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New Pasco County Ordinance Supports Local Businesses

~~Commissioners amend Purchasing Ordinance to favor local vendors~~

PASCO COUNTY, FL ---- The competitive playing field has been leveled for local businesses. An innovative, amended [Pasco County](#) Purchasing Ordinance now gives local vendors an opportunity to adjust their bid to match the lowest price submitted to the County.

“This streamlines the process, promotes efficiency, and most importantly, it supports small businesses and helps our folks who live here, work here, and spend their money here,” said Pasco Board of County Commissioners Chairman Mike Wells. “Local vendors get the chance to compete and grow while making sure taxpayers get the best deal on goods and services purchased by Pasco County.”

Amended [Purchasing Ordinance 18-16](#) highlights:

- ✓ Local businesses have the opportunity to match the lowest competing bids to the County
- ✓ For bids less than \$1M, a local business must have bid within 10% of the lowest price offered to exercise a match
- ✓ For bids over \$1M, a local business must have bid within 5% of the lowest price offered to exercise a match
- ✓ Provides incentives for both local and regional businesses in Hillsborough, Pinellas, Polk and Hernando Counties regarding requests for proposals or qualifications (RFP or RSQ)

The new policy also outlines when local preference is not applicable or prohibited, such as when a project being solicited is funded by federal, state, and/or grant funds, or in times of emergencies.

For more information on the Local Vendor Preference Policy, as well as qualifying factors and other updates to the Purchasing Ordinance, please visit bit.ly/PurchasingOrdinance.

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