



BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS

2012 STATE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



Ilene Lieberman
District 1
954-357-7001



Vice Mayor
Kristin Jacobs
District 2
954-357-7002



Stacy Ritter
District 3
954-357-7003



Chip LaMarca
District 4
954-357-7004



Lois Wexler
District 5
954-357-7005



Sue Gunzburger
District 6
954-357-7006



Mayor
John E. Rodstrom, Jr.
District 7
954-357-7007



Barbara Sharief
District 8
954-357-7008



Dale V.C. Holness
District 9
954-357-7009

2012 STATE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

The Office of Intergovernmental Affairs and Professional Standards (OIAPS) is pleased to present the Broward County 2012 State Legislative Program. This program reflects the legislative and appropriations priorities and fundamental principles of Broward County and serves as the basis for the County's advocacy efforts in Tallahassee. The respective sections summarize:

Section I – The County's 2012 Legislative Priorities.

Section II – The County's Appropriations Priorities.

Section III – The Legislative Proposals submitted by County Departments, Offices and Divisions for the 2012 Session.

Section IV – The County's Fundamental Principles.

Section V – The Local Bills submitted to the Broward Legislative Delegation for the 2012 Session.

The Office of Intergovernmental Affairs and Professional Standards hopes that this 2012 State Legislative Program will be a useful source of information.

Sincerely,

OIAPS Intergovernmental Affairs Team

Gretchen M. Harkins, Director
Edward G. Labrador
Susan T. Harbin
Christopher A. Brown
Daphnee A. Sainvil

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2012 PRIORITIES

CAMERA CITATIONS FOR DECEASED PERSONS

Support adding an exemption to existing law prohibiting local governments from issuing red light camera citations to deceased persons.

CRIME LAB FUNDING

Support additional funding to address the existing funding disparity between state and locally-operated crime analysis laboratories.

DESTINATION RESORT GAMING

Support the location of at least one resort in the County in parity with the number of licenses issued to other counties. Destination Resort Gaming legislation should include economic development provisions that guarantee the creation of local jobs.

FIREARMS REGULATION

Support amending state law to provide that it is unlawful to carry a handgun, concealed weapon, or firearm within certain governmental buildings or at certain meetings or events in Broward County.

JUVENILE JUSTICE

Oppose any efforts to shift additional Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) costs to counties and strongly oppose counties compensating the state for any unfunded mandates regarding juvenile justice. Further, the Board opposes eliminating state financial responsibility for juvenile detention, thus fully shifting the pre-dispositional secure detention funding and operational obligation to counties, unless the state appropriates money to fund juvenile detention upon delegating full responsibility to counties. We support the recommendations jointly presented by counties and DJJ to the Governor, through the efforts of the workgroup created in 2011 proviso, to reform the juvenile justice system. The Board supports legislation that provides opportunities for counties to develop, invest in, and implement alternatives to divert children and youth from secure detention facilities and opposes any policy increasing numbers of youth in adult facilities. The Board supports legislation that improves the accountability of the educational systems within juvenile detention facilities.

LOCAL BUSINESS TAX RECEIPTS

Oppose any efforts to repeal or reduce local business tax receipts.

MEDICAID REFORM

Oppose any efforts to further limit Medicaid access or eligibility and oppose efforts to increase the County share of funding for nursing home or inpatient hospital services. Support repealing elements of Medicaid Reform that limit or reduce cost-effective, in-home care.

OCEAN OUTFALL

Support legislation to amend the state's Ocean Outfall law to provide fiscal relief for taxpayers and local residents while also providing protection of our natural resources.

ONLINE TRAVEL COMPANIES

Support amending existing transient rental tax law and local tourist development tax law to confirm that online travel companies utilizing a "merchant" or similar business model must collect and remit all state transient rental and local tourist development taxes when receiving from a customer the consideration for the lease or rental of a hotel room or other transient accommodation.

PORT ISSUES

Support substantially increasing the state's strategic funding partnership with Florida's seaports and developing alternatives to fund vital capital improvement projects. To this end, the Board supports a regionally based, multimodal investment strategy addressing infrastructure and terminal connectors, including building the physical capacity to support increases in freight movement. The strategy should also identify a source of funding for a freight mobility program; promote free trade agreements through strong international trade relations; and foster economic growth for seaports through expanded global business opportunities.

SOUTH FLORIDA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (SRFTA)

Oppose legislation that weakens the three counties' home rule powers by eliminating each County Commission's ability to appoint local, citizen members to the SFRTA. The SFRTA governing board is comprised of nine members, including three citizen members, one appointed by each of the Broward, Miami-Dade, and Palm Beach counties' commissions. In addition, the Board opposes gubernatorial appointments to the SFRTA from outside the tri-county area. The Board further opposes any effort to weaken the SFRTA's independent exercise of statutory powers, especially as they relate to governance and/or operations.

STATE HOUSING INITIATIVE PARTNERSHIP (SHIP) PROGRAM

Support legislation to effectively address the ongoing need for affordable, accessible housing by dedicating a revenue source for affordable housing, benefiting eligible very low, low and moderate income persons in Broward County.

APPROPRIATIONS PRIORITIES

AVIATION GRANT PROGRAM

Support state funding for airport development that is no less than that which is proposed by Florida Department of Transportation in the Tentative Work Plan for FY 2012-13.

BEACH RENOURISHMENT

Support the protection and retention of the dedicated use of documentary stamp revenues for beach erosion programs throughout the state of Florida. Seek a state appropriation to support the construction of the Segment II Beach Renourishment Project as a federally reimbursable project.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES AND JAIL DIVERSION

Support restoration and maintenance of state funding for adult community mental health and substance abuse services and elimination of the requirement for local matching funds to supplement funding of such services. Allocation of Broward County resources for adult mental health and substance abuse services should be at the sole discretion of the local governing body. Support protecting current levels of funding for Substance Abuse and Mental Health Community Project grants and funding to sustain and expand jail diversion programs for persons with mental illness. Additionally, support maintaining state funding for community mental health and substance abuse services for children and adolescents.

CHILD PROTECTION TEAMS (CPT)

Oppose the reduction of funding to the Florida Department of Health/Children's Medical Services (DOH/CMS) which funds Child Protection Teams (CPT) throughout the state, including Broward County. Support restoring CMS-CPT overall program funds as recurring funds to ensure their continuation as a permanent part of the state budget. Support keeping the CPT system under the management of CMS in the DOH and oppose moving the system to any other department through reorganization.

COMMUNITY CARE FOR THE ELDERLY

Support cost-effective, evidence-based programs that serve frail elders and allow older adults to "age in place." Specifically, support increased funding to the Community Care for the Elderly (CCE) program that is no less than that which is proposed by the Florida Department of Elder Affairs FY 2012-13 Legislative Budget Request. Oppose any cuts to programs targeting community-based services for elders, which save the state of Florida millions of dollars in emergency and nursing home care, while offering autonomy and dignity to aging citizens.

HOMELESSNESS

Support restoring funding to the Homeless Housing Assistance Grant (HHAG) program to produce new permanent housing units for persons experiencing homelessness and support continued funding for the Homeless Challenge Grant through the state Office on Homelessness.

LIBRARY GRANTS-IN-AID

Support full funding of libraries.

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

ANIMAL FINES

Amend state law to authorize local governments to retain animal fines for furtherance of community animal welfare initiatives.

AVIATION FUEL TAX EXEMPTION

Oppose attempts to waive, reduce or suspend aviation fuel taxes on a statewide or local basis.

COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES TAX

Oppose legislation that would cap or reduce the communication services tax.

ELECTRONIC RABIES CERTIFICATES

Amend state law to allow veterinarians to electronically submit rabies certificates to Animal Control Authorities.

FILM AND ENTERTAINMENT TRANSFERABLE TAX CREDIT PROGRAM

Amend state law to remove the cap on the amount of tax credit funds that are available for TV series and pilot productions in the Film and Entertainment Industry Tax Incentive Program and allow advertising agencies to qualify for the commercial queue in the tax credit.

LOST PERSONAL PROPERTY

Amend state law to provide authorization for public transit systems to dispose of abandoned or lost property.

MEDICAL EXAMINER ACCESS TO DRIVER AND VEHICLE INFORMATION DATABASE

Amend state law to authorize access to a motorist's identifying and emergency contact information by the medical examiner through the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicle's Driver and Vehicle Information Database.

OFFSHORE DRILLING

Support continuance of the prohibition against leases or permits for drilling oil or gas wells within the boundaries of Florida's territorial seas or the Everglades and oppose any legislation that negatively impacts the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's authority to block requests for offshore drilling in federal waters off Florida's coast.

PRETRIAL RELEASE

Oppose new restrictions to pretrial release for criminal defendants.

PROCESS OF ELECTRONIC PERMITS AND PLANS

Amend Florida law to remove barriers to electronic processing of building plans and permits.

PROPERTY ASSESSED CLEAN ENERGY (PACE)

Support passage of a Memorial to the United States Congress that calls for the removal of federal barriers to local Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) initiatives that are intended to assist property owners in financing energy efficiency and renewable energy improvements.

PUBLIC MEETINGS VIA ELECTRONIC MEDIA

Amend state law to allow local government advisory boards to conduct public meetings via electronic media technology.

SEXUAL PREDATORS

Support strengthening current law to ensure the safety of children from sexual offenders and predators.

TITLE V FUNDING

Amend state law to enable direct pass-through funding of Title V air pollution fees to approved local air pollution control programs. In the absence of direct pass-through, support preservation of current statutes establishing local pollution control programs and establishing funding to local air pollution control programs through the Air Pollution Control Trust Fund.

TRIM NOTICES

Amend state law to allow counties to notice taxpayers of the portion/percentage of property taxes attributed to the Constitutional Officers.

FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES

BROWARD COUNTY – LOCAL GOVERNMENT

CONSUMER PROTECTION

Broward County has been a leader in the enactment of ordinances to protect its residents against unfair and deceptive trade practices. The Board supports legislation that provides increased consumer protection for Florida residents. The Board opposes legislation which would preempt local consumer protection including, but not limited to, taxi and limousine permits, moving services and used cars.

CULTURAL SERVICES

The Board supports a vision statement and strategic goal for cultural amenities and recreation, which includes raising community awareness of the need for diverse cultural and historic amenities and programs and maintaining a network of parks and libraries that provide a variety of recreation and learning opportunities. An objective of this goal is to increase attendance and expand opportunities for participation in arts and cultural events. Recognizing the significant role that arts and culture play in our economy and quality of life, the Board supports legislation that promotes and enhances arts, culture and historic preservation. The Board also supports the continuation of recurring funding for cultural affairs and historic preservation appropriations requests, including capital projects. The Board also supports increased statewide funding for the Entertainment Industry Financial Incentive Program.

Additionally, libraries are a free resource to the community that bring various learning opportunities to all. The Board supports full funding of State Aid to Libraries based on the current statutory formula providing counties a match for every local dollar spent.

ELECTIONS

The Board supports legislation amending state law to allow the Supervisor of Elections (SOE) to designate municipal community centers as early voting sites in addition to city halls, SOE branch offices and public library facilities.

FLORIDA RETIREMENT SYSTEM

The Board opposes any effort by the state to capture ad valorem tax savings realized by counties as a result of the 2011 pension reform legislation, Chapter 2011-68, Laws of Florida, or to sweep any equivalent amounts from state revenues shared with county governments.

HUMAN RESOURCES

As major employers in the state of Florida, county commissions are directly accountable to thousands of residents and employees. County commissions are responsible at the local level for fiscal, administrative and personnel decision-making. The Board supports home rule ability to effectively manage, at the local level, all aspects of employee salary and benefit packages in the best interest of taxpayers and employees. The Board supports the ability to protect the privacy and safety of its employees.

REAPPORTIONMENT/REDISTRICTING

The Board supports congressional reapportionment plans and state legislative redistricting plans that, respectively:

- Promote the racial, ethnic and political diversity of Broward County; and
- In accordance with Article III, §20 and §21 of the Florida Constitution, ensure the adequate representation of Broward County's residents in Congress and the Florida Legislature.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

A major goal of county government is to encourage economic development to promote a full range of high-wage/high-skilled employment, as well as business and housing opportunities, which lead to improving the economy, increasing the tax base, and encouraging diversity. The Board supports policies to enhance economic development utilizing various tools and incentives to induce business expansion, targeted industry retention, new capital investment and job creation. The Board supports the County's evolution into a global center for trade and investment. The Board supports legislation reviving or reenacting the Florida-Caribbean Basin Trade Initiative. The Board supports legislation that promotes and enhances the growth of foreign direct investment, domestic and international trade, and travel and tourism as facilitated by its Office of Economic and Small Business Development, Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention & Visitors Bureau, Port Everglades Department and Aviation Department (Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport). The Board also supports programs and efforts providing capital formation for small and emerging businesses, the expansion and creation of enterprise zones, and commercial revitalization projects that create jobs and help to enhance redevelopment in all economically-distressed areas of the County. The Board opposes legislation that results in a disadvantage for County economic development, in general, and tourism, seaport, aviation and transportation, specifically, and legislation which impedes the County's ability to make competitive business decisions.

EMERGING AND SMALL BUSINESS ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

Recognizing the significant role business plays in our economy, the Board encourages the growth and development of emerging and small business enterprises within our geographical boundaries. The Board supports policies and legislation that assist small, minority and women-owned businesses through such capacity building components as access to banking and financing, insurance and bonding, business development and management technical assistance, and mentor-protégée programming. Specifically, the Board supports the creation of small business loan programs targeted to small and emerging businesses in Broward County. In addition, the Board supports prompt payment of contractors and subcontractors.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

The Board supports legislation that promotes energy efficiency. The Board supports legislation calling for greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to be reduced to 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050. The Board supports legislation that provides technical assistance and funding for counties to implement GHG emissions reduction programs. The Board also supports modes of transportation that encourage fewer cars on the road, such as public transit and transportation that utilizes alternative/clean fuels.

CLIMATE ADAPTATION PLANNING

Florida is considered one of the most vulnerable regions in the country to the consequences of climate change, with Southeast Florida on the frontline to experience impacts such as sea level rise. In recognition of this, the Board supports legislation that provides for greater incorporation of adaptation strategies in the development and implementation of state climate and energy legislation and appropriations priorities, and any other efforts designed to protect public infrastructure, property, water resources, natural resources and basic quality of life from the impacts of climate change. In particular, the Board supports legislation passed during the 2011 Legislative Session which authorizes local governments to designate Adaptation Action Areas within their comprehensive plans, to include those areas that experience coastal flooding and that are vulnerable to the related impacts of sea level rise. The Board opposes any efforts to repeal this legislation or any initiatives that may serve to weaken the advances made to further climate preparedness, risk management, and hazard mitigation.

FLORIDA QUALIFIED ENERGY CONSERVATION BONDS (QECCB)

The Board recognizes the contributions of the commercial and residential sectors to regional GHG emissions and the need to incentivize energy efficiency improvements and renewable energy installations through low cost finance strategies. The Board supports state efforts to expand the energy efficient finance options available to local governments, residents, and businesses. Through a U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Program and pursuant to DOE Guidance on July 27, 2010, that requires Legislative and/or Executive Office approval, the state of Florida is able to access \$190 million in Qualified Energy Conservation Bond (QECCB) funds. The Board supports necessary legislative or executive action to allow local governments to access portions of Florida's QECCB allocation, in accordance with DOE guidelines.

RENEWABLE ENERGY PORTFOLIO STANDARD

The Board supports the passage of legislation that establishes a renewable energy portfolio standard of 20 percent renewable energy by 2020 and which defines renewable energy sources as wind, solar, geothermal, biomass, landfill gas, qualified hydropower, marine and hydrokinetic energy, and nuclear energy.

SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) ENERGY

The Board supports legislation that streamlines the permitting and regulatory processes for solar product manufacturers, installers and consumers. The Board further supports legislation reducing burdensome regulations on solar manufacturers and products that hamper solar photovoltaic (PV) market penetration.

The Board supports legislation encouraging direct financing, tax refunds, rebates or other economic incentives to encourage and facilitate solar PV energy use in residential and commercial properties. The Board further supports incentives to promote the use of solar power purchase agreements and solar leases. Additionally, the Board supports legislation authorizing local governments to create energy financing districts on a voluntary basis.

SOUTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE COMPACT COUNTIES 2012 LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

For the purposes of continued regional collaboration and joint advocacy with the Compact Counties of Broward, Palm Beach, Miami-Dade and Monroe, the Board renews support for the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact Counties 2011 State and Federal Climate Legislative Program, which includes, but is not limited to, the following specific provisions:

Adaptation Action Areas

Support programs and efforts that provide technical assistance and funding to local governments to aid the integration of adaptation planning in local comprehensive plans. Support funding for adaptation planning and investments in the areas of water management, water supply, transportation and other projects that provide hazard mitigation and serve to reduce immediate and long-term risks to infrastructure.

Electric Generation Fuels

Oppose policies, legislation and incentives designed to facilitate the construction or expansion of coal-fired electric generation within the state of Florida as a strategy for "fuel diversity."

Energy Efficiency

Support energy efficiency and renewable energy finance options to advance greenhouse gas emissions goals, alternative and renewable energy technologies, and green sector economic development. Support stringent energy efficiency and conservation targets set by the Florida Public Service Commission pursuant to the Florida Energy Efficiency & Conservation Act, as amended. Oppose policies and legislation designed to undermine energy efficiency and conservation targets contained within the Florida Energy Efficiency & Conservation Act, as amended.

Energy Finance Options

Support energy finance options that provide both local and regional opportunities, including legislative action to allow local governments to access a portion of the state's Qualified Energy Conservation Bond funds allocation, in accordance with DOE Guidelines.

Everglades

Support greater recognition of the role of Everglades Restoration in planning for economic and environmental sustainability and climate adaptation, including the impacts of sea level rise and extreme weather, such as droughts and floods.

Renewable Portfolio Standards

Support state policies that promote alternative energy use such as renewable energy portfolio standards (RPS) for utilities and tax credits for homeowners installing small-scale renewable systems.

Transportation Investment Priorities

Recognize areas identified as Adaptation Action Areas, or other areas subject to the impacts of sea level rise in the prioritization of future transportation infrastructure project funding.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

AIR QUALITY

Clean air is an essential natural resource that is important to public health, our environment and our economy. Poor air quality can have a significant impact on public health, business, property and tourism. The Board supports the goals of the Clean Air Act and specifically legislation that would reduce air pollution and the adverse health impacts of poor air quality such as chronic respiratory ailments, asthma, cardiovascular disease and premature mortality.

ANIMALS

Shark finning is a practice in which a shark is caught, solely to have its fins removed, and then returned to the water, causing the animal to ultimately die as a result of starvation or predation. The practice has grown worldwide, despite existing federal and international laws banning shark finning, due to demand for shark fins in certain areas of the world where the fins are consumed as a delicacy. The Board supports state legislation prohibiting the possession, sale, or distribution of shark fins in Florida or in Florida waters.

BEACHES

Florida's beaches are a critical part of the state's travel and tourism industry, generating jobs and local, state and federal tax revenues. Beaches are also the first line of defense against hurricane and storm surge threats to life and property. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' studies confirm that healthy beaches reduce flood damage to coastal properties, resulting in a reduction in federal disaster rehabilitation payouts. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection estimates that more than one-third of Florida's 787 miles of beaches are in a state of critical erosion. The Board supports the restoration to previous levels of the dedicated use of documentary stamp revenues for beach erosion programs throughout the state of Florida in order to protect and maintain these essential elements that are vital to our environmental and economic infrastructure. The Board supports and encourages the state of Florida to study and promote methodologies, in addition to sand replenishment, which would prevent or repair beach erosion.

ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS

The Board has long valued its ability to protect the County's natural resources, including its sole source aquifer, the Biscayne Aquifer, through environmental regulatory programs such as surface water management, pollution prevention, natural systems, and air quality. The Board opposes any legislation that lessens environmental protection at the local level, including preemption of local environmental regulatory

authority such as through uniform statewide rules and standards on issues related to environmental regulations and enforcement. The Board opposes any reduction of funding to local environmental programs, particularly funding from the Inland Protection Trust Fund and the Air Trust Fund. In addition, the Board opposes any efforts that would negatively impact the County's ability to regulate air and water quality or the County's wetlands and marine resources, including through its delegated authority to implement the state Environmental Resource Permit (ERP) Program.

EVERGLADES RESTORATION

The Board supports Everglades restoration, recognizing that improving water quality is a key component to restoring the Everglades, and supports land acquisition as a means to achieve water quality benefits.

The Board further recognizes that Everglades restoration is key to regional climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts. The expansive acreage of the Everglades, and enhancements to be gained through the River of Grass land purchase, provide the most significant opportunities for vegetative carbon sequestration in South Florida. Furthermore, rehydration of the Everglades will help to ensure adequate freshwater supply in the face of rising sea levels. The Board supports continued Everglades restoration as part of a regional climate change strategy. The Board supports the construction of, and state and federal funding for, the Broward County Water Preserve Area (WPA), and the de-compartmentalization of projects important to Broward County and the success of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP). Additionally, the Board recognizes that the Everglades and associated CERP projects contribute valuable educational and recreational benefits to residents and tourists. The Board strongly supports construction of, and state and federal funding for, 13 miles of trail and other recreational components of the WPA, and supports collaboration with the South Florida Water Management District to share operation and management of the recreational components of the WPA.

FLORIDA FOREVER/LAND ACQUISITION PROGRAM

Land acquisition programs and initiatives are critical to preserving and protecting the state's endangered natural resources. The Board supports local, state, and federal land acquisition programs and initiatives, and urges the Legislature to fund Florida Forever, the state's landmark land acquisition program.

OCEAN OUTFALLS

In 2008, the Legislature amended the ocean outfall law to provide for the elimination of ocean outfalls by 2025 and provide for interim advanced wastewater treatment and management requirements by 2018. In 2011, legislation favorable to Broward County and other local governments in Southeast Florida was considered but failed during the final hours of the Session. The Board supports legislation to amend the state's ocean outfall law to provide fiscal relief for taxpayers and local residents while also providing protection of our natural resources. To this end, the Board supports legislation that will: extend the date for meeting advanced wastewater treatment and management; maintain current law that allows backup discharges of a functioning domestic wastewater reuse system after December 31, 2025; require that the backup reuse discharge meets equivalent advanced wastewater treatment standards providing that backup discharges do not exceed a five-year rolling average; allow the continued discharge of up to 5 percent of the annual facility flow for peak flow management, providing the peak flow discharges meet applicable secondary wastewater treatment and water quality based effluent limitations; and allow utilities to meet at a future date with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the South Florida Water Management District to modify mandated reuse requirements depending on reuse needs.

WATER POLICY

The Board supports Florida's existing water law that is based on the principles that water is a public resource and that water allocations may not be sold or transferred. The Board supports current law which provides sufficient protection for water and natural resources while also providing for reasonable and beneficial

uses of water for the public. The Board opposes any efforts to modify Chapter 373 in a way that would significantly amend the fundamentals of existing Florida Water Law. The Board further opposes any efforts to establish a statewide, centralized water authority to oversee statewide water distribution with potential implications for local water supply and water resource management. The Board supports policies that recognize conservation activities as a viable water supply planning option, reducing the need to develop other alternative water supplies, and projects which can be offset by conservation strategies. The Board supports funding for water conservation activities that provide measurable results. The Board supports policies that offer local governments flexibility in the pursuit of alternative water supplies and consideration of regional, multijurisdictional water supply projects, as well as dedicated and continued funding for Alternative Water Supply projects and legislative changes that would improve the project planning and development process to better meet the growing water supply needs of the County.

WATER QUALITY

The Board supports the protection of surface waters and groundwater and the establishment of numeric water quality standards that are scientifically defensible. The Board supports the establishment of standards that protect existing water quality and the designated uses of surface waterbodies and connected downstream systems. The Board opposes the establishment of numeric water quality criteria that are unnecessarily restrictive and do not reflect the range of water quality capable of supporting a designated use, as well as those that do not allow for the natural variability measured in aquatic ecosystems.

The Board supports the environmental protections provided through implementation of the Clean Water Act and recognizes the important role of local governments to develop rules and regulations needed to improve and protect the quality of waterbodies and downstream systems. The Board supports the authority of local governments to develop and implement programs and regulations to reduce nutrient loads to impaired water bodies and water resources of concern. Specifically, the Board supports the authority of governments to adopt local fertilizer ordinances and opposes legislation that would preempt local governments from adopting standards more restrictive than the Model Ordinance. Additionally, the Board supports regulations that require regular maintenance of septic tanks.

FINANCE AND TAX

Counties need a revenue base that serves local needs and adequately finances the services and programs required by state and federal mandates. Taxpayer Bill of Rights (TABOR) and other proposals seeking to limit the growth of ad valorem taxes have been considered during recent sessions of the Legislature. In many cases, these proposals are one-size-fits-all measures that cap local government spending and revenue to a defined base amount, plus inflation and population growth, or establish an unrealistic "aggregate" property tax cap. The effects of the ongoing recession, along with revenue reductions resulting from the 2008 passage of HB 1B and Amendment 1, have strained the County's ability to provide needed services to its residents as well as restricted the future recovery of revenue growth. These provisions would further limit local governments' already decreasing tax base and stress the County's continued obligation to provide essential services and ensure a good quality of life for its residents. Accordingly, the Board opposes any legislative or constitutional efforts to impose expenditure or revenue caps on local governments. The Board also opposes any efforts that further erode the capability of local governments to fulfill their financial obligations or provide necessary services to their residents. The Board further opposes reductions or exemptions to current state tax revenue sources, unless replacement funding sources or reductions in mandates are included. The Board additionally opposes any efforts to repeal or reduce local business tax receipts.

COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES

The advent of communications technology presents considerable opportunities for counties to enhance the quality of life in communities by providing regulatory powers over communication services in order to protect

the health, safety and welfare of the public. There are significant fiscal and policy implications that will require prompt and thoughtful decisions about zoning, taxation, consumer protection and local government infrastructure. The Board supports establishing an equitable system that promotes improvements to the state and local tax and fee structure for products and services that will strengthen Florida's economy while maintaining revenue neutrality for local governments. The Board supports preserving local government's responsibility to manage resources, including but not limited to, public rights-of-way.

STREAMLINED SALES TAX

The Board opposes federal efforts to institute a permanent ban prohibiting states from collecting sales taxes on online commerce, given that such a ban would have serious financial consequences for state and local governments. The Board supports legislation to bring Florida law into compliance with the Streamlined Sales Tax Agreement to simplify and modernize the state's sales and use tax administration and collection, and allow the state to require that remote vendors collect and remit Florida's state and local option sales tax. The sales tax revenue loss from increasing e-commerce sales is, and has been, detrimental to Broward County and specifically to cultural programs that receive funding from this revenue source.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Broward County recognizes the importance of providing basic human services to protect and assist residents in need and has demonstrated its commitment to residents by providing County funding for the delivery of health and human services with the purpose of promoting wellness and achieving self-sufficiency.

- The Board supports local involvement in the formulation and implementation of policies that protect the health, mental health, safety and welfare of Florida's residents.
- The Board supports the establishment of formalized data sharing processes between state agencies, counties, cities and locally funded programs for planning and reporting to funders and other boards to streamline and reduce service duplication.
- The Board supports local involvement in the formulation, selection and implementation of any local "Management Entity" that may be contracted to distribute Department of Children and Families, substance abuse and mental health funding designated for Broward County residents.
- The Board supports legislation revising definitions of incapacity and incompetence and clarifying health care surrogate and living will directives.
- The Board supports community resources to assure individuals with disabilities reside in the least restrictive settings, with appropriate, associated long-term care.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

The Board opposes any legislation that erodes the ability of local, voter-approved entities to determine the best use of local resources. The Board supports the continuation of local, voter-approved, independent bodies, with a dedicated and stable funding source that improves the lives of the County's children.

The Board supports legislation and/or funding allocations to increase the number of eligible children enrolled in Medicaid and KidCare to enable them to access needed physical and behavioral healthcare services.

The Board supports implementation of parent-friendly screening tools to promote early identification and intervention of developmental delays and disabilities in children.

The Board supports reinstating the role of Department of Health (DOH) in the regulation of Food Service and Environmental Health physical plant inspections in child care facilities. This function was removed from DOH during the 2010 State Legislative Session (HB 5311), and reassigned to the Department of Children and Families (DCF). The food inspection function is consistent with the core mission of DOH to

provide environmental health services and this specialized function requires qualified and trained staff with expertise in environmental health to ensure children are not exposed to any public health risks or danger to their health and safety.

ENTITLEMENT BENEFITS OR INCARCERATED PERSONS

The Board supports enforcing state law requiring that entitlement benefits are suspended, rather than terminated, during jail stays of 364 days or fewer. The Board supports providing health care to inmates and arrestees at a rate no higher than 10 percent above Medicaid reimbursement rates.

HIV/AIDS

The Board supports adequate and equitable funding for human services from state agencies' budgets and opposes any funding reductions by the state in the areas of health, HIV core medical services, mental health substance abuse, and services to children, families and the elderly, recently incarcerated and those transitioning back to communities, including the homeless.

The Board supports expanded access to the Florida AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) by locating program services in community health centers and local community pharmacies. The Board supports patient adherence and increased availability of antiretroviral and opportunistic infection medications, as well as over the counter medications required by low income and uninsured HIV positive persons to successfully manage their disease. The Board supports implementation of National HIV/AIDS Strategy goals in state funded programs.

The Board supports full funding of the Florida ADAP in order to: 1) significantly reduce or eliminate the increasing number of individuals put on ADAP waiting lists; 2) restore the drugs removed from the Florida ADAP formulary, access to which is vital to effectively treat and manage chronic conditions common among individuals living with HIV/AIDS; and 3) keep the income eligibility criteria for the program at 400 percent of the federal poverty level.

HOMELESSNESS

The Board opposes inappropriately discharging persons from publicly funded institutions, such as hospitals, foster care and prisons, who are homeless and in need of step-down shelter and housing. The Board supports efforts to promote housing-first strategies throughout the state of Florida as part of the homeless services continuum of care.

The Board supports legislation that provides tax credits to businesses that hire and continuously employ homeless individuals who reside in transitional or permanent shelters or housing facilities.

The Board supports the efforts of Florida's Council on Homelessness to develop and coordinate policies that reduce the prevalence and duration of homelessness. The Board also supports the continuation of funding for the state Office on Homelessness as it coordinates resources and programs across all levels of government and the private sector to serve the state's homeless population.

INSURANCE COVERAGE PARITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION

The Board supports a health insurance mandate requiring any size health insurance plan, including individual plans, to cover early detection, therapy services and other forms of treatment for children under 18 years of age with developmental disabilities, including Down's Syndrome and spina bifida.

The Board supports efforts to encourage living organ donation, which include, but are not limited to, ensuring individuals donating organs and/or bone marrow are not denied health insurance coverage throughout the voluntary procedure, nor excluded from health or life insurance coverage subsequently, on the basis of having a "pre-existing" medical condition. The Board supports adequate Medicaid reimbursement for all organ transplants at the same rates used by Medicare or use of a global fee which takes into account actual costs.

The Board supports insurance parity legislation, requiring coverage for behavioral health services and ensuring behavioral health care is provided through general health insurance policies.

The Board supports individuals and families receiving access to a full range of mental health and/or substance abuse treatment options through private and public health insurance plans. This specifically includes the provision of intensive home based behavioral health services for children to support ensuring that adequate treatment is provided in the least restrictive environment.

MEDICAID REFORM

The Board opposes any efforts to further limit Medicaid access or eligibility and opposes efforts to increase the County share of funding for nursing home or inpatient hospital services. Additionally, considerable reductions to home care programs are causing children and adults of all ages to be moved out of their homes and into facilities, whose associated costs are significantly higher than in-home care. The Board supports repealing any elements of Medicaid Reform that limit or reduce cost-effective, in-home care.

MEDICALLY NEEDED FUNDING

The Board supports the continued funding of the Medically Needy Program to assist residents with their prescription needs and supports the reduction of the co-payment amount.

OLDER ADULTS

The Board supports cost-effective, evidence-based programs serving frail elders and allowing older adults to “age in place.” The Board supports Florida’s home and community-based care programs (Community Care for the Elderly, Home Care for the Elderly and the Aging and Disabled Adult Medicaid Waiver Program). The Board supports funding of Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRC) to coordinate long-term, home- and community-based care services and opposes efforts to increase counties’ contributions to Medicaid Nursing Home share.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Broward County is committed to programs that assist in linking people with substance abuse issues into care to help prevent the transmission of blood borne diseases that are spread through exchange of used syringes. The Board supports efforts to remove legal barriers on the use of funding for disease prevention for evidence-based syringe exchange programs.

The Board supports legislative approval of rulemaking related to the regulation of pain management clinics or “pill mills.” The Board is committed to preventing the proliferation of the sale and use of new drugs, such as synthetic marijuana, bath salts, and “blue meth.” The Board is further committed to preventing the sale and marketing of smoking-related devices specifically designed to appeal to children and youth.

HOME RULE/GOVERNANCE

ANNEXATION

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Broward County’s 2010 unincorporated resident population is 16,357, or approximately 0.9 percent of the total population of 1,748,066 (Note: these population numbers include those in group quarters). These residents occupy approximately 12.6 square miles (about 2.9 percent of the land area which can be developed) in several recognized neighborhoods and other small areas spread throughout the County in parcels of varying size.

These scattered neighborhoods present a service delivery challenge for the County. In response to this circumstance, in 1995 the Broward County Legislative Delegation’s Ad Hoc Committee on Annexation Policy (Committee) recommended that all remaining unincorporated areas be annexed, with the exception of the

Conservation Areas and lands occupied by regional County facilities. The Board supports full annexation and the policies contained within the Committee's report.

The Board supports the use of straw ballots, opinion polls, or any other reasonable method of measurement to substantiate the wishes of the unincorporated residents as it relates to their annexation options.

ARTICLE V COSTS

Article V, §14, of the Florida Constitution divides the funding responsibilities for the state courts system, state attorneys, public defenders, court-appointed counsel, and clerks of the circuit and county courts, between the state and Florida's 67 counties.

Despite the clear division of Article V funding responsibilities in the state constitution, the Legislature has continued to expand the counties' responsibilities to fund the state's court system and associated elements.

The Board strongly urges the state to take responsibility for fully funding the state's court system and opposes the Legislature's continuing efforts to expand counties' funding responsibilities beyond the specific items authorized in Article V, §14(c) of the state constitution. The Board calls on the Legislature to repeal existing statutory provisions mandating that counties fund responsibilities not found in the state constitution or that require counties to automatically increase court expenditure levels without appropriate review and budgetary justification. The Board supports the continuation and enhancement of the recording fee distributed to counties to fund the court-related technology needs of the state attorneys, public defenders, and state trial courts, but opposes the distribution of these limited funds to other entities. The Board also supports the continuation and enhancement of other state imposed and local option court costs and fees, along with providing flexibility in using such costs and fees, to fund court-related local programs as deemed appropriate by counties.

EMINENT DOMAIN

Eminent domain is just one of the tools available to local governments to ensure the development of necessary public infrastructure. The Florida Constitution and implementing statutory laws provide adequate protections to make sure property owners are fully compensated when their private property is taken by government for public use. Accordingly, the Board opposes legislation that further restricts or preempts the powers of local government to effectively address critical infrastructure projects and other economic development projects that are vital to the economic prosperity of Broward County and the state of Florida.

FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

The Board supports the Florida Association of Counties (FAC) Legislative Program and Guiding Principles unless specific issues conflict with Broward County positions.

HOME RULE

Broward County is dedicated to the fundamental concept that the government closest to the people is the appropriate authority to serve the needs and requirements of the community. The Board supports maintaining the integrity of home rule power, which allows counties to develop and implement solutions to local problems. As a charter County, the Board opposes legislative efforts that interfere with governance or local government administration.

The Board supports allowing local governments to have the option of complying with state public notice requirements through the use of electronic online advertising on publicly accessible websites. Meeting notices, proposed ordinances, resolutions, land use changes, bid notices, special elections or referenda, and budget information are among the types of public notifications which can be efficiently and effectively posted to the Internet for public notice.

The Board opposes legislation that pre-empts the ability of local governments to promulgate smoke-free air policies in workplaces and public places.

SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY/GOVERNMENTAL LIABILITY

Florida statutory law waives the sovereign immunity of the state, its agencies and subdivisions for tort liability. The waiver, found in §768.28, Florida Statutes, increased on October 1, 2011 to \$200,000 per person or \$300,000 per incident as a result of the Legislature's passage of Chapter 2010-26, Laws of Florida, during the 2010 Regular Session. Limitation on the waiver of sovereign immunity is justified by strong, long-standing public policy grounds including: 1) protecting the public treasuries from excessive incursions; 2) preserving governmental discretion thus enabling flexible decision-making without risking liability; 3) preventing excessive judicial entanglements in the discretionary functions of the executive and legislative branches; 4) protecting the orderly administration of government; and 5) minimizing the chilling effect lawsuits may have on law enforcement officials carrying out their duties.

Expanding governmental liability by increasing sovereign immunity waiver limits, eliminating rules governing apportionment of fault amongst all responsible persons regardless of whether such persons have been made parties to the particular action brought by the claimant, or by otherwise weakening other tort-related protections enjoyed by private and governmental defendants alike, will result in unwanted consequences. An increase in the number of frivolous claims, lawsuits, or costs associated with litigation could result in significant negative impacts to many Florida local governments.

Accordingly, the Board opposes any legislative efforts to increase or eliminate the sovereign immunity waiver limitations in §768.28, Florida Statutes, or weaken other tort-related protections governmental entities otherwise enjoy as defendant parties. The Board further opposes any legislative efforts increasing local governments' risk of liability including legislation creating new, or expanding existing, causes of action and/or providing for recovery of attorneys' fees and costs.

UNFUNDED MANDATES

Frequent state directives mandate local governments to provide services or programs without providing appropriate revenue or funding sources to implement or enforce the required activity. These unfunded mandates can compromise a county's ability to provide essential and discretionary services deemed appropriate by the local community. The Board opposes any legislation that implements unfunded mandates on a local government's fiscal and public policy unless the state provides its own funding source.

HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

ATTAINABLE HOUSING

Broward County, as well as the state of Florida, has a large unmet demand for affordable rental housing. The South Florida metropolitan area (Broward/Miami-Dade) is the number one area in the nation for the number of severely cost-burdened households. In Broward County, this totals more than 58,000 families. In order to adequately meet the needs of our population, the Board supports legislation that would provide funding solutions that could be implemented locally in order to fund affordable housing projects and programs.

Additionally, the Board urges the Legislature to fully fund the Sadowski Trust Fund and allocate all available funds to offer relief for our existing and future residents. The Board urges the Legislature to ensure that 30 percent of the affordable housing units developed with tax supported funds are designated to serve households earning 30 percent or less of the respective area median income. The Board urges the Legislature to require the Florida Housing Finance Corporation to modify the qualified allocation plan to allocate tax credits by a needs-based system that is generated on an annual basis. In addition, all affordable housing programs/resources should be allocated on a needs and affordable population basis.

Finally, the Board requests that legislation be adopted to provide a "local documentary tax" program dedicated to affordable housing similar to the program currently available in Miami-Dade County.

GROWTH MANAGEMENT

The Board supports the maintenance of Florida's growth management laws and the ability of local governments to implement strong growth management programs. The Board also supports the provision of adequate time frames for local governments to satisfy changes in growth management legislation. The Board opposes legislation that would restrict the County's ability to assess and collect impact fees in order to mitigate the impact of new development on public facilities and services. The Board strongly supports retaining local government's authority to identify and define "Adaptation Action Areas" or implement other adaptation strategies in comprehensive plans that would serve to maintain or enhance the advances made to ensure climate change preparedness, risk management and hazard mitigation.

The Board supports retaining and strengthening local government land use controls over the siting of any mines, power plants, transmission lines, substations and other energy infrastructure. The Board opposes any action that reduces County and local government authority to review, comment on, and or take appropriate actions related to the siting of nuclear power plants or any other actions that may diminish environmental protection, such as but not limited to, the storage and handling of nuclear waste.

Through its home rule authority and Charter, ratified by a vote of the public in 1974, Broward County was granted the authority to coordinate all countywide land use planning through the Broward County Planning Council. The Board opposes legislation that would limit the County's land use planning authority. The Board supports maintaining a state land planning agency (now the Division of Community Development within the Department of Economic Opportunity). The Board also supports retaining regional planning councils and opposes any further diminution of their functions, particularly with respect to issues of regional significance.

JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

CIVIL RIGHTS/HUMAN RIGHTS

The Board supports full implementation of federal and state civil rights laws that protect persons against discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disabilities and marital status. In addition, the Board supports and urges the enactment of federal and state legislation that prohibits discrimination on the basis of gender identity and sexual orientation. The Board supports the establishment of a statewide domestic partnership registry.

COMMUNICATION SERVICES

Broward County desires to actively participate in expanding high-speed data transmissions between multiple government facilities to more cost-effectively deliver communication services. To this end, the Board supports legislation allowing unused fiber optic communication assets owned by federal and state agencies to become available for local government use.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND MANAGEMENT

The Board supports a viable, fully integrated and coordinated local, state and federal disaster response structure. County emergency managers are the first to respond to citizens and visitors during all emergencies, including terrorism and natural disasters. There are real and ongoing financial challenges for local governments, particularly law enforcement and other first responders.

The Board supports an "all hazards" approach to emergency management, allowing local emergency managers the highest degree of flexibility in the expenditure of state and federal funds. Further, the Board supports an increased commitment from the state to assist its emergency management partners in responding to all emergency situations.

The Board opposes efforts to amend Chapter 252, Florida Statutes, or any other mandates, related to functional needs access to general population shelters.

HOMELAND SECURITY

Improvement of security measures has been given top priority at all levels of government. The Board supports expanding a close working relationship with federal, state and local government agencies to improve homeland security. Recognizing that local government is usually the first responder in crisis situations, partnership support and funding from all higher levels of government is essential. Security enhancements at Port Everglades and the Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport are of the highest priority to the County. The Board supports state funding for equipment and technology to implement the Port and Airport security programs.

JUVENILE JUSTICE

The Board opposes any efforts to shift additional Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) costs to counties and strongly opposes counties compensating the state for any unfunded mandates regarding juvenile justice. Further, the Board opposes eliminating state financial responsibility for juvenile detention, thus fully shifting the pre-dispositional secure detention funding and operational obligation to counties, unless the state appropriates money to fund juvenile detention upon delegating full responsibility to counties. We support the recommendations jointly presented by counties and DJJ to the governor, through the efforts of the workgroup created in 2011 proviso, to reform the juvenile justice system. The Board supports legislation that provides opportunities for counties to develop, invest in, and implement alternatives to divert children and youth from secure detention facilities and opposes any policy increasing numbers of youth in adult facilities. The Board supports legislation that improves the accountability of the educational systems within juvenile detention facilities.

PRISONS

The Board opposes the privatization of prisons in South Florida.

TOURISM

DESTINATION RESORT GAMING

The Board supports the location of at least one resort in Broward County in parity with the number of licenses issued to other counties. Destination Resort Gaming legislation should include economic development provisions guaranteeing Floridians with long-term, high-wage, full-time positions meeting specific local hiring requirements and requiring that local governments be required to approve the siting of a resort in their district based on considerations that will include the number of jobs created for local residents. Furthermore, the Board supports language requiring that gaming facilities receiving licenses offer free training courses through established re-employment entities, to encourage local, un/under employed persons to re/train for opportunities within the gaming industry.

ONLINE TRAVEL COMPANIES

Support amending existing transient rental tax law and local tourist development tax law to confirm that online travel companies utilizing a "merchant" or similar business model must collect and remit all state transient rental and local tourist development taxes when receiving from a customer the consideration for the lease or rental of a hotel room or other transient accommodation.

TRANSPORTATION

Broward County is committed to providing a wide array of transportation options for residents, visitors and commercial entities including public transit, airports, seaports, roads, bridges and multi-purpose facilities. The Board supports continued state funding for operations, maintenance and capital for transit, airport and seaport projects as well as access to airport and port international trade databases. The Board supports state legislation and funding that promotes safe, efficient regional interconnectivity and supports legislation that would reduce the local share for the statewide Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP) to less

than 50 percent. The Board supports greater fairness and equity in the distribution of state appropriations through formula-based methodologies and also supports an increase in toll revenues for transportation improvements, operations, and maintenance. The Board further supports legislation exempting County buses from paying tolls when travelling outside the managed lane system.

The Board supports state legislation granting local governments maximum flexibility in planning and funding for viable transportation systems and infrastructure and opposes legislation that pre-empts local government authority to regulate the impact of current and future Florida Department of Transportation projects.

The Board supports preserving current law, which authorizes charter counties who adopted a charter prior to January 1, 1984, and county governments that have consolidated with one or more municipalities, to levy a 1-cent local option transit system sales tax and the discretion to distribute these revenues to municipalities pursuant to an inter-local agreement, and further supports a dedicated funding source for regional transportation.

The Board opposes state legislation that pre-empts counties from regulating aggregate mining siting; although, the County understands the importance and need for aggregate in the region as a way to reduce costs for construction and transportation projects.

The Board supports preserving the State Transportation Trust Fund for transportation purposes only and opposes raiding the trust fund to balance the state budget or for other non-transportation related purposes. The Board further supports additional funding for public transportation.

PORT EVERGLADES

Port Everglades is recognized as the world's second largest cruise port, one of the leading containerized cargo seaports nationally and in Florida, and the largest by-dollar-volume export seaport in the state. It is the port of entry for most of the petroleum products distributed to retail gas stations and other users in 12 South Florida counties. Petroleum companies at the Port provide jet fuel for three international airports in the tri-county region. Port Everglades serves as a major regional economic engine with the ability to convert international trade opportunities into real jobs with real incomes and, with more consumer spending due to jobs, grow the state's tax base. At present, business activity at Port Everglades generates almost \$14 billion statewide, supports approximately 143,000 jobs statewide, and generates \$398 million in state and local taxes.

The Board supports:

- The state Department of Economic Opportunity and its efforts to create jobs and improve Florida's business climate. One method to accomplish these goals is to substantially increase the state's strategic funding partnership with Florida's seaports and develop funding alternatives to begin vital capital improvements. Florida's seaports require an adequate and reliable source of capital funding to complement their own limited financial resources. With these funds, they can continue building the efficient transportation infrastructure needed to compete with other ports outside of Florida to accommodate the larger ships in the worldwide fleet and the flow of commodities those ships will carry.
- Identifying a funding source for a Freight Mobility Program allowing seaports to respond to global business opportunities. Funding options could include leveraging existing sources for these priority projects. A realignment of global trade routes is clearly underway, and Florida ports are logistically positioned to take maximum advantage of this opportunity.
- Rules prohibiting the elimination, deferral or delay of capacity improvement projects contained in the first three years of the Florida Department of Transportation 5-year Work Program.

- Retaining a minimum statutory funding level for seaports and authorizing an extension of seaport development bonding capability. These actions will allow Florida seaports to better compete in the global economy and create new jobs and revenues by constructing strategic infrastructure. The maritime cargo activities at Florida seaports were responsible for generating more than 550,000 direct and indirect jobs and \$66 billion in total economic value. These activities contribute \$1.7 billion in state and local tax revenues.
- Full implementation of Chapter 2010-201, Laws of Florida (HB 963), as passed by the 2010 Florida Legislature, which eliminates unnecessary roadblocks that inhibit economic development at Florida seaports by streamlining environmental permitting, comprehensive plan regulations, and other regulations. An example is allowing the Department of Environmental Protection to issue port conceptual permits to the 14 public seaports, including applicable authorization to use sovereign submerged lands.
- A regionally-based, multimodal project investment strategy addressing infrastructure and terminal connectors. This strategy should ensure the physical capacity to support increases in freight movement, which will be realized due to changing trade patterns with the opening of the expanded Panama Canal locks in 2014 as well as larger commodity flows through the Suez Canal. A successful strategy will make Florida self-sufficient in servicing its consumer population. This competitive transportation delivery system will also enable our region's freight distribution to expand outside of Florida. Current freight distribution patterns in the West-East movement of goods from Asia reflect that approximately 70 percent of Florida's imported consumer goods are delivered to Floridians by way of out-of-state transportation systems. Fifty percent arrives from the U.S. West Coast and 20 percent through transportation and distribution systems developed by the state of Georgia (via the Port of Savannah) to Florida consumer markets in Orlando and cities north of Orlando.
- Specific state initiatives directed at inducing international trade companies to locate or expand their facilities within Florida, thus fostering stronger economic relationships with our trading partners. Initiatives may include incentives for businesses to increase imports or exports through a Florida seaport, rewarding existing companies for expanding their seaport business and/or attracting international shippers to the state and/or tax credit incentives for public-private partnerships to build related seaport infrastructure projects.
- Reforming state emergency preparedness grants to allow local governments to prepare and adopt comprehensive plans based upon their evaluation of the threats, hazards, risks and vulnerabilities facing them. The result will be our ability to improve and strengthen emergency management capabilities throughout the state as we develop new methods for the prevention, preparedness and mitigation of natural disasters and acts of terrorism.
- Amending Chapter 376, Florida Statutes, to allow access to funding from the Inland Protection Trust Fund (IPTF) for remediation of petroleum contamination on Florida's Ports' lands where such contamination has been previously identified and found eligible for state cleanup, but is not yet funded because of the low priority ranking score and where such contamination directly inhibits Port infrastructure development, redevelopment, expansion or construction.

SOUTH FLORIDA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY/TRI-RAIL

The South Florida Regional Transportation Authority's (SFRTA) governing board is comprised of nine members, including three citizen members, one appointed by each of the Broward, Miami-Dade and Palm Beach counties' commissions. The Board opposes legislation that weakens the three counties' home rule powers by eliminating each County Commission's ability to appoint local, citizen members to the SFRTA. In addition, the Board opposes gubernatorial appointments to the SFRTA from outside the tri-county area. The Board further opposes any effort to weaken the SFRTA's independent exercise of statutory powers, especially as they relate to governance and/or operations.

The Board opposes any legislation that grants to the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), or any other state agency: (1) control over any county funds appropriated by the three County Commissions pursuant to §343.58, Florida Statutes, for the SFRTA's capital and operational needs; or (2) the power to determine how such county funds are allocated. Additionally, the Board opposes any efforts by the state to stop funding Tri-Rail.

LOCAL BILLS

CITY OF DANIA BEACH ANNEXATION/DEANNEXATION

Extends the corporate limits of the City of Dania Beach to include the area that extends three miles out into the Atlantic Ocean from the city's existing shore line.

CORAL SPRINGS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

Provides for the election of the district's board of supervisors by qualified electors instead of landowners; amends quorum and monthly compensation requirements of board members; conforms contract bidding requirements to general law; and provides additional procurement requirements for the purchase of goods and services by the district.

FIREARMS REGULATION

The Board supports amending state law to provide that it is unlawful to carry a handgun, concealed weapon, or firearm within certain governmental buildings or at certain meetings or events in Broward County.

FIREWORKS BAN

Prohibits the possession of fireworks in Broward County, unless exempted pursuant to state law and authorizes law enforcement officers to seize illegal fireworks in the County.

HIGH SCHOOL ETHICS COURSE

Authorizing the Broward District School Board to include an honors course in ethics as part of the high school curriculum; providing for course content; requiring the District to prescribe performance standards and assessment requirements for the course.

NORTHWEST BROWARD INDEPENDENT FIRE DISTRICT

Creates the Northwest Broward Independent Fire District, comprising the cities of Coconut Creek, Coral Springs, Margate and Parkland, to provide fire and emergency medical services to areas where the governing body of the municipality has approved such services.

INSPECTOR GENERAL/SCHOOL BOARD

The Board supports requiring the School Board of Broward County to adopt a code of ethics that, at minimum: reflects the Board of County Commissioners code of ethics; prohibits individual school board members from interfering directly with the daily operations of the Broward County School District or give orders to any officer or employee of the school district except through the Superintendent of Schools; and, amends Section 12.1 of the Broward County Charter, relating to the Office of Inspector General, to bring members of the School Board of Broward County and the officers and employees of Broward County School District under the jurisdiction of the Broward County Inspector General.

MUNICIPAL ELECTION QUALIFYING PERIOD

Provides for uniform qualifying periods for municipal elections in Broward County.

SPECIAL ASSESSMENT TO FUND MUNICIPAL LAW ENFORCEMENT

On behalf of the City of North Lauderdale, authorizes a special assessment levy by Broward County municipalities to fund law enforcement services.

TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT

Authorizes the enforcement of traffic violations on roads located within municipalities regardless of whether the roadway complies with Department of Transportation standards.

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**OFFICE OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
AND PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS**
115 S. Andrews Ave., Room 426
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301
954-357-7575
www.broward.org/Intergovernmental