



**A Message From  
Lois Wexler  
Broward County Commissioner  
District 5**

I want to begin this month's message with a New Year's greeting from the Broward County Board of County Commissioners. I know that 2005 has been a trying year for many in Broward County. Let's hope 2006 brings prosperity and good fortune for all.

This month I decided to utilize this space to let my constituents know how some of the policy-making decisions take place here in Broward. As some of you may be aware, there are a number of boards, committees, partnerships and organizations which meet regularly and submit recommendations to the County Commission. These groups are made up of County Commissioners, county staff members, Commission-selected delegates and, in some instances, interested members of the community.

As a member of the Board of County Commissioners, I serve on a number of boards and committees, speaking on behalf of the Commission and bringing recommendations back to the full Commission when appropriate. I would like to tell you about some of the projects I have been working on this past year and give you a preview of some of the issues that will be important in 2006.

A number of the boards I serve on deal with children's issues, a personal priority for me. I am an active member of the Children's Services Board, a group committed to the need for collaboration to improve the lives of children and their families in Broward County. It is the responsibility of the Children's Services Board to annually recommend funding to the County Commission. The annual budget for providing services to children in Broward County is approximately \$15,000,000.

I also serve as a member of One Community Partnership, a six-year project designed to evaluate and redesign the existing array of children's mental health services in Broward County into a comprehensive, coordinated system of care. My colleagues have appointed me to represent them on the School Oversight Committee which, together with the School Board and the Broward League of Cities, helps coordinate the location of new schools.

In the coming months I will highlight other committees on which I serve. I would like to take this opportunity to inform you about a project the Broward Aging Alliance, another group on which I serve, will be undertaking in the near future. It will be soliciting community involvement in preparing an assessment of the needs of the elderly members of our community. Please keep your eyes open for more information in the coming months.

As always, my door is open. You can contact me at (954) 357-7005 or e-mail me at [lwexler@broward.org](mailto:lwexler@broward.org) with any questions, comments or concerns.