

- The January proposal to exempt homestead properties from property taxes can significantly reduce the City's General Fund.
- State leaders have mentioned using "excess state funding" to replace lost revenue, but this is not guaranteed.
- Homesteads may not be the largest revenue source, but they still make up a significant portion of the property tax base, so cutting them still impacts the General Fund.
- The DOGE audit task force is focused on finding "waste, fraud, and abuse," which could pressure cities to reduce budgets even further, putting more strain on the General Fund.
- If the Natural Resources Division becomes funded under the General Fund rather than Environmental Protection Fund, these cuts and pressures could affect staffing, enforcement, and environmental programs.
- Florida scrub-jay protections require USFWS coordination and prohibit clearing from March 1-June 30, and enforcing these rules requires trained staff and stable funding.
- Bald eagles, manatees, alligators, and other species also require monitoring and protection, which becomes difficult if the General Fund is reduced.
- If property taxes are reduced or abolished and local control is weakened, it becomes unclear how the City will fund Natural Resources work, endangered species protection, land management, and required environmental compliance.