



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

A large, stylized sun graphic composed of yellow brushstrokes. The sun's face is a large yellow circle with a blue center, and it has several yellow rays extending outwards. The graphic is positioned on the left side of the page, partially overlapping a blue vertical bar.

2008 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

110th Congress
2nd Session
January 2008

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



Ilene Lieberman
District 1



Mayor Lois Wexler
District 5



Kristin D. Jacobs
District 2



Sue Gunzburger
District 6



Vice Mayor Stacy Ritter
District 3



John E. Rodstrom, Jr.
District 7



Ken Keechl
District 4



Diana Wasserman-Rubin
District 8



Josephus Eggelton, Jr.
District 9



POLICY STATEMENTS

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, the environment, business, property, and tourism. **The Broward County Board of County Commissioners supports** legislation that reduces air pollution (ozone, sulfur dioxide, fine particles, and mercury) resulting in decreased health impacts such as chronic respiratory ailments, asthma, cardiovascular disease, and premature mortality. **The Board** supports strong air quality policies and strict adherence to the intent and spirit of the Clean Air Act, especially legislation or other initiatives to promote clean fuel alternatives, promote measures to minimize climate change producing pollutants, promote clean energy sources and energy conservation. **The Board** supports increased Federal funding necessary to address critically important air quality issues.

The Broward County Board of County Commissioners opposes any weakening of established Federal and State air quality standards including the reinterpretation of, or any modifications to, Clean Air Act regulations and programs, or a decrease in current funding that would undermine implementation of current air quality laws.

ARTS FUNDING

It is the responsibility of the federal government to help make the arts accessible to benefit the social, economic and cultural well being of the American people. Public support of the arts and humanities is dependent upon the development of a cultural infrastructure at all levels of government. **The Broward County Board of County Commissioners supports** funding of cultural arts programs.

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. The 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** a dedicated source of federal funding for the nation's valuable beaches in order to protect and maintain these essential elements that are vital to our environmental and economic infrastructure.

Beach nourishment and shore protection programs continue to occupy a low priority for funding by the Executive Branch of the federal government. Additionally, Congress has impeded funding for reimbursable projects in general and for reimbursable beach nourishment projects in particular. Because Broward County's beach projects are historically reimbursable, there is concern that federal funding for current and future Broward projects may be in jeopardy. **The Broward County Board of County Commissioners opposes** restrictions on reimbursements for beach nourishment

projects for which funds have been appropriated, supports authorization of reimbursement costs of mitigation and removal of derelict erosion control structures; and supports the inclusion in law of provisions which standardize the budgetary process for reimbursable projects and streamline the process of reimbursing the local sponsor.

The Broward County Board of County Commissioners opposes any provision in the Water Resources Development Act which would create a Beach Nourishment Advisory Committee, which would require additional overlapping rules for beach projects, since many of the policies and standards required by the Advisory Committee already exist in current Corps regulations or in federal statute. Florida has carefully developed permitting requirements for our beach projects that require site-specific consideration of environmental and local issues.

Future implementation of the County's Beach Management Plan may require acquisition of aragonite sand or other non-domestic beach-quality material for diminishing local sand supplies and heightened restrictions on dredging near coral reefs. Current law severely restricts federal financial participation in projects which utilize non-domestic sand. **The Broward County Board of County Commissioners supports** lifting the statutory ban on the use of federal funds for the acquisition of aragonite or other non-domestic sand for beach nourishment where such material is economical and environmentally sound.

The Broward County Board of County Commissioners urges Congress and the Administration to:

- Recognize and acknowledge the inevitability of coastal erosion and the need to replenish beaches when necessary;
- Streamline and simplify the confusing and conflicting regulatory requirements that stem from overlapping jurisdictions of Federal agencies in the coastal zone; and
- Apportion costs among beach nourishment project participants consistent with the actual economic and environmental benefits that beaches provide to those participants.

CLIMATE CHANGE

The Broward County Board of County Commissioners recognizes that greenhouse gas emissions and other human-generated pollution are having a negative impact on our environment. **The Broward County Board of County Commissioners supports** energy policies, and other initiatives to reduce carbon dioxide and other atmospheric temperature altering compounds in the atmosphere in order to provide solutions to human-caused climate change. The underlying goal of this is to preserve ecosystem sustainability, long term water supply, flood protection, public health and safety, and economic growth and prosperity for present and future generations. Additionally, **the Board supports** establishing federal funding sources to assist local governments to develop and implement Climate Change Action Plans and associated climate change initiatives.

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 also supports** the County's evolution into a global center for trade and investment. **The Broward County Board of County Commissioners also supports** legislation that promotes and enhances the growth of foreign direct investment, trade, 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.

EVERGLADES RESTORATION

The Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP), as approved by Congress, provides a framework stating: "The over arching objective of the Comprehensive Plan is the restoration, preservation and protection of the South Florida ecosystem while providing for other water-related needs of the region." This landmark legislation authorizes construction projects and implementation procedures, and establishes a process to ensure that the goals and purposes of the Plan are achieved.

The Broward County Board of County Commissioners supports restoration of the Everglades and believes that the implementation of the CERP is critical to the future of South Florida and Broward County's environment, economy, and water supply. In order to ensure that the plan moves forward as intended by Congress and as supported by the Board of County Commissioners of Broward County, efforts must now focus on securing sufficient federal funding and reauthorizing the Broward County Water Preserve Area (WPA).

The Broward County Board of County Commissioners urges Congress to live up to its partnership agreements and commitment to fund 50% of CERP and capability funding for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District, to fulfill a partnership agreement between the State and Federal government.

The Broward County Board of County Commissioners believes that local and state water allocations and growth management policies, water quality improvement strategies and water conservation programs must be consistent with Everglades restoration goals, and other water-related needs of the region and advance those goals where possible.

The Broward County Board of County Commissioners recognizes the important ecosystem, water supply and economic benefits of the Broward County Water Preserve Area Project (WPA) and that the construction of this important project requires reauthorization from Congress. Therefore, **the Broward County Board of County Commissioners strongly supports** the reauthorization of the WPA through the Water Resources Development Act or any other appropriate legislation.

FINANCE

Broward County is committed to delivering quality services to its community at the lowest possible cost, generating the greatest possible return. **The Broward County Board of County Commissioners supports** legislation or regulatory initiatives that reduce the cost of delivering County services. Such legislation may include financing capital investments at the lowest possible cost through additional advance refunding and postage cost savings through expansion of reduced rates for local government.

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 by providing funding for the direct delivery of medical assistance, mental health, social and aging services, and housing assistance. **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** equity in and adequacy of funding for human services and opposes any funding reductions in the areas of health, mental health and human services in order to meet the increasing demand.

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 that allows counties to develop and implement solutions to local problems.

TRANSPORTATION

As Florida's second most populated county, Broward County has ongoing needs to modernize and expand transportation infrastructure and increase capacity to meet the needs of the traveling public and private sectors. Our transportation system must be upgraded in the coming years to accommodate the increasing needs of our growing urban county and region, with particular emphasis on facilitating Express Bus, Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), and Light Rail Transit (LRT) in addition to developing an efficient network to facilitate passenger, vehicular, and freight traffic through Airport and Seaport connections. **The Broward County Board of County Commissioners supports** the development, funding and construction of a comprehensive regional transportation system to meet safety and security needs of all transportation modes, from seaport and airport to mass transit, roadways, and bicycle/pedestrian facilities.

UNFUNDED MANDATES

Many federal directives mandate local governments to provide services or programs without providing the appropriate monies or funding sources. 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 federal legislative actions that implement unfunded mandates on a local government's fiscal and public policy.

WATER AND WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE

As residential and commercial growth continues, Broward County recognizes the importance of properly managing public works, especially in the areas of wastewater treatment, disposal and water resources management. **The Broward County Board of County Commissioners supports** the efforts by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, and others to find reasonable, environmentally-sound, cost-effective, and timely solutions to the regulatory issues pertaining to underground injection of treated domestic wastewater effluent.

The Broward County Office of Environmental Services estimates that infrastructure replacement costs over the next twenty years will approach \$400 million. Each year the infrastructure comes under greater stress to meet the water and wastewater needs of the consuming public. The Water Infrastructure Network (WIN), a broad-based coalition of local, state and federal officials, state and federal environmental and health administrators, engineers and environmentalists working to improve water infrastructure nationwide, has estimated that a federal infrastructure funding gap of over \$250 billion will exist over the next 20 years.

The Broward County Board of County Commissioners supports legislation which will supplement current funding, which is insufficient to meet the needs for replacing aging infrastructure such as underground piping, lift stations, water storage facilities, and conversion from septic to sanitary sewer systems. **The Broward County Board of County Commissioners also supports** the efforts of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, American Water Works Association and the Association of Metropolitan Sewerage Agencies to persuade Congress to create and fund a clean water trust fund, or the proposed Clean Water Trust Act of 2005, or other similar dedicated funding source for infrastructure replacement.

WATER QUALITY

The Broward County Board of County Commissioners has long recognized the value of the Federal government and the Environmental Protection Agency to protect national, state and local water bodies including Florida's significant water resources, from the Florida Everglades to Broward County's 1,800 miles of canals. **The Board supports** strong environmental and water quality policies and strict adherence to the intent and spirit of the Clean Water Act. **The Broward County Board of County Commissioners opposes** any weakening of established Federal and State water quality standards that would undermine implementation of the Total Maximum Daily Load Program and supports continued protection of State and local water bodies as required under the Clean Water Act.

FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS REQUESTS

FISCAL YEAR 2009

110th Congress, 2nd Session

Seaport

Port Everglades Dredging Program	\$ 650,000
Southport Dredging Reimbursement	\$ 3,000,000

Transit

Hybrid Articulated Buses.....	\$ 5,100,000
Transit Technology Enhancement Projects.....	\$ 3,750,000
Renovations to Existing Transit Facility.....	\$ 3,000,000
US441 Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)	\$ 5,000,000
Downtown Transit Circulator (DDA)	\$11,500,000
Preliminary Engineering and Design	\$ 5,500,000
Intelligent Design.....	\$ 2,000,000
Streetscape	\$ 4,000,000

Other Appropriations Requests

Beach Nourishment	\$ 6,000,000
Oral Rabies Vaccine.....	\$ 600,000
Organization of American States Reimbursement.....	\$ 2,088,567
Pediatric Mortality Public Awareness	\$ 300,000

SEAPORT

PORT EVERGLADES DREDGING PROGRAM

Broward County is requesting \$650 thousand from the General Investigations Account of the FY2009 Energy and Water Appropriations bill on behalf of the Army Corps of Engineers. A feasibility study conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has determined that in order to serve Port Everglades' current and future shipping tenants, deeper and wider channels are required. The total cost of the project is currently estimated at approximately \$320 million. The federal share of the project is expected to be 50% with state and county governments participating in the remaining share. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Chief's Report are expected in 2009, with construction to begin in 2010. This project has received the following federal appropriations: FY2003 \$93,000, FY2004 \$100,000, FY2005 \$100,000, FY2006 \$175,000, FY2007 \$300,000, and FY2008 appropriation of \$492,000.

SOUTHPORT DREDGING REIMBURSEMENT

Broward County is requesting \$3 million from the Construction General Account of the FY2008 Energy and Water Appropriations bill to reimburse Port Everglades for the federal share of costs associated with widening and deepening the Southport Channel and Turning Notch. The Water Resources Development Act of 2000 authorized reimbursement of \$15,003,000 to Port Everglades for the federal share of project costs incurred by the non-federal interest in carrying out this project. Past federal appropriations are: FY2002 \$3 million, FY2003 \$3 million, FY2004 \$600,000, FY2005 \$400,000, FY2006 \$375,000 and FY2008 \$703,000. The total amount needed for full reimbursement remains \$7.6 million.

TRANSIT

HYBRID ARTICULATED BUSES

Broward County is requesting \$5.1 million for 6 hybrid, 60 foot articulated buses. Each bus costs \$850,000. The current fleet of vehicles is not sufficient to meet Federal Transit Administration (FTA) standards, and purchase of the hybrid vehicles will allow Broward County to address transit capacity and expansion needs while also addressing clean air issues. The articulated buses currently in service on the busiest routes are not energy efficient and contribute to air quality difficulties.

TRANSIT TECHNOLOGY ENHANCEMENT PROJECTS

Broward County is requesting \$3.75 million in the FY2009 Transportation Appropriations bill for acquisition of transit technology to include: signs as well as installation of the Real Time Information system, which will provide information to riders on the wait time for the next vehicle based on the location of the vehicle and the conditions in the corridor; technology associated with a Traffic Signal Priority system to improve on-time performance of existing and planned local and Limited Stop/Rapid Bus routes on several of the busiest routes on corridors within the county and region; and technology associated with the installation of equipment to allow for real time paratransit fleet monitoring to improve efficiency, service, and prevent and detect fraud.

RENOVATIONS TO EXISTING TRANSIT FACILITY

Broward County is requesting \$15 million over a multi-year period from the Surface Transportation Account. The County is requesting \$3 million from the FY2009 Transportation Appropriations for the study and planning of renovations to the existing bus maintenance facility at Ravenswood Road. For several years the county has been seeking a parcel of land approximately 30 acres in size to build a new facility to accommodate growth in the southwestern portion of the county. After an exhaustive and unsuccessful search, the plan has been modified to utilize and expand existing facilities. Southwest Broward is among the fastest growing populations in the United States, and Broward County has not been able to keep pace with the growth in terms of transit services. As a county which is 95% built out, targeting and purchasing property to allow for transit expansion is essential.

In 2000, mass transit expanded from 197 to 232 buses and in 2001 there was a further expansion to 250 buses. This expansion added 150 positions to staff. Broward County maintains two bus facilities, one each in north and south county. The current north county bus facility houses administration, scheduling, planning and intelligent transportation system (ITS) facilities; it is inadequate to accommodate maintenance, training, automation, and service development enhancements. Expansion of the north county facility will allow the infrastructure to meet the needs of the public. In FY2005, Broward County received \$1.2 million, and in FY2006, Broward County received \$1 million.

Broward County is requesting \$3 million from the Bus and Bus Facilities Account of the FY2009 Transportation Appropriations.

US441 BUS RAPID TRANSIT (BRT)

Broward County is requesting \$5 million dollars from the New Starts Account of the FY2009 Transportation Appropriations to construct transit stations on one of Broward County Transit's (BCT) highest ridership routes along US 441, a 25-mile, north-south corridor through the county that traverses 13 cities and the Seminole Indian Tribe of Florida Reservation, and is a feeder road that provides major regional linkage. Exact locations of the stations are currently being determined using a feasibility study.

This project is a multi-phased, multi-year component of the larger initiative to redevelop and revitalize US 441. Other components include technology, exclusive bus lanes and station enhancements.

DOWNTOWN TRANSIT CORRIDOR

Broward County is requesting funding for the Downtown Transit Corridor. This project is jointly sponsored by Broward County, the City of Fort Lauderdale and the Downtown Development Authority (DDA). Funding is being sought for a transit project to serve the downtown urban core, and Broward County's primary participation will be through operation of the transit service, once constructed. The DDA is expected to seek approval of a final alignment sometime in 2008. The FY2009 appropriation request for \$11.5 million includes \$5.5 million for Preliminary Engineering and Design, \$2 million for Intelligent Transportation Systems, and \$4 million for Streetscaping.

OTHER APPROPRIATIONS REQUESTS

BEACH NOURISHMENT

Broward County is requesting \$26 million over a multi-year period to reimburse the County for the federal share of beach renourishment on 12 miles of critically eroded County beaches. In FY09, the County seeks \$6 million. The total federal share of this project is approximately \$25.3 million. Under the current arrangement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, authorized by the Water Resources Development Act of 1999 (WRDA'99), the County must first expend local funds for both the local and federal share of the project before seeking reimbursement

Erosion of Broward County beaches threatens the public safety, economic development, and environment of the region. WRDA '99 authorized the County for reimbursement once a construction contract is signed. Construction began with mitigation in early FY 2003, and Phase 3 construction was completed in January 2006. The requested funding is to reimburse the County for a portion of the 56.5% federal share of costs for pre-construction, engineering, design, environmental monitoring and construction. Past appropriations include FY2002 \$1 million, FY2003 \$4 million, FY2004 \$1 million, FY2005 \$1.5 million, FY2006 \$750,000, FY2007 \$750,000 and FY2008 \$492,000.

Broward County is requesting \$6 million for this reimbursement in the FY2009 Energy and Water Appropriations bill.

ORAL RABIES VACCINE

Broward County is requesting \$600,000 in FY2009 Agriculture Appropriations to establish an Oral Rabies Vaccine Program. Rabies is a growing problem in Florida, and Palm Beach County has experienced an alarming increase in rabies cases. This project, which was fully funded and executed by Broward County in 2005, create a rabies barrier to prevent the spread of the disease to the southernmost portion of Florida by distributing some 200,000 oral rabies vaccine baits in the first of five years. The total cost to fund this multi-year program is estimated at \$600,000 annually for five years. In the FY2006 Agriculture Appropriation, legislative language was included directing the State to fund the Broward County project.

ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES REIMBURSEMENT

Broward County is requesting \$2,088,567 in State Department or Emergency Supplemental appropriations for reimbursement for costs associated with hosting the Organization of American States, a high-level diplomatic meeting, at the Greater Fort Lauderdale/Broward County Convention Center. Foreign Ministers from more than 33 countries were in attendance at the Broward County Convention Center in June 2005, and were hosted by the United States Secretary of State. The meeting was successfully executed without any meaningful disruptions.

Broward County was required to provide a safe and secure environment in and around the Broward County Convention Center plus other selected venues for attending OAS heads of state and their families. This effort required substantial expenditure of resources from Broward Aviation, Port Everglades Department, the Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention & Visitors Bureau, the Broward Sheriff's Office, Fort Lauderdale Police Department, Florida Department of Law Enforcement, US Coast Guard, Customs and Immigration and Transportation Security Administration.

In FY2008 the Congress provided for reimbursement in the amount of \$2.5 million, thus reducing our outstanding expenses to \$2,088,567.

PEDIATRIC MORTALITY PUBLIC AWARENESS

Broward County is seeking \$300,000 in the FY2009 Labor-HHS Appropriations bill in order to develop a public awareness campaign to target at-risk families, caretakers and childcare providers who come in contact with infants and toddlers. The goal of the campaign is to reduce the unusually high death rate due to Sudden Infant Death Syndrome and other preventable causes in targeted populations of Broward County.

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

AVIATION

As part of a regional transportation system, the Airport and Seaport are the economic engines that create and promote commerce and industry. The Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport serves the air travel needs of Broward, north Miami-Dade and southern Palm Beach counties. In 2006, the airport handled more than 21 million passengers and generated more than \$2.3 billion in economic activity, which includes 31,500 jobs. Located in close proximity, Port Everglades generates an estimated economic impact of more than \$2.8 billion annually, handles more than four million cruise passengers and 27 million tons of cargo each year, and is an equally vital part of this transportation system. **The Broward County Board of County Commissioners supports** continued and increased federal funding for both Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport and Port Everglades. This funding will provide capital for expansion, maintenance, and security improvements, which are all vital for travel and trade to the South Florida area. **The Broward County Board of County Commissioners supports** legislation that promotes airports, seaports and the maritime industry, and opposes legislation which could be detrimental to those interests.

Therefore, **the Broward County Board of County Commissioners supports** the following federal initiatives:

- **Security**

- Continued approval and funding of modifications to all four terminals at Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport to comply with increased federal baggage screening requirements. The installation of the required systems will require design modifications of the existing airport terminals, and the cost for these mandated airport security enhancements and infrastructure improvements is estimated to be \$160 million. Urge Congress to adequately fund this program, and work with Transportation Security Administration to implement installation of the Explosive Detection System (EDS) and the structural modifications necessary in the most expeditious and effective manner possible, to maximize efficiencies and minimize disruption to the traveling public.
- Issuance of Letter of Intent (LOI) and funding for the installation of the EDS.
- Request that the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) retain responsibility for security of check-point exit lanes, or provide funding to implement technology based alternatives, instead of imposing an unfunded mandate.
- Additional staffing for United States Customs and Border Protection (CBP) at Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport. Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport is a rapidly growing port of entry which along with Port Everglades requires staffing support to meet rapidly expanding needs and volume.

● Airport Funding

- Modification of Federal Aviation Administration Regulations Part 150 to allow greater funding eligibility outside of the 65 DNL contour where warranted by the local noise impact area or neighborhood situation.
- Urge Congress to pass a multi-year FAA reauthorization bill, which expired in September of 2007, that maintains or increases the current level of General Fund contribution, and that provides for a stable revenue source for future operational and capital needs. This includes continued funding of the Airport Improvement Program (AIP), which funds the infrastructure needs of United States airports in the areas of safety, security, construction and noise projects, at or above the current (FY2007) levels. Broward County also supports the expansion and streamlining of the AIP for safety and security projects, as well as the following provisions:
 - Support an increase in the maximum base rate for Passenger Facility Charges (PFC) which allows these charges to keep pace with the Consumer Price Index (CPI.)
 - Support a change to the PFC authorization legislation to recognize the inherent differences in capital requirements of Origin and Destination (O&D) airports like Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport, versus the airline hub airports. Airport activity, from a passenger perspective, can be ranked by two different criteria: Total activity and total local origin traffic. O&D airports must build roadways, parking, security systems and terminal buildings, as well as air field infrastructure and gates to support the airports level of activity. Hub airports generally have more than 50% of their passenger traffic that utilizes only the air field and gate infrastructure of the facility. The most capital intensive expenditures that airports must make are in it's landside facilities; its roads, parking and terminal buildings. Broward County believes that the ability to collect PFC revenue should reflect those demands, with a weighting system that mirrors those requirements. The weighting system should provide differentiation in the PFC collection rate at a passengers origin airport verses at a transfer point.
 - When the collection of PFC's was first authorized by Congress in 1992, the stated objectives were: 1) preserving or enhancing airport's safety, security, or capacity; 2) reducing noise; and 3) enhancing airline competition. A weighted PFC allocation system would better support these objectives by supporting funding to airports that are capacity constrained due to airline competition, not because of the development of a single carrier "fortress" hub which inhibits competition.

The Board also opposes the transfer and consolidation of TRACON to the existing Miami TRACON. The TRACON facility that has been proposed to be relocated is currently co-located with the air traffic control tower in West Palm Beach.

BREAST CANCER PATIENT PROTECTION ACT

Breast Cancer is the most common cancer diagnosed in women in the nation. When medically necessary, mastectomies and other breast cancer related surgeries are traumatic and physically debilitating. In the past, some insurers have required these procedures to be performed on an outpatient basis, to the detriment of the patient's health. **The Broward County Board of County Commissioners supports** legislation to require insurers to cover a minimum 48 hour stay in the hospital for patients undergoing certain breast cancer related procedures.

CATASTROPHIC DISASTER RISK INSURANCE

Across the United States, the increased threat of losses from natural disasters has caused insurance companies to withdraw from markets and increase premiums at alarming rates. **The Broward County Board of County Commissioners supports** federal legislative efforts to attract and retain insurance markets and provide for affordable insurance to best serve consumers and protect taxpayers.

CHILD CARE DEVELOPMENT FUND

The Broward County Board of County Commissioners supports increased funding through the Health and Human Services Appropriation for licensing and monitoring of child care facilities.

CHILD CARE TAX CREDIT

The Child Care Tax Credit (CCTC) is an important anti-poverty and pro-work tax policy that improves the fairness of the tax code and directs tax relief to children in low-income families. The current credit indexes the income eligibility threshold for inflation, excluding more families every year. If Congress takes no action, it is estimated that over 6 million children in working-poor families will get no benefit from the credit in 2008 because their families incomes are too low.

The Broward County Board of County Commissioners supports legislation which lower the income threshold at which the CCTC is refundable.

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING FOR PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

The Broward County Board of County Commissioners opposes legislation which would allow for federal government requirements for collective bargaining rights for public employees. Jurisdiction for such issues should be reserved for state and local governments.

COMMUNICATIONS

Broward County recognizes that the advent of communications technology presents considerable opportunities for counties to enhance the quality of life in their communities by providing regulatory powers over video, communication, and Internet services in order to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public and to insure the same level of services for all residents. There are significant fiscal and policy implications that will require prompt and thoughtful decisions about maintaining local regulatory authority, zoning, taxation, consumer protection, and local government communication networks and infrastructure. **The Broward County Board of County Commissioners supports** establishing an equitable system that promotes improvements to the federal tax and fee structure for communications products and services that will strengthen Florida's economy, while maintaining revenue neutrality for local governments. **The Broward County Board of County Commissioners also supports** the preservation of local government responsibility to manage communication franchises, public resources, including, but not limited to, public rights-of-way, and cable rate regulation legislation that will be more consumer friendly and may provide greater authority to local governments. **The Broward County Board of County Commissioners also supports** legislation requiring network neutrality that prohibits Internet providers from discriminating or limiting informational content available to the general public.

Recently, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) adopted a Rule that supersedes local government's authority of the video franchise process by imposing requirements to control the franchising of competitive video franchise applicants and limit the service build-out requirements to residents. In addition, the Rule preempts all level playing field provisions in existing local franchise agreements and in the County's communications ordinances. **The Broward County Board of County Commissioners opposes** the FCC Rule and supports Congress reversing the FCC's decision.

Currently, federal agencies that lease space for wireless towers must consult with local and state governments regarding zoning. The wireless industry is asking for an exemption that would eliminate federal or local agency authority to deny zoning for a wireless tower or antenna. In addition, Congress may exempt local zoning authority for digital television towers because significantly higher towers must be built. It is unknown if additional tower height can be added to existing towers, or if new towers will have to be located elsewhere. **The Broward County Board of County Commissioners supports** maintaining the local control over the siting of wireless service towers and antennas; maintaining local control over the zoning of digital television towers.

Current law mandates that landowners and developers exhaust local and state appeals in zoning matters before going to federal courts. Pending federal legislation would give property owners, businesses, and developers easier access to federal courts regarding local planning and zoning decisions. The proposed legislation would limit the authority of local governments and zoning boards by allowing owners and developers expedited access to federal courts. **The Broward County Board of County Commissioners opposes** legislation that would bypass, undermine, or in any way limit the authority of local governments regarding zoning.

EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT

The Earned Income Tax Credit is intended as a wage support for poor and low-income families, and has been one of the federal government's most effective tools in lifting millions of Americans out of poverty. **The Broward County Board of County Commissioners opposes** any proposal to initiate a pre-certification process or any effort to increase requirements for qualification of the Earned Income Tax Credit.

ELECTION ISSUES

The Broward County Board of County Commissioners recognizes that it may be appropriate for local governments to provide for a voter verified paper record of an electronic ballot or to utilize precinct based optical scanners. However, **the Board** acknowledges that any technology which may be affected would have to be certified by the State of Florida in order to be utilized. **The Broward County Board of County Commissioners urges** Congress to adopt legislation requiring voter verified paper ballots and providing additional funds for the acquisition of such equipment.

Additionally, last Congress legislation was introduced, which would require all voters to provide documentation of citizenship and obtain a new voters identification card in order to vote. This requirement would lead to an unfunded mandate by increasing the volume of requests for birth certificates and other requests for assistance from county service agencies to assist individuals in securing alternative documentation. In addition, the provision could result in an increase in the volume of provisional ballots cast by those individuals who fail to bring identification to the polls. **The Broward County Board of County Commissioners opposes** this proposal.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT/HOMELAND SECURITY

FEMA Eligibility

Over the last three years, high insurance deductibles have precluded many Floridians from receiving compensation from their insurance company, while the existence of the insurance precluded federal assistance. **The Broward County Board Commissioners supports** the amendment of the Stafford Act to allow for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) eligibility and assistance for those individuals whose insurance deductibles exceeds 15% of their annual income.

Federal laws and regulations clearly state that the counties included in a Presidential-declared disaster area may be reimbursed by the federal government for debris removal from private property; however, FEMA has interpreted these laws inconsistently across Florida, requiring counties to pay for such work. **The Broward County Board of County Commissioners supports** efforts to insure counties included in a Presidential disaster declaration are reimbursed by FEMA for removing debris from both public and private property, including private roads.

The Broward County Board of County Commissioners opposes any (FEMA) initiative to increase the per capita threshold for public assistance under the Stafford Act.

Permanent FEMA Office

Florida's FEMA Long-Term Recovery Office in Orlando was created in response to the slow recovery from the hurricanes of 2003 and 2004, and plays a vital role in the ongoing management of many outstanding issues related to past storms. Last year the U.S. House of Representatives unanimously agreed that the FEMA Florida Long-Term Recovery Office should remain open for a period of at least three years. Florida is ranked third in the country for natural disasters, yet Alaska, Mississippi, Alabama, Louisiana and Texas all have established permanent field offices. Therefore, **the Broward County Board of County Commissioners supports** the permanent designation of Florida's FEMA field office.

The Broward County Board of County Commissioners also supports federal support of regional interoperability programs.

EMINENT DOMAIN

Florida's Constitution and case law require the following baseline for eminent domain proceedings: private property may not be taken by eminent domain unless it is for a predominate public purpose, and the burden is on the condemning authority to prove such public purpose. Unlike the Connecticut statute in the Kelo case, Chapter 163, Florida Statutes, does not permit a forcible taking for economic development reasons alone. The Florida Redevelopment Act provides that no authority shall be exercised until there is a finding of necessity supported by data and analysis. The finding must demonstrate either slum or blight or a shortage of affordable housing for low or moderate income persons including the elderly. 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 Broward County 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. **The Board also opposes** legislation which would make local governments ineligible for federal economic development funds if eminent domain was used for economic development purposes.

FEDERAL COURTHOUSE

In 2005, a recommendation was made against the reconstruction of the Fort Lauderdale federal courthouse and for the division of Broward County's federal caseload between the Miami Courthouse and the yet-to-be-constructed Palm Beach federal courthouse. However, there is no doubt that all three courthouses are urgently needed in this region, which is the sixth largest metropolitan statistical area in the United States. The elimination of a federal courthouse in Broward County would lead to the disenfranchisement of the 1.7 million people who reside here, and to the hardship of those citizens required to travel approximately 100 miles round trip when required to appear as a potential juror or witness in a federal case. Additionally, the elimination of the facility would have a terrible financial impact on the county, with jobs and other economic opportunities lost. Therefore, **the Broward County Board of County Commissioners supports** the retention and rebuilding of the federal courthouse in Broward County.

FREE TRADE AGREEMENT WITH COLOMBIA

Approximately 200,000 Colombian-Americans reside in the State of Florida. Florida's export shipments of merchandise to Columbia in 2006 totaled \$1.6 billion, the second largest export total to Columbia among all the 50 states, which accounts for 23 percent of U.S. exports in 2006. The United States–Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement will serve both the United States and Latin American interests and will create new economic opportunities for many citizens. This agreement will maintain our nation's commitment to international trade relations, by promoting economic growth and stability to the country of Colombia. **The Broward County Board of County Commissioners supports** Congress' approval of the United States–Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement

FREE TRADE AGREEMENT OF THE AMERICAS

The South Florida region is working together to assist the United States government in reaching an agreement to create a 34-nation Free Trade Agreement of the Americas (FTAA) that will create an 800 million person trading block reaching from Alaska to Tierra del Fuego. The FTAA will provide substantial benefits to the business community and citizens of South Florida. In this effort, South Florida and the entire state is striving to move the Permanent Secretariat of the FTAA to Miami. Miami is the best location for the Permanent Secretariat of the FTAA and will greatly enhance the international status of South Florida in creating new jobs, relocating businesses and increasing travel to the tri-county area and the State of Florida. **The Broward County Board of County Commissioners supports** relocating the Permanent Secretariat of the FTAA to Miami. **The Broward County Board of County Commissioners opposes** any actions by the FTAA that would preempt local regulatory laws and policies that affect Broward County citizens.

HERBERT HOOVER DIKE

The failure of the Herbert Hoover Dike surrounding Lake Okeechobee could have disastrous effects on the surrounding region, including Broward County. Reports have indicated that the Dike does not meet federal safety standards and may pose a threat to people and the environment. Therefore, **the Broward County Board of County Commissioners supports** federal funding for the repair and protection of the Herbert Hoover Dike around Lake Okeechobee.

HIV HEALTH AND SUPPORT SERVICES

Broward County remains one of the highest HIV/AIDS populations in the United States. In FY 2006/2007, the County received \$14.9 million in funding. The Ryan White C.A.R.E. Act continues to be the primary funding mechanism for services related to people living with AIDS and HIV. Allocations for the Ryan White C.A.R.E. Act are based on the geographic point where a person is diagnosed. Under current law, if a person diagnosed with HIV in one area of the country moves to a different area of the country, the allocation is not transferred to where the person moves, but remains at the point of diagnosis. This is called the "hold-harmless provision". This migration factor provision has placed severe financial burden on Broward County. It is estimated that twenty-five percent (25%) of all persons in Broward County with a positive diagnosis were tested elsewhere.

The Broward County Board of County Commissioners urges Congress to revise the “hold harmless” provision of the Ryan White Care Act. Despite incidence and prevalence data showing an increase in prevalence of Persons Living with HIV and AIDS, C.A.R.E. Act funding has fluctuated yearly and has not kept pace with the epidemic. This makes it difficult to sustain a high quality system of care. While over the last two years, there has been a marginal decrease in the number of new cases, the number of new cases in 2007 was 11% higher than in 2001. The Florida Department of Health estimates that the prevalence of Persons Living with HIV and AIDS increased 27% in Florida since 1987, particularly in South Florida counties. Among all Florida counties, Broward experienced the highest increase in reported AIDS cases in 2004. This increase is in part due to a substantial effort to improve reporting, a large syphilis epidemic that began in 2000 among homosexuals, increased emphasis on HIV testing, and immigration to Broward County.

The growing gap between increasing HIV/AIDS cases and fluctuating funding creates significant challenges in sustaining access to high quality HIV care. Although the Eligible Metropolitan Area Broward County as an Eligible Metropolitan Area (EMA) is aggressive in achieving efficiencies in the use of Title I funds, the system of care is reaching its critical mass. Without additional funding, the EMA will be forced to consider rationing of life-sustaining medical care and treatment to meet the documented increased demand for health related services.

The Broward County Board of County Commissioners urges Congress to increase funding for the Health Resources and Service Administration in order to adequately address the HIV/AIDS needs of the community. **The Board also supports:**

- Increased funding for core medical services consisting of AIDS pharmaceutical assistance, outpatient/ambulatory health services, oral health care, medical case management; and outpatient mental health services, medical nutrition therapy, and substance abuse services.
- Increased funding of support services for food bank, medical transportation, legal services and outreach services; voluntarily testing of inmates upon incarceration in order to reduce of the impact of incarceration as a driver of new HIV infections; and efforts to develop, fund and implement a plan to end AIDS, including universal access to prevention, treatment, care and support.

The Broward County Board of County Commissioners supports full funding of the FY2008 grant application in the amount of \$18.3 million, which will support stabilizing the lives of persons living with HIV/AIDS by increasing access to core medical and support services and housing through increased funding of the Ryan White C.A.R.E. Act and the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA). Broward County remains one of the highest HIV/AIDS populations in the United States. In FY 2005/2006, the County received \$14.6 million in funding. The Ryan White C.A.R.E. Act continues to be the primary funding mechanism for services related to people living with AIDS and HIV. Allocations for the Ryan White C.A.R.E. Act are based on the geographic point where a person is diagnosed. Under current law, if a person diagnosed with HIV in one area of the country moves to a different area of the country, the allocation is not transferred to where the person moves, but remains at the point of diagnosis. This is commonly called the “hold harmless” provision.

The Broward County Board of County Commissioners urges Congress to revisit the reauthorization of the Ryan White C.A.R.E Act, related to funding and the reevaluation and modification of the “hold harmless” provision.

HOMELESSNESS

Since 1999 when Broward County received its first U.S. Housing and Urban Development SuperNOFA grant for its Continuum of Care program, we have made considerable progress in homelessness and addressing the chronic needs of the previously homeless.

Broward is also home to thousands of very low-income people who depend on or are in need of affordable housing. Specifically, **the Broward County Board of County Commissioners supports** the following ongoing federal policies, programs and funding:

- Increase Continuum of Care annual SuperNOFA funding, specifically, both the Community Partnership to End Homelessness Act of 2007 and the Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act including provisions broadening the definition of homeless to include those who are doubled-up with friends and family.
- Increase funding levels for Appropriations for Homeless Programs within the U.S. Departments of Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development, Department of Veterans Affairs, Education, and Labor; including the President's Samaritan Initiative to house and treat the chronic homeless.
- Mainstream renewal of expiring rent subsidy contracts under HUD's Shelter Plus Care program and other permanent supportive programs for the homeless as opposed to each continuum's pro-rata need share.
- Support the federal 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness Initiative through the creation of a National Housing Trust Fund.

HOUSING

The Broward County Board of County Commissioners supports federal efforts to expand affordable housing initiatives, including increased funding for the Section 8 Housing Program, the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG), the HOME Investment Partnership, and the American Dream Down Payment Initiative. **The Board opposes** the proposed 5% cut to Public Housing Authorities.

The Board also supports legislation and programs such as the National Housing Trust Fund Act, which would provide for a permanent dedicated funding source for affordable housing for the lowest income families, such as the provision which would use a portion of the FHA surplus each year to build housing units; and the restoration of cuts made in Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), which contribute to affordable housing infrastructure, public services and economic development for low to moderate income residents. **The Board also supports** maintaining and increasing current levels of funding and cost of living increases in HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME), which continues our partnerships to assist lower income residents in our community towards home ownership.

The Board also supports the “30/30 Plan”, which provides that existing housing funds should have a greater amount (30%) targeted for persons at or below 30% of median income.

The Board also supports legislation which would give employers the option of offering financial homebuyer benefits, much like dental or medical benefits, for housing costs of all types. Employers would be eligible for a tax credit as an incentive for participation.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BONDS

The Broward County Board of County Commissioners supports the expansion of the industrial development bonds law to allow Federal Home Loan Banks to offer letters of credit to private developers in order to utilize bonds, with the local government acting as a conduit, to encourage municipal-sponsored community development projects such as affordable housing.

MEDICAID

The Medicaid program is recognized nationally as a partnership between the federal and state governments to provide medical assistance to certain individuals and families with low incomes and resources. Unlike many states, Florida requires counties to contribute financially to the Medicaid program, subsidizing the state’s share. This current policy leaves counties vulnerable each year to potential cost shifts when there is a state budget deficit or shortfall. As the state seeks to implement the federal waiver to help provide predictability in the cost of the state’s share for Medicaid, **the Broward County Board of County Commissioners supports** legislation which:

- protects Medicaid benefits for residents in institutions for mental disease and which protects SSI/Medicaid benefits for jail inmates prior to their conviction;
- allows the state to finance and promote the objectives of the Medicaid program without shifting additional costs to county government;
- allows the use of intergovernmental transfers (IGTs) to help draw down additional federal funding without supplanting the state’s share with local funds that have been certified to be federally matched, in addition to the state’s contribution;
- provides the financial infrastructure for the state to sustain Medicaid non-emergency patient transportation services by using a methodology rate process for distribution of funds to counties that does not shift financial responsibility of these services to the local level;
- provides flexibility at the local level for counties to actively participate in the state’s efforts to reduce unnecessary nursing home placement by allowing counties to re-direct their Medicaid match to fund local health care services or community-based care programs;
- fully maintains and preserves critical mandatory and optional Medicaid services such as the Medically Needy program;

- ensures Medicaid coverage for dual eligible clients (Medicare/Medicaid);
- diverts county funding for developmental disability services to managed care programs;
- allows a Medicaid funding increase and expanded prescription coverage without any copayments; and
- enables the State of Florida to seek a waiver from the Department of Health and Human Services, Food and Drug Administration to allow state and local governments to explore the purchase of Canadian pharmaceuticals in an effort to reduce costs.

The Broward County Board of County Commissioners opposes legislation which:

- diverts county funding for mental health services to managed care programs;
- changes the funding formula for the Medicaid program between the federal and state government that would reduce the federal share to Florida;
- eliminates statewide application of mandatory or optional Medicaid services for eligible recipients;
- eliminates the upper payment limit or low income pool for the state of Florida; and
- requires proof of citizenship for receipt of Medicaid services.

MEDICARE

Medicare is the primary underwriter of health care for elder citizens. Seniors and others with long-term disabilities are facing a crisis in both long-term care and prescription drug coverage. Budget projections for FY2010 indicate that long-term care will cost Medicare about \$12.3 billion and Medicaid about \$36 billion. Legislation is critical to ensure the future solvency of the Medicare fund which serves more than 30 million elders (69 million by 2030) as well as those elders dependent on Medicare for all or part of their medical and long term care coverage. **The Broward County Board of County Commissioners supports:**

- Legislation which will ensure adequate funding of the Medicare program. Some Health Maintenance Organizations (HMOs) in Florida and across the country are restricting services, increasing co-payments, and imposing prescription drug caps on their insured members. Thousands of South Florida Medicare recipients rely upon daily prescription medication.
- Inclusion of prescription drug coverage within the traditional Medicare framework.
- Permanent Medicare funding for medical immunosuppressant and other related drugs.
- The restoration of any funds cut in FY2007.
- Legislation that closes the current gap in prescription coverage of the Medicare Part D program.

MENTAL HEALTH PARITY

Most insurance policies, including those owned by Floridians, restrict access to mental health services. Accordingly, many individuals are forced to rely on an underfunded and overburdened public mental health system often resulting in many persons going untreated. Untreated mental illness is associated with homelessness, unemployment, substance abuse, crime, jail overcrowding, and suicide. Treating an emergency or crisis without ongoing care is not cost effective or humane, and medication without appropriate rehabilitative services diminishes the likelihood of successful interventions. **The Broward County Board of County Commissioners supports** mental health parity that would require insurers to provide equivalent coverage for treatment of mental illnesses to that of physical illnesses. The Board also supports legislation to expand benefits to include adequate mental health coverage.

MISSING AND EXPLOITED CHILDREN

More than 1.6 million children either ran away or were thrown out of their homes last year. It is estimated that approximately 40,000 of these children are or will be involved in some form of sexual exploitation or victimization by predators. **The Broward County Board of County Commissioners supports** the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children in their efforts to prevent the sexual exploitation of children.

OFFSHORE OIL DRILLING

As a peninsular state, Florida has a delicately balanced ecological system of aquatic life, wildlife, coral reefs, wetlands, bays, estuaries and marshes. The preservation and conservation of its natural resources is critical to Florida's environmental and economic future. It is widely believed that offshore drilling and pipeline construction and installation near any Florida shore has the potential to cause significant damage to aquatic life, wildlife, sea grasses, coral reefs, mangroves, beaches and wetlands. Considering that the State of Florida's contribution to the U.S. economy consists primarily of tourism, retirement, recreation, and agricultural products, damage to Florida's beaches, coastal wetlands and salt marshes from an oil spill or gas leak could be catastrophic. Broward County's beaches are critical to the economy, attracting 7.2 million visitors a year, who contribute over \$422 million annually to Broward County's economy. As a result of our beaches, tax revenues are increased by \$29 million annually and over 17,000 beach related jobs are created and sustained.

Spills from offshore oil drilling in the Gulf of Mexico present a risk to Florida's beaches. Due to the Gulf Stream and loop currents which enter from the Caribbean Sea, traverse the Gulf of Mexico past the Florida Keys and Southeast Florida into the Atlantic, oil released in the Gulf of Mexico could impact east coast beaches. Over the past five years, hurricanes have devastated the State of Florida, the Florida Keys, and have severely impacted the energy infrastructure particularly in the Gulf of Mexico. If, as expected, the number and intensity of hurricanes increases, additional oil drilling either along the Atlantic Coast or within the Gulf of Mexico near Florida presents an unacceptable risk to Florida's beaches and economic future.

The County recognizes that reliance on foreign oil poses a problem of having to depend on increasingly unstable governments and therefore **The Broward County Board of County Commissioners strongly supports** federal efforts to enhance independence from foreign energy sources. However, the County does not support this as a justification for increased drilling activities off the shores of Florida. **The Broward County Board of County Commissioners supports** long term solutions to both foreign and domestic oil dependence such as reducing the total demand for energy through conservation, energy efficiency and renewable energy policies that will save oil and natural gas, and thus reduce the pressure to drill off the coasts. These conservation based measures would serve multiple purposes, from reducing the demand for oil drilling to reducing greenhouse gasses, an important step to lessen the impacts of global warming.

In late 2006, Congress passed a provision to open 8.3 million acres in the Gulf of Mexico to oil and gas exploration, including a compromise that limited new leases to the small area south of the Florida panhandle. The legislation will create drilling-free buffer zones to protect Florida's west coast. **The Broward County Board of County Commissioners also supports** ensuring that the longstanding moratorium protecting Florida waters from off-shore oil and gas drilling remains intact.

OFFSHORE WATERS

The Broward County Board of County Commissioners has long recognized the necessity of protecting the County's natural resources and has established strong environmental practices and regulations designed to protect and improve the quality of our water resources and dependent ecosystems. This is evidenced by the implementation of many county standards and operational practices which are more stringent than those of the state and federal governments. We strive to ensure that our policies and practices are guided by our environmental commitments, sound science, and accepted technologies.

Wastewater disposal has been an issue of great concern to us as we seek to address the obvious infrastructural needs of a growing urban population while protecting the natural systems that contribute to our quality of life and provide the foundation for our strong economy. We currently utilize all the available accepted technologies as part of our wastewater disposal practices and have supported regional efforts to ensure the continued protection of our coastal waters and reef system. Broward County, along with DEP, NOAA and others, is a partner in the Florida Area Coastal Environmental Initiative (FACE), which is currently conducting a scientific investigation of the sources and relative contributions of various nutrient inputs to our coastal waters. **The Broward County Board of County Commissioners supports** the efforts of the FACE stakeholders, which will study the urban and natural sources and impacts of nutrients, trace metals and other constituents in the marine and estuarine environment. The results of the monitoring program will provide scientifically based information for making policy and regulatory decisions to control the impact of pollutants and to protect the coastal environment.

Local governments have invested heavily to develop existing wastewater disposal infrastructure and the treatment systems necessary to achieve current regulatory standards. **The Broward County Board of County Commissioners supports** legislation that utilizes sound scientific data to support any recommendations to minimize the use of ocean outfalls before proposing alternative disposal strategies that could potentially pose even greater environmental concerns for our communities.

In addition, **the Broward County Board of County Commissioners supports** the efforts of the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force. Through the coordination of U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), stakeholders including the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWCC) have coordinated formation of an interagency and stakeholder strategy team for coral reef management and conservation. This strategy team is implementing a local action plan to improve coordination of technical and financial support for conservation and management of coral reefs from Miami-Dade County northward to the St. Lucie Inlet in Martin County. Four workgroups, Awareness and Appreciation; Fishing, Diving, and Other Uses; Land-Based Sources of Pollution and Water Quality; and Maritime Industry and Coastal Construction Impacts, will outline issues and threats, present them at stakeholder workshops, combine information from public input and technical advisory committees, and propose projects to minimize harmful effects. The outcome will be a coordinated plan to address causes of coral degradation and provide a roadmap for successful conservation and management.

The Broward County Board of County Commissioners supports this effort and will continue to participate and support in developing the local action strategies for the conservation of this important resource.

OUTDOOR ADVERTISING

The Broward County Board of County Commissioners opposes legislation which would preempt local governments ability to regulate outdoor advertisers, and opposes weakening of the 1965 Highway Beautification Act.

PORT EVERGLADES

Port Everglades is recognized as the third largest cruise port in the world as well as one of the fastest growing containerized cargo business entities. It is a primary bulk cargo depot for South Florida, as well as the petroleum distribution point for 12 counties and provides jet fuel for three international airports.

The Broward County Board of County Commissioners supports:

- Federal funding for intermodal connectivity projects at the port, which enhances the regional movement of freight, goods and people.
- Increased federal funding for security staffing, operation, and maintenance of existing infrastructure and new security equipment and technology required to meet existing and new federal security mandates.
- Immediate review of the current port security funding approach of allocations by port tiers to insure funding decisions accurately reflect current and future risks.
- Permanent funding for Port Customs Inspectors and additional resources for US Customs and Border Protection, US Citizen and Immigration Services and US Department of Agricultural Inspection Services to keep pace with growth in cargo and cruise activities.
- Expanded Federal funding for continued maintenance of Federal Navigation Channels and funds to complete the feasibility study and to initiate project engineering and design for harbor deepening in support of international trade and oppose alternatives that would place an undue cost burden on ports or their clients.
- One universal transport worker identification card that includes a biometric credential for port workers and visitors in order to authorize their unescorted access to secure areas of vessels and facilities.

PREDATORY LENDING

The Broward County Board of County Commissioners recognizes that practices by some in the subprime mortgage industry may have been partially responsible for the current collapse of that market, and for the thousands of foreclosures occurring in Broward County. The Board recognizes there is a need for thoughtful review of this industry, and for the establishment of minimum standards and accountability for consumer mortgage loans. However, **the Broward County Board of County Commissioners urges** Congress to use caution in passing legislation that could be overly restrictive and strip lenders of necessary tools to assist those who need affordable housing.

REFUGEE SERVICES

The Broward County Board of County Commissioners supports the continued funding of all County grants received from the Office of Refugee Resettlement within the Department of Health and Human Services.

The Broward County Board of County Commissioners supports the reauthorization for the Targeted Assistance Discretionary Program to ensure the continuation of services for this at-risk community.

SELF SUFFICIENCY

The Broward County Board of County Commissioners supports a minimum of \$650 million annual funding level for the Community Services Block Grant, which supplies core funding for local agencies assisting the lowest income families in America. Adequate funding levels for this program will increase self sufficiency and reduce dependency on public funds. **The Broward County Board of County Commissioners also supports** increased levels of funding by the federal government to the State of Florida for the Community Assistance Program and the Low Income Energy Assistance Program.

STATE CHILDRENS HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM (SCHIP)

In 1997, the Federal Government established the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP). This program was established as a federal/state matching program to cover children who were over income for Medicaid but were uninsured. In Florida 1 in 8 children and teens have no health insurance. **The Broward County Board of County Commissioners supports** expansion efforts to enroll more eligible children and expand coverage for children who are not Title XXI eligible so that these children and those already enrolled will have consistent access to health care and the burden on the health care safety net is reduced.

STEM CELL RESEARCH

Embryonic stem cells stand as a crucial link to the scientific puzzle that may mitigate the pain and suffering of more than 100 million Americans and provide new therapies and other scientific opportunities for countless diseases such as diabetes, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS or Lou Gerhig's Disease), heart disease, spinal cord injury and cancer. **The Broward County Board of County Commissioners supports** protecting and preserving continued federal funding of human embryonic stem cell research.

TAX RELIEF

In 2006, a provision was included in HR 4297 that starting January 1, 2011, every county that spends at least \$100 million per year on goods and services will be required to withhold 3 percent of funds from a vendor or contractor for federal tax purposes. The few exemptions include payments for real property, interest, and those made in connection with a public assistance program based upon need or income or pursuant to a classified or confidential contract. The requirement does not apply to payments to county employees. It does apply to items purchased using a county credit card. There is no minimum transaction. This requirement will be extremely expensive to implement, and in many cases it will require programming changes to financial and accounting systems and the hiring of additional staff. The policy will discourage contractors from bidding on government products and increase pricing.

The Broward County Board of County Commissioner supports repeal of this unfunded mandate in Section 511 of Public Law 109-222.

In addition, the Joint Committee on Taxation's proposal to "require state and local governments to report to taxpayers and the IRS the amount of real estate taxes paid" would impose a significant unfunded mandate and data redaction issue on local government. The County is not able to discern which taxes are tax-deductible, and additionally would need information systems that captured, stored, and protected relevant social security numbers from the public record. **The Broward County Board of County Commissioners opposes** legislation that would compel the County to report the amount of real estate taxes paid to the IRS and to individual taxpayers.

TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES

The Broward County Board of County Commissioners supports the reauthorization of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program and the Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Program.

WASTE TIRE CLEANUP

In the early 1970's two million tires were dumped into the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of Broward County, intended to create an artificial reef and provide a disposal site for tires. Instead, approximately 700,000 tires spread over 34 acres, became loose and migrated on to the outer face of the middle reef tract, creating a "dead zone" on the reef.

To stop further destruction of the reef, the tires must be removed from the ocean. A partnership of agencies has crafted a solution to this ongoing environmental threat. Working under the umbrella of Coastal America, a partnership process that brings together networks of agencies, the Federal Government, the State of Florida and Broward County Environmental Protection Department, have crafted a plan to remove the tires from the ocean and recycle them into products that will have a constructive use.

The military will play a significant role in clean up. The Department of Defense's Innovative Readiness Training Program matches real world training opportunities with projects that have incidental benefits to communities. Tire removal will provide defense readiness training for the military while providing for environmental remediation. A pilot project was conducted in the summer of 2007, demonstrating the feasibility of the removal methodology. The full-scale salvage mission that includes the Navy's Mobile Diving Salvage Unit and the Army diving and watercraft assets from the 7th Transportation Group is being requested to begin full-scale salvage operations in FY 2008. The mission is anticipated to last approximately three years, and FY2008 requests for assistance are being submitted to the Navy, the lead service in this project.

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) will play a significant role in waste tire clean up by providing experience and expertise in the tire recycling portion of the project. A state budget initiative is being put forward by the DEP to secure the funding to ensure the recycling and proper management of the tire processing. State funding for this project is anticipated to be approximately \$2,830,600.

The County will be involved in all aspects of the project, agreeing to accept responsibility for project management including contract administration, permitting, on-site management, to include training, work oversight and troubleshooting problems, and to provide necessary equipment, supplies, and consumables for operations. State funding will be sought, under contract to DEP, for a portion of these costs. The County's in-kind contribution by their Environmental Protection Division staff is estimated to be approximately \$98,800.

The Broward County Board of County Commissioners supports this partnership and encourages Congress to fund the appropriate projects.

WATERS OF THE U.S.

The Broward County Board of County Commissioners supports the stringent protection of national, state and local water quality standards and the intent and spirit of the original Clean Water Act.

NOTES

For further information about Broward County's Legislative Priorities, please contact us.

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