



**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

# **2016 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM**

**114th Congress  
2nd Session**



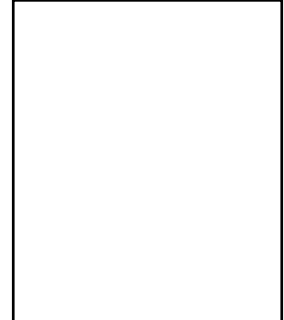
## BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



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Broward County’s Federal Legislative Program is an annual document that expresses the fundamental values of the Board of Broward County Commissioners. This document also includes Commission approved legislative priorities for the 2nd Session of the 114th Congress. These values and priorities provide direction for the county’s Office of Intergovernmental Affairs & Professional Standards in its interactions with federal legislative and executive branch officials and staff.

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# FUNDAMENTAL VALUES

## Ensuring economic opportunities for all people and businesses in Broward

Goal: Attract and retain all types of business, including small businesses and not-for-profits, through provision of effective incentives, technical assistance, and support.

Goal: Assure businesses receive appropriate workforce development support through partnerships with the Alliance, chambers of commerce, colleges and universities, CareerSource and other avenues, as available.

Goal: Increase the economic strength and impact of revenue-generating County enterprises balancing economic, environmental, and community needs.

Goal: Evaluate the economic and employment needs of the community using thorough assessment of underemployment data and reasons for unemployment; use results to shape local, state, and federal policy positions and advocacy efforts.

Goal: Fully-implement and test the effectiveness of the Workforce Investment Act Pilot.

## Prominently branding “Broward” on County property, programs and services

Goal: Increase public awareness and understanding of the County’s role in providing programming and services.

Goal: Perform a comprehensive inventory of County assets, programs, and services; develop a catalogue that is managed centrally, with cross-agency input on branding enhancements.

Goal: Ensure consistent branding by establishing a countywide policy and procedure(s) that include proactive and mandatory quality and compliance reviews.

## Approaching human services collaboratively and compassionately, with special emphasis on persons and families experiencing homelessness

Goal: Effectively advocate for and seek local, state and federal funding support that adequately addresses the health and human services needs of the entire community, through a truly coordinated system of care.

Goal: Deliver evidence-based services to the most vulnerable, many of whom are ineligible through other systems of care, and connect those customers to sustainable support.

Goal: Collaborate with public and private partners to find creative, equitable, and responsible solutions to systemic community problems, especially housing for persons experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness.

## **Cooperatively delivering an efficient and accessible regional intermodal transportation network**

Goal: Develop, market and achieve passage of a transit surtax to support a variety of long-term, regional transit and infrastructural needs.

Goal: Cooperatively design and receive federal and state funding support for Phase 2 and implement Phase 1, of the Wave Modern Streetcar.

Goal: Support the development, design and construction of sustainable, multi-modal transportation facilities throughout the County, to meet the demands of residents, travelers, businesses and the community.

## **Encouraging investments in renewable energy, sustainable practices and environmental protection**

Goal: Seek funding for, implement policies and pursue projects promoting, the use of alternative energy, resource conservation, sustainable practices and environmental protection.

Goal: Proactively lead in the planning, design and construction of projects to support community resilience and climate adaptation, including coordination with other entities to foster resilient design as part of all local and regional projects.

Goal: Increase water quality protection efforts and lead creative approaches to water storage and aquifer recharge, as well as diversification of water supplies, regionally.

Goal: Educate, through a variety of means, about the fragile South Florida ecosystems and impacts of severe weather, sea level rise and climate change on the region.

## **Cultivating community culture, arts, recreation and life-long learning**

Goal: Provide diverse artistic, cultural, educational, and historical amenities and programs that contribute to a vibrant, multi-cultural and economically-viable community.

Goal: In coordination with our community partners, market and deliver world-class recreational opportunities.

Goal: Develop and enhance Library programs and various life-long-learning opportunities for our residents and visitors.

## **Offering sustainable, compatible, innovative housing options for all income-levels, including integrated supportive housing and rapid-rehousing**

Goal: Facilitate a regional approach to growth and redevelopment through coordination and collaboration at the federal, state, and local levels.

Goal: Strengthen stakeholder partnerships to increase the availability of affordable housing of all types, countywide, in every community.

Goal: Develop, through effective community collaboration, neighborhoods and communities incorporating intermodal connectivity, while integrating energy efficiency, community resilience, and other livability standards and initiatives.

## **Consistently delivering responsive, efficient, quality services to the public and internal customers**

Goal: Create a system of expectation and accountability across the institution that assures communication, performance review, and continuous improvement.

Goal: Offer effective mandatory and optional coursework, addressing the lines of business and needs of the entire organization.

Goal: Grounded in the intrinsic value of quality public service, respond to every customer, internal or external, expeditiously, thoroughly and professionally.

Goal: Build into every process and service effective checks and balances that do not cause inefficiency, but rather ensure consistency, continuity, and quality.



# FUNDING REQUESTS

## Energy & Water

### PORT EVERGLADES SOUTHPORT DREDGING REIMBURSEMENT

Broward County is requesting \$4.763 million from the FY17 Energy and Water appropriations bill from within the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Construction General account to reimburse Port Everglades for the federal share of costs associated with the previous widening and deepening of the Southport Access Channel (1985) and Turning Notch (1990).

### PORT EVERGLADES U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS DEEPENING AND WIDENING PROGRAM

Broward County is seeking \$1 million from the USACE to complete the Pre-Construction Engineering & Design of the Port Everglades deepening and widening project. Broward County began this process in 2015. The USACE has provided detailed information to the Port which necessitates extensive survey information that will be required based on the revised impacts/mitigation plan.

### STORM WIND/SURGE RESISTANT PORTS MICROWAVE WATER LEVEL STATION

Broward County is seeking \$134,000 to install and operate a new water level monitoring station at Port Everglades. This new microwave radar technology observatory station would contribute data to the National Water Level Observation Network (NWLON). The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Ocean Service (NOS) Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services (CO-OPS) supports those who depend upon water level measurements via maintaining the NWLON. NWLON provides long-term water level monitoring of coastal locations that are affected by varying combinations of meteorological and oceanographic conditions using data collected by over 200 observatories throughout the U.S. coastal regions, including the Great Lakes and Pacific and Caribbean island territories. NWLON data also supports real-time decisions by port pilots and other commercial mariners which improves navigation safety.

## Labor/Health and Human Services/Education

### BROWARD ADDICTION RECOVERY CENTER

For over 40 years, Broward County has funded the Broward Addiction Recovery Center (BARC). BARC provides assessment, medically supervised detoxification services, residential treatment, non-residential day treatment, and outpatient services. For FY 2016, BARC was funded \$7.9 million from the Broward County General Fund and \$3.6 million from the Broward Behavioral Health Coalition to provide substance use services. Approximately \$2.1 million funds salaries for detoxification services. In FY 2015, detoxification services conducted 5,596 triages and admitted 1,876 clients. On average, 50 clients who are in need of services are placed on a daily "Wait List".



Currently, Broward County is constructing a new BARC facility to replace an outdated and aging one. The expected opening date is Fall 2017. The new facility will allow medically supervised detoxification beds to increase from 34 to 50. The availability of bed days will increase from 12,410 to 18,250 and the number of patients treated will increase from 1,860 to 2,697. The increased bed availability will address the clients on the “Wait List” and get them into care. The additional bed availability will require staffing to support operations such as medical, nursing and counseling. In order to meet the Florida Department of Children and Families’ licensing and Joint Commission’s accreditation guidelines, BARC will need the following staff:

- 1 Physician
- PT Psychiatrist
- 20 Nurses (RN II, RN I, LPN)
- 2 Family Therapists II
- 1 Case Worker
- 9 Mental Health Specialists
- 2 Office Support Specialists



This will require an additional \$1,973,170, annually, to support the services.

## Homeland Security

### PUBLIC SAFETY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

Broward County is requesting \$40.7 million to replace its public safety mission critical communication systems. First, the radio infrastructure is expected to be replaced with an all-digital 700 MHz APCO Project 25 Phase II radio platform. The radio system functions as an emergency communications hub for more than 20,000 police, fire rescue, and school users. In addition to this major upgrade, an upgrade to the microwave backhaul system, which will support the public safety mission critical radio infrastructure as well as other public safety communication systems, is required. Broward County is also in need of replacing its current Zetron fire station alerting system and private alpha numeric paging systems. These systems support fire rescue personnel in receiving crucial life safety communications. These systems also represent four major components in delivering public safety services in Broward County.

While there is sufficient spare equipment to allow for continued support in the near-term, funding this project will mitigate the inherent risk associated with “best effort” support, ensure current system continuity of operations, and enable the County to move toward a fiscally responsible system migration.

### RADIATION PORTAL MONITORS

Broward County is seeking a \$1.5 million reimbursement for costs incurred to design and construct U.S. Customs Border Protection (CBP) radiation portal monitors for Port Everglades at the international cargo entrance to the Intermodal Transfer Container Facility which is presently under construction.



## Transportation/Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

### ELECTRIC BUSES

Broward County is requesting \$6 million to purchase six electric buses, and \$1.4 million for two charging stations. The total cost for both purchases is \$7.4 million.

### COPANS BUS MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS FACILITY REHABILITATION

Broward County is requesting \$20 million for redevelopment of the Copans facility to include a joint control room for bus and rail operations in addition to enhancing operations for alternative fuel vehicles.

### NEW BUS MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS FACILITY

Broward County is requesting \$58 million for acquisition and building of a third facility/garage outlined in the Transportation Development Plan (TDP). The new facility would also include a joint control room for bus and rail operations with accommodations for alternative fuel vehicles.

### DOWNTOWN MULTIMODAL TRANSIT FACILITY PROJECT

Broward County Transportation Department (BCT) is requesting an investment of \$5 million to spearhead a proposed public/private partnership transportation project. The project will redevelop the County's current downtown transit facility (Broward Boulevard Terminal) into a modern intermodal hub allowing inter-connectivity between various modes of transportation.

### TRANSIT TECHNOLOGY ENHANCEMENT PROJECTS

Broward County is requesting \$14 million for the procurement, installation and integration of various technology programs to enhance and improve operations. A fiber optics system would be the most vital aspect. The fiber optics system would improve customer service, transit operational efficiency, and safety. The fiber optics project will include a Traffic Signal Priority (TSP) system to facilitate the movement of public transit vehicles, including trains, along heavily congested traffic corridors; installation of a Real Time Information System to provide riders with ADA accessible transit information about the next bus and next train arrival time based on the vehicle's location and conditions in the transit corridor; and the purchase and installation of an internet protocol video system (IPV) that views and records events on all rail and transit platforms and traffic intersections.

Additional enhancements include funding for software acquisition for mobile ticketing/fare interoperability program, injury notification program, and a Cisco Overlay Transport Virtuality (OTV) network configuration program.



### TRANSIT ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT – PARK AND RIDE LOTS

Broward County is requesting \$6 million to develop geographically-dispersed park and ride lots along the County's regional transit corridors. Funding will be used for property acquisition and developing/renovating existing property to accommodate park and ride use. Park and ride lots will be developed along BCT's most heavily travelled corridors and will promote transit usage with commuters.

### SCHOOL ZONE SAFETY ENHANCEMENT PROJECTS

Broward County is requesting \$4 million over three years to fund the installation of traffic/pedestrian safety infrastructure for the County's School Zone Safety Enhancement Program. Broward County has one of the largest school speed zone safety programs in the country, which is operated by a single agency with more than 970 school zone flasher locations.

### TRAFFIC AND SAFETY IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Broward County is requesting a multiyear investment of \$15 million to reduce traffic congestion and improve safety at heavily traveled intersections. These improvement projects will include the addition of turn lanes, through lanes, and queue jumpers for busses; installation of pedestrian countdown timers; conversion of existing span wires to hurricane-resistant structures; and improvement to intersection geometrics.

# LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

## Ensuring economic opportunities for all people and businesses in Broward

### AVIATION

As part of a regional transportation system, Broward County's Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport (FLL) is an economic engine that creates and promotes commerce and industry. FLL serves the air travel needs of Broward, Miami-Dade and Palm Beach counties. In 2015, the airport handled more than 26 million passengers and created more than \$13 billion in economic impact, as well as more than 139,000 jobs. The Board supports continued and increased federal funding for FLL. Funding will provide capital for expansion, maintenance, and security improvements, all vital for travel and trade to the South Florida area. The Board supports legislation that promotes airports and opposes legislation which could be detrimental to aviation interests with the following legislative proposals:

- Support the removal of the federal cap on Passenger Facility Charges (PFCs) that can be charged by an airport to fund its development.
- Maintain long-term funding for the Airport Improvement Program (AIP) to support airports' infrastructure development at a level no less than the current \$3.35 billion.
- Oppose the removal of federal funding for contract air traffic control towers.
- Support the reinstatement of the FAA Collegiate Training Initiative program for air traffic controllers and the preferential treatment of air traffic control applicants who have graduated from the Collegiate Training Initiative program.
- Expand service hours and additional staffing for United States Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to meet the strong demand for services as a result of increasing international air traffic and to reduce wait times. Additionally, the opening of the Federal Inspection Services (FIS) Facility in Terminal 1/Concourse A in FY 2017 will require funding be identified for its staffing needs.
- Support the approval of a permanent exemption to the Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT) relative to Private Activity Bonds to reduce financing costs and to facilitate the airports' ability to bond projects.





## PORT EVERGLADES

The value and magnitude of commerce that passes through Broward County's Port Everglades is a tribute to our port's resources, terminals, wharves, roadways, equipment, real estate, and how they are maintained and managed. In 2015 Port Everglades was the second busiest cruise port in the world, and one of the busiest containerized cargo ports in the United States. It is also 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. There is significant private-sector investment at Port Everglades including port services such as equipment and labor, warehousing, pilotage, towage, trucking, and on-port rail. The Board supports:

- Federal investments in seaports as an essential, effective utilization of limited resources, paying dividends through increased trade and commerce, long-term job creation, secure borders, military support, and environmental stewardship.
- Congressional authorization of the Port Everglades Deepening & Widening project.
- Reimbursement or credit for costs incurred in the Preconstruction Engineering & Design phase as outlined in the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (WRRDA, H.R. 3080).
- Revising the federal cost-sharing formula for navigation improvement, construction and maintenance projects to reflect the growing size of general cargo vessels and their corresponding navigation channel needs. The minimum channel depth should be increased as the current 45 feet threshold does not meet the needs of the size of the current world ship fleet.
- Increased staffing levels and permanent funding for U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to meet the needs of ports of entry (POE). Port Everglades and Broward County's Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport are chronically understaffed by the CBP. Alternative public/private funding strategies to increase revenue sources supporting overtime staffing should not be the long term solution to this situation. CBP provided staffing must match the infrastructure expansions supporting the major growth in cargo and travel/cruise activities at Port Everglades due to larger vessels and at Broward County's Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport which has added carriers and flights to meet business travel and vacation travel demands.

- Full funding for expanded, additional, relocated and replaced federally mandated Radiation Portal Monitors (RPMs). Cargo containers represent a massive area of concern in terms of homeland security and vulnerability. The life cycle of many of these RPMs has come to an end (2015) and at the same time Port Everglades is experiencing an increase in global trade. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), not individual ports, must assess budget needs and secure the full funding for replacement, installation and maintenance of RPMs. Implementing the Congressionally mandated 100 percent inspection of these containers is an enormous task without Congress providing the required federal funding need for the entire cost.
- Funding and construction of a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Plant Inspection Station at Port Everglades. While the volume of plant imports at Port Everglades exceeds that of Port Miami, the “local” station is in Miami. Port Everglades needs a local Plant Inspection Station to handle current volumes and anticipated increased volumes expeditiously. The USDA Deputy Administrator has stated that current staffing levels are adequate to support a Plant Inspection Station at Port Everglades.
- Fully maintained navigation channels for safe and efficient freight transportation within the global marketplace, which will result in national economic growth and increased skilled craft level jobs throughout the U.S.
- Continued authorization and appropriation of Homeland Security measures authorized by Congress and implemented by the Administration to help strengthen the Nation against risks associated with acts of terrorism and other catastrophic events. This includes permanent reauthorization of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act (TRIA) and full funding for the Port Security Grant Program (PSGP) providing for transportation infrastructure security initiatives required to provide port security services.
- Cost-share requirements for FEMA Port Security Grant Programs must be permanently eliminated, as it is a significant economic disincentive to make security enhancements and implement regional maritime security plans. The Port Security Grant Program (PSGP) provides grant funding to port areas for the protection of critical port infrastructure from terrorism. PSGP funds are primarily intended to assist ports in enhancing maritime domain awareness, enhancing risk management capabilities to prevent, detect, respond to and recover from attacks involving improvised explosive devices (IEDs), weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) and other non-conventional weapons, as well as training and exercises and Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) implementation.
- Continued blockage of any attempt to move port security grants to the states as advocated by the National Preparedness Grant Program (NPGP). The FEMA Port Security Grant program must remain a stand-alone program. Port Security is a federal responsibility. The Board holds firm opposition to moving grants to the State as Port security grants should remain at the federal level.
- Reauthorizing and increasing The Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) grants to eligible entities for projects that reduce emissions from existing diesel engines beyond FY 2016.

- On-going long-term federal funding for innovative, job-creating and quality of life-enhancing transportation projects such as those supported by The U.S. Department of Transportation's TIGER (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) discretionary grants.
- Exploration of federal programs to promote Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) as a marine transportation fuel throughout the United States. As appreciation grows for the environmental, economic and energy security benefits offered by LNG, explore the regulatory structures required to support continued LNG-fueled vessel development and operations.
- Building on the success of the National Export Initiative (NEI). Using NEI/NEXT to help more U.S. companies to begin exporting and will assist companies already exporting to increase their sales to more overseas markets.
- Continuing to lead the world in negotiating high-standard trade agreements that give U.S. exporters access to billions of customers beyond our borders.
- Passage of the Vessel Incidental Discharge Act which will establish uniform federal standards to regulate ballast water and other vessel discharges and makes U.S. Coast Guard the lead agency and extends deadlines for new standards.

It is imperative that our nation continues to design freight policy, strategy and funding to ensure America's international competitiveness and create jobs.

#### FREE TRADE AGREEMENT OF THE AMERICAS

Support the establishment of a Free Trade Agreement of the Americas (FTAA) along with the location of the Permanent Secretary of the FTAA in Miami, Florida.

### **Approaching human services collaboratively and compassionately, with special emphasis on persons and families experiencing homelessness**

#### CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT FUND

Support increased funding for licensing and monitoring of child care facilities.

Support funding for subsidized child care services for parents and professional development opportunities for child care workers.

#### HIV HEALTH AND SUPPORT SERVICES

Support increased funding for HIV treatment and care.

Support revision of funding formula disparities and require the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention to revise HIV Reporting to adjust for migration of patients to another jurisdiction.

Furthermore, the Board supports:

- Expansion of federal programs which provide scholarships and financial assistance to students committing to medical careers in HIV/AIDS and promote specialization in communities that are designated as Health Professional Shortage Areas.





- Increased funding for HIV related respite programs and loosening eligibility criteria to ensure earlier access and availability of supportive services for caregivers.
- HIV testing of inmates upon incarceration in order to reduce the impact of transmission.
- Reauthorization and increased funding of the Ryan White Care Act.
- Continued funding for the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) to ensure pharmaceutical Health Insurance Premium assistance access.
- Full funding of the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) program to meet the housing need for people living with HIV/AIDS.
- Full funding of the CDC's High Impact Prevention to geographical locations overburden with the HIV/AIDS epidemic.
- Legislation which removes administrative and statutory barriers to obtaining prescription medications confronted by people living with HIV/AIDS; ensuring they are not forced to interrupt life-saving medications while learning to navigate the complex system of care.
- Enhanced coordination of activities of Federal Health and Human Services Programs in their response to the National HIV/AIDS Strategy for the United States: updated to 2020.

## 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, leaving 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 Board supports legislation which:



- Increases the percentage the federal government reimburses states for Medicaid expenditures through the Federal Medical Assistance Percentages (FMAP), based on a sliding scale, so that states with lower personal incomes will have higher FMAPs.
- 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.
- Maintains and preserves critical mandatory and optional services such as the Medically Needy program.
- Ensures Medicaid coverage for dual eligible clients (Medicare/Medicaid).
- Allows a Medicaid funding increase and expanded prescription coverage without any copayments.
- 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.
- Support Federal legislation and funding to reduce states' long term share of cost and financing of Medicaid Expansion efforts. The Board also supports expanded drug formularies for beneficiaries and reduced co-pays.

## MEDICARE

Support the elimination of the 24-month waiting period for individuals to access Medicare benefits after receiving a disability determination.

Support inclusion of prescription drug coverage within the traditional Medicare framework and permanent Medicare funding for medical immunosuppressant's and other related drugs.

Support expanded Medicare coverage for home- and community-based care as a cost-effective and evidence-based alternative to nursing home care.

Support Medicare efficiencies, but not at the expense of compromising a beneficiary's health.

## SELF-SUFFICIENCY

Support increased levels of funding for the Community Services Block Grant, which supplies core funding for local agencies assisting the lowest income families in America. The Board opposes cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program and supports increased funding of these programs as measures of providing assistance and stability to individuals and families while moving toward self-sufficiency.

Support federal legislation that provides asset building by low-income families, such as a national program funding children's savings accounts.



## HOMELESSNESS

Support the following ongoing federal homeless policies, programs and funding:

- Provide \$2.48 billion for the Housing and Urban Development (HUD's) McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grants program within HUD in FY 2016.
- Increase funding for the HUD Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8) Programs to increase HUD's ability to serve and stably house low-income individuals.
- Increase funding levels for appropriations for Homeless Programs within the U.S. Departments of Health and Human Services, HUD, Justice, Veterans Affairs, Education, and Labor.
- Consistent with HEARTH Act Amendment priorities, support the federal "Ten Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness Initiative" and "Opening Doors" plans through seeking \$1 billion in dedicated funding for the National Affordable Housing Trust for new permanent supportive housing.
- Support legislation to direct the Department of Justice to gather data on potential hate crimes against people experiencing homelessness, and to prosecute accordingly.
- Support legislation to expand funding for a range of supportive services to homeless persons to address issues such as mental health and substance abuse disorders and promote access to mainstream benefits to increase the availability of services linked to housing for people experiencing homelessness.

## STEM CELL RESEARCH

Support protecting and preserving continued federal funding of human embryonic stem cell research.

## AUTISM

Support health insurance coverage for Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), in parity with other chronic medical conditions receiving insurance coverage, to ensure children diagnosed with ASD are able to access available medical services, treatments, and therapies.

## FUNCTIONAL NEEDS SUPPORT SERVICES

Support inclusive planning efforts to ensure disabled individuals are able to access the County's emergency management programs, services, and activities, including appropriate sheltering services.

## PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCIES

Support funding to states and local governments to combat the Zika virus and other emergent public health crises.

## OPIOID ADDICTION EPIDEMIC

Support legislative action to address the national opioid epidemic, including funding for local governments to combat the issue on multiple fronts from law enforcement to treatment to prevention.

## OLDER AMERICANS

Support reauthorization of the Older American's Act.

## **Cooperatively delivering an efficient and accessible regional intermodal transportation network**

### SURFACE TRANSPORTATION POLICY

Broward County supports the improving current surface transportation policy that includes the following:

- Funding beyond the current levels plus inflation. Additional investments must be made in order to sufficiently maintain and expand the national transportation system, as well as keep pace with technology, at a globally competitive level.
- Robust growth of the federal public transportation program and continued funding for the Mass Transit Account from the Highway Trust Fund (HTF), thus preserving transit's long-term source of dedicated funding in order to maintain transit assets in a state of good repair, ensure stable funding for long-term capital investment projects, and meet the growing ridership demand.
- Further accelerated project delivery without compromising environmental impacts.
- Mechanics to reach full funding of the Highway Trust Fund through congestion pricing practices.
- Opposes diverting Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) revenues to the HTF without first preserving OCS revenues at the fully authorized level for their original purposes of state and local conservation efforts.
- A federally supported pilot program for Broward County or the state of Florida to explore non-traditional funding mechanisms that leverage federal funds with local dollars and devolve control for transportation dollars to the local level.

### FREIGHT MOVEMENT

Support legislation to improve the efficiency, operation, and security of the national transportation system to move freight by leveraging investments and promoting partnerships that advance interstate and foreign commerce.

### PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Support continued funding for the Mass Transit Account from Highway Trust Fund and flexibility in Federal Transit Administration funding so local transit providers may use no less than 10 percent (as allowed with ARRA funding) for operations.

Support full funding for the Downtown Transit Corridor ("The Wave") and its joint sponsors: Florida Department of Transportation, Broward County, the City of Fort Lauderdale, and the Downtown Development Authority.



## **Encouraging investments in renewable energy, sustainable practices and environmental protection**

### EVERGLADES

Support Congressional authorization of the Central Everglades Planning Project.

Support funding for Everglades restoration projects, especially the Broward County Water Preserve Areas.

Support legislation to expedite projects related to the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan.

Support passage of a Water Resources Reform and Development Act in the 114th Congress, restoring the previous biennial pattern.

### HERBERT HOOVER DIKE

Support continued federal funding for the complete repair and protection of the Herbert Hoover Dike and any and all actions to expedite full rehabilitation of the Herbert Hoover Dike.

### BEACH NOURISHMENT

Support lifting the statutory restrictions on the use of federal funds for the acquisition of Bahamian or other non-domestic sand for beach nourishment.

Support beach-related reimbursement and direct funding, in recognition of the high value of beaches and the need to replenish beaches when necessary, particularly in the context of adaptation to accelerated rates of sea level rise and climate disruptions.

Support efforts to streamline and simplify the regulatory requirements that stem from overlapping jurisdictions of federal agencies in the coastal zone.

Support efforts to apportion costs among the federal government and other beach nourishment project participants consistent with the actual economic and environmental benefits that beaches provide to those participants.

Support the Sand Bypass Project at Port Everglades, and expediting the necessary federal permits and federal fiscal contributions for the construction and operation of the project.

Support the full funding of the US Army Corps of Engineers Shore Protection account, which can reimburse Broward County for costs incurred with the planning, engineering, design, and construction of beach nourishment projects in Broward County.

## ENERGY AND CLIMATE POLICY

Oppose any efforts to block implementation of President Obama's Climate Action Plan, including the EPA Clean Power Plan requiring carbon emissions reductions from existing power plants.

Support legislation, funding, and administrative action to support implementation of the Recommendations of the President's State, Local, and Tribal Leaders Task Force on Climate Preparedness and Resilience.

Support federal policies and actions which advance greenhouse gas emission reductions, climate adaptation activities, energy efficiency measures, and diversification of energy sources, particularly efforts by federal agencies, which provide local communities with resources and tools to promote greenhouse gas reductions, adaptation efforts, and an efficient, clean energy economy at the local level.

Support federal policies that promote a more resilient electrical grid and distributed generation of electricity from diverse sources, including solar, wind, and other renewables.

Support federal efforts to reduce the total demand for energy through energy efficiency, which reduces costs for consumers and the need for new power plants.

Support the establishment of a revenue-neutral carbon tax as part of any tax reform efforts considered by Congress to promote energy efficiency and the transition to clean energy sources.

Support funding for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program, adjustments to the formula for establishing eligibility, and expansion of the program to assist local governments with regional authority to develop and implement regionally coordinated initiatives.

Support funding for the U.S. Department of Energy to fund programs such as the Clean Cities Program and Sunshot Initiative, and making such funds available to local governments.

Support funding criteria for Clean Cities Coalitions which includes a formula based on the population of the Coalition's geographic area.

Support funding for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to fund programs such as the Climate Showcase Communities Grant Program, Sustainable Skyline Grant Program, and Southeast Diesel Collaborative, and making such funds available to local governments.

Support legislation to establish a program to increase resiliency or adaptability of water systems to changes to the hydrologic conditions of a region due to the impacts of climate change.





Support full funding for the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Climate Program Office and other agencies involved in the critical advancement of climate science critical to informing decisions regarding energy and infrastructure investments, natural resource management, climate adaptation, and resilience.

Support the finalization of guidance for federal agencies on how to consider greenhouse gas emissions and the impacts of climate change in their National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analyses, as well as final guidance on conducting programmatic NEPA reviews.

#### AIR QUALITY

Support full funding for EPA Section 103 (Particulate Matter) and Section 105 (Air Pollution Control) grants, which support Broward County's air quality programs.

Support full funding of the Department of Homeland Security's air quality funding programs.

#### OIL DRILLING

Oppose activities, such as oil exploration and hydraulic fracturing in Florida, which present potential for negative environmental consequences to coastal areas, the Everglades, or state water resources.

Support preservation of the longstanding moratorium against offshore oil and gas drilling in federal waters off Florida's coast.

#### WATER

Support the Waters of the United States rule proposed by the US EPA and oppose any efforts to weaken it or defund its implementation.

Support efforts by Florida Area Coastal Environmental Initiative (FACE) stakeholders, including Broward County, Florida DEP, NOAA, and others, to investigate the sources and relative contributions of various nutrient inputs to the coastal waters.

Support implementation of a long-term coastal water monitoring program for the southeast Florida region by federal and state agencies.

Support federal funding for the C-51 Reservoir Project in Palm Beach County.

#### OCEANS

Support the National Ocean Policy and coastal marine spatial planning for supporting the diverse uses and long-term sustainability of the nation's coastal and marine resources.

Support the installation of a federal tide gauge in Broward County.

Support the interagency and stakeholder strategy team for coral reef management and conservation led by the NOAA, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWCC) and Broward County, and support the implementation of the 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.

Support funding for the John H. Prescott Marine Mammal Rescue Assistance Grant Program, which funds grants and cooperative agreements to members of the national network of organizations for the recovery and treatment of stranded marine mammals, the study of stranding incidents, and related facility, operations, and staffing expenses, in the historic amount of \$4 million annually (or more).

SOUTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE COMPACT COUNTIES 2015 FEDERAL ENERGY AND CLIMATE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

The Board voted unanimously on November 3, 2015, to support the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact Counties 2016 Federal Energy and Climate Legislative Program, which is incorporated into the County’s Federal Legislative Program by reference.

ANIMAL CARE

Support the USDA adoption of more specific standards for veterinary care, housing, breeding practices, socialization and placement of dogs. Specifically, restrict the use of wire flooring in the dogs’ primary cage space, require breeders to provide dogs with access to an exercise space, require that dogs be physically examined by a veterinarian at least once per year including a determination that breeding dogs are fit to endure pregnancy and nursing, restrict the frequency of breeding, require breeders to provide dogs with constant access to potable water, increase the minimum cage space requirements so that dogs have adequate space to move around freely and to stand on their hind legs without touching the top of the cage, and require breeders to make reasonable efforts to work with rescue groups to adopt out retired breeding dogs and “unsellable” puppies, rather than euthanizing or abandoning the dogs.



**Offering sustainable, compatible, innovative housing options for all income-levels, including integrated supportive housing and rapid-rehousing**

FORECLOSURE ASSISTANCE/AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Support federal efforts to expand affordable housing initiatives, including increased funding for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8) Program and overall Housing Authority resources. Support legislation to lift or increase the present 4 percent and 9 percent cap on Housing Tax Credits to provide a direct allocation of tax credit/ bond resources to Local Housing Finance Authorities. Currently, the 9 percent tax credit model is the only process that effectively delivers new affordable multi-family units. Broward County has a deficiency of over 65,000 units that would be affordable to families at 60 percent of Area Median Income (AMI).

Support legislation that would maintain or increase current levels of the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) and the Home Investment Partnership Program (HOME), which contribute to affordable housing infrastructure, public services and economic development for low to moderate income residents

Support maintaining the homeowner federal income tax deductions.

Support fully funding the National Housing Trust Fund, which has been approved but not fully funded.



## **Consistently delivering responsive, efficient, quality services to the public and internal customers**

### CIVIL RIGHTS

Support federal legislation prohibiting discrimination on the basis of gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation in employment, housing, and public accommodations.

### CHILD CARE/EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT

Oppose any proposal to initiate a pre-certification process or any effort to increase requirements for qualification of the Earned Income Tax Credit.

### TAX RELIEF

Oppose legislation that would compel the County to report the amount of real estate taxes paid to the IRS and to individual taxpayers.

Support federal legislation to permanently eliminate the AMT penalty on airport and seaport private activity bonds, and to permit the advance refunding of PABs issued for port-related infrastructure projects.

### CONGRESSIONALLY-DIRECTED SPENDING

Support congressional directives that provide Administrative agencies with guidance on the needs of a particular congressional district or state.

### DISASTER ASSISTANCE FOR INSURANCE DEDUCTIBLES

Support an amendment to the Stafford Act that directs FEMA to reimburse local governments for 100 percent deductible costs incurred for an insured facility damaged by multiple same-type disasters, regardless of the number of events.

Support establishing a three-year statute of limitation for reclaiming disaster relief funds and for collecting debts related to disaster assistance.

### FEDERAL COURTHOUSE

Support the retention of and funding for a new federal courthouse in Broward County.

### IMMIGRATION REFORM

Support reforms to the current immigration system and create an expeditious but fair path to citizenship for all immigrants.

Support increased border security with defined metrics for success and ensure these measurements are de-coupled from the streamlining of the immigration system.

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

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