Centers of Population
Sarasota County, Florida

What is a center of population?

The **center of population** represents a balance point weighted by population. If we imagine Sarasota County as a rigid, flat surface and every resident is represented by an equal weight at his or her place of residence, the center of population is that point where the county would balance. This calculation is also called the mean center of population, or population centroid.

In contrast, the **geographic center**, or centroid, represents the average position of all the points within a shape - in this case, the boundary of Sarasota County.

How is the center of population changing in Sarasota County?

In 1950, Sarasota County's center of population was located near the current intersection of Proctor and Swift Roads. As rates of growth in South County have increased, the centers of population have shifted southeasterly towards the county's geographic center. The most recent calculation, based on the 2010 Census, places the center of population at appproximately 1.5 miles northeast of the I-75 and State Road 681 interchange.

Using small area forecast data, the centers of population in future years can be projected. The data indicate that from 2020 to 2040, high growth rates in South County, particularly in the city of North Port, will continue to draw the population centroids in a southeast direction. The pace of the shift, however, could be offset by potential large developments in northeast Sarasota County.

Sarasota County