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Venice’s highest-paid staffers

Here are the top 10 spots on the city salary list

Earle Kimel
Sarasota Herald-Tribune
USA TODAY NETWORK

The city of Venice employs 407 people, both full and part time, with more

than 70% of the approved \$172.5 million budget for 2025-26 going to salaries. One potentially high value slot, assistant city manager, with a range of \$139,391.23 to \$226,419.73 is still vacant. As part of its effort to review the compensation of local government employees the Herald-Tribune examined official salary data and found the 10 highest paid school district employees.

Top 10 earners in the city of Venice, in terms of base salary, for the 2025-26 fiscal year

- City Manager James Clinch, whose contract as a successor to retiring city manager Ed Lavallee, was approved this summer at \$217,500. Clinch has been employed by the city since January 2012, when he was hired as a stormwa-

ter engineer.

- Finance Director Linda Senne, earns \$197,118.17. She has been employed by the city since December 2010.
- Police Chief Andy Leisenring, who has been chief since January 2025, earns \$185,500. He has been employed by the city since August 2007.

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Trump: Oil tanker seized ‘for a very good reason’

U.S. alleges vessel’s cargo was bound for Cuba

Cybele Mayes-Osterman and Joey Garrison
USA TODAY

The United States has seized an oil tanker off the coast of Venezuela amid a monthslong buildup of military forces surrounding the country, President Donald Trump confirmed Dec. 10.

“As you probably know, we’ve just seized a tanker on the coast of Venezuela,” Trump said at a meeting at the White House. “Largest one ever seized, actually. And other things are happening.”

Trump declined to provide additional details about the tanker to reporters and said the administration would be releasing more information at a later time.

“You see the result, and I guess they probably released the pictures by now – pretty soon,” Trump said. “You’ll discuss that with the appropriate people later on.”

The president added, “It was seized for a very good reason.”

The vessel was under U.S. sanctions, according to three people with knowledge of the matter. They said the cargo on board was owned by a businessman with ties to Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro, and the boat was bound for Cuba, the people said.

The news was first reported by Bloomberg.

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VICTORY ROAR



Mike Lang Sarasota Herald-Tribune | USA TODAY NETWORK

Cardinal Mooney High School’s football team buried every opponent in their path during this year’s playoffs. On Dec. 10, the Sarasota school won their third state title, defeating Jacksonville Bolles 52-28 in Miami. Cougars quarterback Devin Mignery, above, celebrates the victory with fans.

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