



2005

*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 will lead to reductions in associated health impacts such as chronic respiratory ailments, asthma, cardiovascular disease, and premature mortality.

ANNEXATION

In 2004, Broward County's unincorporated resident population equaled 58,498 or approximately 3 percent of the total population of 1,700,000. These residents occupy 12 square miles or about 2.7 percent of the land area which can be developed in 21 recognized neighborhoods 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 Board 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.

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 requires 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 provides 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, in 2005 **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 some 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 governments' responsibility to manage public resources, including but not limited to public rights-of-way.

CONCURRENCY

The Broward County Board of County Commissioners supports the Growth Management Act of 2002, which requires interlocal agreements with school boards to improve the coordination between land use and school planning. However, school elements and school concurrency remain optional elements. **The County continues to support** mandatory school elements and school concurrency to address the severe statewide school overcrowding problem. **The Broward County Board of County Commissioners strongly supports** full implementation of water supply planning to address this local and statewide critical need.

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 diverse economic development activities that promote a full range of employment, income, and housing opportunities. **The Broward County Board of County Commissioners supports** legislation that promotes and enhances the growth of trade, travel, and tourism industries at the Convention Center, Port Everglades and the Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport. **The Broward County Board of County Commissioners supports** policies to increase economic development and financial assistance for the expansion and creation of enterprise zones and neighborhood revitalization projects that reduce crime and enhance the redevelopment of these areas. **The Broward County Board of County Commissioners opposes** legislation which results in a disadvantage for County tourism or economic development boards in carrying out their ability to make competitive business decisions.

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.

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 Board 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 the State's "ACCELER8 Everglades Now" Program to expedite completion of the Water Preserve Areas and other projects important to restore the Everglades. **The Board also supports** continued State funding of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) and implementation of ACCELER8 Projects in accordance with federal and state laws and 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 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. **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. **The Board supports** property tax abatements from state funds for homestead properties rendered uninhabitable by the recent hurricanes.

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 Broward County Board of County Commissioners supports** the home rule right of local governments to require impact fees which are tailored to local needs **and further supports** the development other initiatives to manage growth and have growth pay for itself.

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 Board of County Commissioners of Broward County 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 generally supports the Growth Management Act of 2002 **and opposes** efforts to weaken this newly adopted legislation or to impede full implementation of this law. 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.

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.

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, mental health, housing 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 and human services. **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; that shifts cost to counties when there is a state budget deficit or shortfall; and that diverts county funding to managed behavioral health care programs.

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, on 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 pay-outs 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 government 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/EMINENT DOMAIN

Broward County is committed to providing a wide array of transportation options for its residents, visitors, and commercial entities including public transit (buses, ferry service, commuter rail and light rail), airports, seaports, roads, bridges, greenways and pedestrian/bicycle 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 opposes legislation that could be detrimental to the interests of the maritime, aviation, and surface transportation industries. **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 governments maximum flexibility in planning and funding for viable transportation systems and infrastructure. **The Board of County Commissioners opposes** any legislative efforts that will further increase the liability of condemning authorities for increased damages and costs because of eminent domain.

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 that will provide funding for alternative water resource development and supports partnership programs that will help to meet growing water resource needs of the County and State. **The Broward County Board of County Commissioners opposes** funding new water resources by using funds allocated for the Florida Forever or Florida Communities Trust programs.

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 County supports** water conservation initiatives such as, public outreach and improved irrigation practices, as ways to conserve Florida's valuable water resources. However, **the Board 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 CERP implementation. Additionally, the Board 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.

The Broward County Board of County Commissioners supports the existing framework of regional water management while working to improve coordination efforts between water management districts and local governments. **The Board opposes** the legislative creation of a statewide water commission which redefines the water supply relationship among the state, water management districts, and local governments.

APPROPRIATION REQUESTS *Section Two*

Airport In-Line Baggage Screening System - \$18,750,000

At the Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport, design and construct an in-line baggage screening system. It will be located out of view of the traveling public and will replace the system now located in the ticketing lobbies.

Airport South Terminal (Exit) Roadways Phase 3 - \$17,500,000

At the Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport, design and construct an exit roadway system on the south side of the airport, consisting of a double-deck structure to provide needed exit capacity and future curbside service for long-term terminal development.

Airport Taxiway C Design and Construction - \$1,800,000

At the Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport, design and construct a taxiway to provide dual parallel taxiway capability on the north side of the airport and west of the crosswind runway, Runway 13-31.

Broward Addiction Recovery Center - \$4,401,036

Continuation of recurring funding of Broward Addiction Recovery Center program operations (\$3,768,036) and purchase of psychotropic medication (\$633,000) for outpatient and residential clients.

Child Care Licensing & Enforcement - \$460,000

Continuation of recurring funding for a portion of salaries for child care licensing, enforcement, monitoring and background screening services.

Child Protection Team - \$926,817

Continuation of recurring funding with a 5% increase to assist in meeting the rising costs of personnel.

Cultural Affairs & Historical Preservation Funding - \$59,603,021

Support the State Divisions of Cultural Affairs and Historic Resources appropriations request for over \$59.6 million, as follows: \$14.4 million for Division of Cultural Affairs program grants, \$30 million for facilities, \$10.9 for Challenge Grants and Endowment matches, and \$4.3 for Historic Resources Program Grants. Also, support reinstatement of the Cultural Institutions Trust Fund.

Home Care for the Elderly - \$48,753

Continuation of recurring funding with a 5% increase to provide case management and support services to frail, physically and mentally impaired older adults.

Homeless Assistance Funding - \$7,459,775

Support the continuation of statewide appropriation for three homeless programs of which Broward County receives \$913,850 through the Challenge Grant, the Homeless Housing Assistance Grant, and funding for Local Homeless Coalitions.

Older Adult Behavioral Health Services - \$1,553,474

Continuation of recurring funding with a 5% increase for elder behavioral health services including outreach, screening, case management, support housing, and other support services.

Port Everglades High Security Vehicle Barriers - \$401,000

At Port Everglades, install High Security Vehicle Barriers at all vehicular entrances. The barriers will deter and prevent unauthorized vehicle access to the Port Sensitive and Critical Areas, and impede unauthorized vehicles from entering the Port through the out-bound lanes.

Port Everglades Security Surveillance System for Cruise Terminals - \$1,215,000

At Port Everglades, purchase and install CCTV cameras in and around the Port’s ten cruise terminals for monitoring and assessment.

Public Libraries Funding - \$2,954,556

Support protecting Broward County share of statewide Libraries funding from further reduction in the FY 05 State Budget.

Rabies Vaccine Bait Project - \$1,800,000

Support protecting Broward County against the spread of the rabies virus through funding the implementation of the Oral Rabies Vaccine Bait Project.

State Housing Initiative Partnership (SHIP) Program - \$3,500,000

Continuation of recurring SHIP funding for implementing locally designed affordable housing strategies to conserve, improve, or provide new housing for very low, low, and moderate income residents.

Victims of Crime Act Grant - \$177,902

Continuation of recurring funding with a 5% increase to assist in meeting the rising costs of personnel.

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

Section Three

Affordable Housing Surtax

Amend state law to authorize Broward County to levy a discretionary surtax on commercial property 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.

Airport Compatible Surrounding Land Uses

Enhance the language and enforceability in Florida law which protects international airports from incompatible adjacent land uses such as schools, hospitals, or residential neighborhoods within the airport area.

Article V Refinements

Clarify sections of Article V/Revision 7 legislation to better delineate county versus state financial responsibilities. Assure that Broward County will continue to receive funds from the Public Records Modernization Trust Fund which is used to maintain official records.

Auto Title Loan Prohibition

Amend Florida Statutes to prohibit auto title lenders from issuing loans pursuant to Chapter 516, F.S. and to require auto title loans to be issued only pursuant to Chapter 537, F.S., which does not allow charges in excess of 30 percent for loans under \$2,000. An auto loan made pursuant to Chapter 516, FS can bear fees in excess of 30 percent.

Child Support Enforcement Court Fees

Amend state law to continue to allow the local child support enforcement agency to be exempt from court related legal fees and charges assessed by the Clerk of the Courts.

Child Support Enforcement Intercept

Amend state law to allow local government child support enforcement agencies the ability to intercept unemployment compensation and lottery funds (as permitted for state child support enforcement agencies).

Disabled Veterans Exemption for Surviving Spouses

Entitle surviving spouses of certain disabled veterans to a \$5,000 exemption from ad valorem taxation.

Disaster Relief Funds for Business/Industry

Provide economic recovery assistance to local businesses and industries following natural disasters.

Documentary Stamp Revenue for Beach Erosion Control

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

Education Reimbursement for Career Development

Amend state law to allow for county option to reimburse employees for educational expenses which advance an employee in their current position or career field or for career development educational coursework in strategic succession planning within public sector organizations.

Elections: Cease Early Voting Day Before Election

Cease early voting one day earlier, so early voting will not be allowed on the day before the election. This will permit Supervisors of Elections to devote the day to Election Day preparations.

Elections: Earlier Absentee Ballot Processing

Allow ballots received from absentee voters to be counted and processed as they are received by the Supervisor of Election's Office.

Elections: Early Voting at Appropriate Sites

Expand current law to include additional sites as optional early voting locations.

Elections: Early Voting Weekend Hours Extension

Amend Florida law to remove time limit of eight hours in the aggregate for each weekend during early voting periods, and allow the number of weekend hours to be determined by the local Supervisor of Elections.

Elections: Printed Verification for Touch-Screen Voting Machine

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

Electric Power Supply Alternatives Investigation

Request the Legislature to require a study to investigate solutions to the vulnerability of Florida's electrical supply system to storm impacts. The study should involve the Florida Public Service Commission, and examine the costs and benefits of alternative technologies used to deliver electricity including, but not limited to, underground power lines.

Electronic Recording of Land Records

Amend state law to provide clear and unambiguous statutory authority for Clerks and Recorders to electronically accept and electronically record documents conveying ownership in real property.

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.

False Official Statements to Government Entities

Amend state law to add oral statements, which are knowingly made to mislead public officials in the performance of their official duties, to those acts classified as second degree misdemeanors.

Foster Parent per Diem Funding

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

Habitual Misdemeanant Sentencing Flexibility

Restore more flexible authority to judges when they sentence a habitual misdemeanant, which is defined as a person who is arrested for a misdemeanor five times or more per year.

Homeless Transitional Housing Funding

Identify new funding sources for homeless transitional housing.

Homes for the Aged Waiver of Exemption Affidavit

Waive the annual affidavit, for the purposes of exemption from ad valorem taxation, for each person who occupies a unit or apartment within a nonprofit home for the aged. Amend sections 197.1975 (9) (b), and 196.011(9), F.S. accordingly.

Homestead Exemption Title Transfer

Clarify in state law that residents will retain, under certain circumstances defined by the property appraiser, the "Save Our Homes" protection on their property in the event an owner is added to or deleted from the title. Hence, a title to real property may change without the loss of save our homes protection and the property will not be re-assessed to market value as long as partial ownership is concurrent and continuous.

Independent Water Control District Representation

Amend state law to change the governance of independent water control districts in large population counties whose members are elected in conjunction with the general election on a nonpartisan basis by the registered voters of the district rather than on a one-acre/one-vote basis.

Juvenile Justice Cost Shift

Support the use of state surplus non-recurring funds to address the Juvenile Justice budgetary shortfall in the current fiscal year, and oppose any legislative action that implements unfunded mandates on local government's fiscal and public policy.

Local Government Ability to Provide Utilities and Communications Services

Retain the flexibility for local governments to provide innovative communication services.

Low Income Housing Tax Credits

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

Medically Needy and Drug Prescription Program Funding

Support the continuation of funding for the Medically Needy and Senior Prescription Drug Programs with recurring State general revenue dollars.

Medipass Managed Care for Mental Health Services

Expand the Medipass program to include a provider service network for Medicaid mental health services as a form of managed care.

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.

Prescription Drug Recycling

Amend state law to establish protocols and criteria to allow for the redistribution of previously dispensed prescription drugs.

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 Employees Public Records Exemption

Amend state law to exclude personal information such as home addresses, telephone numbers, and photographs of all public employees and their families from public records.

Resource Conservation – Solid Waste

Support legislation for improved solid waste resource conservation programs, techniques, methods, and processes.

"Substantially Complete" Real Property Tax Assessment

Resolve vagaries in the property tax law to allow for collection of property taxes for part of the year by striking language regarding "substantially complete" construction. While adding fairness to the tax system, this legislative change would substantially increase county revenues.

Senior Services Taxing District

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

Strategic Intermodal System Funding Investment Policy

While the Florida Department of Transportation implements its new “Funding Investment Policy” for the Strategic Intermodal System at the state level, support legislation which ensures that the statewide “Other Arterial Capacity Program” maintains current funding levels, has flexible project eligibility guidelines, and is responsive to the diverse regional and local transportation needs of metropolitan areas.

Tourist Development Tax Self-Administration

Re-enact sections of Florida law (which will otherwise expire on October 1, 2005) pertaining to referendum repeal requirements for the Tourist Development Tax, and which will allow Broward County to continue to administer the Tourist Development Tax.

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.

Vegetative Debris Disposal

Support legislation that prohibits the improper disposal of vegetative debris such as severed or uprooted trees and tree trunks, tree and shrub trimmings and mulch material on agricultural lands.

Weapons and Firearms Prohibition in Public Buildings

Prohibit the use, possession or discharging of weapons or firearms on public property.

Wetlands Mitigation

Support legislation that requires effective functional mitigation for impacts to wetlands which occurs as closely as possible to the area impacted, and which reflects the characteristics of the impacted area. Oppose any efforts that would negatively impact the County’s ability to regulate the wetland resources of Broward County including through its delegated authority to implement the State’s Environmental Resource Permits (ERP). Oppose legislation which would eliminate the cumulative impact provisions of the ERP program for projects using mitigation banks.

LOCAL BILLS

Section Four

Port Everglades Promotion

Amend Chapter 94-429, Laws of Florida to authorize staff to promote and engender goodwill toward Port Everglades through expenditures including meals, hospitality and entertainment in the interest of soliciting new customers and retaining current business. This authority mirrors the authority granted other Florida seaports.



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This document is also available at: www.broward.org/publicandgovernmental

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