



May 25, 2023

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## LEGISLATIVE SESSION WRAP-UP



On **Tuesday, May 16th**, several members of the CFHLA attended a 2023 Florida Legislative Session Wrap-Up hosted by our partners at [GrayRobinson](#).

Specifically, we'd like to thank Chris Carmody, Robert Stuart Jr., Chris Dawson, and Katie Flury for their support in helping CFHLA achieve **4 priority wins (out**

of 6 total) at the conclusion of the 2023 Florida Legislative Session.

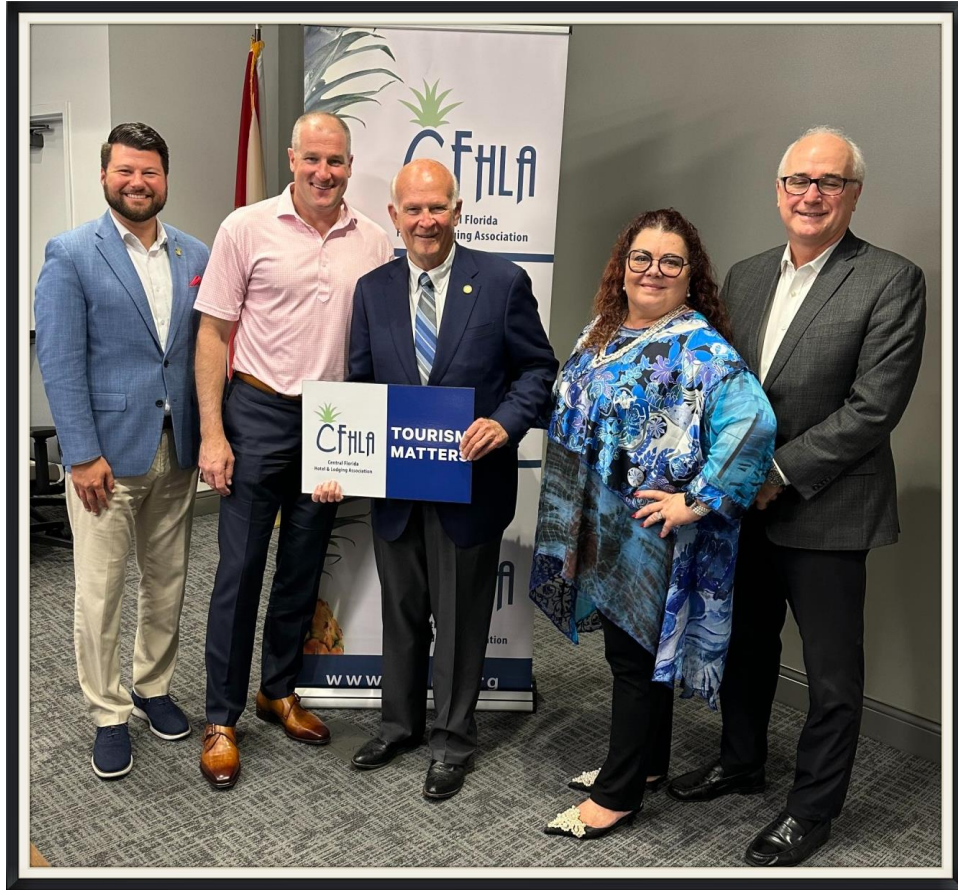
While we may not have been able to get the **statewide regulation of vacation home rentals and advertising platforms** across the finish line this year. **We feel like significant progress was made this year and the Senate's version was a step in the right direction.** We will remain optimistic that we will get a resolution next year.

As a reminder, if you haven't read our **2023 CFHLA Legislative Session Report**, please [CLICK HERE](#) to download.



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## GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE



The **CFHLA Governmental Affairs Committee** met again on **Wednesday, May 24th** at **Lowndes** (Thank you, **Jackie Bozzuto** and **Bill Dymond**).

We were honored have **Florida Senate\_President Pro Tempore Dennis Baxley, District 13**, as our meeting guest.

Our Governmental Affairs Committee members took the opportunity to discuss some of CFHLA's Legislative Priorities, as well as updating Senator Baxley on some additional issues that the tourism and hospitality industry is facing today.

We thank Senator Baxley for his leadership in the Florida Senate and for championing some of our priorities throughout the 2023 legislative session! We also look forward to continuing to work with him, on behalf of the industry, throughout the 2024 Florida Legislative Session.

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## **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: FOUR HUMAN TRAFFICKING BILLS SIGNED INTO LAW**

Recently, Governor DeSantis signed several bills aimed at combating human trafficking in Florida.

**SB 1690**, **SB 7064**, **HB 1465**, and **SB 1210** each do a myriad of things, however, specific to the hotel and lodging industry is **SB 1690 by Senator Ingoglia and Representative Salzman**.

This legislation **expanded human trafficking awareness programs and increased support for human trafficking victims**. It also holds hotels accountable for their role in facilitating **human trafficking training** and includes cracking down on repeat violators of human trafficking training, **by shortening the cure period for an initial violation from 90 days to 45 days**. Moreover, a hotel **will now be ineligible for any correction period after July 1, 2023, and a fine of \$2,000 a day will be imposed for any subsequent violations thereafter**.

Additionally, **SB 7064 by Senator Garcia and Representative Overdorf** was designed to support the victims of human trafficking and strengthen the penalties for human traffickers at adult establishments. Furthermore, **HB 1465 by Representative Garrison, Representative Snyder and Senator Avila** makes human traffickers eligible for mandatory minimum sentences when they possess or discharge a firearm during the course of their crimes.

Lastly, **SB 1210 by Senator Burgess** provided that a petition for human trafficking victim expunction and all pleadings and documents related to the petition are confidential and exempt from public records requirements.

**CFHLA supported the passage of HB 1690 and SB 7064, however CFHLA did not take a position on HB 1465 and SB 1210.**

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## **DOMESTIC TRAFFIC FUELS FIRST QUARTER NUMBERS AT ORLANDO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

In the first three months of 2023, the **Orlando International Airport (MCO)** has now seen a **22 percent increase** in traffic. In total, more than **14.2 million passengers** have now moved through MCO so far this year.

MCO's biggest success this year has been with domestic traffic, as the airport is now exceeding all previous numbers. Orlando International Airport also continues to see major gains in **international traffic, up more than 65**

**percent as of March**, as the world gradually recovers from the pandemic.

Additionally, **for the month of March, overall traffic climbed 15 percent** due to a strong Spring Break and increased seat capacity by a number of airlines.

This is great news for our industry and [CLICK HERE](#) to view the MCO March statistics and overall traffic summary.



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## SEMINOLE TID - TOURISM IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

As you may have heard, [Seminole County](#) is currently considering the creation of a **Tourist Improvement District (TID)** in order to construct and operate a **\$61 million indoor sports venue** (along with other sports facilities), that would compliment the nearby [Boombah Sports Complex](#). These preliminary plans were discussed at a Seminole County Workshop meeting on May 9th.

**CFHLA President/CEO Robert Agrusa** and [Greater Orlando Sports President/CEO, Jason Siegel](#), were asked by the Board to give their perspective on the potential project, on behalf of the sports and hospitality industry.

If you have any questions about the Seminole County TID, or would like to learn more, please contact Tammie Watts, CFHLA Government Affairs Manager, at [tammie.watts@cfhla.org](mailto:tammie.watts@cfhla.org).

We will continue to keep our Seminole County members updated, as this prospect moves forward.



## ORANGE COUNTY TDT CITIZEN ADVISORY TASK FORCE

Currently, CFHLA is continuing to remain actively involved within Mayor Demings' **Orange County Tourist Development Tax Citizens Advisory Task Force**. Recently, the TDT Task Force met on Friday, May 12, and again on Wednesday, May 24, as several of CFHLA's Community Partners gave presentations on how the TDT was used, what is our return on investment, and how it has benefited our community.

Some of these presentations included **Visit Orlando**, the **Orange County Convention Center**, the **Orlando Venues** and several others.

**With the proper usage of TDT being of the utmost importance to our industry**, CFHLA will continue to participate in this process and will update our members on any new developments.

If you'd like to join us a future Task Force meetings, please **CLICK HERE** to view the future TDT Citizen Advisory Task Force meeting dates.



**REGISTER TODAY! TEE-IT-UP FOR TOURISM**

Our Annual **Tee-It-Up for Tourism** TopGolf fundraising event is set for **Wednesday, July 19th!**

This important fundraising event, will give you the opportunity for Team Building and Political Networking, **all in one fun night!**

By supporting this event, you will help our CFHLA Political Action Committee **protect the interests of the hospitality and tourism industry by educating and mobilizing our members to become more politically active and supporting pro-tourism and pro-hospitality candidates.**

**CFHLA has reserved the top two floors and bays are going quickly!**  
**Please click below to reserve your bay today!**

Wednesday, July 19, 2023  
Topgolf  
9295 Universal Blvd.  
Orlando, FL 32819  
5pm - 8pm

# Tee-It-Up for Tourism

presented by:



### \$1,250 Top Floor (Main Action) Bay Rental

- Access to private deck rental and rooftop terrace
- Two hours of bay play for up to 6 golfers
- Two Hour Open Bar- Beer and House Wine
- Tasty appetizers
- Networking opportunities with top floor sponsors, businesses, and elected officials

### \$1,000 2nd Floor Bay Rental

- Access to private deck rental and rooftop terrace
- Two hours of bay play for up to 6 golfers
- Two Hour Open Bar- Beer and House Wine
- Tasty appetizers
- Great for team building

### \$200 Single Golfer

- Access to private deck rental and rooftop terrace
- Two hours of bay play for a single golfer
- Two Hour Open Bar- Beer and House Wine
- Tasty appetizers

### \$150 Spectator Ticket (No Bay Play)

- Access to private deck rental and rooftop terrace
- Two Hour Open Bar- Beer and House Wine
- Tasty appetizers

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

BENEFITTING THE CFHLA POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE - FEES FOR THESE ACTIVITIES ARE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CFHLA POLITICAL COMMITTEE (PAC).

POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT PAID FOR AND APPROVED BY THE CENTRAL FLORIDA HOTEL AND LODGING ASSOCIATION POL. ACT. COM., 6675 WESTWOOD BLVD, SUITE 210, ORLANDO, FL 32821. CONTRIBUTIONS ARE NOT DEDUCTIBLE FOR FEDERAL INCOME TAX PURPOSES.

For More Information Please Contact Faith Moore, 407-313-5015 or [faith.moore@cfhla.org](mailto:faith.moore@cfhla.org)

Central Florida Hotel & Lodging Association | 6675 Westwood Blvd., Suite 210 | Orlando, FL 32821 | [www.cfhla.org](http://www.cfhla.org) | 407-313-5000

## REGIONAL TOURIST DEVELOPMENT TAX UPDATE

### Orange County

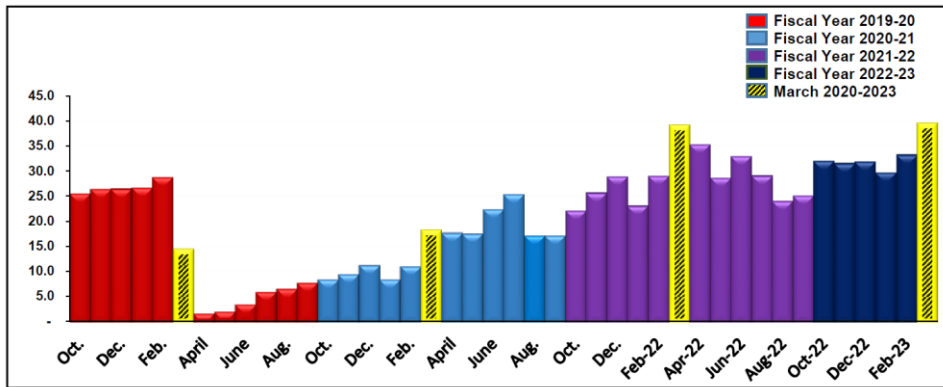
The Tourist Development Tax (TDT) collections received by Orange County for the month of **March 2023** were **\$38,988,300**. That is a **0.7% increase** over March 2022.



Month-over-month, **March collections were higher than February collections by \$6.3 million**. They were also higher than March 2021 collections by \$21.4 million.

**The March TDT collection was the highest monthly collections on record.**

The chart below shows monthly TDT collections for the current fiscal year and the previous three fiscal years.



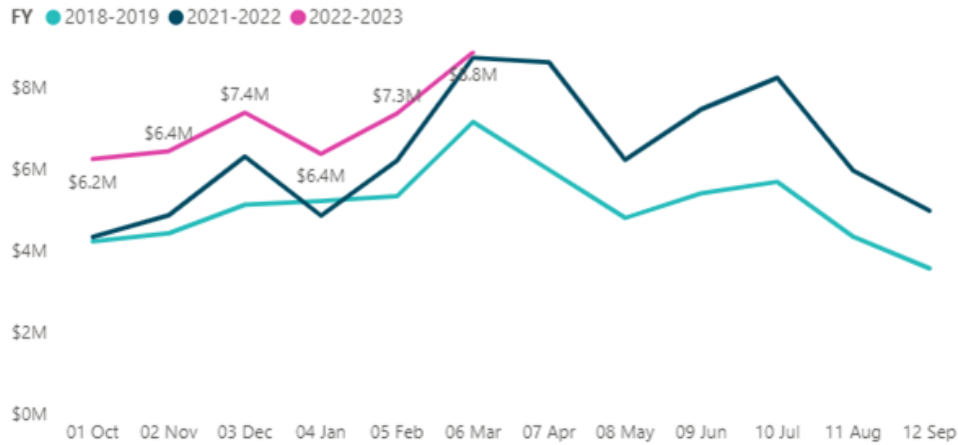
## Osceola County

The Osceola County Tourist Development Tax (TDT) collection for the month of **March was \$8,800,000, the best month ever for Osceola County**.

The amount was + 2% vs. March 2022.

Also, vacation homes accounted for 53% of the TDT collection, with hotels/resorts at 43%.

## TDT Osceola County

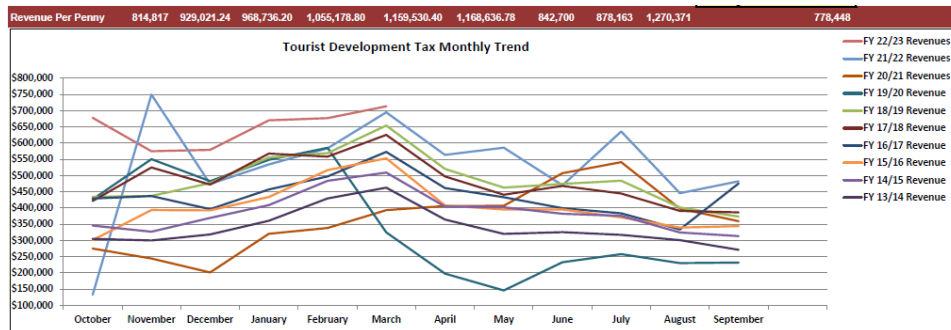


## Seminole County

Seminole County announced that the **Tourist Development Tax (TDT) collection for the month of March was at \$713,329.29.**

**This was the highest TDT collection for any given month in Seminole County history.**

For the FY 2022-2023, **Seminole County has now collected \$3,892,240 in TDT, an increase of \$723,386 over the same period in FY 2021-2022.**



## DONATE

CFHLA MEMBERS - Please **consider making a donation of \$50** via the link below to the CFHLA PAC/PC. All contributions help CFHLA expand its efforts to support and endorse Hospitality-Friendly candidates for local and state

offices. In the 2022 General election, all 16 CFHLA endorsed candidates were successfully elected into office.

[DONATE NOW](#)

As a reminder, all CFHLA Board Members, PAC/PC Board Members, and ARC Board Members have committed to contributing \$150 to the CFHLA PAC/PC in 2023. If you are a part of one or more of these groups, please consider fulfilling your commitment today.

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## IN THE NEWS

[Orlando mayor priorities: Affordable housing, business growth](#) - Orlando Business Journal

[Florida tourism climbs in first-quarter 2023](#) - Orlando Business Journal

[New Florida immigration law may hurt construction, agriculture](#) - Orlando Business Journal

[Orlando hotels try new strategies to battle staff shortages](#) - Orlando Sentinel

[Bills passed in the 2023 Legislative session that will take effect on July 1st](#) - WFTV News

[Orange County hotel manager discusses diversity, community impacts](#) - clickorlando.com

[2023 Doing Business in Seminole County Florida](#) - Orlando Business Journal

[Tickets on sale for Brightline trips between Orlando and South Florida](#) - WESH News

[Disney cancels plans for \\$1 billion campus, 2,000 jobs in Florida](#) - Reuters

[Businesses prepare to navigate new E-Verify requirement](#) - Spectrum News 13

[Florida Orange County TDT funds sought for major projects](#) - Orlando Business Journal

[Central Florida Tourism Oversight District names new leader for Disney area](#) - Orlando Business Journal

[Osceola County plans new road work and more](#) - Orlando Business Journal

[Florida SeaWorld Entertainment reveals more on its hotel development plans](#) - Orlando Business Journal

[Florida hotels wanted in popular downtown Sanford historic district](#) - Orlando Business Journal

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About CFHLA

6675 Westwood Blvd #210, Orlando, FL 32821

The mission of the Central Florida Hotel and Lodging Association is to represent the Central Florida Hospitality Industry, by setting the standard of excellence through advocacy, collaboration, education, recognition, and service.