



**BROWARD COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
2018 STATE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM**



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Mayor Barbara Sharief, District 8

Vice Mayor Beam Furr, District 6

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PROPOSED

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PROPOSED

INTRODUCTION

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. Broward County is committed to delivering quality services to its community at the lowest possible cost, generating the greatest possible return. Broward County's dedication to the community is reflected in historical commitments to economic development, a robust transportation network, growth management, human services and environmental protection.

To avoid erosion in the capability of local governments to fulfill their financial obligations or provide necessary services to their residents, Broward County opposes any legislative or constitutional efforts to impose expenditure or revenue caps on local governments. Further, maintaining the integrity of home rule power, allowing counties to develop solutions to local problems and opposing unfunded mandates are vital.

Broward County supports policies to enhance economic development utilizing various tools and incentives to induce business expansion, targeted industry retention, new capital investments, and revitalization of economically depressed areas. Maintaining the ability of local governments to implement strong growth management programs is also core to providing the appropriate level of local support to economic development.

Establishing and maintaining an efficient and accessible intermodal transportation network is essential to providing quality service to the community and fostering economic growth. Broward County is committed to providing a wide array of transportation options for residents, visitors and commercial entities including public transit, airports, seaports, roads, bridges and multipurpose facilities. The Board encourages the state to provide funding for operations, maintenance, and capital for transit, airport and seaport projects.

Broward County recognizes the importance of providing basic human services to protect and assist residents in need; and has demonstrated its commitment by providing funding for the direct delivery of medical assistance, mental health and substance abuse services, social and aging services, child advocacy and sexual assault services and housing assistance with the purpose of promoting wellness and achieving self-sufficiency. The Board supports increased funding for core human services including mental health programs, substance abuse services, supportive housing, HIV/AIDS prevention and services, employment and education initiatives for people with behavioral health issues or disabilities.

The Board values a vibrant, healthy environment with abundant and accessible open space including nourished beaches, public parks and preserved environmental resources. Broward County has long recognized the value of strong programs to protect the environment and encourages the State reflect that commitment through enhanced funding for beach nourishment projects, water infrastructure projects, climate preparedness and adaptation initiatives and renewable energy projects; and science-based, defensible environmental policies.

***MAINTAINING THE
INTEGRITY OF HOME RULE
POWER.***

***ENCOURAGING ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT.***

***EFFICIENT AND ACCESSIBLE
INTERMODAL
TRANSPORTATION.***

***PROVIDING BASIC HUMAN
SERVICES TO PROTECT AND
ASSIST RESIDENTS.***

***VIBRANT, HEALTHY
ENVIRONMENT***

BROWARD COUNTY POLICIES

NEW ADULT CIVIL CITATIONS (Cmsr. Holness)

SUPPORT legislation allowing law enforcement the option to issue an adult civil citation when an adult is charged with certain offenses including, but not limited to suspended licenses and marijuana possession.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

SUPPORT full use of the dedicated revenues provided by the **Sadowski Affordable Housing Act** for Florida's housing programs and projects, and **OPPOSE** any diversion of housing trust fund monies for purposes unrelated to the affordable housing needs of Floridians. **SUPPORT** full funding of the State Housing Initiative Partnership (SHIP) and State Apartment Incentive Loan (SAIL) Programs to aid income eligible residents, including seniors and individuals with disabilities.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR SENIORS

The Board **SUPPORTS** funding for all housing projects dedicated to serving income eligible seniors. With more and more seniors "aging-in-place" or relocating to South Florida. As Broward County is one of the primary locations in the state where this population is growing, it is increasingly important to find sustainable solutions to address the affordable housing needs of seniors.

UPDATED ARTICLE V TECHNOLOGY FEE (Cmsr. Ryan)

The Board **SUPPORTS** legislation that **increases the County's portion of the recording surcharge**, from \$4.00 to \$8.00, to fund technology needs of the State Trial Courts, State Attorney, Public Defenders and Guardian Ad Litem. Delete the requirement that counties must **increase Article V expenditures 1.5%** over the previous year.

Allow counties more flexibility in the use of the funds generated by the discretionary \$65.00 cost on criminal and traffic cases provided in Section 939.185, F.S. Specifically, allow counties who have purchased furniture pursuant to Section 29.008, F.S. the ability to use the leftover amount until such reimbursement for furniture is fulfilled.

CHILDCARE DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATES (Vice Mayor Furr)

SUPPORT teachers in all publicly-funded early learning programs by requiring each lead teacher to have a Child Development Associate degree within five years and by requiring 20 hours of annual professional development.

UPDATED CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM (Cmsr. Holness)

SUPPORT funding for organizations providing apprenticeship or internship programs for disadvantaged youth. **SUPPORT** the automatic restoration of civil rights, specifically voting rights, to individuals convicted of committing a felony after release from prison and successful completion of any applicable probationary period. **SUPPORT** the expungement and sealing of juveniles who have successfully completed a probationary or rehabilitation program.

SUPPORT funding for de-escalation and crisis intervention training for law enforcement officers. **SUPPORT** funding for organizations providing reentry programs.

NEW EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The Board **SUPPORTS** a viable, fully-integrated and coordinated local, state and federal disaster response structure. The Board also **SUPPORTS** appropriate and increased funding for upgrading, emergency operations centers for them to function proficiently during a natural disaster or crisis.

FIREARMS REGULATION (Board)

The Board **SUPPORTS** legislation allowing local governments to regulate firearms in government owned facilities. The Board **SUPPORTS** the prohibition of the possession of firearms, weapons, and ammunition in substance abuse, mental health and sexual assault treatment facilities. The Board **OPPOSES** legislation allowing open-carry firearms on any of the following premises: college and university campuses, courthouses, state-legislative and cabinet meetings, governing board meetings of counties, cities, school boards and special districts.

JUVENILE JUSTICE CIVIL CITATIONS

SUPPORT legislation allowing law enforcement discretion when provided an option to issue a juvenile a report or issue a civil citation when the child fails to comply with assigned intervention services.

MITIGATION LANDS (Mayor Sharief)

The Board **SUPPORTS** legislation that amends state law to prohibit the use of mitigation land for recreational purposes. **SUPPORT** stricter fines and penalties for trespassers of mitigation land.

NEW **NURSING HOME REGULATION** (Vice Mayor Furr)

SUPPORT placing nursing homes and elderly/disabled care facilities as Tier One Critical Infrastructure under Florida Power and Light (FPL) disaster operations. The Board also **SUPPORTS** priority welfare checks to nursing homes in aftermath of natural disaster and provide energy, water and food for at least 96 hours after power loss.

PROHIBITION OF OIL OR GAS DRILLING (Board)

SUPPORT legislation clarifying that no oil or gas permit may be issued unless a county, like municipalities, approve the application for oil or gas drilling projects within its jurisdiction. **OPPOSE** legislation authorizing any form of extreme well stimulation for oil and gas resource extraction, including hydraulic and acid fracturing. The Board also **OPPOSES** preempting local regulation of extreme well stimulation and oil and gas exploration and extraction.

SOUTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE COMPACT

SUPPORT the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact Energy and Climate Legislative Principles.

NEW **STATE BEACH MANAGEMENT PROGRAM** (Board)

SUPPORT SB 174 and HB 131 which updates the State Beach Management Program's project review criteria to include consideration of a project's economic and environmental importance, creates a three-year work plan to maximize matching contributions at the federal, state, and local level, and sets a dedicated state funding source of \$50 million through the Land Acquisition Trust Fund (LATF).

NEW **TEXTING WHILE DRIVING** (Board)

The Board **SUPPORTS** legislation making texting while driving a primary offense. Currently, texting while driving is considered a secondary offense.

BROWARD COUNTY APPROPRIATION REQUESTS

***NEW* ALZHEIMER'S CAREGIVER RESPITE | \$214,433**

The Board **SUPPORTS** increased funding to enhance Broward County's ability to provide services to its most frail and vulnerable residents, including: increasing their self-sufficiency, ability to remain safe and healthy, and ultimately improving their quality life.

***UPDATED* BEACH RENOURISHMENT AND INLET MANAGEMENT FUNDING (BROWARD COUNTY REQUEST)** (Cmsr. Ryan and Cmsr. LaMarca)

Broward County's Segment II Beach Renourishment project: Segment II is anticipated to receive a 55 percent federal cost-share participation, which is \$30 million of the total project cost of \$55.6 million. The remaining 45 percent (\$19.8 million) will be cost shared between the state, Broward County, and municipalities within the project limits (Fort Lauderdale, Pompano Beach and Lauderdale-by-the-Sea). The state appropriated \$4.7 million in the FY 2013-2014 budget, \$2.03 million in the FY 2014-2015 budget, and \$2.7 million in the FY 2015-2016 budget. For the FY 2018-2019 budget year, the Board requests an appropriation of **\$87,946** for monitoring.

Port Everglades Sand Bypass Project: The Bypass project will facilitate the economical collection of beach compatible sand for the chronically eroded shoreline south of the inlet. The state appropriated \$14,187,500 in the FY 2017-18 budget. As inlet projects are eligible for a 75 percent cost share by the state, the Board requests an appropriation of **\$4,975,000** for remainder of construction funds for the project. The remaining **25 percent** of the costs will be matched by Broward County.

***NEW* THE BENEFITS BANK | \$2,000,000**

The Board **SUPPORTS** funding for an online service to simplify and centralize the process of applying for food assistance, health coverage, and home energy assistance. The requested amount will be used towards the initial cost for systems programming and training for a coordinator to learn to utilize the system.

***NEW* BROWARD COUNTY TRANSIT DOWNTOWN INTERMODAL FACILITY | \$1,000,000**

The Broward County Central Terminal opened for service in 1985 and has not been upgraded. The facility needs repairs for anticipated bus service growth and upcoming projects such as Brightline and the WAVE. The Board **SUPPORTS** funding to accurately evaluate operational needs, site conditions, and site development opportunities.

CORAL REEF DISEASE WATER QUALITY MONITORING PROJECT

Amend state law directing the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWCC) to develop a management plan for the proposed coastal management area from the St. Lucie Inlet south to the northern boundary of Biscayne National Park. Support DEPs Legislative Budget Request for **\$1 million** for the **Southeast Florida Coral Reef Management** and resource condition monitoring program to document and track the health of the coral reef ecosystem.

***UPDATED* COURTHOUSE FURNISHINGS REIMBURSEMENT | \$6,000,000** (Board)

The Board **SUPPORTS** the full reimbursement of the new Broward County courthouse equipment and furnishings. The state of Florida has a constitutional responsibility to equip and furnish non-public areas (e.g., work stations and private offices) in facilities occupied by the courts, state attorneys, public defenders, and guardian ad-litem.

FORENSIC SEXUAL ASSAULT SERVICES - NANCY J. COTTERMAN CENTER (NJCC) | \$250,000 (Sen. Rich) **SUPPORT** continued funding for the Broward County's Nancy J. Cotterman Center State Attorney Liaison Program to ensure that non-reporting victims of sexual violence and their non-offending family members have the resources and skills necessary to pursue legal action for their cases.

***NEW* HUMAN TRAFFICKING COMMUNITY COORDINATION OUTREACH PROJECT | \$100,000**

The Board **SUPPORTS** funding for a designated Human Trafficking Outreach advocate to bring law enforcement and victims' service providers together, to address the individualized needs of victims.

***NEW* JOINT MEDICAL EXAMINER/BSO CRIME LAB FACILITY | \$750,000**

The Board **SUPPORTS** funding for preconstruction, engineering and design for a new joint medical examiner/crime lab facility for the medical examiner's office, forensic toxicology, and trauma services.

***UPDATED* PORT EVERGLADES FUNDING | \$38,500,000** (Board)

SUPPORT full appropriation and allocation of projects in the Florida Department of Transportation's (FDOT) adopted Five-Year Work Program which are prioritized based on the level of the return on investment. The FDOT Transportation Tentative Work Program for FY 2017-2018 includes:

- Port Everglades new bulkheads at Berths 9 and 10 | **\$3,600,000**
- New super post Panamax Cranes | **\$6,000,000**
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineer Navigation Improvement Deepening and Widening Project | **\$28,900,000**

Each Work Plan approved initiative provides a reliable source of capital funding to complement limited financial resources and facilitates the ability of Florida ports to compete outside of the state.

REGIONAL WATER REUSE PURPLE PIPELINE PROJECT | \$10,500,000 (Board)

SUPPORT state funding for the Broward County-Palm Beach Regional Water Reuse Purple Pipeline project. Also **SUPPORT** water infrastructure projects including replacement of aging underground piping, lift stations, water storage facilities, treatment and reuse systems, alternative water supply projects, and water development projects designed to eliminate the future use of ocean outfall systems.

STATEWIDE APPROPRIATION REQUESTS

AVIATION FUEL TAX

The Board supports state annual funding for Airport Development Grant Program and the Strategic Airport Investment Program that is equal to or exceeds the Florida Department of Transportation Tentative Work Plan for the previous fiscal year.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

The Board **SUPPORTS** state funding and resources to address the significant unmet behavioral health needs in Broward County, which include: permanent, supportive, and transitional housing, multidisciplinary teams, specifically designating **Children’s Community Action Treatment Teams (CAT)**, **Family Intervention Treatment Teams (FIT)**, and **Florida Assertive Community Treatment Teams (FACT)**. Broward County requires community support services, short term residential treatment beds, and integrated primary/behavioral health programs to provide services to special populations.

The Board also **SUPPORTS** full implementation of Chapter 2016-241, Laws of Florida (SB 12), relating to Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services. The Board also **SUPPORTS** protecting the existing behavioral health safety net in Broward County and ensuring that this safety net received appropriate funding.

BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB

SUPPORT state funding for Florida’s Boys and Girls Clubs so youth may continue to benefit from its educational, recreational, cultural, after school, summer enrichment, and other social programs. This is one of the best investments we can make in future generations of good community citizens.

CHALLENGE GRANTS | \$5,200,000

The Board **SUPPORTS** funding for Challenge Grants, as authorized in Section 420.644(4), F.S., which competitively award grants to assist local continuums of care lead agencies in implementing strategies to address the needs of persons experiencing homelessness.

CHILD PROTECTION TEAM FUNDING

SUPPORT increased funding to Broward County’s **Child Protection Team (CPT)** program to ensure the successful completion of assessment services for 100% of cases mandatory for referral to CPT.

CHILD WELFARE FUNDING

The Board **SUPPORTS** increased funding and resources for Florida’s child welfare system to ensure the safety and well-being of children at risk for abuse and the provision of a continuum of high-quality services for children in the dependency system and youth in transitional independent living programs.

COMMUNITY CARE FOR THE ELDERLY | \$1,000,000

SUPPORT increased funding for the Community Care for the Elderly Program within the Florida Department of Elder Affairs. A recurring annual increase for Broward County – Planning and Service Area 10 (PSA 10), would allow for a reduction in the current waitlist of 1,690 functionally impaired elderly residents.

CRIME LAB FUNDING

SUPPORT amending state law to ensure each local criminal analysis laboratory, designated in Section 943.35(1), F.S., receives the **state mandated funding level (up to 75 percent of actual operating costs)** required under Section 943.35(2), F.S.

CULTURAL AND LIBRARIES FUNDING

The Board **SUPPORTS** increased statewide funding for the Department of State Division of Cultural Affairs Grants Program, the Florida State Touring Program and Fellowships, the Cultural Facilities Grant Program, and the Cultural Endowment Program. The Board **SUPPORTS** full funding of State Aid to Libraries based on the current statutory formula providing counties a match for every local dollar spent.

DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE DETENTION CENTERS

SUPPORT state funding to the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) to upgrade, renovate, or reconstruct detention centers that are in a state of disrepair. **SUPPORT** investments in juvenile facilities to enhance the conditions of secure confinement for detained youth.

***NEW* EARLY LEARNING FUNDING**

The Board **SUPPORTS** a 10 percent increase in previous fiscal year funding for children in early learning and school age care to ensure children's access to educational and enrichment programs that support low-income working families and children's readiness for and success in school.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

The Board **SUPPORTS** continued funding for the Black Business Loan Fund and Hispanic Business Investment Loan Fund. Support legislation that would increase funding for economic development programs in low-income/high poverty communities within Broward County. Support legislation to create and fund Sister City programs, which would stimulate economic development within Broward County.

FLORIDA COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS | \$3,000,000

As authorized in Section 420,623, F.S. Local Coalition funding for Florida's coordinating agency for the 28 local homeless coalitions including Broward County that draw down more than \$80 million in federal funds targeted to housing and supportive services for homeless individuals and families. The Board **SUPPORTS** funding of individual coalitions through a statewide coordinating entity that has become a best practice in social service delivery systems.

***NEW* FLORIDA JOB GROWTH FUND**

The Board continues to **SUPPORT** \$85 million in funding for the Florida Job Growth Fund. The fund is a flexible, transparent economic development program used to promote public infrastructure and individual job training, which will encourage more businesses to choose Florida as a destination for business.

***NEW* FLORIDA RECREATION DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (FRDAP) FUNDING**

The County **SUPPORTS** and encourages the state reinstate full-funding to the Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program (FRDAP). The FRDAP assists local governments to improve and/or complete capital construction projects focused on recreation. Investing in such capital improvements support tourism and recreation throughout Florida.

***NEW* FUNDING TO REACH RECYCLING GOAL | \$10,000,000** (Vice Mayor Furr)

The Board **SUPPORTS** funding for comprehensive waste management and recycling system for the residents of Broward County to meet the 75 percent recycling goal by year 2020, established by Section 403.7032, F.S.

***NEW* GUARDIAN AD LITEM PROGRAM FUNDING | \$500,000** (Vice Mayor Furr)

The Board **SUPPORTS** increased funding for the statewide Guardian Ad Litem Program.

***NEW* MOSQUITO CONTROL FUNDING (ZIKA) | \$4,400,000**

SUPPORT \$4.4 million in funding for the continuation of mosquito abatement activities that target potential disease-carrying mosquitoes (such as *Aedes aegypti*, the mosquito that can spread the Zika virus, dengue fever, chikungunya and yellow fever).

***NEW* NATURAL GAS FUEL REBATE PROGRAM | \$6,000,000**

The Board **SUPPORTS** the reinstatement of the Natural Gas Fuel Rebate Program. In FY 2016-2017, \$6 million was awarded statewide. However, the Legislature did not fund the program for FY 2017-2018. This program offset the overall cost of burning 138 dedicated Propane Autogas vehicles utilized for Broward County Transit's Paratransit Program, saving the County \$1.1 million in annual fuel cost and reducing the County's carbon footprint by 5.2 million pounds of carbon dioxide.

STATE OF FLORIDA OFFICE ON HOMELESSNESS | \$560,406

The Board **SUPPORTS** funding for the Florida Office on Homelessness, which is essential for the receipt of non-entitlement federal funds and to coordinating the activities of the Council on Homelessness.

***NEW* TANF EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM | \$876,124**

The Board **SUPPORTS** funding for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program, which is a homelessness prevention grant program as authorized in Section 414.161 F.S., improves the County's ability to prevent homelessness for Individuals and Families facing eviction and/or foreclosure.

DEPARTMENT LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

CHILD CARE DEVELOPMENT REGISTRY

SUPPORT changes to allow the Background Screening Clearinghouse staff rosters for each Child Care Provider be uploaded into a centralized system. This will allow the Florida Office Learning (OEL), to determine if minimum training requirements are met. The Board also **SUPPORT** requiring childcare personnel to register with the Early Learning Workforce Registry.

***NEW* CONSULTANTS' COMPETITIVE NEGOTIATION ACT REVISIONS**

The Board **SUPPORTS** amending the Consultants' Competitive Negotiation Act found in Section 287.055, F.S., making continuing contracts more flexible when applied to design work, reports and studies, and work of a specified nature. In addition, amended language will allow counties to contract more than one firm under a single solicitation.

***NEW* ESTABLISH FUNDING MECHANISM FOR RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS**

The Board **SUPPORTS** the establishment of a statutory program to provide funding for resilient infrastructure projects. In funding resilient infrastructure projects, local communities will be able to better cope with sea level rise, saltwater intrusion, increased frequency and duration of flooding due to king tide and hurricanes, and other climate impacts.

***UPDATED* FILM AND ENTERTAINMENT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Support initiatives for the film, television and entertainment production industries that will promote tourism, foster economic development and create high-wage, high-skilled jobs for Floridians.

FIREARM REGULATION IN TREATMENT FACILITIES

The Board **SUPPORTS** legislation that amends state law to prohibit the possession of firearms, weapons, and ammunition in substance abuse programs, mental health programs, and sexual assault treatment facilities.

HOLLYWOOD NORTH BEACH ANCHORAGE RESTRICTION

The Board **SUPPORTS** legislation to amend state law to restrict overnight vessel anchorage and mooring on state bottom lands in Hollywood North Beach Park during the design, permitting, and engineering of a mooring filed at the park until such mooring field is complete.

***NEW* KAYAK SAFETY REGULATIONS**

The Board **SUPPORTS** implementing regulations to require kayak users to have a four to five-foot pole or whip equipped with an orange flag. This pole or whip will ensure the user is seen and not harmed or critically injured by boaters in coastal waters. Such requirements are similar when using airboats in the Everglades.

***NEW* NEEDLE EXCHANGE PROGRAM**

The Board **SUPPORTS** the expansion of the sterile needle and syringe exchange pilot program to include Broward County as defined in Section 381.0038, F.S. The Miami-Dade Infectious Disease Elimination Act (IDEA) program is a sterile needle and syringe exchange pilot program in Miami-Dade County. Broward is one of the many counties severely impacted by the ongoing opioid epidemic and anticipates an increase in new HIV and Hepatitis C cases.

***UPDATED* OPIOID AND HEROIN ABUSE**

SUPPORT expanding the prohibition of general use and sale of new types of synthetic drugs without impacting medical and research practices, and **SUPPORT** restriction of marketing, display, labeling, and advertising of synthetic drugs and related substances by utilizing consumer protection laws or classifying these activities as deceptive trade practices.

SUPPORT a requirement that all medical practitioners enter drug information into the Florida Prescription Drug Monitoring System within three days of prescribing and **SUPPORT** recurring state funding for the program. In addition, the Boards **SUPPORTS** amending Section 893.055, F.S. to fully fund the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) on a recurring basis.

SUPPORT efforts to stop heroin and opioid trafficking and increased penalties for dealers and traffickers whose actions result in loss of life.

***UPDATED* PUBLIC RECORDS EXEMPTIONS**

The Board **SUPPORTS** legislation that amends Section 119.071, F.S. to grant an exemption from public records any identifying information, such a home address and phone number, of employees at the Nancy J. Cotterman Center and the Broward Addiction Recovery Center (BARC).

***NEW* SUN TRAIL FUNDING MECHANISM**

The Board **SUPPORTS** amending state law under Section 339.81(5), F.S. to require SUN Trail funding be apportioned to the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Districts, by equally calculating population and motor fuel tax collection. The Board also urges the Legislature to require that FDOT allocate a minimum of \$40 million annually to support the SUN Trail program.

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