



**2017 STATE  
LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM**



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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 opportunities including small business and not-for-profits which lead to an improved economy for the community. Broward County supports policies to enhance economic development utilizing various tools and incentives to induce business expansion, targeted industry retention, new capital investments, and revitalization of economically depressed areas. 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.

## 2017 PRIORITIES

### **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 for countywide beach renourishment projects and the Port Everglades Sand Bypass project.

### **PROHIBITION OF OIL OR GAS DRILLING**

Support legislation clarifying that no oil or gas permit may be issued unless a county, like municipalities, approves the application for oil or gas drilling projects within its jurisdiction. **Oppose** legislation authorizing any form of extreme well stimulation for the purpose of oil and gas resource extraction, including hydraulic and acid fracturing, near conservation land or drinking water aquifers. The Board also opposes preempting local regulation of extreme well stimulation and oil and gas exploration and extraction.

### **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: \$150,000 for Wetlands Rehydration Construction; \$160 million for the C-51 Reservoir Project; and \$65 million for the Broward County – Palm Beach County Reclaimed Water Pipeline.

### **CHILDCARE DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATES**

Support teacher preparation in all publicly-funded early learning programs by requiring each lead teacher to have a Child Development Associate degree within five years and by requiring 20 hours of annual professional development.

### **CRIME LAB FUNDING**

Amend state law to ensure each local criminal analysis laboratory, designated in Section 943.35(1), F.S., receives the state mandated funding level (75 percent of actual operating costs) required under Section 943.35(2), F.S.

### **AFFORDABLE AND ATTAINABLE WORKFORCE HOUSING**

Support full use of the dedicated revenues provided by the Sadowski Affordable Housing Act for Florida's housing programs and projects, and oppose any diversion of housing trust fund monies for purposes unrelated to meeting the affordable housing needs of Floridians. Support full funding of the State Housing Initiative Partnership (SHIP) and State Apartment Incentive Loan (SAIL) Programs to provide assistance to income eligible residents, including seniors and individuals with disabilities.

### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Support funding for the Black Business Loan Fund and Hispanic Business Investment Loan Fund. Support legislation which would increase funding for economic development programs in low-income/high poverty communities within Broward County. Support legislation to create and fund Sister City programs, which would stimulate economic development within Broward County.

### **CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM**

Support funding for de-escalation training for law enforcement officers. Support funding for organizations providing reentry programs. Support funding for organizations providing apprenticeship or internship programs

for disadvantaged youth. Support the automatic restoration of civil rights, specifically voting rights, to individuals convicted of committing a felony after release from prison and successful completion of any applicable probationary period.

#### **ARTICLE V TECHNOLOGY FEE**

Advances in technology have outpaced revenues for mandated court technology resources. Funding priorities must be reexamined as advances move forward. Therefore, the Board supports legislation that:

- Amends state law to increase the County’s portion of the recording surcharge in Section 28.24(12) (e)1, F.S., from \$2.00 to \$8.00, to fund the technology needs of the state trial courts, State Attorney Offices, Public Defenders Offices and Guardian Ad Litem Offices.
- Deletes the requirement that counties must increase Article V expenditures 1.5% over the previous year’s expenditures.
- Allows counties more flexibility in the use of the funds generated by the discretionary \$65.00 cost on criminal and traffic cases provided in Section 939.185, F.S.

#### **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.

#### **FIBER OPTIC CABLING**

Support legislation amending state law to require that companies fully repair damaged fiber optic cables (underground or other) when splicing occurs.

#### **BLASTING**

Support the appropriation of \$400,000 in recurring funds to provide for the State Fire Marshal to conduct or contract for a study to review mining activities as provided in Ch. 2015-141, Laws of Florida.

#### **MITIGATION LANDS**

Amend legislation to prohibit the usage of mitigation land for recreational purposes. Support stricter fines and penalties for trespassers and violators of mitigation land.

#### **AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR SENIORS**

Support funding for all housing projects dedicated to serving income eligible seniors. With more and more seniors “aging-in-place” or locating to South Florida, Broward County is one of the areas in which attainable and sustainable solutions are needed to address the affordable housing needs of seniors.

#### **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.

**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.

## APPROPRIATIONS REQUESTS

### AVIATION FUNDING

Support state funding 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 management and sand bypassing projects, including a larger share from the Amendment 1 trust fund and continuing contributions from non-recurring General Revenue. 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 \$30 million of the total project cost of \$55.6 million. The remaining 45 percent (\$19.8 million) will be cost shared between the state, Broward County and municipalities within the project limits (Fort Lauderdale, Pompano Beach and Lauderdale-by-the-Sea). The state appropriated \$4.7 million in the 2013-2014 budget, \$2.03 million in the 2014-2015 budget, and \$2.7 million in the 2015-2016 budget. For the 2017-2018 budget year, the Board requests an appropriation of \$87,860 for monitoring.

Port Everglades Sand Bypass project. The Bypass project will facilitate the economical collection of beach compatible sand for the chronically eroded 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 \$19,162,500 (\$18,975,000 for construction, and \$187,500 for monitoring). The remaining 25 percent of the 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 Program for FY 2017-2018 includes \$3.6M for Port Everglades new bulkheads at Berths 9 and 10. Total cost of this project is \$77.9M. Widening Slip 1 by 175' to the south will increase vessel capacity. Including the cost for the new bulkheads, the total cost for Slip 1 is \$83.9M and will support 1,436 construction jobs.

### COMMUNITY CARE FOR THE ELDERLY

Support increased funding for the Community Care for the Elderly Program within the Florida Department of Elder Affairs. A recurring annual increase of \$765,000 for Broward County – Planning and Service Area 10 (PSA 10), would allow for a reduction in the current waitlist of 1,797 functionally impaired elderly residents.

### HOMELESSNESS

Support \$3.2 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 27 other local homeless coalitions 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), F.S., 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.

**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.

**CHILD PROTECTION TEAM FUNDING**

Support increased funding to Broward County's Child Protection Team program in order to ensure the successful completion of assessment services for 100% of cases mandatory for referral to CPT.

**FORENSIC SEXUAL ASSAULT SERVICES - NANCY J. COTTERMAN CENTER (NJCC)**

Support \$250,000 for the Broward County Nancy J. Cotterman Center State Attorney Liaison program to ensure that non reporting victims of sexual violence and their non-offending family members have the resources and skills necessary to pursue legal action for their cases.

**CULTURAL AND LIBRARIES FUNDING**

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.

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.

**BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB**

Support state funding for Florida's Boys and Girls Clubs so youth may continue to benefit from its educational, recreational, cultural, after school, summer enrichment, and other social programs. This is one of the best investments we can make in future generations of good community citizens.

**SOUTHEAST CORAL REEF RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AREA**

Amend state law directing DEP and the FWCC to develop a management plan for the proposed coastal management area from the St. Lucie Inlet south to the northern boundary of Biscayne National Park. Support funding of \$1.8 million the Southeast Florida Coral Reef Management and resource condition monitoring program to document and track the health of the coral reef ecosystem.

**CHILD WELFARE FUNDING**

The Board supports increased funding and resources for Florida's 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.

**COURTHOUSE FURNISHINGS REIMBURSEMENT**

The Board supports the full reimbursement of the new Broward County courthouse equipment and furnishings, consistent with Sec. 29.008, F.S. The state of Florida has a constitutional responsibility to equip and furnish non-public areas (e.g., work stations and private offices) in facilities occupied by the courts, state attorneys, public defenders, and guardians ad-litem.

## **LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS**

### **FIREARM REGULATION IN TREATMENT FACILITIES**

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

### **OPIOID ABSUE**

Support expanding the prohibition of general use and sale of new types of synthetic drugs without impacting medical and research practices and support restriction of marketing, display, labeling, and advertising of synthetic drugs and related substances by utilizing consumer protection laws or classifying these activities as deceptive trade practices.

Support a requirement that all medical practitioners enter drug information into the Florida Prescription Drug Monitoring System within three days of prescribing and support recurring state funding for the program.

Support efforts to stop opioid trafficking and increased penalties for dealers and traffickers whose actions result in loss of life

### **MEDICAL MARIJUANA**

The Board supports home rule maintaining local authority to determine land use, zoning, and other regulatory standards for marijuana cultivation, processing, and distribution. The Board also supports legislation that provides a comprehensive health-based regulatory system where the DOH is responsible for licensing cultivation sites, dispensing facilities, and manufacturers of marijuana for medicinal purposes.

### **HOLLYWOOD NORTH BEACH ANCHORAGE RESTRICTION**

Amend state law to restrict overnight vessel anchorage in specific areas to protect it from environmental pollution of the waterway.

### **CHILD CARE DEVELOPMENT REGISTRY**

Support changes allowing the Background Screening Clearinghouse staff rosters for each Child Care Provider be uploaded into a centralized system. This will allow the Florida Office Learning (OEL), to determine if minimum training requirements are met. The Board also supports requiring childcare personnel to register with the Early Learning Workforce Registry.

### **SUMMER CAMP LICENSING PROGRAM**

Support legislation and funding to create a three-year pilot program designated to establish minimum regulatory standards for safety, health, and licensing and monitoring of summer camp programs.

### **CHILD CARE LICENSING AND ENFORCEMENT**

Support amending state law, Ch. 402.315, F.S., to require local licensing agencies be responsible for 50% of the licensing or registering of child care arrangements. Support the 50-50 cost share allocation to any new federal or state requirements. Currently these agencies are responsible for 75% of costs.

### **JUVENILE JUSTICE CIVIL CITATIONS**

Support legislation amending language in Ch. 985.12(5), F.S. to provide a law enforcement officer discretion when provided an option to issue a juvenile a report or issue a civil citation when the child fails to comply with assigned intervention services.

## **HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

Support legislation, which would increase outreach and coordination of services to victims of human trafficking statewide.

## **NANCY J. COTTERMAN CENTER AND MEDICAL EXAMINER'S OFFICE: PUBLIC RECORDS EXEMPTIONS**

Amend legislation, specifically Ch. 119.071, F.S. to provide exemptions for employees at the Nancy J. Cotterman Center and Medical Examiner's Office.

## **FILM AND ENTERTAINMENT INCENTIVES**

Support initiatives for the film, television and entertainment production industries that will promote tourism, foster economic development and create high-wage, high-skill jobs for Floridians.

## **SOBER HOME LICENSURE**

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

## **HOMEOWNER ASSOCIATIONS AND COMPANION ANIMALS**

Support legislation amending Chs. 718, 720, F.S., allowing homeowner and condominium association members to amend Association Protective Covenants by simple majority, specifically with respect to restrictions allowing animals designated as companion animals. Presently, Associations require a supermajority vote to approve changes to restrictions allowing animals.

## **WORKER'S COMPENSATION**

The Board supports legislation that reforms existing worker's compensation laws to provide accessibility, predictability, and stability to the market's respective rates.

# **LOCAL BILLS**

## **DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (DDA)**

The purpose of this local bill is to amend Ch. 2005-346, Laws of Florida adding certain residential property to the boundaries of the authority. The local bill will also revise procedures for final adoption of budget and millage; delete property owner voting qualifications; require a referendum to approve revisions to Chapter 2005-346, Laws of Florida; expand boundaries of the authority; and require a referendum to expand legal boundaries of Chapter 2005-34, Laws of Florida. The law will take effect upon enactment.

## **HOSPITAL DISTRICTS**

The purpose of this local bill is to create a single "Broward Hospital District" within Broward County. The bill will repeal Chs. 2004-397 and 2016-258, Laws of Florida and repeal Chs. 2006-347 and 2007-299, Laws of Florida, resulting in the termination of both the South Broward Hospital District and North Broward Hospital District. The bill specifies the governance structure, powers, functions and duties of the new District. If enacted, the new Broward Hospital District will take effect January, 1, 2018.

***Note: The bill was amended to create a study group, in order to evaluate the long-term effects a single district will have within the community, at the Delegation Public Hearing Workshop.***

Updated local bill developments can be found on the Legislative Delegation's website:

<http://www.broward.org/legislative/Pages/Default.aspx>