



SAVE SIESTA KEY

# Save Siesta Key

**Why Incorporate?**

# Background

- Siesta Key is the largest Unincorporated island in the state of Florida.
  - Siesta Beach, Ranked No. 1 Beach in USA, is a major economic engine driving tourism and property values for the region.
  - Siesta's 6,955 residents are a small fraction of over 440,000 Sarasota residents.
  - Siesta Key is split between two county commissioners, neither of them live on the island.
  - Siesta key has unique island lifestyle and needs which are not understood and receive lower priority in the larger Sarasota county.
  - We believe that local residents of Siesta Key will be the best stewards for the future of our island.
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## Benefits of an Incorporated Town of Siesta Key

- Siesta Key will be run by people who live on the island and understand the needs and priorities of its residents.
  - Ability to form committees from our community to propose solutions for current and future challenges.
  - Allow responsible growth which preserves the island lifestyle and is conducive to the infrastructure of the island.
  - Address parking, pedestrian and bicyclist safety issues.
  - Address code enforcement issues such as illegal hotel houses, rentals, parking etc.
  - Work with the Sheriff's Office to address the increasing law enforcement issues on the island.
  - Work with the county and other local agencies to provide the public services through interlocal agreements.
  - Have a voice for the people of Siesta Key at the County and State level.
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## How do we propose to do it

- We have proposed a Government Lite model as outlined in our feasibility study.
  - We will have 5 full time of employees.
  - Town Council will be made of 5 elected, unpaid members who will be Siesta Key residents.
  - Town hall meetings will be held on the island, making it accessible for residents to express concerns, provide inputs and be heard.
  - We will be able to provide the residents of Siesta these services and benefits for a 0.25 mil ad valorem taxes.
  - The additional tax will cost an average home owner only \$97.65 per year, based on average residential value of \$440,062.
  - Out of out total proposed revenue, 39% is operating expenses and salaries, 36% is infrastructure and 25% is reserves.
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## Our Community Outreach

- Held three live Public Meetings attended by over 275 residents in person.
  - Meetings were also broadcasted on our YouTube Channel “Save Siesta Key” and watched by over 565 residents.
  - Took out ads in local papers and spoke to local press to get our message out.
  - We created a website - [www.SaveSiestaKey.Org](http://www.SaveSiestaKey.Org) to keep the residents informed and engaged with our efforts.
  - Our Facebook page has over 520 likes.
  - Built relationships with local organizations such as Siesta Key Association, Siesta Key Condominium Council and Siesta Key Coalition. These organizations are supporting our efforts to incorporate Siesta Key.
  - We have 25 neighborhood Ambassadors who have gone door to door to educate residents and get petitions signed.
  - We have over 1,870 signed petitions by our residents.
  - We have raised over \$91,000 in donations to fund our efforts.
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# What are we asking

- The 10th amendment of US constitution states, “The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people”.
  - In 1973 Florida Legislature adopted Home Rule by amending its constitution through Article VIII, Section 2(b), thus recognizing that local governments create fair, effective and responsive policies for their citizens.
  - We meet the requirements for incorporation of municipality pursuant to section 165.041 and submitted a feasibility study pursuant to 165.041 (1) (b) before the September 1 deadline.
  - The local delegation or the legislature will not be voting to form the Town of Siesta Key.
  - The local delegation or the legislature will not be voting to impose a 0.25 mil ad valorem tax on Siesta Key residents.
  - You are simply giving the residents of Siesta Key an opportunity to vote in a referendum and make a choice if they want to pay a tax of 0.25 mil to have a local municipality and have their voices be heard.
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We are requesting that you let the residents of Siesta Key vote in a referendum.

Thank you for your time and your consideration for sponsoring the local bill to form the Town of Siesta Key.

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