



2006

*State
Legislative
Program*



BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



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POLICY STATEMENTS

Section One

AIR QUALITY

Clean air is an essential natural resource that is important to public health, our environment, and our economy. Poor air quality can adversely affect public health, business, property, and tourism. **The Board of County Commissioners supports legislation that would reduce air pollution (ozone, sulfur dioxide, fine particles, and mercury) that would lead to reductions in associated health impacts such as chronic respiratory ailments, asthma, cardiovascular disease, and premature mortality.**

ANNEXATION

In 2005, Broward County's unincorporated resident population equaled 23,478 or approximately 1.4 percent of the total population of 1,623,018. These residents occupy 7.3 square miles or about 1.7 percent of the land area which can be developed in 12 recognized neighborhoods and several enclaves spread throughout the County's cities in parcels of varying size.

These scattered neighborhoods present a service delivery challenge for the County. In response to this circumstance, in 1995 the Broward County Legislative Delegation's Ad Hoc Committee on Annexation Policy (Committee) recommended that all remaining unincorporated areas be annexed, with the exception of the Conservation Areas and lands occupied by regional county facilities. **The Broward County Board of County Commissioners supports full annexation and the policies contained within the Committee's report. The policies include but are not limited to the following:**

- Residents should be given the right, wherever possible and reasonable, to choose which municipality to join and the right to vote on annexation by referendum;
- In furtherance of the goal of full annexation, **the Broward County Board of County Commissioners opposes providing the option for a community to remain unincorporated and also opposes allowing municipalities to opt out of proposed annexation local bills;**
- Affected governments should execute interlocal agreements to include financially feasible plans for the transition of services, infrastructure and County employees;
- Infrastructure projects programmed by the County and adopted in the County's capital program should be completed through appropriate financing arrangements;
- Official partnership committees should be established to identify projects or issues of interest which may become part of any interlocal agreement; and,
- Revenue neutrality should be defined as infrastructure improvements that are required to make the infrastructure of the neighborhood match that of the annexing city.

The Broward County Board of County Commissioners supports the use of straw ballots, opinion polls, or any other reasonable method of measurement to substantiate the wishes of the unincorporated residents as it relates to their annexation options.

AQUIFER STORAGE AND RECOVERY

The Broward County Board of County Commissioners supports the use of Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) as an alternative supply of water for utilities and as an integral component of Everglades restoration. However, the technical feasibility of large-scale ASR has not been determined. The Broward County Board of County Commissioners supports legislation which requires the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to immediately develop strategies and rules for the use of high quality (Biscayne Aquifer) ground water sources of ASR and for implementing the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan pilot projects to address the feasibility of large scale use of ASR.

ARTICLE V COSTS

In the 1998 General Election, Florida voters approved Revision 7, which divided the funding responsibilities for the State Court System between the State and Florida's counties. As adopted, Revision 7 required the State to fund the personnel, operations, and certain capital improvements for Florida's courts, state attorneys, public defenders, and clerks of the court by July 2004. Revision 7 also provided for counties to be responsible for funding court facilities, maintenance, security, and local court programs. Although many issues relating to the implementation of Article V, Revision 7 were examined, debated and resolved in prior legislative sessions, there are some issues which remain unclear or contradictory. Therefore, **the Broward County Board of County Commissioners supports** legislation to clarify these remaining issues. In addition, **the Broward County Board of County Commissioners opposes** any legislative efforts to shift additional court-related costs to counties or to eliminate funding sources currently received to support Article V related expenses.

COMMUNICATION SERVICES

The advent of communications technology presents considerable opportunities for counties to enhance the quality of life in communities by providing regulatory powers over communication services in order to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public. There are significant fiscal and policy implications that will require prompt and thoughtful decisions about zoning, taxation, consumer protection and local government infrastructure. **The Broward County Board of County Commissioners supports** establishing an equitable system that promotes improvements to the state and local tax and fee structure for products and services that will strengthen Florida's economy while maintaining revenue neutrality for local governments. **The Broward County Board of County Commissioners supports** the preservation of local government's responsibility to manage public resources, including but not limited to, public rights-of-way.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

A goal of county government is to invest resources in cultural systems and cultural infrastructure that best support our region as a global destination, a center of learning, and a marketplace of diverse communities. 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 Broward County Board of County Commissioners supports** legislation that promotes and enhances the arts, culture, and historic preservation. **The Broward County Board of County Commissioners also supports** the continuation of recurring funding for cultural affairs and historic preservation appropriations request including capital projects.

Additionally, libraries are a free resource to the community that bring various learning opportunities to all. **The Broward County Board of County Commissioners supports** full funding of State Aid to Libraries based on the current statutory formula providing counties a match for every local dollar spent.

CONSUMER PROTECTION

Broward County has been a leader in the enactment of ordinances to protect its residents against unfair and deceptive trade practices. **The Broward County Board of County Commissioners supports** legislation that provides increased consumer protection for Florida residents.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

A major goal of county government is to encourage economic development to promote a full range of high wage/high-skilled employment, business and housing opportunities, which lead to improving the economy, increasing the tax base, and encouraging diversity. **The Broward County Board of County Commissioners supports policies to enhance economic development utilizing various tools to induce business expansion, new capital investment and job creation. The Broward County Board of County Commissioners supports the County's involvement into a global center for trade and investment. The Board supports legislation that promotes and enhances the growth of foreign direct investment, trade, and travel and tourism as facilitated by its Office of Economic Development, Convention & Visitors Bureau, Port Everglades Department and Aviation Department (Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport). The Broward County Board of County Commissioners also supports programs and efforts providing capital formation for small and emerging businesses, the expansion and creation of enterprise zones, and commercial revitalization projects that help to enhance redevelopment in all distressed areas of the County. The Broward County Board of County Commissioners opposes legislation that results in a disadvantage for County economic development, in general, and tourism, seaport, aviation, and transportation, specifically, if such legislation impedes the County's ability to make competitive business decisions.**

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND MANAGEMENT

Emergency management is not a simple system; accordingly, there are no simple solutions to improve disaster response. To have an effective national disaster response structure, we must have a viable and fully integrated and coordinated local, state and federal capability.

Currently, the recognized methodology in emergency management is a "bottom up" approach, that is, the municipal government attempts to meet the needs of citizens after an emergency. When additional resources are needed, the county government is contacted. When county resources are exhausted, the state, and finally the federal government are contacted. This partnership requires the highest level of intergovernmental coordination and appropriate funding. With the new state and federal security requirements mandated in the wake of September 11, 2001, local governments have incurred serious capital and operating costs. Protecting citizens and property from all hazards, including terrorism and natural disasters, presents real and ongoing financial challenges for local governments, particularly law enforcement and other first responders.

While the state and federal governments have begun to recognize and address this issue, the financial challenges in the wake of Hurricanes Jeanne, Frances, Katrina and especially Wilma have been overwhelming to Broward County.

Recognizing the changing and increasing needs of local governments to accommodate the wide variety of potential emergency situations, **the Broward County Board of County Commissioners 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 Broward County Board of County Commissioners supports an increase in the state funding stream dedicated to emergency management funding.**

EMERGING AND SMALL BUSINESS ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

Recognizing the significant role business plays in our economy, **the Broward County Board of County Commissioners encourages the growth and development of emerging and small business enterprises within our geographical boundaries. The Broward County Board of County Commissioners supports policies and legislation that assist small, minority, and women-owned businesses through such capacity building components as access to banking and financing, insurance and bonding, business development and management technical assistance, and mentor-protégée programming. In addition, the Board supports prompt payment of contractors and subcontractors.**

EMINENT DOMAIN

Florida's Constitution and case law require the following baseline for eminent domain proceedings: private property may not be taken by eminent domain unless it is for a predominate public purpose, and the burden is on the condemning authority to prove such public purpose. Unlike the Connecticut statute in the Kelo case, Chapter 163, Florida Statutes, does not permit a forcible taking for economic development reasons alone. The Florida Redevelopment Act provides that no authority shall be exercised until there is a finding of necessity supported by data and analysis. The finding must demonstrate either slum or blight or a shortage of affordable housing for low or moderate income persons including the elderly. Eminent domain is just one of the useful tools available to local governments in the arena of redevelopment. In light of the fact that Florida already has adequate safeguards in place regarding the use of eminent domain for redevelopment purposes, **The Board of County Commissioners opposes the diminution or pre-emption of the powers of local government to effectively address the issues of redevelopment by the Legislature.**

EVERGLADES RESTORATION

The Broward County Board of County Commissioners supports Everglades Restoration and recognizes that improving water quality is a key component to restoring the Everglades. In 2004, the State modified the Long Term Plan of the Everglades Forever Act, to provide for Broward County to participate in the Broward Everglades Working Group to improve water quality in basins that discharge into the Everglades. The Broward County Board of County Commissioners supports the efforts of the Broward Everglades Working Group, as provided for in the Long Term Plan, and funding necessary to help ensure that water quality standards are achieved in Broward County basins that discharge stormwater into the Everglades.

The Broward County Board of County Commissioners supports expediting funding to accelerate completion of the Water Preserve Area, Site One Impoundment and other projects important to Broward County. The Broward County Board of County Commissioners also supports continued State funding of the CERP to fulfill federal and state agreements.

FINANCE AND TAXATION

Counties need a revenue base that serves local needs and adequately finances the services and programs required by state and federal mandates. **The Broward County Board of County Commissioners opposes reductions or exemptions to the current state tax revenue sources unless replacement funding sources or reductions in mandates are included.**

The primary source for the operation of county government, the ad valorem tax, has not kept pace with the demands and requirements of rapidly growing counties and is capped by state law at 10 mills. **The Broward County Board of County Commissioners supports the creation and enhancement of alternative public financing mechanisms at the local level to meet the ever-increasing demands on county government.**

FLORIDA FOREVER

Florida Forever is critical to preserving and protecting the state's endangered natural resources and provides significant funding for local land acquisition programs such as Broward County's Safe Parks and Land Preservation Bond Program. **The Broward County Board of County Commissioners supports the State's successful conservation, recreation, and public land acquisition programs including Florida Forever and the funding of Florida Forever at historical levels and not at the expense of other state environmental projects. The Broward County Board of County Commissioners opposes any efforts to sunset or diminish existing State bonding programs or trust funds utilized to fund Florida Forever or any other land conservation program. Additionally, the Broward County Board of County Commissioners opposes legislation to sell as surplus the public lands located within a county or municipality without local government approval of efforts that may negatively impact Broward County's Safe Parks and Land Preservation Program.**

GROWTH MANAGEMENT

The Broward County Board of County Commissioners supports strong State Growth Management including the amendments adopted by the Legislature in 2005 which provide for mandatory school elements and school concurrency, enhanced water supply planning, and regulatory incentives for the adoption of community vision statements and urban service boundaries. The Broward County Board of County Commissioners opposes legislation that would restrict a county's ability to assess and collect impact fees, in order to mitigate the impact of new development on public facilities and services.

Through its home rule authority and Charter, ratified by a vote of the public in 1974, Broward County was granted the authority, by its residents, to coordinate all countywide land use planning through the County Planning Council. The Broward County Board of County Commissioners opposes legislation which would limit the county's land use planning authority. Furthermore, the Broward County Board of County Commissioners supports retaining and strengthening local government land use controls over the siting of power plants, transmission lines, substations and other energy infrastructure.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Broward County recognizes the importance of providing basic human services to protect and assist residents in need. Broward County has demonstrated its commitment by providing funding for the delivery of health and human services. The Broward County Board of County Commissioners supports local involvement in the formulation and implementation of policies that protect the health, mental health, safety and welfare of Florida's residents. The Broward County Board of County Commissioners supports equity funding for human services from state agencies' budgets and opposes any funding reductions by the state in the areas of health, mental health, substance abuse, and services to children, families and the elderly, including the homeless. The Broward County Board of County Commissioners supports equity of funding of all organ transplants up to the level applied to Medicare.

The Broward County Board of County Commissioners supports adequate and equitable funding to serve residents of the region. The Broward County Board of County Commissioners opposes cuts to Medicaid funding and supports the continued funding of the Medically Needy Program to assist residents with their prescription needs. The Board of County Commissioners opposes any legislation related to Medicaid reform that: eliminates statewide application of mandatory or optional Medicaid services for eligible recipients; shifts cost to counties as a result of reform or a budget deficit; or diverts county funding to managed behavioral health care programs. The Broward County Board of County Commissioners supports unrestricted access to medication, opposes Medicaid's Restrictive Prescription Drug Formulary, and supports the exemption of psychotropic medication from restricted formularies.

HOME RULE

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. The Broward County Board of County Commissioners supports maintaining the integrity of home rule power, which allows counties to develop and implement solutions to local problems. As a charter county, the Broward County Board of County Commissioners opposes legislative efforts that interfere with the governance or administration of local government.

HOMELAND SECURITY

Improvement of security measures has been given top priority at all levels of government. The Broward County Board of County Commissioners supports maintaining and 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 Port Everglades and the Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport are of the highest priority to the County. The Broward County Board of County Commissioners supports state funding for equipment and technology to implement the Port and Airport security programs.

PERSONNEL

As major employers in the State of Florida, county commissions are directly accountable to thousands of residents and employees. They are responsible at the local level for fiscal, administrative and personnel decision-making. **The Broward County Board of County Commissioners 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 as well as employees. The Broward County Board of County Commissioners supports the ability to protect the privacy and safety of its employees.**

SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY/GOVERNMENTAL LIABILITY

In past legislative sessions, attempts have been made to weaken or eliminate the sovereign immunity protections enjoyed by Florida's local governments. Weakening the current sovereign immunity protections may produce many unwanted consequences including increased numbers of lawsuits brought against local governments, increased liability insurance premiums for public entities, proliferation of frivolous lawsuits filed against local governments, artificially inflated payouts on claims, and an increase in the overall costs of litigation for local governments. The effects of such occurrences would destabilize the financial security of many Florida local governments who are at their ten mill cap, while producing significant negative impacts for those other local governments who at present have stable treasuries because of their effective economic, programmatic, and financial policies. Accordingly, **the Broward County Board of County Commissioners opposes any legislative efforts to weaken, or eliminate, the sovereign immunity limitations provided in section 768.28, Florida Statutes.**

The Broward County Board of County Commissioners further opposes any legislative efforts to increase the risk of liability for local governments including legislation creating new, or expanding existing, causes of action and/or providing for recovery of attorneys' fees and costs against local governments.

TRANSPORTATION

Broward County is committed to providing a wide array of transportation options for its residents, visitors, and commercial entities including public transit, airports, seaports, roads, bridges, and multi-purpose facilities. **The Broward County Board of County Commissioners supports continued State funding for transit, airport and seaport capital improvement projects as well as access to airport and port international trade data bases. The Broward County Board of County Commissioners supports state legislation and funding that promotes safe, efficient regional interconnectivity and supports legislation that would reduce the local share for the statewide Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP) to less than fifty percent. The Broward County Board of County Commissioners supports greater fairness and equity in the distribution of state appropriations for transportation improvements through formula-based methodologies.**

The Broward County Board of County Commissioners supports state legislation granting local government's 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 projects.

UNFUNDED MANDATES

Many state directives mandate local governments to provide services or programs without providing the appropriate revenue or funding sources. These unfunded mandates can compromise a county's ability to provide essential and discretionary services deemed appropriate by the local community. **The Broward County Board of County Commissioners opposes any legislative actions that implement unfunded mandates on a local government's fiscal and public policy.**

WATER

The Broward County Board of County Commissioners supports legislation passed in 2005 that will provide funding for alternative water resource development and supports partnership programs that will help to meet growing water resource needs and goals of the County and State.

The Broward County Board of County Commissioners supports the development by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the Water Management Districts, and utility stakeholders, of a water conservation guidance document that will provide a resource for utilities of varying sizes to develop and implement a goal-based water conservation program. Additionally, the Broward County Board of County Commissioners supports water conservation initiatives, such as public outreach and improved irrigation practices, as ways to conserve Florida's valuable water resources. However, the Broward County Board of County Commissioners opposes mandatory programs which may not be feasible or fiscally efficient for Broward County.

The Broward County Board of County Commissioners supports Florida's existing water law that is based on the principles that water is a public resource and that water allocations may not be sold or transferred. The County believes that current law provides sufficient protection for water and natural resources while also providing for reasonable and beneficial uses of water for the public. The Legislature may consider modifications to State water law which could modify fundamental precepts of the way Florida's water resources are managed or how water is reserved. The Broward County Board of County Commissioners opposes modifications to Florida water law that would: a) change the guiding principles of the State's water laws, b) allow the sale of water allocations, and/or c) change the intent of local sources first provisions especially as it relates to the Central and Southern Flood Control Project and Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Program (CERP) implementation. Additionally, the Broward County Board of County Commissioners opposes efforts to diminish the State's authority to reserve water according to State and Federal law or any other efforts that would negatively impact the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan.

APPROPRIATION REQUESTS

Section Two

Airport In-Line Baggage Screening System - \$20,000,000

Support funding for the design and construction of the in-line baggage screening system in the terminals at the Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport.

Airport South Terminal Roadways Phase 3/Exit Roadways - \$10,051,000

Support funding for the design and construction of the double deck south side roadway (exit) structure at the Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport.

Beach Erosion Control Project - \$2,439,663

Support funding for sand replacement on approximately .5 miles of Pompano Beach, 1 mile of Lauderdale-By-the-Sea Beach, 3.5 miles of Fort Lauderdale Beach, 1 mile of John U. Lloyd Beach State Park, .1 mile of Dania Beach, 4 miles of Hollywood Beach and 1.1 miles of Hallandale Beach.

Child Protection Team - \$145,783

Support additional funding to serve an additional 450 unduplicated children.

Loop and High Speed Taxiways - \$4,050,000

Support funding for the construction of a high speed taxiway to assist aircraft in landing in each direction at the Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport.

Northwest Federated Women’s Club Building – \$500,000

Support funding for repairs and renovations to the Northwest Federated Women’s Club Senior Center, Building 1, which serves low income elders within Broward County.

Parking Expansion for South Regional Health Center - \$1,100,000

Support funding for resurfacing, restriping, and adding a deck for expansion of parking at the South Regional Health Center.

Port Everglades Inlet Sand Bypassing Project Implementation - \$750,000

Support funding the State 50% share of the estimated total costs of engineering/design, permitting, environmental impact assessment, and initial physical and environmental monitoring of the sand bypass project.

Rabies Vaccine Bait Project - \$1,836,000

Support the protection of Broward County against the spread of the rabies virus through funding a five year Oral Rabies Vaccine Bait Project.

Security Operations Center Enhancements - \$101,000

Support funding for the installation of card readers at forty-two restricted access points and six electronic field controllers at Port Everglades.

Taxiway C Phase II – Design and Construction - \$1,637,500

Support funding for the design and construction of Taxiway C – Phase II at the Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport to provide additional capacity to access the primary runway.

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

Section Three

Affordable Housing Surtax

Amend state law to authorize Broward County to levy a discretionary surtax on documents for the purpose of financing construction, rehabilitation, or purchase of housing for low-income and moderate-income families when approved by referendum by the citizens of Broward County.

Affordable Housing/Sadowski Trust Fund Cap

Support legislation to remove the cap placed on the Sadowski Trust Funds for affordable housing programs and support full utilization of the dedicated revenues in the fund for state and local housing needs.

Aging and Disability Resource Centers

Support legislation to create a statewide \$3.3 million dollar recurring funding source for the 11 Area Agencies on Aging.

Beach Erosion Control Documentary Stamp Revenue

Protect and retain the dedicated uses of documentary stamp revenues including the \$30 million annual statewide allocation for beach erosion control.

Broadband Telecommunications

Oppose legislation to restrict local government's ability to implement and own a broadband network.

Central Examining Board Authority

Amend Florida Statutes to allow a local enforcement board to hear state contractor complaints related to building code violations.

Child Support Enforcement Agencies Intercept

Amend state statute to allow non-Title IV-D local government child support enforcement agencies the ability to intercept unemployment compensation and lottery funds.

Child Support Enforcement Bank Seizures

Amend Florida Statutes to allow Broward County the authority to seize bank accounts in order to enforce child support orders as granted to the State of Florida.

Construction and Demolition Debris Removal

Support legislation that continues to allow the County authority to regulate construction and demolition debris and recycling facilities.

Convenience Fee Assessment

Support legislation to allow a convenience fee to be assessed for online credit card transactions for building permit fees.

Department of Juvenile Justice Cost Shifts

Oppose the shifting of operational responsibilities of the Department of Juvenile Justice to Florida counties. Additionally, oppose shifting any additional costs related to the functions of the Department of Juvenile Justice. Oppose offering any portion of county revenue sharing dollars to the state to pay the county portion of pre-detention juvenile justice costs.

Elections: Printed Verification for Touch Screen Voting Machine

Amend relevant Florida Statute(s) to require a paper receipt or other written verification of votes cast on touch screen voting machines in order to provide a viable manual recount, if necessary.

Electrical Substation Regulation

Oppose the removal of local government regulation of electrical substation location and permit requirements.

Electronic Signature Facilitation

Amend Chapter 713.135, F.S. to enable acceptance of electronic permit applications without a notarized signature and to enable use of a pin number and affidavit clause to verify the encryption of the permit applicant.

Emergency Preparedness Funding

Support legislation to increase Emergency Management Preparedness Assistance Trust Fund (EMPATF) surcharge to \$4.00 on residential insurance policies and \$8.00 on commercial insurance policies.

Eminent Domain and Portability of Save Our Homes

Amend Article VII, Section 4 of the Florida Constitution to provide a county option to allow “portability” of the “Save Our Homes” assessment limitation (to a replacement property) for a property owner that is forced to sell a homesteaded property through eminent domain, and for one-time downsizing for residents over 55.

Foster Children Transitional Services

Support legislation to provide additional support for young adults aging out of the foster care system who are in school pursuing a degree, and need services in order to achieve self-sufficiency.

Foster Parent Per Diem Funding

Support an increase of per diem to foster parents from \$14 per day established in 2000.

Health Care Advance Directive

Support legislation revising definitions of incapacity and incompetence and clarifying health care surrogate and living will directives.

HMO Medicaid Payments

Amend state statutes to require State identification of client patients treatment by hospital taxing districts for reimbursement.

Homestead Property Assessment

Support legislation to amend Article VII, Section 4 of the Florida Constitution to provide for assessing at less than just value property purchased within 1 year after sale of a homesteaded property with county option and one time limit.

Hurricane Sales Tax Revenue

Support legislation to allow sales tax revenue generated as a result of hurricane preparedness and recovery to be diverted from general revenue into a dedicated source of funding to reduce the deficit of Citizen’s Property Insurance Corporation and offset premium increases for policy holders.

Land Banking

Support legislation to enable counties the ability to acquire and hold unutilized or underutilized land in anticipation of future development.

Local Government Comprehensive Plan Review Period

Support legislation to extend the time period allotted to Regional Councils to review comprehensive plan amendments. Amend F.S. 163.3184 (4) to provide for a 60 day period as opposed to the current 30 day review period for a one-time deferral of 30 days, and deadline for submittal of plan amendments.

Low Income Housing Tax Credits

Amend F.S. 420.5099 to require the Florida Housing Finance Corporation to modify the Qualified Allocation Plan to allocate tax credits on a point system based on need for low income housing in a county, rather than the current system of a lottery.

Mountain Biking as Inherent Risk Activity

Amend F.S. 316.0085 to include mountain biking in the list of inherent risk activities covered by this statute.

Noise Mitigation of Transportation Projects

Amend state statutes to encourage the inclusion of noise mitigation costs as part of the expansion of state highway and railway projects.

Nursing Home Medicaid Funding Share

Allow Broward County to waive its Medicaid Nursing Home funding share and use those dollars locally to reduce costs through home and community based services to frail elders.

Port Security Funding

Review security mandates of F.S. 311.12 and support state funding of increased operational security costs resulting from those mandates.

Property Appraiser Assessment Inspection Cycle

Oppose legislation which would allow for lengthening the physical inspection cycle beyond the current legislatively mandated three year cycle for assessing property values.

Property Appraiser Audits

Amend Florida Statute Section 195.096 to require a Property Appraiser to forward audit findings of the Florida Department of Revenue within 90 days of receipt to the appropriate County Commission or County Chairperson.

Property Appraiser Services

Amend state statute to authorize the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to contract with a local Property Appraiser for certain driver license services.

Property Assessment Exemption for First Time Homebuyers

Amend Article VII, Section 4 of the Florida Constitution to provide a county option and related municipal option for first time homebuyers of \$100,000 exemption on property assessment for up to five years.

Property Assessment Limitations

Oppose amendment to Article VII, Section 4 of the Florida Constitution to apply all residential and commercial property limitations on assessments of property at just value. (Currently applicable to only homestead property).

Public Art Sales and Use Tax Exemption

Amend Chapter 212, F.S. relating to the State's Sales and Use Tax, to exempt the application of the state sales and use tax on those materials and supplies purchased or used in the State of Florida to fabricate, manufacture, or create an artwork purchased or commissioned by a governmental entity.

Public Transportation User Fees

Oppose legislation which would require public transportation to impose a user fee of 50% of operational costs in order to receive state funding.

Retail Refund Statute

Oppose the preemption of local regulation regarding retail refund policies by the State.

Retinoblastoma Ocular Disease

Support legislation to assist in the detection of all ocular diseases that affect newborns, infants, and toddlers through eye pathology screening at birth and at each well-baby exam.

Senior Services Taxing District

Support legislation to establish a local independent taxing district for senior services through a voter approved referendum.

Slots

Oppose legislation to repeal the Constitutional Amendment authorizing slot machines at existing pari-mutuel facilities in Broward County.

Sovereign Immunity for Not for Profit Organizations

Amend Florida Statutes Section 768.28 to extend sovereign immunity protection to non-profit agencies retained by contract to serve as agents of a county by providing services designed to assist a county to fulfill their HHS and HUD related federal grant program mandates.

Statewide Cable Franchises

Oppose legislation to preempt local government regulatory control of cable TV franchises.

Stem Cell Research

Support stem cell research in Florida, opposing any state legislation or administrative action that would have the effect of slowing or banning research in the area of stem cell research and support state funding that will enable embryonic stem cell research.

Thirty/Thirty Housing

Support legislation that requires 30% of total housing units developed with tax-supported development funds such as Tax Credits, as well as HOME, CDBG, SHIP and SAIL, serve households earning 30% or less of area median income.

Used Car Lemon Law

Support legislation that would provide a remedy for those who are sold defective used cars. Since the Lemon Law applies only to new cars, consumers are left vulnerable when purchasing used cars. Appropriate remedies include express warranties to consumers who purchased used cars, and authorizing enforcement to ensure dealers are honoring warranties.

NOTES

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