



Broward Vice Mayor Keechl's Third Year Report

I can't believe that it's been almost three years since you elected me to be your Broward County Commissioner. And I can't believe that it's been almost a year since my colleagues elected me to be Broward's County's Vice Mayor. I still pinch myself every single day. Yes, being a County Commissioner is a time consuming endeavor, but there isn't a better job in the world. Seriously.

From my first day on the dais, I have championed our "shared vision" for a different Broward County. And over the past three years, the direction of the County Commission has changed — for the better. I like to think that my advocacy has been partially responsible.

First and foremost, I have been an ardent advocate for *lower property taxes and decreased spending*. At my constant urging, in the last two years we have decreased spending by \$200 million; this year we are on course to reduce our budget by another \$100 million. As a result, Broward's annual budget is \$300 million smaller today than it was when you elected me.

I have also advocated for an *environmentally sensitive, yet business friendly approach* to running Broward County. Many successful results can be seen in a

number of initiatives over the past three years. For example, we have expanded our seaport to remain competitive — without destroying in the process a precious mangrove strand located in the port. We have finally agreed to a much needed expansion of our southern runway at Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport. I sponsored a Comprehensive Land Use Plan amendment which strongly discouraged golf course conversions into residential developments, and my amendment requires environmental contamination inspections. I supported a "boat siting" plan which added 4,392 boat slips throughout Broward, but only after the plan contained a strong manatee protection element. And I made sure that it was funded by the users of the boat slips, and not your property taxes. I have consistently advocated for "green" buildings for all new capital projects as well.

You asked me to be your *eyes and ears* on the Commission. As a result, I demanded an outside investigation of Broward's animal control department when I learned of employee animal abuse and negligence. These practices have been stopped. I have supported sensible ethics reform for the Broward County Commission.



I have successfully argued that all budget meetings should be televised so that you see how your tax dollars are being spent.

Over the final year of my first term, I will continue to be your advocate for our shared vision for Broward County. I will continue to be your environmentally sensitive, business friendly, fiscally conservative Commissioner. And I will continue to be your eyes and ears on the Broward County Commission. After all, you and your families deserve nothing less.

My best to you and your families.