

<p>Jessica L. Baraket Purchasing Director (727) 847-8194 x8434 Jebaraket@pascocountyfl.net</p>	<p>Chris Urban Assistant Purchasing Director (727) 847-8914 x8353 curban@pascocountyfl.net</p>
<p>Dawn M. Lopinto Buyer (727) 847-8194 x8436 dlopinto@pascocountyfl.net</p>	<p>Kathleen M. Brewer Senior Buyer (727) 847-8194 kbrewer@pascocountyfl.net</p>
<p>Felipe “Phil” Alvarez Buyer (727) 847-8194 x8758 falvarez@pascocountyfl.net</p>	<p>Ernest D. Catron Buyer (727) 847-8194 x8897 ecatron@pascocountyfl.net</p>
<p>Megan Ellerin Records Clerk II (727) 847-8194 x8425 mellerin@pascocountyfl.net</p>	<p>Jennifer Vigo Administrative Assistant (727) 847-8194 x8426 jvigo@pascocountyfl.net</p>

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

1. **How do I get on the bidders' list?**

Vendors must register at www.FloridaBidSystem.com.

2. **Do I have to be a registered vendor to bid?**

No. However, before an award can be made and a purchase order issued, the County must verify that your company is properly registered with the State of Florida's Division of Corporations, if applicable, and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

3. **Can I still get hard copies of the solicitations?**

Yes. Hard copies of the solicitations may be purchased at the Purchasing Department at a cost of \$0.15 per page.

4. **Where can I view the current solicitations?**

Current solicitations are available at www.FloridaBidSystem.com. Vendors must register at this site to view and download solicitation documents.

5. **Does the County bid everything?**

No. Generally, purchases that are less than \$25,000.00 only require informal written quotations; while those that are over \$25,000.00 require competitive sealed bids. Informal quotations are also available for viewing and download at www.FloridaBidSystem.com.

6. **Does the Purchasing Department buy for all County offices?**

The Purchasing Department oversees the purchase of all items that are procured for offices under the Board of County Commissioners.

7. **Where is the Purchasing Department located?**

The Purchasing Department is located on the West Pasco Government Center campus. Our physical address is 8919 Government Drive in New Port Richey, Florida.

8. **Where do I purchase plans and specifications for construction projects?**

All formal solicitations, and related plans and specifications, are posted electronically at www.FloridaBidSystem.com

9. **Where can I find information about upcoming projects?**

The Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and Annual Budget are available at www.pascocountyfl.net.

10. **When are the results available from a solicitation that has opened?**

In accordance with Chapters 119.071 and 286.0113, Florida Statutes, only the names of the responding firms and the respective bid amounts will be read at the time of opening. Pursuant to Florida Statutes, sealed bids, proposals, or replies received by an agency pursuant to a competitive solicitation are exempt from public inspection until such time as the agency provides notice of an intended decision or until thirty (30) days after opening the bids, proposals, or replies, whichever is earlier. Because of the volume of solicitations, solicitation results are not given over the telephone.

11. **What is the best way to schedule a meeting with one of the Buyers or the Purchasing Director?**

Send an email to the appropriate individual to set up an appointment. Email addresses are listed in this guide and are also available at www.PascoPurchasing.com. The Purchasing Department is open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (local time), Monday thru Friday, excluding the holidays that are observed by the County.

12. **How can I get copies of opened bids and other documentation?**

You may visit the Purchasing Department at 8919 Government Drive in New Port Richey, Florida; call us at (727) 847-8194 or simply visit our website www.PascoPurchasing.com. Information for solicitations that closed prior to March 1, 2010, may be found on the "Closed Solicitations" or "Archived Closed Solicitations" links. Information for solicitations that closed after March 1, 2010, may be found at www.FloridaBidSystem.com. If you have difficulty finding a particular solicitation, please contact the Purchasing Department and we'll be happy to assist. There may be costs associated with copying and mailing the requested information. Public records may also be viewed in the Purchasing Department at no cost.

13. **I see that the County has multi-year contracts for goods and services. How can I get in on these contracts?**

The County has numerous ongoing "annual" awards, which range from one (1) year to ten (10) years, depending on the goods or services. Annual awards that are expected to exceed \$25,000.00 in a twelve (12) month period generally require formal solicitations and will be posted at www.FloridaBidSystem.com. Annual awards that are expected to be less than \$25,000.00 in a twelve (12) month period generally require informal solicitations and will also be posted at www.FloridaBidSystem.com.

14. **Does the County sell its surplus equipment, vehicles and other property?**

Generally, once the Board of County Commissioners declares items as surplus, the items are sold through public auction at Garner & Associates Auctioneers, Inc.; 3455 W S.R. 60; Bartow, Florida, on the first Saturday of each month. Available sale items may be viewed at www.garnerauctions.com.