



2007

*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

Broward County's unincorporated resident population is currently 13,722 or approximately .8 percent of the total population of 1,771,540. These residents occupy 5 square miles or about 1.2 percent of the land area which can be developed in 7 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;
- Upon approval of referendum, annexation should become effective regardless of the status of an interlocal agreement being executed among affected governments;
- 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;
- Revenue neutrality should be defined as infrastructure improvements that are required to make the infrastructure of the neighborhood match that of the annexing city; and,
- Deannexation should be considered as a tool to make annexation of adjacent residential properties viable.

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 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.

The Broward County Board of County Commissioners strongly urges the state to take responsibility for fully funding the state's court system. Additionally, the Broward County Board of County Commissioners opposes the diversion of the \$2 recording fee dedicated to all judicial technology needs to only the technology needs of the judicial circuits as these funds are currently needed to also support the State Attorney's office, the Public Defender's office and the Guardian Ad Litem program.

ATTAINABLE HOUSING

Broward County, as well as the State of Florida, is experiencing a decline in inventory of rental and ownership affordable housing stock. In order to adequately meet the needs of our increasing population, the Broward County Board of County Commissioners supports legislation that would provide funding solutions that could be implemented locally in order to fund affordable housing projects and programs. Additionally, the Board of County Commissioners urges the state legislature to remove the cap that was placed on the Sadowski Trust Fund and allocate all available funds to offer relief for our existing and future residents. The Broward County Board of County Commissioners urges the state legislature to ensure that 30% of the affordable housing units that are developed with tax supported funds be designated to serve households earning 30% or less of the area median income. The Broward County Board of County Commissioners urges the Florida Legislature to require the Florida Housing Finance Corporation to modify the Qualified Allocation Plan to allocate tax credits by a needs based system, rather than the current system of a lottery.

BEACHES

Florida's beaches are a critical part of the State's travel and tourism industry, generating jobs and local, state, and federal tax revenues. Beaches are also the first line of defense against hurricane and storm surge threats to life and property. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' studies confirm that healthy beaches reduce flood damage to coastal properties, resulting in a reduction in Federal disaster rehabilitation payouts. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection estimates that more than one-third of Florida's 787 miles of beaches are in a state of critical erosion. The Broward County Board of County Commissioners supports the protection and retention of the dedicated use of documentary stamp revenues for beach erosion programs throughout the State of Florida in order to protect and maintain these essential elements that are vital to our environmental and economic infrastructure. The Broward County Board of County Commissioners also supports and encourages the State of Florida to study and promote methodologies other than sand replenishment which would prevent or repair beach erosion.

COMMUNICATIONS 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 opposes efforts to diminish or eliminate local cable franchise authority. 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. The Broward County Board of County Commissioners also supports an increase in statewide funding for the Entertainment Industry Financial Incentive Program.

Additionally, libraries are a free resource to the community that brings 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. The Broward County Board of County Commissioners supports legislation that allows local government to have the authority to regulate retail refunds.

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. 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 two years of storms 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

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.

ENERGY

The Broward County Board of County Commissioners supports legislation that promotes energy efficiency, renewable energy, modes of transportation that encourage fewer cars on the road, such as public transit, and transportation that utilizes alternative/clean fuels. Global warming and energy security are critical issues for the State of Florida. Broward County believes a comprehensive energy plan must address these concerns and provide solutions for its citizens. The Broward County Board of County Commissioners supports establishment of the State Energy Commission and encourages inclusion of County interests on the Energy Commission to ensure that local government interests are served. The Broward County Board of County Commissioners supports the development of a Florida Climate Change Action Plan.

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. The Broward County Board of County Commissioners supports the efforts of the Broward Everglades Working Group and funding necessary to help ensure that water quality standards are achieved in the Broward County basin that discharges storm water into the Everglades.

The Broward County Board of County Commissioners supports the construction of the Water Preserve Area (WPA), and implementation of Decompartmentalization and other Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) 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 replacements funding sources or reductions in mandates are included. 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 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 supports strong State Growth Management regulation 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 the 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 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 to residents 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 adequate and equitable 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 adequate and equitable funding of all organ transplants to the same level applied to Medicare recipients. The Broward County Board of County Commissioners supports excluding transplant clients and others in need of catastrophic health care services from the Medicaid reform pilot program in order to ensure their ability to receive services.

The Broward County Board of County Commissioners supports adequate and equitable funding to serve residents of the region.

While Medicaid Reform has been approved for Broward and Duval Counties for FY 2006 the Broward County Board of County Commissioners supports legislation that requires accurate evaluations of the pilot program since implementation plans include expansion. The Broward County Board of County Commissioners supports legislation that would mandate the Agency for Health Care Administration to have constant monitoring and accurate compilation of information for issues from consumers. The Board of County Commissioners opposes any legislation that shifts cost to counties as a result of reform or a budget deficit; and that diverts county funding to managed behavioral health care programs.

The Broward County Board of County Commissioners supports the continued funding of the Medically Needy Program to assist residents with their prescription needs and supports the reduction of the amount of the co-payment. 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 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.

JUVENILE JUSTICE

The Broward County Board of County Commissioners opposes any efforts to shift additional Department of Juvenile Justice costs or responsibilities to counties and opposes compensating the state for any unfunded mandates regarding juvenile justice. The Broward County Board of County Commissioners further opposes pursuing a solution through offering up a portion of the County's revenue sharing program.

PERSONNEL

As major employers in the State of Florida, county commissions are directly accountable to thousands of residents and employees. County commissions 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 current sovereign immunity protections may produce unwanted consequences including increased numbers of lawsuits 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.

TRANSPORTATION

Broward County is committed to providing a wide array of transportation options for 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.

The Broward County Board of County Commissioners supports preserving current law, which authorizes charter counties who adopted a charter prior to January 1, 1984 and county governments that have consolidated with one or more municipalities, the discretion to distribute these revenues to municipalities pursuant to an inter-local agreement and further supports a dedicated funding source for regional transportation.

UNFUNDED MANDATES

Frequent state directives mandate local governments to provide services or programs without providing appropriate revenue or funding sources to implement or enforce the required activity. 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 legislation that implements unfunded mandates and 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 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. 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. Additionally, the Broward County Board of County Commissioners supports State and local efforts to jointly seek state funding to further drainage and other water management projects to improve flood protection and surface water quality.

WETLANDS

The Broward County Board of County Commissioners supports 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. The County opposes any efforts that would negatively impact the County's ability to regulate the wetlands resources of Broward County including through its delegated authority to implement the State's Environmental Resource Permit (ERP) Program.

The State and County have long recognized the unique and valuable role that isolated wetlands provide and have afforded appropriate protection of this valuable resource. Therefore, the Broward County Board of County Commissioners opposes efforts to modify existing law that may diminish the protection of isolated wetlands or legislation that would require counties to permit wetlands impacts in violation of local comprehensive plans, ordinances, or regulations. Additionally, the Broward County Board of County Commissioners supports efforts to reduce duplicative permitting so long as they do not lessen local government authority.

APPROPRIATION REQUESTS

Section Two

Airport South Terminal Roadways Phase 3/Exit Roadways - \$2,209,000

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

Airport Taxiway A – Design and Construction - \$1,345,336

Support funding for the construction of a full length parallel taxiway to allow future development for commercial airport use and provide unrestricted access to both ends of the runway at the North Perry Airport.

Airport Taxiway B Overlay –\$584,000

Support funding for the placement of an asphalt overlay on the existing taxiway surface at the North Perry Airport.

Beach Erosion Control Project - \$1,872,009

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.

Mass Transit Administration Building - \$4,700,000

Support the construction of a replacement maintenance facility and administration building to meet ADA requirements, roof replacement and over-crowding.

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

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

Port Everglades Inlet Sand Bypassing Project Implementation - \$425,000

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 four year Oral Rabies Vaccine Bait Project. Project would require \$36,000 in year six.

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

Section Three

Affordable Housing Sadowski Trust Fund

Support legislation to remove the cap of \$243 million effective FY 07-08 placed on the Sadowski Trust Funds for affordable housing programs and support full utilization of the \$939.5 million of dedicated revenues in the fund for state and local housing needs; \$394.5 million more than currently being considered for appropriation.

Affordable Housing Surtax

Amend state statutes 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.

Alternative Water Supply

Support modifications to SB 444 (Water Supplies, 2005) that would either increase funding for Alternative Water Supply projects, or would, at a minimum, achieve the same level of funding that was provided for in 2005. In addition, support modifications that would improve the project planning and development process to better meet the growing water supply needs of the County.

Bid Confidentiality for Local Road Construction Projects

Amend state statutes to provide local government the same authority as the Florida Department of Transportation to protect the confidentiality of bid information for local road construction projects.

Broward Soil and Water Conservation District/Watershed Improvement District

Oppose the creation of any special district that usurps county authority over existing programs and operations.

Central Examining Board Authority

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

Concealed Weapons or Firearms in Public Buildings

Amend state statutes to prohibit the carrying of concealed weapons or firearms into public buildings or facilities.

Constitutional Officers Budget Submission

Amend state statutes to provide that the date requirement for Constitutional Officers to submit their budgets to the State be changed to a date that is after counties adopt the second statutorily required budget public hearing in which the final millage rate is adopted.

Conveyances Not Subject To Tax

Allow the addition or removing of any person who is JTRS, Life Estate Holder or remainder-holder when no consideration changes hands and the grantor previously paid documentary stamps on the same mortgage to which he or she would be expected to pay again on half of the outstanding balance. Nothing herein shall apply to fees for recording documents and instruments as authorized by state law.

County Employee Education Expenses

Amend state statutes 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 with public sector organizations.

County Owned Building Inspections

Amend statutes to allow county building departments to permit and inspect renovations or construction of county owned facilities anywhere within their county.

Election of Governing Boards of the Florida Water Management Districts

Amend state statutes to require election of members of Governing Boards of Florida's Water Management Districts, as opposed to the current process of appointment.

Electronic Voting Machine Verification

Amend state statutes to require a paper receipt or other written verification of votes cast on touch screen voting machines, to direct the Secretary of State to certify elections printers, and to allow printed receipts to be used for recounts and audits.

Emergency Operations/Public Meetings Exemption

Amend state statutes to provide for relaxing the time period required for sunshine notices during declared state of emergencies.

Expansion of County Canvassing Board

Amend state statutes to expand the membership of county canvassing boards in order to adequately facilitate the oversight of elections returns to the Department of State.

Expenditure/Revenue Caps

Oppose any effort of the Florida Legislature to amend the State Constitution to allow the Legislature to place artificial expenditure caps upon county and city governments. Further, oppose any legislation which seeks to impose revenue caps on local governments including legislation disqualifying a local government's participation in the half-cent sales tax distribution under present state law.

Fertilizer/Urban Turf Rule

Oppose preemption of county authority to regulate the use and application of fertilizer. Support enhanced statewide promotion of the Florida Green Industries Best Management Practices (BMPs) as a basic level of water quality protection. Support legislation that would allow counties to develop regional approaches to fertilizer and other water quality issues that take into account particular local concerns relating to geology and hydrology.

First Time Homebuyers Assessment Limitation

Amend Article VII, Section 4, of the Florida Constitution to provide for county option for first time homebuyers of up to \$100,000 in assessment reduction over a five-year period.

Fiscally Constrained Counties Criteria

Amend state statutes to re-define fiscally constrained counties to include only those counties with a current millage rate of 9.5 or higher.

Fiscally Constrained Counties Funding Source

Support funding for a fiscally constrained counties program through state general revenue and support the restoration of the satellite communications tax and future increases to the respective donating counties and cities.

Health Care Directives

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

HIV/AIDS Education/Prevention Funding

Support legislation to increase the current level of state funding for HIV/AIDS education and treatment programs.

HMO Medicaid Payments

Amend state statutes to require the State (ACHA) to verify addresses for residents of Broward County treated by the hospital taxing districts for reimbursement.

Homestead Property Assessment

Allow a General Law County to adopt "portability" of the "Save Our Homes" assessment limitation. Proposal is to support "local option" or "within county boundary" language and amendments.

Information Technology Security Legislation

Amend state statutes to exempt from the public records law any documents related to IT security tools used to monitor and protect local government's IT infrastructure for the general public and others who may do harm, damage or inappropriately obtain proprietary, confidential, or security information.

Journey Person Supervision

Amend state statutes to require on-site supervision of construction by a journey person in all trades to improve the quality of building construction.

Land Banking

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

Local Business Tax Revision

Amend state statutes to allow for the reclassification of businesses, professions, and occupations to allow local governments to reclassify rate structures.

Local Government Comprehensive Plan Review Period

Support legislation to extend the time period allotted to Regional Councils to review comprehensive plans. Amend F.S. 163.3184 (4) to provide for a 60 day period as opposed to the current 30 day review period.

Local Option Gas Tax

Amend F.S. 211.025 (3) (b) and F.S. 336.025 (2) (a) to tie the local option gas tax to the Consumer Price Index as is the state gas tax.

Mining Regulation

Oppose aggregate mine sitting legislation that would limit County authority related to land use planning and environmental protection or legislation that would negatively impact the water supplies for future Floridians.

Mobile Home Park Relocation and Rezonings

Oppose legislation which would require counties to compensate mobile home owners in event of mobile park site re-zonings.

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.

Notaries Public

Oppose legislation requiring notaries public to maintain journals of each notarial act unless government employees are exempted.

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.

Parkland Annexation

Support amending state law to modify the Broward County/Palm Beach County boundary to make certain lands part of Broward County. In addition, support legislation annexing such lands into the City of Parkland.

Portability

Support amending the Florida Constitution to allow, through county option, Florida homeowners to transfer their Save Our Homes Homestead Valuation Limitation upon the sale of their home and apply the limitation to the assessed valuation on a newly purchased homesteaded property in the county.

Prescription Drug Tracking Database

Support legislation to create a prescription drug database to prevent drug abuse and illegal prescription drug trafficking.

Primary Care Equity Funding

Support legislation to ensure that the allocation formula used by the State Department of Health for primary care services funding in Broward County take into account population so that per capita funding allocations to Counties are equitable. This would be accomplished by amending legislation to include language that directs the Department of Health to base their primary care funding allocation to Counties on a formula that includes population.

Property Insurance

Support legislation that provides effective, long-term solutions to the state's present property insurance crisis and addresses the concerns of Florida consumers, businesses, industries and government, including more equitable funding of the Florida Hurricane Catastrophic (CAT) Fund; developing more competitive property insurance markets; providing property owners with financial and other incentives to mitigate potential hurricane-related losses; and restructuring the Citizens Property Insurance Corporation (Citizens) and shifting Floridians insured by Citizens to the available private insurance market.

Property Tax Administration – Research and Tabulation of Data

Require the Florida Department of Revenue to produce an annual report showing which cities and counties increased property taxes during the prior year and by what percentage, and showing the percentage of property taxes paid by homestead, non-homestead residential, commercial and industrial properties. The report will also separate out the portion of the budget for County expenditures and each of the Constitutional Officers; budget expenditures directly resulting from state and federal mandates; and also outline the previous year's millage rate, amount of new property on the tax rolls and the proposed millage rate. Require County Property Appraisers and the Florida Department of Revenue to publish data on their respective websites.

Public Employees Public Records Exemption

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

Red Light Safety

Support legislation which allows the use of traffic detection cameras to enforce red light safety and allow for civil infractions to violators.

Reclassification of Canals

Oppose any attempt by the Legislature or Florida Department of Environmental Protection through legislation or rule making to reclassify canals or any other water body and oppose any other efforts that would lead to lower water quality and environmental standards.

Senior Services Taxing District

Support legislation to establish a local taxing district for senior services, through a voter approved referendum, whose members are appointed at the local level.

State Land Acquisition Programs

Support the continuation of the State's land acquisition programs to protect Florida's natural lands, open spaces, and public recreational opportunities.

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.

Tangible Personal Property Taxes

Support legislation to provide the Tax Collector additional enforcement tools to collect delinquent tangible personal property taxes by making the property owner personally liable for delinquent taxes (i.e., making the owed taxes a personal debt), authorizing the Tax Collector to contract with private attorneys to collect delinquent taxes, and requiring delinquent taxpayers to pay the cost of collection.

Taxi and Limousine Permits

Oppose legislation which would preempt to the State the ability of counties to regulate the transfer of taxi and limousine permits and certificates of public convenience and necessity.

Tire Removal

Support Florida Department of Environmental Protection's funding request for the removal of approximately 700,000 waste tires that were placed offshore in the early 1970's for the creation of an artificial reef.

TRIM Notices

Amend state statutes to allow Counties to notice taxpayers of the portion/percentage of property taxes attributed to the Constitutional Officers.

TRIM Notices Use of The Original July 1st Certified Taxable Value To Calculate The Rolled Back Rate

Amend state statutes to allow for the use of the July 1st certified tax roll as a basis for the determination of the rolled-back rate calculation rather than using the revised tax roll.

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.

Value Adjustment Board Appeals Fee

Amend F.S. 194.013 to create a new subsection allowing for any petitioner who appeals a Special Magistrate recommendation to the Value Adjustment Board pay an appeals fee to the clerk of the Value Adjustment Board in an amount determined by the board, not to exceed \$25, for each separate parcel of property, real or personal, covered by the petition and subject to appeal.

LOCAL BILLS

Section Four

NON-ANNEXATION

Hillsboro Inlet District

Broward County Board of County Commissioners opposes any local legislation which reduces the Commission's appointments to the governing body of the Hillsboro Inlet District.



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

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