



BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS

# ***2014 STATE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM***



## BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



Martin David Kiar  
District 1  
954-357-7001



Kristin D. 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



Vice Mayor  
Tim Ryan  
District 7  
954-357-7007



Mayor  
Barbara Sharief  
District 8  
954-357-7008



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

# 2014 STATE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

The Office of Intergovernmental Affairs and Professional Standards (OIAPS) is pleased to present the Broward County 2014 State Legislative Program.

The program was adopted by the Board of County Commissioners on November 12, 2014. It reflects Broward County's legislative and appropriations priorities, its guiding fundamental principles and serves as the basis for the County's advocacy efforts before the Legislative and Executive Branches of state government. The respective sections summarize:

**Section I** – The County's 2014 Legislative Priorities.

**Section II** – The County's Appropriations Priorities.

**Section III** – The Legislative Proposals submitted by County Departments, Offices and Divisions for the 2014 Session.

**Section IV** – The County's Fundamental Principles.

**Section V** – The Local Bills submitted to the Broward Legislative Delegation for the 2014 Session.

The Office of Intergovernmental Affairs and Professional Standards hopes this 2014 State Legislative Program will be a useful source of information.

Sincerely,

OIAPS Intergovernmental Affairs Team

Edward G. Labrador, Esq., Director

C. Marty Cassini, Legislative Counsel

Nick Matthews, Legislative Coordinator

Sean Kolaskar, Legislative Coordinator

Daphnee A. Sainvil, Special Projects Coordinator III

Celeste LaPlante, Administrative Coordinator I

**SECTION I: 2014 PRIORITIES**

Enterprise Zones ..... 1-1  
 Port Issues ..... 1-1  
 Medicaid Access ..... 1-1  
 Juvenile Justice ..... 1-1  
 Everglades Restoration ..... 1-1  
 Beach Renourishment ..... 1-1  
 Affordable Housing..... 1-2

**SECTION II: APPROPRIATIONS PRIORITIES**

Aviation Funding ..... 2-1  
 Beach Renourishment ..... 2-1  
 Port Everglades ..... 2-1  
 Topeekeegee Yugnee Park (T.Y. Park)..... 2-1  
 Behavioral Health Services ..... 2-1  
 Child Protection Teams (CPT)..... 2-1  
 Community Care for the Elderly ..... 2-2  
 Homelessness..... 2-2  
 Florida Network of Children’s Advocacy Centers (FNCAC) ..... 2-2  
 Library Grants-In-Aid and Library Construction Grants ..... 2-2  
 Services for Developmental Delays and Disabilities and Complex Medical Needs ..... 2-2  
 Fire Rescue Station 106 - Alligator Alley ..... 2-2  
 Water Infrastructure Funding ..... 2-2

**SECTION III: LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS**

Driver Education and Safety Programs ..... 3-1  
 Child-Care Vehicle Alarms ..... 3-1  
 Firearm Regulation in Treatment Facilities..... 3-1  
 Article V Court Technology Costs ..... 3-1  
 Lost Personal Property ..... 3-1  
 E911 Communications ..... 3-1  
 Parasailing ..... 3-1  
 Paperless Payroll ..... 3-1  
 Electric Vehicles and Charging Infrastructure ..... 3-1  
 Increase Inventory Minimum Account..... 3-1  
 Uniform Chart of Accounts..... 3-1

E-Permits .....	3-1
Constitutional Office Budgets .....	3-2
<b>SECTION IV: FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES</b>	
Broward County – Local Government .....	4-1
Consumer Protection .....	4-1
Cultural Services .....	4-1
Elections .....	4-1
Human Resources .....	4-1
Economic Development .....	4-1
Emerging and Small Business Enterprise Development .....	4-2
Film and Entertainment.....	4-2
Energy and Climate Change .....	4-2
Climate Adaptation Planning and Sea Level Rise Projections.....	4-2
Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard .....	4-2
Electric Vehicles.....	4-3
Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Energy.....	4-3
Alternate Fuel Infrastructure .....	4-3
Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact Counties	
2014 Legislative Program.....	4-3
Sea Level Rise and Adaption .....	4-3
Energy .....	4-3
Water .....	4-4
Offshore Drilling .....	4-4
Everglades.....	4-4
Environmental Protection.....	4-5
Air Quality .....	4-5
Beaches.....	4-5
Environmental Regulations.....	4-5
Everglades Restoration .....	4-5
Florida Forever/Land Acquisition Programs.....	4-6
Water Policy .....	4-6
Water Quality .....	4-6
Finance and Tax .....	4-7
Communications Services .....	4-7
Streamlined Sales Tax.....	4-7
Local Business Tax Receipts .....	4-8

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Online Travel Companies ..... 4-8

Aviation Fuel Tax Exemption ..... 4-8

Human Services ..... 4-8

    Children’s Services ..... 4-8

    HIV/AIDS ..... 4-9

    Homelessness ..... 4-9

    Insurance Coverage Parity and Non-Discrimination ..... 4-10

    Medicaid Access ..... 4-10

    Medicaid County Cost Share ..... 4-10

    Medically Needy Funding ..... 4-11

    Older Adults ..... 4-11

    Substance Abuse ..... 4-11

Home Rule/Governance ..... 4-11

    Annexation ..... 4-11

    Article V Costs ..... 4-11

    Eminent Domain ..... 4-12

    Florida Association of Counties ..... 4-12

    Home Rule ..... 4-12

    Sovereign Immunity/Governmental Liability ..... 4-12

    Trauma Care Center Designation ..... 4-12

    Unfunded Mandates ..... 4-13

    Wage Recovery Preemption ..... 4-13

Housing and Urban Development ..... 4-13

    Attainable Housing ..... 4-13

    Growth Management ..... 4-13

Justice and Public Safety ..... 4-14

    Civil Rights/Human Rights ..... 4-14

    Communication Services ..... 4-14

    Emergency Preparedness and Management ..... 4-14

    Homeland Security ..... 4-15

    Juvenile Justice ..... 4-15

    Prisons ..... 4-15

    Entitlement Benefits for Incarcerated Persons and Re-Entry Programs ..... 4-15

    Jail Diversion ..... 4-15

    Firearms Regulations ..... 4-15

Tourism ..... 4-15

Destination Resort Gaming .....	4-15
Transportation .....	4-16
Port Everglades .....	4-16

**SECTION V: LOCAL BILLS**

# 2014 PRIORITIES

## **ENTERPRISE ZONES**

Support legislation reducing the Enterprise Zone Business Property and Equipment Sales Refund Incentive spending threshold from \$5,000 to \$500, and expanding the eligible employee base under the Enterprise Zone Jobs Tax Credit.

## **PORT ISSUES**

Support state legislation and other strategic initiatives to foster economic growth and increase direct foreign investments in Florida, including strengthening strategic funding partnerships with Port Everglades, development of alternatives to fund vital capital infrastructure projects, and full funding of an aggressive and resourceful freight mobility program to ensure increased access to Asian Pacific markets and exports to emerging Latin American markets.

## **MEDICAID ACCESS**

Oppose any efforts to further limit Medicaid access or eligibility and oppose efforts to increase Broward County's share of funding for nursing home or inpatient hospital services. Support repealing elements of Medicaid Reform that limit access to medical services or reduce cost-effective, in-home care to persons with chronic illnesses, and homeless and chronically homeless persons.

## **JUVENILE JUSTICE**

Oppose any efforts to shift additional Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) costs to counties and strongly oppose counties unfairly compensating the state for unfunded mandates. Support legislation that codifies the financial responsibility of the counties and state as upheld by Florida's courts. Support initiatives which reduce juvenile detention through prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation services. Oppose legislation which would infringe upon a juvenile's due process rights such as video proceedings for first detentions hearings. Support a review of the "Roadmap to Excellence" to ensure consistent alignment with the applicable statutes. Support legislation that provides opportunities for counties to develop, invest in, and implement alternatives to divert children and youth from secure detention facilities, such as intensive home detention, electronic monitoring and evening reporting centers. Oppose any policy increasing numbers of youth in adult facilities. Support legislation that improves the accountability of the educational systems within juvenile detention facilities.

## **EVERGLADES RESTORATION**

Support restoration of the Everglades, to protect one of the world's most extraordinary ecosystems and to promote climate mitigation and adaptation efforts, including protecting the Biscayne aquifer. Support the construction of, and state funding for the Broward County Water Preserve Area (WPA) including, 13 miles of trail and other recreational components of the WPA that provide significant recreational benefits to Everglades Holiday Park.

## **BEACH RENOURISHMENT**

Support the \$5,200,000 state application submitted by Broward County to support mitigation, construction, beach fill and monitoring of the Segment II Beach Renourishment project as a federally-reimbursable project. Broward County's Segment II Beach Renourishment project will receive a 55 percent federal cost-share participation, which is \$24,200,000 of the total construction project budget of \$44,000,000. The remaining 45 percent (\$19,800,000) will be cost shared between the state of Florida, Broward County and Cities within the project limits (City of Fort Lauderdale, City of Pompano Beach and Lauderdale-By-The-Sea).



As the state of Florida appropriated \$4,700,000 for the project during the 2013 Legislative Session, the Board requests an appropriation of the remaining \$5,200,000 of the state's cost share.

## **AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

Support full funding of the Sadowski Trust Fund and implementing a needs-based system to fund affordable housing projects and programs. Support legislation to provide a "local documentary tax" program dedicated to affordable housing similar to the program currently available in Miami-Dade County.

# **APPROPRIATIONS PRIORITIES**

## **AVIATION FUNDING**

Support state funding for airport development that is equal to or exceeds the Florida Department of Transportation Tentative Work Plan for FY 2014-2015.

## **BEACH RENOURISHMENT**

Support the \$5,200,000 state application submitted by Broward County to support mitigation, construction, beach fill and monitoring of the Segment II Beach Renourishment project as a federally-reimbursable project. Broward County's Segment II Beach Renourishment project will receive a 55 percent federal cost-share participation, which is \$24,200,000 of the total construction project budget of \$44,000,000. The remaining 45 percent (\$19,800,000) will be cost shared between the state of Florida, Broward County and Cities within the project limits (City of Fort Lauderdale, City of Pompano Beach and Lauderdale by the Sea). As the state of Florida appropriated \$4,700,000 for the project during the 2013 Legislative Session, the Board requests an appropriation of the remaining \$5,200,000 of the state's cost share.

## **PORT EVERGLADES**

Support the \$14,718,000 request in non-recurring funds in FY 2014-2015 for preliminary engineering, design, permitting and construction for projects associated with Southport Turning Notch Extension which will add up to five new ship berths at Port Everglades, create 2,227 temporary construction jobs and 5,529 new regional permanent jobs, generate \$252.2 million in state and local taxes by the year 2027 and create 16.5 acres of new mangrove habitat.

## **TOPEEKEEGEE YUGNEE PARK (T.Y. PARK)**

Support \$1,000,000 for desperately needed reclaimed water mains, master valves, reclaimed water booster pumps, irrigation systems, and electrical systems at T.Y. Park. The T.Y. Park project has been reviewed by the South Florida Water Management District as an alternative water supply development project for potential funding under the Water Protection and Sustainability Program. Further, the project was recommended in the previous Lower East Cost Water Supply Plan as a regional project to provide highly treated reuse/recharge that may allow for increased withdrawals of fresh groundwater. This is consistent to the goals of the water supply plan (373.709, F.S.) and it remains eligible for funding.

## **BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES**

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 Community Mental Health Community services. Additionally, support protecting at a minimum the current levels of funding or greater for mental health and substance abuse services for children and adolescents.

## **CHILD PROTECTION TEAMS (CPT)**

Support an increase to recurring funding for the Florida Department of Health/Children's Medical Services (DOH/CMS), which funds Child Protection Teams (CPT) throughout the state, including Broward County. Support maintenance of CMS-CPT program funds to ensure their continuation as a permanent part of the state budget. Support CMS management of the CPT system within DOH.

## **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). 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 restoration of recurring funding to the Homeless Housing Assistance Grant (HHAG) program to produce new permanent housing units for persons experiencing homelessness utilizing Mortgage Settlement Funding through the Florida Housing Finance Corporation. Support recurring funding for the Homeless Challenge Grant through the state Office on Homelessness and support an increase in recurring funding to the Designated Local Coalition.

## **FLORIDA NETWORK OF CHILDREN’S ADVOCACY CENTERS (FNCAC)**

Support \$3,500,000 in recurring funding for the FNCAC, an accredited State Chapter of the National Children’s Alliance, and a not-for-profit 501(c)3 organization of child advocacy center programs in Florida. FNCAC provides specialized training, technical assistance and other support services for CACs and communities interested in starting CACs. FNCAC advocates for CACs at the state and national levels and provides oversight and administration of state funds to local CACs. The Nancy J. Cotterman Center is Broward County’s CAC and an accredited member of the National Children’s Alliance.

## **LIBRARY GRANTS-IN-AID AND LIBRARY CONSTRUCTION GRANTS**

Support full funding of libraries.

## **SERVICES FOR DEVELOPMENTAL DELAYS AND DISABILITIES AND COMPLEX MEDICAL NEEDS**

Support, at minimum, the current levels of funding for children and adolescents with developmental delays and disabilities and complex medical needs.

## **FIRE RESCUE STATION 106 – ALLIGATOR ALLEY**

Support state funding for Broward Sheriff’s Office Fire Rescue Station 106. Fire Rescue Station 106 is located on Alligator Alley (Interstate 75) at the eastbound rest area between mile markers 34 and 35, approximately 10 miles west of the Broward toll plaza. The station is the only emergency response facility on Alligator Alley between Weston and Naples.

## **WATER INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING**

Support state funding for water infrastructure projects including replacing aging underground piping, lift stations, water storage facilities, treatment and reuse systems, alternative water supply projects, and water development projects designed to eliminate the future use of ocean outfall systems.

# LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

## **DRIVER EDUCATION AND SAFETY PROGRAMS**

Amend state law to allow counties to designate local school boards as agent to receive and disburse funds from civil traffic penalties collected by the county clerk of court.

## **CHILD-CARE VEHICLE ALARMS**

Amend state law to require that child care facilities or family child care homes transporting children in vehicles made for six or more passengers install child safety alarm devices prompting the driver to inspect the vehicle for children before exiting.

## **FIREARM REGULATION IN TREATMENT FACILITIES**

Amend state law to prohibit the possession of weapons and ammunitions in substance abuse programs, mental health programs and sexual assault treatment facilities.

## **ARTICLE V COURT TECHNOLOGY COSTS**

Amend state law to increase the document recording service charge in 28.24(12)(e), F.S., that is distributed to counties for court-related technology, to fund costs associated with implementation of legislatively-mandated e-filing requirements on state trial courts, state attorneys, and public defenders and other court technology cost increases.

## **LOST PERSONAL PROPERTY**

Amend state law to authorize public transit systems to dispose of abandoned or lost property.

## **E911 COMMUNICATIONS**

Increase E911 revenues by guaranteeing the collection of fees on prepaid wireless phones.

## **PARASAILING**

Support the creation of statewide safety regulations, standards and inspections for the parasailing industry.

## **PAPERLESS PAYROLL**

Support legislation which would allow counties to mandate paperless payroll.

## **ELECTRIC VEHICLES AND CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE**

Support legislative incentives for the purchase of electric vehicles and support the deployment of electric vehicle charging infrastructure in the State of Florida.

## **INCREASE INVENTORY MINIMUM ACCOUNT**

Support legislation that would allow the Board to set the limit for items to be inventoried or to increase the threshold. Currently, state law requires annual inventory of all tangible personal property valued at greater than \$1,000. This creates unnecessary and burdensome effort on county resources.

## **UNIFORM CHART OF ACCOUNTS**

Support legislation eliminating the requirement that all governmental entities in Florida utilize a uniform Chart of Accounts for financial reporting purposes.

## **E-PERMITS**

Support legislation that will allow the County to implement an electronic permitting system.

## **CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICE BUDGETS**

Support legislation amending state law to change the date by which a state agency must approve a Constitutional Officer's budget until after a county has adopted its final budget and final millage rate in accordance with s. 200.065(2)(d), F.S. The Board further supports legislation prohibiting a state agency from approving a Constitutional Officer's budget that exceeds the County's approved final budget for such office absent clear and convincing evidence showing the Constitutional Officer's budget has been significantly underfunded and the budget approved by the County, in comparison to previously approved budgets, will not permit the Constitutional Officer to carry out the duties and responsibilities of the office.

# **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 while 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 and libraries play in our economy and quality of life, the Board supports legislation that promotes and enhances arts, culture, historic preservation and libraries. The Board also supports increased and recurring funding for arts, cultural affairs and historic preservation appropriations requests, including capital projects.

Additionally, libraries are a free resource to the community that provide 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.

### **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.

## **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 Broward 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 increased trade opportunities by funding resources for expanding Sister City programs and initiatives in concert with chambers of commerce. 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, 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, disadvantaged businesses through such capacity building components as access to banking and financing, insurance and bonding, business development and management technical assistance, and mentor-protégé 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.

### **FILM AND ENTERTAINMENT**

The Board supports increased statewide funding for the Entertainment Industry Financial Incentive Program.

## **ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

The Board supports legislation to reduce carbon emissions and promote energy efficiency and renewable energy. Specifically, 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, transportation that utilizes alternative/clean renewable fuels and the expansion of alternative fuel infrastructure.

### **CLIMATE ADAPTATION PLANNING AND SEA LEVEL RISE PROJECTIONS**

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 mitigation and adaptation strategies in the development and implementation of state climate and energy legislation and appropriations priorities. In particular, the Board supports current law which authorizes local governments to designate Adaptation Action Areas within their comprehensive plans and opposes any efforts to repeal current law or any initiatives that may serve to weaken the advances made to further climate preparedness, risk management and hazard mitigation.

### **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 that is safe and cost-effective.

## **ELECTRIC VEHICLES**

The Board supports legislative incentives for the purchase of electric vehicles and supports the deployment of electric vehicle charging infrastructure in the State of Florida.

## **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 strengthening local governments' ability to create voluntary energy financing districts.

## **ALTERNATIVE FUEL INFRASTRUCTURE**

The Board supports legislation that streamlines the permitting process for alternative fuel infrastructure, such as electric vehicle charging stations, compressed natural gas and propane fueling stations, and other alternative fuels as defined by the Energy Policy Act of 1992. The Board supports legislation encouraging tax credits, rebates, and other financial and non-financial incentives to expand alternative fuel infrastructure statewide.

## **SOUTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE COMPACT COUNTIES 2014 LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM**

As an ongoing effort to develop and collaborate regionally on energy and climate issues, the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact Counties of Broward, Miami-Dade, Palm Beach and Monroe and municipal partners renew support for the 2013 Southeast Florida Regional State and Federal Climate Legislative Program and affirm our support for the following state legislative policies for 2014.

### ***Sea Level Rise and Adaptation***

*OPPOSE any infringement on local home rule authority to plan for and adapt to future climate conditions, including sea level rise, precipitation patterns, and temperatures.*

*SUPPORT greater incorporation of adaptation strategies in state climate/energy policies, legislation, and appropriations priorities.*

*SUPPORT legislation, programs, and funding that support local governments' adaptation activities, including the establishment and use of Adaptation Action Areas.*

*SUPPORT legislation and policies requiring state agencies, water management and industries regulated by the state (e.g. electric utilities) to consider projected sea-level rise and potential storm surge in all infrastructure and facility-siting decisions.*

### ***Energy***

*SUPPORT integrated resource planning/least cost planning for electric utilities to ensure that energy efficiency and renewable energy sources are fully considered as strategies for meeting future needs.*

*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.*

*SUPPORT rebate programs, tax credits, and other financial incentives that encourage property owners to invest in energy efficiency and renewable energy systems.*

*SUPPORT renewable portfolio standards (RPS) for utilities that would require a set percentage of electricity to be generated from renewable energy sources by a given date.*

*SUPPORT legislation requiring natural gas companies to reduce the amount of “lost and unaccounted-for” gas.*

## **Water**

*SUPPORT returning Water Management Districts’ authority, taxing powers, and budgetary control to the situation that existed prior to 2010.*

## **Offshore Drilling**

*OPPOSE relaxation of prohibitions against leases or permits for oil or gas drilling within Florida’s territorial seas and the Everglades, and OPPOSE any legislation limiting the Florida Department of Environmental Protection’s authority to block requests for offshore drilling in federal waters off Florida’s coast.*

## **Everglades**

*SUPPORT legislation and funding supporting complete implementation of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan and policies recognizing that a restored Everglades will help make the region more resilient to sea level rise and extreme weather events.*

### *Investment Priorities*

*SUPPORT funding for adaptation planning and investments in water management, water supply, conservation land acquisition, transportation, and other infrastructure that provide hazard mitigation and improve immediate and long-term resilience.*

*SUPPORT prioritized funding for infrastructure investments in Adaptation Action Areas, or other areas subject to the impacts of sea level rise.*

*SUPPORT funding for the Water Protection and Sustainability Program.*

### *Transportation*

*SUPPORT development of electrical vehicle infrastructure, including statewide policies to streamline siting and permitting of electrical vehicle charging stations, siting of charging infrastructure on state property, and inclusion of electric vehicle models and specifications in the state contract system.*

*Support legislation that encourages the design, completion, or expansion of integrated networks of non-motorized transportation corridors (such as bike lanes) on a local and/or regional level.*

*Support legislation that would provide additional local transit connectivity to existing and proposed regional transit systems (“first and last mile strategy”).*

*Support legislation that supports planning and implementation of transit-oriented developments (TODs) on a local and/or regional scale.*

# **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. The Board supports amending state law to enable direct pass-through funding of Title V air pollution fees to approved local air pollution control programs. The Board also supports preservation of current statutes establishing local pollution control programs and funding to local air pollution control programs through the Air Pollution Control Trust Fund. The Board opposes any legislation that reduces funding to air quality protection programs.

## **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 and sand bypassing projects 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 addressing surface water management, pollution prevention, natural systems preservation and air quality monitoring. The Board opposes any legislation that lessens environmental protection at the local level, including preemption of local environmental regulatory authority 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 its delegated authority to implement the state Environmental Resource Permit (ERP) Program.

## **EVERGLADES RESTORATION**

The Board supports restoration of the Everglades, not only to protect and improve the health of one of the world's most extraordinary ecosystems, but also for the benefits to climate mitigation and adaptation efforts, including protection of the Biscayne aquifer. Recognizing that improved water quality is a key component to restoring the Everglades, the Board supports land acquisition and the Central Everglades Planning Project 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 provides 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, federal authorization and funding for the Broward County Water Preserve Area (WPA) and 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 that provide significant recreational benefits to Everglades Holiday Park.

## **FLORIDA FOREVER/LAND ACQUISITION PROGRAMS**

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. Recognizing that since 2009 the Legislature has provided only modest funding for this landmark program, the Board supports efforts to provide a dedicated funding source for Florida Forever. Further, the Board favors fixed-amount appropriations for conservation land acquisition that do not depend on the sale of existing conservation land, as was the case in the Fiscal Year 2013 budget.

The Board believes that state parks and other state conservation lands are held in trust for all Floridians, regardless of their location, and therefore opposes the sale of state parks and conservation lands except in rare circumstances (for example, a small, already-developed, non-contiguous parcel of land).

The Board opposes the sale of lands within Broward County under the South Florida Water Management District's land assessment program, as all the undeveloped parcels support restoration of the Everglades and protect natural resources.

## **WATER POLICY**

The Board supports Florida's existing water law 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 as well as reasonable and beneficial uses of water for the public. The Board opposes any efforts to modify Chapter 373 in a way that would lessen the protections in 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 water supplies, and projects which can be offset by conservation strategies. The Board supports funding for goal-based 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. Specifically, the Board supports significant appropriations for the Water Protection and Sustainability Program as established by the Florida Legislature in 2005, as a funding source for critical water supply projects and programs.

## **WATER QUALITY**

The Board supports the protection of surface waters and groundwater and the establishment of numeric water quality standards that are scientifically defensible and protective of 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 pre-empt local governments from adopting standards more restrictive than the Model Ordinance for Florida-Friendly Fertilizer Use on Urban Landscapes. 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 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 Communications Services Tax (CST) is a significant revenue source supporting municipal-level services in unincorporated Broward County. The Board supports the maintenance of an equitable tax structure for communications products and services to strengthen the economy and continue to provide the revenue needed to support unincorporated services. The Board opposes efforts to reduce the tax base and revenues and any efforts to reduce local government's ability to manage its 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.

## **LOCAL BUSINESS TAX RECEIPTS**

The Board opposes any efforts to repeal or reduce local business tax receipts.

## **ONLINE TRAVEL COMPANIES**

The Board supports 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.

## **AVIATION FUEL TAX EXEMPTION**

The Board opposes attempts to waive, reduce or suspend aviation fuel taxes statewide or locally.

## **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 involvement in the local Managing Entity (ME) including representation on the local ME board. To reflect the County’s vast contributions to behavioral health services, the Board supports representation on the ME board and direct involvement in determining service needs, prioritization of services, funding allocation and policies impacting Broward County residents with substance abuse and mental health issues.
- 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.
- The Board supports full engagement by the Governor’s Office and Florida Legislature to ensure that all state agencies are fully utilizing funding resources available from the federal government to assist in meeting the basic human services needs of the residents of the State of Florida.

## **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 Broward County’s children.

The Board supports legislation to extend KidCare coverage to include children of “lawfully residing” immigrants as allowed by federal law and funded with federal matching dollars under provisions of the Children’s Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act (CHIPRA).

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 safety. The Board supports adequate and equitable funding for the child welfare system to ensure the safety and well-being of all children at-risk of abuse. The Board supports efforts to ensure that young children have access to high quality child care, including those children who are funded through child care subsidies.

The Board supports legislation to increase funding for the Department of Health, Children's Medical Services, and Child Protection Team Program.

The Board supports legislation to ensure recurring funds for the Florida Network of Children's Advocacy Centers to distribute to local Child Advocacy Centers.

## **HIV/AIDS**

The Board supports adequate and equitable funding for health and 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.

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 expanding ADAP's insurance premium assistance program to all eligible beneficiaries. 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 promoting prevention and testing efforts that include Care and Treatment models, to reduce HIV infections consistent with goals of National HIV/AIDS Strategy. The board also supports the use of Viral Load Data to Monitor HIV Burden and Treatment Outcomes for each local community.

The Board supports full funding of the Florida ADAP Program to ensure that clients up to 400 percent of the poverty level have access to life sustaining drugs that are vital for individuals living with HIV/AIDS.

The Board supports integrated planning activities between state and local governments focused on the prioritization of critical health and support services, allocation of funding for individuals in communities disproportionately impacted by HIV, and the use of best practice models engaging and retaining persons at risk for falling out of care through co-location of services within community based systems of care.

## **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.

The Broward supports the creation of the Florida Commission on Poverty, with the purpose of developing statewide strategies to eliminate poverty in the state of Florida. The Commission would provide annual updates on poverty in Florida which would include the magnitude, characteristics, causes and impact of poverty across the state. The report would also highlight the work of the State Community Action Agencies in alleviating poverty and supporting the economic recovery of their communities through programs that address workforce development, financial education, community development, entrepreneurship, employer connections, employment stability and support services

## **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 ACCESS**

The Board opposes any efforts to further limit Medicaid access or eligibility and opposes efforts to increase Broward's 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. The Board supports increased Medicaid reimbursement rates for assisted living facilities.

## **MEDICAID COUNTY COST SHARE**

The Board opposes further legislative attempts to increase Florida counties' mandated payments for nursing home and inpatient hospitalization, which are the state's Medicaid financial responsibility. The Board opposes any effort to create a cost-sharing or mandated payment structure that is not based on actual utilization and individually documented by user data. The Board supports the Agency for Health Care Administration's efforts to improve data systems and billing practices. The Board opposes any additional erosion of counties' revenue through legislative mandates requiring counties to pay a portion of the state's share of the Medicaid match, through revenue sharing or other direct-withholding.

## **MEDICALLY NEEDY 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 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 enforcement of Florida law regulating pain management clinics and full funding for Florida’s Prescription Drug Monitoring Program. 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 15,876, or approximately 0.9 percent of the total population of 1,771,099. These residents occupy approximately 12.6 square miles (about 2.9 percent of the land area which can be developed) in five recognized neighborhoods and other areas spread throughout the County in parcels of varying size. These neighborhoods continue to present a service delivery challenge for the County. The County encourages tax base enhancement and job creation in the County’s urbanized unincorporated areas through investment in economic development activities and redevelopment programs. The Board supports creating viable neighborhoods that are economically sustainable and attractive places to live, work and recreate.

## **ARTICLE V COSTS**

Article V, §14(c), 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 an increase 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 pre-empts 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**

Article X, § 13, of the Florida Constitution authorizes the Legislature by general law to allow for the bringing of suits against the state. Section 768.28, F.S., waives the sovereign immunity of the state, its agencies and subdivisions for tort liability, limited to \$200,000 per individual claim and \$300,000 per incident or occurrence.

The Board opposes legislative efforts to increase or eliminate the sovereign immunity waiver limitations in current law or to otherwise weaken other tort-related protections governmental entities now enjoy as defendant parties. The Board further opposes legislative efforts to increase local governments' liability exposure including new or expanded causes of action and/or providing for recovery of attorneys' fees and costs.

## **TRAUMA CARE CENTER DESIGNATION**

Broward County recognizes the need to ensure its citizens receive comprehensive, timely and uniform

access to trauma care services. Currently, Broward County residents receive effective access to such services through a well-managed, local trauma care network that provides effective communications, pre-hospital care, patient transportation, trauma centers, and a well-defined management structure. Due to recent uncertainties concerning the validity of the Department of Health’s trauma service-related rules, the department has decided to undertake rule development activities that are intended to modify how trauma care center designations are accomplished. Adopting rule standards that make it easier to designate trauma centers within dense urban areas, like Broward County, may adversely affect the existing local trauma care network and negatively impact patient care. Accordingly, the Board supports the County’s current local trauma care network, and opposes any legislation or agency rule seeking to designate additional trauma care centers which will adversely affect: 1) the ability to effectively train trauma physicians or other trauma-related health care practitioners; 2) provide high-quality medical care to trauma patients; and 3) increase costs by escalating competition for needed specialty physicians, or reduce available funding for trauma center operations.

### **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.

### **WAGE RECOVERY PREEMPTION**

The Board opposes any legislation pre-empting the enactment and enforcement of county ordinances providing local workers a non-judicial forum and appropriate remedies to recover the nonpayment or underpayment of earned wages.

## **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 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 oppose counties unfairly compensating the state for unfunded mandates. The Board supports legislation that codifies the financial responsibility of the counties and state as upheld by Florida's courts. The Board supports initiatives which reduce juvenile detention through prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation services. The Board opposes legislation which would infringe upon a juvenile's due process rights such as video proceedings for first detentions hearings. The Board supports a review of the "Roadmap to Excellence" to ensure consistent alignment with the applicable statutes. 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, such as intensive home detention, electronic monitoring and evening reporting centers. The Board 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.

## **ENTITLEMENT BENEFITS FOR INCARCERATED PERSONS AND RE-ENTRY PROGRAMS**

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.

The Board supports only prison reforms that include a comprehensive approach and dedicated revenue source for quality re-entry programs.

## **JAIL DIVERSION**

The Board supports increasing funding to sustain and expand jail diversion programs for persons with mental illness.

## **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.

# **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.

## **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 multipurpose facilities. The Board supports continued state funding for operations, maintenance, and capital for transit, airport and seaport projects. The Board supports state legislation and funding that promotes safe, efficient regional interconnectivity and legislation reducing 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 traveling outside the managed lane system.

The Board supports state legislation granting local government 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.

The Board opposes any attempts to reduce the 15 percent funding allocation from the State Transportation Trust Fund which is allocated to public transportation program areas, with emphasis on equal distribution of the fund among the designated modes that include Aviation, Transit, Rail, Intermodal and Seaports.

## **PORT EVERGLADES**

As one of South Florida's leading economic powerhouses, Port Everglades is the gateway for international trade and cruise vacations. Already one of the three busiest cruise ports in the world, Port Everglades is also Florida's leading container port and South Florida's main seaport for receiving petroleum products, including gasoline, jet fuel and alternative fuels. The Port Everglades Department is a self-supporting Enterprise Fund of Broward County government with operating revenues of approximately \$143 million in Fiscal Year. It does not rely on local tax dollars for operations. The total value of economic activity at Port Everglades is approximately \$25.7 billion. The Port, including almost 11,700 people who work for

companies that provide direct services, impacts more than 201,000 Florida jobs. These jobs generate \$729 million in state and local taxes.

The Board supports state legislation and other strategic initiatives to foster economic growth and increase direct foreign investments in Florida, including strengthening strategic funding partnerships with Florida's seaports, development of alternatives to fund vital capital infrastructure projects, and full funding of an aggressive and resourceful freight mobility program to ensure increased access to Asian Pacific markets and exports to emerging Latin American markets.

### **The Board supports:**

- The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity and its efforts to create jobs and improve Florida's business climate.
- The Intermodal Logistics Center (ILC) Infrastructure Support Program as an important part of the Florida Department of Transportation's (FDOT) commitment to support freight growth in Florida. The program provides an annual allocation of \$5 million with a 50 percentage matching fund requirement from applicants.
- The on-going funding of \$15 million for the Florida Seaport Transportation and Economic Development (FSTED) program, the Strategic Port Investment Initiative (SPII) \$35 million minimum annual funding and the Seaport Investment Program \$10 million bondable revenue stream for seaport projects. Full appropriations and allocations should be prioritized based on the level of the return on investment of those projects in FDOT's adopted 5-year Work Program. All of these initiatives will provide a reliable source of capital funding to complement limited financial resources and facilitate the ability of Florida ports to compete outside of Florida.
- Expanding trade in perishables through Florida's seaports. Currently, due to decades-old regulations, grapes, blueberries and other perishables are first brought into the United States through North Atlantic seaports that have cooler climates. State and federal agencies have approved a pilot program to bring grapes and blueberries from Peru and Uruguay into Port Everglades and PortMiami beginning in October 2013. If the pilot program is proven successful, more fruit could be shipped directly to South Florida and delivered to local grocery stores faster and at a lower cost. Additionally, if successful, the program could be expanded to include other cold-treated perishables from these and other countries.
- Full implementation of Chapter 2010-2011, Laws of Florida (HB 963), as passed by the 2010 Florida Legislature, which eliminate unnecessary roadblocks that inhibit economic development at Florida seaports by streamlining environmental permitting, comprehensive plan regulations and other regulations.
- Acceleration of the FDOT National Highway System and Strategic Intermodal System roadway freight connector projects and the funding of more than \$14 million for 2014 and 2015.
- 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, such as distribution facilities for large importers and exporters to entice cargo owners to utilize South Florida ports.
- Expanded access to funding from the Inland Protection Trust Fund (IPTF) for remediation of petroleum

contamination on Florida's port 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.

- Addition of an investment element to the recently completed Freight Mobility and Trade Plan that guides the programs, decisions and actions of FDOT and informs the freight industry about Florida's intended direction. The investment model must consider and integrate all forms of transportation in the plan and clearly lay out how the state will identify and prioritize freight projects.
- Maintaining expertise at the state/metropolitan planning organization (MPO) level on marine transportation as well as maintain dedicated freight offices with coordinators, programs, and funds that support what is implemented at the federal level. Significant portions of highway funds are managed at the state level and extensive expertise in maritime and freight issues is important to ensure port freight is part of the state planning process.

**LOCAL BILLS**  
**(PENDING)**



**NOTES**

**NOTES**





**OFFICE OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS  
AND PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS**

115 S. Andrews Ave., Room 426  
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301

**954-357-7575**

***[broward.org/Intergovernmental](http://broward.org/Intergovernmental)***

PG201352666 12/13