



**Broward County Board of County Commissioners
and
Broward League of Cities**

2005 Joint State Legislative Program

The Broward County Board of County Commissioners and the Broward League of Cities will continue to use their collective vision to effectively serve the citizens of Broward County and its municipalities.

The Broward County Board of County Commissioners and the Broward League of Cities direct staff to communicate with appropriate Members of the Florida Legislature, to convey mutual agreement on the following issues:

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

In recognition of the South Florida regional escalating cost of housing and the potential detrimental impacts to economic development, the Broward County Board of County Commissioners and the Broward League of Cities support not only the preservation of the dedicated documentary stamp fees as a funding source for the State and Local Government Housing Trust Fund (Sadowski Trust Fund) but also oppose any surplus funds being diverted to the General Fund. Additionally, Broward County having been identified as the county in most need of affordable housing, the Broward County Board of County Commissioners and the Broward League of Cities support not only efforts to expand affordable housing funding alternatives but also support the distribution of funds be converted from a lottery system to one based on need.

The Broward County Board of County Commissioners and the Broward League of Cities further support amending state law to authorize Broward County to vote on a referendum regarding the

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.

ELECTION REFORM

The Broward County Board of County Commissioners and the Broward League of Cities support legislation that requires local school districts to schedule teacher work days to coincide with elections. This plan will allow the use of school sites for polling places without interrupting normal school activities.

The Broward County Board of County Commissioners and the Broward League of Cities support legislation to 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.

The Broward County Board of County Commissioners and the Broward League of Cities support expansion of current law to include additional sites as optional early voting locations.

The Broward County Board of County Commissioners and the Broward League of Cities support amending Florida law to remove time limit of 8 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.

The Broward County Board of County Commissioners and the Broward League of Cities support amending 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.

HOME RULE

The Broward County Board of County Commissioners and the Broward League of Cities are 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 and the Broward League of Cities support maintaining the integrity of home rule power, which allows counties and municipalities to develop and implement solutions to local problems. The Broward County Board of County Commissioners and the Broward League of Cities oppose any legislation that further erodes the ability of counties or municipalities to govern and regulate local issues. The Broward County Board of County Commissioners and Broward League of Cities support the repeal of SB 676 which allows the Florida Department of Transportation to pre-empt local ordinances.

HURRICANE DISASTER ISSUES

The Broward County Board of County Commissioners and the Broward League of Cities support legislation that will 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.

The Broward County Board of County Commissioners and the Broward League of Cities support the Legislature providing grants to municipalities to help fund underground utility lines.

The Broward County Board of County Commissioners and the Broward League of Cities support no change to the State's valued policy law, which in the event of a total loss requires insurance companies to pay face value of a policy.

SOCIAL SERVICES

The Broward County Board of County Commissioners and the Broward League of Cities support legislation to establish a local independent taxing district for services to seniors and adults with developmental disabilities. The Broward County Board of County Commissioners and the Broward League of Cities support continuation of funding for the Medically Needy and Senior Prescription Drug Programs with recurring state general revenue funds.

UNFUNDED MANDATES

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

WATER RESOURCES

The Broward County Board of County Commissioners and the Broward League of Cities support legislation that will provide funding for alternative water resource development and to help meet growing needs of counties and municipalities.

The Broward County Board of County Commissioners and the Broward League of Cities support existing Florida Water Law.

The Broward County Board of County Commissioners and the Broward League of Cities support full funding for Everglades restoration and recognize that improving water quality is a key component to restoring the Everglades.

The Broward County Board of County Commissioners and the Broward League of Cities oppose 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, c) change the intent of local sources first provisions, and/or d) diminish the State's capacity to reserve water for the natural system.