



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

The Broward County Commission is moving forward to fulfill the wish of the voters who overwhelmingly voted in favor of the formation of an Ethics Commission and a Housing Council.

Both referendums were placed on the November 2008 ballot by the Broward County Charter Review Commission.

The Ethics Commission is charged with developing an official Code of Ethics for Broward County elected officials. Eleven members will be appointed to serve on the panel. Each of the nine county commissioners will choose one person from the district they represent and the Broward League of Cities will name two members to the panel. I have already chosen a person to participate on this panel and other Commissioners are selecting their choices as well. The Ethics Commission must submit a Code of Ethics to the County Commission by March 2010 and the Board of County Commissioners has 120 days to adopt the proposed code, or it goes directly to the voters in November of that year. Discussions could include guidelines for conduct of elected officials, conflict of interest issues and transparency in government. The Ethics Commission will select a Chair and Vice-Chair and the members will serve until a Code of Ethics is adopted by the County Commission or Broward voters.

Broward voters also asked for the creation of a Broward County Housing Council and I have been selected to serve as the Commission's representative. Providing adequate and affordable housing is a complex task that the county, our cities, businesses and non-profit organizations engage in year round. The Housing Council would work to facilitate coordination among these various entities to address housing issues including, but not limited to, affordable housing, workforce housing and homelessness. As Mayor last year, I formed and Chaired the Broward Foreclosure Prevention Blue Ribbon Panel and we made much progress in developing recommendations and strategies to address the high rate of foreclosures that exist in Broward County. Our final report is available on my web page at www.broward.org/wexler. The Housing Council will expand their scope and make recommendations to the County Commission on issues such as streamlining housing related government regulations and developing methods to stabilize and enhance the housing market. The Council will consist of no more than 19 members and will be appointed by the Commission, League of Cities, School Board of Broward County and representatives from the housing, banking and non-profit industries. Ralph Stone, Broward County's Director of Housing Finance and Community Development will act as Council coordinator.

I'll keep you updated on items of interest that the Ethics Commission and Housing Council address as members are appointed and meetings begin.

As always, if you have any items, concerns or issues that you'd like to discuss please feel free to call my office at (954) 357-7005 or send an e-mail to lwexler@broward.org

Sincerely,

Lois Wexler
Broward County Commissioner
District #5