



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

The fiscal year 2009 budget has been approved by the Broward County Board of County Commissioners and the \$3.6 billion total budget provides for a property tax rate that decreases 7% from the state-mandated “rolled-back” rate, meaning that the tax rate is the same as in 2008. Budget cuts made for fiscal year 2009 will reduce the county tax portion of your bill by \$96 if you have a homesteaded property and \$90 on non-homesteaded properties.

With the nation’s economy in a state of flux we are sure to face many more financial challenges in the year ahead, especially when the full impact of the failing housing market is felt. The Broward County Commission will begin tackling those challenges soon.

**Please don’t forget to vote on November 4<sup>th</sup>.** In addition to selecting a President, a representative in Congress and state and local officials, Broward County voters will also be asked to vote on ten amendments to the Broward County Charter. The local ballot questions were submitted to the electorate by the Charter Review Commission, which conducted a series of meetings during the past two years. Here is a brief summary of the Broward County Charter amendments and revisions:

- 1) Creation of a Metropolitan Transit Authority: Would create an advisory body to be known as the Metropolitan Transit Authority. Cost impact: \$72,000 per year.
- 2) Non-Interference in County Administration: Would prohibit the County Commission from interfering directly with County employees. Cost impact: \$0
- 3) County Commission Meetings, Rules and Voting (Recusal): Would require Commissioners who recuse themselves from voting because of a financial conflict to leave the Commission chamber and not communicate or participate in any discussion. Cost impact: \$0
- 4) Broward County Housing Council: Would create a Broward County Housing Council to serve as a non-taxing advisory board to facilitate coordination between the County, municipalities, businesses and not-for-profit groups. Cost Impact: \$185,000 per year.
- 5) Broward County Regionalism Policy Statement: Would add a policy statement to the Broward County Charter defining Broward County government’s duty to develop and implement programs, policies and budget with a countywide and regional focus, without limiting services on a less than regional basis. Cost impact: \$0
- 6) Broward County Parks Preservation: Would designate County-owned parks as either natural area parks or regional parks, and would prohibit the sale, transfer or change of use of such parks without an affirmative vote of sixty percent (60%) of the electorate. Cost impact: \$0

- 7) Broward County Environmental Policy Statement: Would add an environmental policy statement to the Broward County Charter. Cost impact: Cannot be determined.
- 8) Broward County Ethics Commission: Would create a Broward County Ethics Commission for the specific purpose of preparing a Code of Ethics. Cost Impact: \$73,000 to \$100,000 one time cost.
- 9) Redistricting Process: Would provide for the use of an independent redistricting consultant to develop plans for redistricting of the County Commission's single-member districts. Cost Impact: \$53,000-\$184,000 in Fiscal Year 2011.
- 10) One Year Hiatus between end of Management & Efficiency Study Committee (MESC) and beginning of Charter Review Commission: Would require the MESC to meet in 2009 and every six (6) years thereafter in order to provide for a one (1) year hiatus between meetings of the CRC and MESC. Cost impact: \$0

You'll be asked to simply vote "yes" or "no" on these amendments. If you'd like more information please go [www.broward.org/charter](http://www.broward.org/charter).

Of course I'm always open to hearing your thoughts, comments or questions. You can call my office at (954) 357-7005 or e-mail me at [lwexler@broward.org](mailto:lwexler@broward.org)

Sincerely,

Lois Wexler

Broward County Mayor

Commissioner, District #5