



Ken Keechl Commissioner – District 4

115 S. Andrews Ave. Room 412 • Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301 • 954.357.7004 • FAX 954.357.7798
www.broward.org

November/December Newsletter

"County Commissioner Keechl's First Year"

I know it's hard to believe, but it has been a year since I became your County Commissioner. Without a doubt, the last year has been the most fulfilling and exciting time of my life. Thank you again for your vote of confidence in me. I believe that we are making progress in creating a Broward County that is environmentally sensitive, fiscally responsible, and business friendly.

As your representative on the Broward County Commission, I have been a watchdog for your tax dollars and I have consistently voted against unnecessary expenditures. When you first elected me, most of my colleagues didn't agree with me when I suggested cutting 50 million dollars from next year's budget. However, after much prodding, my colleagues and I cut appropriately 90 million dollars from next year's budget. And guess what? The world didn't end.

Here is my promise to you: Last year was only the beginning. I will continue to advocate for fiscal restraint-and without hurting those residents who rely on County services as a "safety net." And I will continue to insure that when the County Commission does spend your tax dollars, we do it wisely and carefully.

During the next twelve months, I will also continue on my mission to protect our dwindling golf courses from residential and commercial development. As I discussed in an earlier newsletter, my colleagues have agreed, in concept, to amend the County's Comprehensive Land Use Plan to "strongly" discourage the conversion of golf courses to non-recreational uses. The legal process is time consuming, but the final vote will occur next year. Already, my colleagues are being courted by high powered lobbyists and developers to change their position on this issue. I have repeatedly reminded them of their previous vote, and I will continue to encourage them to remain committed to the protection of our precious green and open spaces. I am confident that soon we will be victorious.

Lastly, I recognize that a strong economy is necessary for Broward County to thrive and, as a result, the Broward County Commission must be business friendly. Without a healthy economy, tax revenues will fall and higher employment will be inevitable. As a result, I have voted in favor of proposals to assist in the expansion of our local economy, while, at the same time, minimizing any collateral negative environmental effects. As a discussed in an earlier newsletter, I voted for the expansion of the southern runway at Ft. Lauderdale International Airport. After studying the FAA's various reports, I concluded that this step was necessary to avoid future gridlock and, in the long run, was environmentally advantageous. I also voted in favor of a "boat siting plan" that created an additional 4,392 boat slips throughout Broward in response to an overwhelming commercial and residential demand. However, I voted for this plan after insuring that it contained a strong manatee protection element—funded solely by the users of the additional boat slips and not your property taxes.

Again, thank you for your support. I look forward to the year ahead. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, or would like me to speak to your homeowners' or civic association, please feel free to contact me at kkeechl@broward.org or 954 357 7004.