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## **Citizens' Budget Task Force to hold first meeting June 15**

As Sarasota County commissioners hold budget workshops June 16, 17 and 19, a budget task force of citizens also will begin reviewing the county's proposed fiscal year 2010 budget. The budget task force will hold the first of five public meetings at 6 p.m. Monday, June 15, in the Commission Chamber at the Sarasota County Administration Center, 1660 Ringling Blvd., Sarasota. Residents also can watch the meeting through a live Webcast on scgov.net.

During this introductory session, task force members will receive an extensive overview of the county's organizational management and governmental budgeting process. The following three sessions will focus on business unit budgets where county staff will outline their proposed fiscal year 2010 plans.

The final session will consist of follow-up questions that task force members may ask staff, in addition to any final business before making their report to the county commission on Sept. 8.

Sarasota County Commissioners formed the Budget Task Force on May 12 and appointed members on May 27. The members of the task force are:

- Robert L. Anderson
- R.G. "Kelly" Caldwell Jr.
- Lisa Carlton
- Harrison Fox
- Robert Long
- Eric Resker
- John W. Saputo
- Mary Anne Servian
- Richard Singer
- Joseph J. Welch

"Sarasota County's business community includes innovative entrepreneurs, talented business managers and experienced financial managers," said Commission Chair Jon Thaxton. "It seemed prudent to tap into these local human resources from the private sector to provide a critical and constructive review of the county's budget. Like our recent

“virtual” Town Hall session, it’s another way for the county to engage residents about the part of the budget that’s under the control of the County Commission.”

Residents can also provide feedback about county budget priorities through an online budget tool at [www.scgov.net/CommunityConnections](http://www.scgov.net/CommunityConnections). This web-based survey allows property owners to enter their assessed property value and shows the amount of their property tax bill that pays for services such as fire and emergency medical service, libraries and parks. Property owners can select different levels of service for these areas and see how changing the level of service affects their property tax bill.

For additional information on the budget workshops or the citizens’ budget task force, contact the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000 or go to the county’s Web site at [www.scgov.net](http://www.scgov.net)

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