



BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS

2015 STATE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



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INTRODUCTION

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. Broward County is committed to delivering quality services to its community at the lowest possible cost, generating the greatest possible return. Broward County's dedication to the community is reflected in historical commitments to economic development, a robust transportation network, growth management, human services and environmental protection.

To avoid erosion in the capability of local governments to fulfill their financial obligations or provide necessary services to their residents, Broward County opposes any legislative or constitutional efforts to impose expenditure or revenue caps on local governments. Further, maintaining the integrity of home rule power, allowing counties to develop solutions to local problems and opposing unfunded mandates are vital. Infringement on home rule and unfunded mandates can compromise a county's ability to provide essential and discretionary services deemed appropriate by the local community.

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. Broward County supports policies to enhance economic development tools and incentives to induce business expansion, targeted industry retention, new capital investment and job creation. Maintaining the ability of local governments to implement strong growth management programs is also core to providing the appropriate level of local support to economic development.

Establishing and maintaining an efficient and accessible intermodal transportation network is essential to providing quality service to the community and fostering economic growth. 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 encourages its state partners to continue state funding for operations, maintenance, and capital for transit, airport and seaport projects.

Broward County recognizes the importance of providing basic human services to protect and assist residents in need; and has demonstrated its commitment by providing funding for the direct delivery of medical assistance, mental health and substance abuse services, social and aging services, child advocacy and sexual assault services and housing assistance with the purpose of promoting wellness and achieving self-sufficiency. The Board supports increased funding for core human services including mental health programs, substance abuse services, supportive housing, HIV/AIDS prevention and services, employment and education initiatives for people with behavioral health issues or disabilities.

The Board values a vibrant, healthy environment with abundant and accessible open space including nourished beaches, public parks and preserved environmental resources. Broward County has long recognized the value of strong programs to protect the environment and encourages the State reflect that commitment through enhanced funding for beach nourishment projects, water infrastructure projects, climate preparedness and adaptation initiatives and renewable energy projects; and science based, defensible environmental policies.

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2015 PRIORITIES

ENTERPRISE ZONES

The Board supports legislation which reauthorizes and fully funds the Florida Enterprise Zone Act of 1994.

VOLUNTARY PREKINDERGARTEN EDUCATION PROGRAM (VPK)

The Board supports increased funding for Florida's VPK Education Program to reduce the program waitlist in Broward County.

BEACH RENOURISHMENT AND INLET MANAGEMENT FUNDING

The Board supports increased funding for beach nourishment and inlet management projects through DEP's Local Government Funding Assistance Program. Specifically, the Board supports:

an appropriation for Broward County's Segment II Beach Renourishment project in an amount not less than \$3.3 million of the state's cost share (50 percent of the non-federal cost share); an appropriation for Broward County's Segment III Beach Renourishment project in an amount not less than \$498,000 for engineering and permitting services; and an appropriation for the Port Everglades Sand Bypass project in an amount not less than \$739,000 for final design of the project.

CLIMATE PREPAREDNESS AND ADAPTATION

Florida is considered one of the most vulnerable regions in the country to the consequences of climate change, with Southeast Florida particularly susceptible to 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 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.

FLORIDA CRIMINAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROJECT

The Board supports legislation and state funding to establish a Florida Criminal Behavioral Health Project to divert individuals with serious behavioral health disorders or co-occurring behavioral health and substance abuse disorders away from the criminal justice system and into comprehensive community-based treatment and support services.

APPROPRIATIONS REQUESTS

AVIATION FUNDING

Support state funding for Airport Development Grant Program that is equal to or exceeds the Florida Department of Transportation Tentative Work Plan for FY 2015-2016.

Support state funding, through the Strategic Airport Investment Project Program, for the construction of Federal Inspection Services (FIS) Facilities at the new Concourse G in Terminal 4 and at the new Concourse A in Terminal 1 at Broward County's Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport. State funding will help address FIS facility capacity issues associated with the fast growth in international service.

BEACH RENOURISHMENT AND INLET MANAGEMENT FUNDING

Support increased funding for beach nourishment and inlet management projects through the Department of Environmental Protection Local Government Funding Assistance Program. Specifically, the Board supports:

Broward County's Segment II Beach Renourishment project. Segment II is anticipated to receive a 55 percent federal cost-share participation, which is \$24.2 million of the total construction project budget of \$44 million. The remaining 45 percent (\$19.8 million) will be cost shared between the state, Broward County and cities within the project limits (Fort Lauderdale, Pompano Beach and Lauderdale-by-the-Sea). As the state appropriated \$4.7 million during the 2013 Legislative Session and \$2.03 million during the 2014 Legislative Session, the Board requests an appropriation of the remaining \$3.3 million of the state's cost share (50 percent of the non-federal cost share).

Broward County's Segment III Beach Renourishment project. Segment III is eligible for a 58 percent Federal cost-share percentage on a reimbursable basis. The remaining 42 percent will be cost shared between the state and Broward County. The Board requests an appropriation of \$498,000 for engineering and permitting services.

Port Everglades Sand Bypass project. The Bypass project will facilitate the economical collection of beach compatible sand for use along the shoreline south of the inlet. As inlet projects are eligible for a 75 percent cost share by the state, the Board requests an appropriation of \$739,000 for final design of the project. The remaining 25 percent of the final design costs will be borne by Broward County.

PORT EVERGLADES

Support full appropriation and allocation of projects in FDOT's adopted Five-Year Work Program which are prioritized based on the level of the return on investment. Each Work Plan approved initiative provides a reliable source of capital funding to complement limited financial resources and facilitates the ability of Florida ports to compete outside of Florida. The Florida Department of Transportation Tentative Work Plan for FY 2015-2016 includes \$2.5 million for Broward County's Port Everglades.

TOPEEKEEGEE YUGNEE PARK (T.Y. PARK)

Support \$1 million for 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. The project is consistent with the goals of the water supply plan (373.709, F.S.) and it remains eligible for funding.

CHILD PROTECTION TEAMS

Support \$1.5 million in funding for the Broward County Child Protection Team (CPT). This would represent an increase of \$192,403 through the Florida Department of Health's Children's Medical Services (DOH/CMS), which funds Child Protection Teams (CPT) throughout the state. Support the increase of CMS-CPT program funds to ensure their continuation as a recurring part of the state budget.

COMMUNITY CARE FOR THE ELDERLY

Support increased funding for the Community Care for the Elderly Program within the Florida Department of Elder Affairs. An increase of \$500,000 for Broward County – Planning and Service Area 10, would allow for a reduction in the current waitlist of 1,885 functionally impaired elderly residents.

HOMELESSNESS

Support \$3 million for the Florida Coalition for the Homeless as Florida's coordinating agency for the 28 local homeless coalitions. The work of Broward County and the other 27 local homeless coalition's draws down more than \$79.7 million in federal funds targeted to housing and supportive services for homeless individuals and families. The funding of individual coalitions through a statewide coordinating entity has become a best practice in social service delivery systems.

Support \$3.84 million for statewide Challenge Grants. Authorized in Section 420.644(4), Florida Statutes, Challenge Grants competitively award grants to assist local continuums of care lead agencies in implementing strategies to address the needs of persons experiencing homelessness.

Support \$560,406 for the State of Florida Office on Homelessness. The Florida Office on Homelessness is essential for the receipt of non-entitlement federal funds and to coordinating the activities of the Council on Homelessness.

FLORIDA NETWORK OF CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTERS (FNCAC)

Support \$5.25 million 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.

FLORIDA COUNCIL AGAINST SEXUAL VIOLENCE (FCASV)

Support \$300,000 for the FCASV for Rape Crisis Programs that address sexual assault, dating violence and stalking. In Broward County, the Nancy J. Cotterman Center is the FCASV certified Rape Crisis Center that provides a range of trauma informed services on a 24/7 basis.

CULTURAL AFFAIRS GRANT PROGRAMS

Support a total statewide appropriation of \$49.47 million for the Department of State Division of Cultural Affairs Grants Program. The appropriation would fund programs such as Cultural and Museum Grants, Specific Cultural Project Grants, the Florida State Touring Program and Fellowships, the Cultural Facilities Grant Program and the Cultural Endowment Program.

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 PROJECT AND INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING

Support state funding for water infrastructure projects including replacement of 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. Specifically, the Board supports funding for the following projects; \$200,000 for Hillsboro Aquifer Storage and Recovery; \$150,000 for Wetlands Rehydration Construction; \$160 million for the C-51 Reservoir Project; \$65 million for the Broward County – Palm Beach County Reclaimed Water Pipeline; and \$7 million for the South Florida Water Management District S-38B Pump Rehabilitation Project.

DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE DETENTION CENTERS

Support state funding to the Department of Juvenile Justice to upgrade, renovate, or reconstruct detention centers that are in a state of disrepair. Support investments in juvenile facilities to enhance the conditions of secure confinement for detained youth.

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

ARTICLE V TECHNOLOGY FEE

Amend state law to increase the County's portion of the recording surcharge in Section 28.24(12) (e)1., Florida Statutes, from \$2 to \$8, to fund the technology needs of the state trial courts, State Attorney Offices, Public Defenders Offices and Guardian Ad Litem Offices.

CLERK OF COURT RECORDING FEE CLARIFICATION

Amend state law to allow Broward County to recover the costs in recording orders of dismissal, final judgments, certificates of title in foreclosure sales, and for certified copies of documents in the Official Records of Broward County.

HIGH IMPACT VETERANS SERVICE AREA

Support legislation establishing a "High Impact Veterans County" designation and grant program that allocates state funds for additional Veteran Services Officers in counties with large veteran populations to increase veterans' access to services and unattained federal benefits.

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.

LOCAL LICENSING AGENCIES FOR CHILD CARE PROVIDERS

Amend state law allowing Local Licensing Agencies for Child Care access to the Care Provider Background Screening Clearinghouse administered by the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration.

ALTERNATIVE FUEL VEHICLES AND CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE

Support legislative initiatives to expand the use of electric vehicles and other alternative fuel vehicles, including hybrid, hydrogen fuel cell and clean diesel vehicles. Support the expansion of electric vehicle charging infrastructure.

SOLAR ENERGY

Support the expansion of existing net metering policies to allow for off-site or "virtual" net metering.

Support legislation and/or constitutional amendments that exempt any increase in the just value of a commercial property attributable to the installation of solar photovoltaic systems and/or tangible personal property taxes because of such installations.

Support legislation allowing Power Purchase Agreements.

REGULATION OF PLASTIC BAGS

Support legislation to remove the prohibition on local government action to regulate the use of disposable plastic bags.

LOCAL AMENDMENTS TO THE FLORIDA BUILDING CODE

Support legislation allowing local energy conservation, renewable energy, and water conservation amendments to an edition of the Florida Building Code to carry over into the next edition, subject to the normal review and modification procedures outlined in the Code.

LOCAL BILLS

FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE - WATERWAY MARKERS (FILED NOVEMBER 17, 2014)

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWCC) changed its administrative rules to remove responsibility from Broward County to manage waterway markers advising boaters of certain speeds along the Florida Intracoastal Waterway. The local bill deletes Section 2 of Chapter 86-364, Laws of Florida, which requires the County to maintain such signage. The FWCC requested the County file this local bill.

NOTES



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