



**2017 STATE
FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES**



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FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES

RESPONSIVE, EFFICIENT, QUALITY SERVICES

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 urges the state to establish sound fiscal policies and encourage a balanced approach to delivery of service and protection of tax payers. Broward County is committed to delivering quality services to its community at the lowest possible cost, generating the greatest possible return. The Board supports legislation and regulatory initiatives that reduce the cost of delivering services.

HOME RULE

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.

CONSUMER PROTECTION

Broward County is 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, transportation network companies, moving services and used cars.

HUMAN RESOURCES

As major employers in 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.

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.

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 Broward County's port and international airport are of the highest priority to the County. The Board supports state funding for equipment and technology to implement Broward's port and airport security programs.

GENERAL REVENUE

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.

COMMUNICATION SERVICES

The Board supports the maintenance of an equitable tax structure for communication products and 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 supports legislation to bring Florida law into compliance with the Streamlined Sales Tax Agreement to modernize the state's sales and use tax administration and collection, and allow the state to require that remote vendors collect and remit state and local option sales tax.

FIREARMS REGULATION

The Board supports legislation allowing local governments to regulate or prohibit firearms in government owned buildings and facilities. The Board further supports legislation prohibiting the possession of firearms, weapons, and ammunition in substance abuse programs, mental health programs, and sexual assault treatment facilities.

The Board opposes legislation allowing individuals with concealed-weapons licenses to open-carry firearms on college and university campuses; at state legislative and cabinet meetings; governing board meetings of counties, cities, school boards, special districts; and in courthouses.

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.

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 Broward 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

The Board 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 in 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.

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.

16 COUNTY COALITION

The Board supports the 16 County Coalition 2017 Legislative Priorities, unless specific issues conflict with the Broward County position.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Board supports 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.

RECOVERY RESIDENCE/SOBER HOME REGULATION

The Board supports legislation defining and establishing mandatory registration and mandatory minimum regulatory standards for recovery residence facilities, while also allowing more stringent local regulation.

The Board supports legislation regulating sober homes, including mandatory licensure and consumer protections against deceptive trade and marketing practices.

SMOKING REGULATION PREEMPTION

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

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. Accordingly, the Board supports the County's current local trauma care network, and opposes any legislation or agency rule adversely affecting the ability to effectively train physicians and other trauma-related health care practitioners or the ability to provide high-quality medical care to trauma patients. The Board opposes any action that increases costs by escalating competition for needed specialty physicians, or reduces 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.

CIVIL RIGHTS AND 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, gender expression and sexual orientation.

AVIATION FUEL TAX EXEMPTION

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

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL PEOPLE AND TYPES OF BUSINESSES, INCLUDING NOT-FOR-PROFITS

A major goal of county government is to encourage economic development to promote opportunities including small business and not-for-profits which lead to an improved economy for the community. 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 also supports programs and efforts providing capital formation for small businesses and not-for-profits, and the creation of state incentives for job training and revitalization projects 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 small 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.

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.

FILM AND ENTERTAINMENT

The Board supports increased statewide funding for the Entertainment Industry Financial Incentive Program or any successor program which promotes increased film, high impact television, and other entertainment productions in Florida through competitive incentives. The Board also supports legislation that recognizes local government support through direct and indirect contributions.

BROWNFIELD DEVELOPMENT

The Board supports incentives designed to encourage participation in the Brownfield Redevelopment Program, such as the Voluntary Cleanup Tax Credit.

INVESTMENT IN RENEWABLE ENERGY, SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES, AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

The Broward County Board of County Commissioners has long recognized the value of strong policies and programs to protect the environment. The Board opposes efforts which would undermine protection of public health and the environment. The Board values a vibrant, healthy environment with abundant and accessible open space throughout the county. Local residents and visitors enjoy pristine water bodies, clean air, and healthy beaches. The Board encourages the state to enact comprehensive climate and energy legislation to protect the state and planet for future generations.

The Board supports state legislation to reduce carbon emissions and promote energy efficiency and renewable energy, consistent with the County's own goals to reduce countywide carbon emissions 17 percent below 2005 levels by 2020 and 82 percent below 2010 levels by 2050. Specifically, the Board urges the Department of Environmental Protection, in collaboration with local governments, to implement the US EPA's Clean Power Plan which prioritizes energy efficiency, renewable energy, and economic development in the green sector. It opposes any legislation which would proscribe the development of a state implementation plan (resulting in a plan imposed by the federal government). The Board supports legislation that provides technical assistance and funding for counties to implement emission reduction programs. The Board also supports state investments in modes of transportation that encourage alternatives to the private automobile, such as public transit, bicycle infrastructure, and the expansion of low-carbon alternative fuel infrastructure.

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 the impacts of 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. The Board supports legislation for providing for climate adaptation planning by all state agencies, especially for sea level rise and impacts on water supplies, natural systems, and future flood conditions.

RENEWABLE ENERGY

The Board supports legislation to establish a renewable energy portfolio standard of 20 percent renewable energy for electric utilities by 2025 and which defines renewable energy sources as wind, solar, geothermal, biomass, landfill gas, qualified hydropower, and marine and hydrokinetic 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 photovoltaic energy use in residential and commercial properties. The Board further supports incentives to promote the use of third-party financing options, including power purchase agreements and solar leases, and opposes any attempts to limit net metering or charge system access fees for net metering customers. Additionally, the Board supports legislation strengthening local governments' ability to create voluntary energy financing districts.

The Board supports the preservation of Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) as a finance strategy to expand investments in weatherization, energy efficiency, and renewable energy by residential and commercial property owners through voluntary property assessments. The Board believes such improvements are in the public interest.

The Board supports existing statutory authority for the Florida Solar Energy Center (FSEC).

OIL AND NATURAL GAS EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION

The Board opposes any legislation which would allow for oil and natural gas exploration within Florida including territorial waters. The Board opposes preemption of local zoning regulations for oil and gas uses, and preemption of other local regulation of oil and gas exploration and production activities.

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.

SOUTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE COMPACT AND CLIMATE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

The Board supports the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact State Energy and Climate Legislative Principles.

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 federal Clean Air Act and state legislation that would reduce air pollution and the adverse health impacts of poor air quality, such as asthma and other chronic respiratory ailments, cardiovascular disease, and premature mortality. The Board supports amending state law to enable direct pass-through funding of the Clean Air Act Title V (Part 70) fees to approved local air pollution control programs, in an amount sufficient to fund all reasonable direct and indirect costs of administering the Title V permit program. 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, SHORELINES, AND COASTAL RESOURCES

Florida's beaches and shorelines are a critical part of the state's travel and tourism industry, generating jobs, economic activity, and local, state, and federal tax revenues. A recent study by the Office of Economic and Demographic Research (EDR) indicates an unprecedented return on investment (ROI) of 5.4 for the statewide beach management program. Beaches are also the first line of defense against hurricane and storm surge, which threatens life and property. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' studies confirm that healthy beaches and shorelines reduce flood damage to coastal properties, resulting in lower federal disaster rehabilitation payouts. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection estimates that more than one-half of Florida's 825 miles of beaches are in a state of critical erosion. The Board therefore supports the restoration to previous levels of funding for beach management and sand bypass projects, including a larger share from the Land Acquisition Trust Fund and continuing contributions from non-recurring General Revenue. In addition to beach renourishment, the Board encourages the State of Florida to study, promote, and fund nature-based approaches for preventing and repairing, beach erosion, such as vegetated dunes, coral and oyster reefs, wetlands, marshes, mangrove forests, and other natural features.

The Board supports legislation to create a Southeast Florida Coral Reef Resource Management Area from the St. Lucie Inlet to the northern border of Biscayne National Park and to direct the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to develop a coastal management plan for the Area, including measures to protect coral reefs, maximize water quality,

improve fisheries, and reduce direct impacts of anchoring, boat groundings, and other activities on coral reefs.

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. 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.

CONSERVATION REQUIREMENTS IN BUILDING CODE

The Board recognizes the overarching need for broad reductions in water and energy consumption within the built environment and especially within residential and commercial structures. Accordingly, the building code can play a significant role in ensuring development practices protect limited resources. Energy and water conservation requirements can be enhanced through local amendments to the Florida Building Code, but such amendments require reauthorization every three years--unlike flood protection standards, which have permanency in Broward and Miami-Dade counties. Given the magnitude of capital expenditures required for the development of new energy and water supplies, and the burden borne by communities, local governments, and the environment when resources are strained, the Board supports legislation allowing local governments to adopt local amendments to the building code pertaining to water and energy conservation that are retained as permanent improvements.

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 its benefits to regional water resource sustainability.

The Board further recognizes that the restoration of the Everglades 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 from the Biscayne Aquifer in the face of rising sea levels.

The Board supports continued state funding for Everglades restoration projects under the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP), specifically the Broward County Water Preserve Area (WPA) and the Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP). Additionally, the Board recognizes that the Everglades and associated CERP projects contribute valuable educational and recreational benefits to residents and tourists. The Board supports state and federal funding to construct 13 miles of trail and other recreational components of the WPA that will provide significant recreational benefits to the County-owned Everglades Holiday Park.

LAND ACQUISITION PROGRAMS AND PUBLIC LANDS

Land acquisition programs and initiatives are critical to preserving and protecting the state's endangered natural resources and quality of life, and the Board supports local, state, and federal land acquisition programs and initiatives. The Board supports the use of Water and Land Conservation Amendment funding for the purposes named in the text of the amendment, and opposes the use of this funding for agency staffing and other administrative costs previously covered by other funding sources. Furthermore, the Board urges the Legislature to consider local priorities, including extreme-weather and climate resilience, shoreline protection and restoration, Everglades restoration, ocean outfall projects, and water resource protection, in selecting initiatives to be funded by the Land Acquisition Trust Fund under the terms of the Water and Land Conservation Amendment.

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

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 further opposes administrative action or legislation which would allow timber harvesting, cattle grazing, or agriculture in state parks.

PLASTIC BAG WASTE REDUCTION

Plastic bags and expanding polystyrene products constitute some of the most common types of debris found in the coastal environment. They are a documented hazard to sea turtles and other marine animals, and once introduced to the environment take between hundreds of years to fully degrade. The ability to reduce the contributions of plastic bags and expand polystyrene products to global and local pollution is an important conservation strategy that compliments agency efforts to improve the quality of natural and coastal populations through reductions in non-point sources of pollution and the preservation of habitat.

The Board supports legislation to remove the prohibition on local government action to regulate or ban the use of disposable plastic bags and polystyrene products.

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. Under current and future conditions, 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 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 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. The Board supports significant appropriations for the Water Protection and Sustainability Program as a funding source for critical water supply projects and programs, favors longer-term consumptive use permits for regional alternative water supply projects, and provides specific endorsement of state support for the proposed

C-51 Surface Water Reservoir. The Board also supports projects and funding to expand water reuse projects, especially in areas subject to ocean outfall reduction requirements.

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 and inspection of septic tanks.

The Board supports state funding for septic-to-sewer conversions, especially in areas vulnerable to sea level rise or near sensitive environmental resources, but only if such funding is distributed equitably to communities through the state, including Broward County.

APPROACH HUMAN SERVICES COLLABORATIVELY AND COMPASSIONATELY

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. To this end, the Board established the Homeless Trust Fund which leverages other federal and state funding appropriated to serve persons experiencing homelessness. The Board supports local formulation and implementation of policies that protect the health, mental health, safety and welfare of Florida's residents. The Board supports increased funding for core human services programs including mental health and substance abuse services, supportive housing, sexual violence services, child advocacy programs, employment, and education initiatives for people with behavioral health issues or disabilities. The Board further supports continued efforts to work through Medicaid reform initiatives to ensure persons with substance abuse and mental health treatment needs are appropriately served.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND RESOURCES

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 expanding implementation of parent-friendly screening tools to promote early identification and intervention of developmental delays and disabilities in children. The Board supports protecting at a minimum the current levels or greater of mental health and substance abuse services for children and adolescents. The Board supports protecting at a minimum the current levels or greater of services for children and adolescents with developmental delays, disabilities and complex medical needs. The Board supports expanding the School Readiness Program to provide subsidized child care services for children from low-income families and reduce the waiting list for such services. The Board also supports efforts to ensure that children have access to high-quality child care services, including those who are funded from child care subsidies (School Readiness funds).

The Board supports increased funding for Florida’s Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program (VPK) to reduce the program waitlist in Broward County.

The Board supports adequate and equitable resources for the child welfare system to ensure the safety and well-being of children at risk for abuse and the provision of a continuum of high-quality services for children in the dependency system and youth in transitional independent living programs.

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 increased funding for the Department of Health, Children’s Medical Services, and Child Protection Team Program.

The Board supports expansion or implementation of evidence-based prevention and intervention programs to reduce the likelihood of child maltreatment and provide safe and caring homes for children through increased funding of the Florida Network of Children’s Advocacy Centers (FNCAC).

The Board supports access to high quality trauma focused services for victims of sexual violence from certified rape crisis centers funded through the Florida Council Against Sexual Violence (FCASV).

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

The Board supports state funding and resources to address the significant unmet behavioral health needs in Broward County, including permanent, supportive, and transitional housing, multidisciplinary teams, specifically designating Children’s Community Action Treatment Teams (CAT), Family Intervention Treatment Teams (FIT), and Florida Assertive Community Treatment Teams (FACT) in Broward County, community support services, short term residential treatment beds, and integrated primary/behavioral health programs to provide services to special populations. The Board also supports full implementation of Chapter 2016-241, Laws of Florida (SB 12) relating to Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services. The

Board also supports protecting the existing behavioral health safety net in Broward County and ensuring that this safety net received appropriate funding.

HIV/AIDS

The Board supports the modification of the Florida Department of Health's current funding methodologies and the formula for state funding and Ryan White Part B funding for HIV/AIDS services. The Board strongly encourages prioritization of funding and services to communities with greatest need and higher incidence to develop new innovative strategies to identify, link and engage residents with HIV in the established systems of care.

The Board supports full funding and increased 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, which allows for 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 with comorbid conditions.

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 and Viral Load Data to Monitor HIV Burden and Treatment Outcomes for local communities. The Board also supports enactment of legislation that implements the Center for Disease Control recommendations for routine HIV screening and testing in healthcare settings. Increase financial support to communities with high incidents of sexually transmitted diseases to expand the availability of same day screening and treatment sites in communities at greatest risk.

The Board supports the advance release of finalized Federal Market Place Insurance Plan information at least 30 days prior to the Federal Market Place Open Enrollment period to allow Special Needs communities to review insurance plans and educate consumers.

The Board supports integrated planning activities between state and local governments focused on the prioritization of critical health and support services including allocation of funding for individuals in communities disproportionately impacted by HIV, use of a single data system for care coordination, and the use of best practices for 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 the uncoordinated discharge of homeless persons from publicly funded institutions, such as hospitals, foster care, and prisons who are homeless. The Board supports efforts to promote housing-first strategies throughout the state of Florida as part of the continuum of care or other best practices that have shown to adequately house homeless persons.

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 Board supports the expansion of the Medicaid/CHIP (Children’s Health Insurance Program) coverage to Youth Aging out of Foster Care.

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.

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.

JUVENILE JUSTICE

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 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.

MEDICAID EXPANSION AND ACCESS

The Board supports expansion of Medicaid for adults under the age of 65, with income up to 133% of the federal poverty level, in order to expand health care coverage for uninsured Broward County residents.

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.

The Board supports expansion of the Medicaid Waiver Program for Developmental Disabilities (iBudget Waiver), operated by the Agency for Persons with Disabilities, to serve more eligible individuals.

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 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, Alzheimer’s disease and the Medicaid Long Term Care Managed Care 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, “blue meth,” and other new drugs that arise within the community. The Board is further committed to preventing the sale and marketing of smoking-related devices specifically designed to appeal to children and youth.

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 increased funding to expand jail diversion programs.

OFFER SUSTAINABLE, COMPATIBLE, INNOVATIVE HOUSING OPTIONS FOR ALL INCOME-LEVELS

AFFORDABLE AND ATTAINABLE WORKFORCE 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 107,107 renter households. 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 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 state legislation and funding for the implementation of projects within Adaptation Action Areas.

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.

DELIVER AN EFFICIENT AND ACCESSIBLE REGIONAL INTERMODAL TRANSPORTATION NETWORK

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 (FDOT) 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.

The Board opposes any attempt to pre-empt airport and local government ordinances to regulate Transportation Network Companies access to airports.

The Board supports state annual funding for Airport Development Grant Program and the Strategic Airport Investment Program that is equal to or exceeds the Florida Department of Transportation Tentative Work Plan for the previous fiscal year.

EQUITABLE STATE FUNDING FOR OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE OF FDOT SIGNAL NETWORK

The County supports adequately funding FDOT in order to allow FDOT to fully reimburse Broward County for the actual costs of operating and maintaining FDOT's traffic signals. Broward County operates and maintains all traffic signals in the County as an integrated and coordinated system in order to effectively manage all modes of traffic. Traffic signals on State roads make up approximately 67% of the system and are owned by FDOT. Broward County operates and maintains these signals on behalf of FDOT through an existing agreement which partially reimburses Broward County for the costs. Over the years, as traffic signal technology has become more complex and traffic conditions have become more congested, the County has expended substantial efforts to effectively operate and maintain the entire system. Currently, our expenses on State traffic signals are significantly higher than the reimbursement. FDOT recognizes this disparity as a state-wide issue and is planning to increase the reimbursement rates but proposed increases are far short of actual expenses. FDOT fully funds the operation and maintenance of all other aspects of the State roads (i.e. repaving, drainage, bridge operation, etc.).

BROWARD COUNTY'S PORT EVERGLADES

The Port Everglades Department is a self-supporting Enterprise Fund of Broward County government with operating revenues of approximately \$153 million in Fiscal Year 2015 (October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2015). It does not rely on local tax dollars for operations. The total value of economic activity at Port Everglades is approximately \$29.9 billion. 226,553 Florida jobs are impacted by the Port, including over 12,840 people who work for companies that provide direct services to Port Everglades. These jobs generate \$829 million in state and local taxes.

While Port Everglades is a major gateway for international trade and cruise vacations, Florida's volume leader for containerized cargo, and South Florida's main seaport for receiving petroleum products including gasoline, jet fuel and alternative fuels; the current configuration of the Port is berth constrained and challenged by insufficient channel depths and widths. This makes it difficult to accommodate the increased volume of business customers seeking more and larger dock spaces. Further, navigation is challenged by strong and unpredictable cross currents in or near the outer entrance channel. These currents can exceed 5 knots at times, and change by the hour. Vessels have been held at sea for hours to days until currents subside. The Board supports state legislation and funding assistance to advance major projects addressing these issues which will be paid by a combination of Port Everglades revenue generated through port user fees, federal appropriations and state grants.

Project One: The Southport Turning Notch Extension (STNE) will add additional dock space for larger cargo ships. It is currently estimated that extension project will be completed and in operation by 2020. Future phases of the project include the addition of Super Neo Panamax gantry cranes to serve the existing Southport container berths. In addition, another future component is the planned crane rail extension to the full length of the expanded Turning Notch berth to utilize the existing cranes. The total cost of the STNE is approximately \$270M and will be paid through Port-generated revenue and state funding.

Project Two: The Port Everglades Harbor Feasibility Study investigated navigation improvement opportunities. U. S. Army Corps of Engineers advanced this study to a plan in June 2015, with a signed a Chief's Report addressing existing and future vessel movements, resolving navigation restriction problems, and presenting opportunities for national economic development. It is expected this report will be authorized for funding via the 2016 WRDA Bill. Deepening and widening construction is anticipated to be completed by 2022, and is expected to create an estimated 4,700 total construction jobs and nearly 1,500 permanent direct jobs locally from the additional cargo capacity. The estimated cost is \$374M which includes mitigating potential environmental damage, including threats to endangered plants and animals.

The Board also supports:

- The Intermodal Logistics Center (ILC) Infrastructure Support Program. The ILC as an important part of the Florida Department of Transportation's (FDOT) commitment to support freight growth in Florida. By enhancing trade and logistics infrastructure, job opportunities are created and Florida's economy strengthened. The program provides an annual allocation of \$5 million with a 50 percentage matching fund requirement from applicants.
- Increased funding for priority seaport projects identified under the Florida Seaport Transportation and Economic Development (FSTED) program, and continued support for the Strategic Port Investment Initiative (SPII).
- Expanding trade in perishables through Florida's seaports. Currently, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) cold treatment pilot project, authorized at Port Everglades for an indefinite period, has been declared a success by the USDA. The support from/approval by the Florida

Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services for the expansion of the perishables cold treatment pilot program will result in other commodities and other countries approved for direct shipments to South Florida. When produce comes directly to South Florida, it can be on supermarket shelves five days faster than if it went via ship to Philadelphia and trucked back. That contributes to longer shelf-life, better quality and lower costs.

- Focusing state resources on the transportation facilities most critical for statewide and interregional travel including acceleration of the FDOT National Highway System and Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) roadway freight connector projects.
- Innovative state initiatives directed at inducing international trade companies to locate or expand facilities in Florida, thus fostering stronger economic relationships with trade 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.
- Continued access to funding from the Inland Protection Trust Fund (IPTF) for remediation of petroleum contamination on Florida's port lands.
- The investment element of the Freight Mobility and Trade Plan which ensures that Florida is self-sufficient in servicing its consumer population with a unified vision across modes by making strategic investments in freight infrastructure.
- Maintaining 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.
- Continuation of the FDOT Trade and Logistics Academy three-day freight training pilot program which produces knowledgeable FDOT employees who understand the state multimodal transportation network that integrates waterborne transportation with highway transportation, rail transportation and air transportation.
- Port and port user opposition to federal plans for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to increase fees at all U.S. ports of entry for commercial maritime cargo vessels, commercial aircraft and commercial trucks with transponders, monitoring of phytosanitary treatment of imported cargo, the \$2 per-passenger fee for inspecting cruise passenger baggage, additional fees if certain inspections are deemed needed, and increased weekend and holiday fees for inspection or quarantine.

CULTIVATE COMMUNITY CULTURE, ARTS, RECREATION, AND LIFE-LONG LEARNING

Broward County urges the state to help make the arts accessible to benefit the social, economic, and cultural well-being of the state. Public support of the arts and humanities is dependent upon the development of a cultural infrastructure at all levels of government. The Board supports funding cultural arts programs. Broward County has more than 1.8 million residents, 15 million visitors, 10,000 artists, 6,523 arts-related businesses employing 23,497 people, 823 not-for-profit cultural organizations and 31 cities, some of which operate their own arts councils, cultural facilities and public art programs.

CULTURAL SERVICES

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

LIBRARIES

Libraries are free resources 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.

The Board supports increased statewide funding for the Department of State Division of Cultural Affairs Grants Program which includes cultural and museum grants, the Florida State Touring Program and Fellowships, the Cultural Facilities Grant Program, and the Cultural Endowment Program.

PARKS

Easy access to parks, green spaces, and recreation areas is critical to the wellbeing of urban communities. From improving the health and wellness of urban citizens to creating a healthier physical environment, city parks are vital to Florida. The Board supports increased state-wide funding for the expansion and maintenance of parks.