



2019 STATE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

DRAFT

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Mayor (*Subject to Organizational Meeting*)

Vice Mayor (*Subject to Organizational Meeting*)

Nan Rich, District 1

Mark Bogen, District 2

Michael Udine, District 3

Subject to Nov. 6th Election, District 4

Steve Geller, District 5

Beam Furr, District 6

Tim Ryan, District 7

Dr. Barbara Sharief, District 8

Dale V.C. Holness, District 9

DRAFT

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSION VALUES AND MISSION

Broward County prides itself on being efficient, accessible, and transparent with its 1.9 million residents. 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 AAA bond-rated and urges the state to establish policies based on evidence and encourage a balanced approach to delivery of service and protection of tax payers.

HOME RULE

The Board supports maintaining the integrity of home rule power, which allows counties to develop and implement solutions to unique local problems. As a charter county, the Board opposes legislative efforts that interfere with local government administration.

UNFUNDED MANDATES

Frequent state directives mandate local governments to provide services or programs without providing appropriate revenue or funding sources to implement or enforce the required activity. These unfunded mandates can compromise a county's ability to provide essential and discretionary services deemed appropriate by the local community. The Board opposes any legislation that implements unfunded mandates on a local government's fiscal and public policy.

The ability to maintain home rule and avoid unfunded mandates are central to Broward County's federal and state legislative priorities, and advocacy needs as outlined below.

GENERAL REVENUE

The Board opposes any legislative or constitutional efforts to impose expenditure or revenue caps on local governments. The Board also opposes any efforts that further erode the capability of local governments to fulfill their financial obligations or provide necessary services to their residents. The Board further opposes reductions or exemptions to current state tax revenue sources, unless replacement funding sources or reductions in mandates are included.

SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY

The Board opposes legislative efforts to increase or eliminate the sovereign immunity waiver limitations in current law.

FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

The Board **SUPPORTS** the Florida Association of Counties (FAC) Legislative Program and Guiding Principles unless specific issues conflict with Broward County positions.

SOUTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE COMPACT AND CLIMATE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

The Board **SUPPORTS** the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact State Energy and Climate Legislative Program.

BROWARD COUNTY PRIORITIES

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. **SUPPORT** the ability of Broward County residents to have a discretionary documentary surtax.

Prohibition of Oil and Natural Gas Drilling

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 ([Pending Constitutional Amendment 9](#)).

Criminal Justice Reform

SUPPORT funding for organizations providing apprenticeship or internship programs for disadvantaged youth. **SUPPORT** the expungement and sealing of juveniles who have successfully completed a probationary or rehabilitation program. Additionally, **SUPPORT** funding for de-escalation and crisis intervention training for law enforcement officers and **SUPPORT** funding for organizations providing reentry programs.

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 ([Pending Constitutional Amendment 4](#)).

State Beach Management Program

SUPPORT legislation that 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).

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Funding

SUPPORT 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** protecting the existing behavioral health safety net in Broward County and ensuring that this safety net received appropriate funding.

LEGISLATIVE POLICY PROPOSALS

COUNTY COMMISSION

Marjory Stoneman Douglas (MSD) Public Safety Commission (New Proposal)

SUPPORT the ability of counties to review and implement relevant countywide changes, as necessary, pursuant to the proposed recommendation of the MSD Public Safety Commission when released. Additionally, **SUPPORT** dedicated intergovernmental staff to review MSD materials and participate in MSD Public Safety Commission meetings.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

Autopsy Records Exemption

SUPPORT providing temporary public records exemptions for autopsy reports including the name of the deceased person for 10 days to allow the medical examiner and/or law enforcement agency the opportunity to notify next of kin.

Body Farm Requirements (New Proposal)

SUPPORT legislation that requires the Director of a body farm to be a board-certified forensic anthropologist, as required by the Association of Medical Examiners.

Firearms Regulation

SUPPORT legislation allowing local governments to regulate firearms in government owned 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.

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY

Tourist Development Tax Clarification (New Proposal)

SUPPORT legislation that will allow a locality to foreclose on tax warrant liens on hotels or other short-term rental property in an orderly manner and **SUPPORT** a statutory method to pierce the corporate veil when the taxpayer and the property owners are owned by separate legal entities, specifically if those entities are affiliated.

CULTURAL AFFAIRS DIVISION

Cultural Affairs Grants (New Proposal)

SUPPORT legislation to restore funding for statewide cultural affairs programming grants. In FY 2017-2018 the legislature appropriated \$24,987,637 to the Division of Cultural Affairs for grant programs. In FY 2018-2019 the legislature cut funding and appropriated \$2,650,000 for all cultural grants in the state.

OFFICE OF ECONOMIC AND SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

SUPPORT policies and legislation that assist small and disadvantaged businesses through such capacity building components as access to banking and financing, insurance and bonding, business development, technical assistance trainings, workforce development and mentor-protégé programming.

SUPPORT the continuation of small business loan programs targeted to small and emerging businesses in Broward County.

Florida Job Growth Fund

The Board continues to **SUPPORT** \$85 million in funding for the Florida Job Growth Fund.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND GROWTH MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

Bicycle Detection Technology (New Proposal)

SUPPORT legislation that requires “Advanced Differential Bicycle Detection” for new intersections or for where mast arms and signals are being installed or replaced.

Emergency Alert System (New Proposal)

SUPPORT legislation that creates and authorizes a local law enforcement agency to activate the Emergency Alert System and issue a Lockdown Alert to public and private schools, and child care facilities.

Endangered Species (New Proposal)

SUPPORT legislation intended to promote the sustainability of terrestrial and aquatic species by limiting the commercial trade of threatened and endangered species animal parts through Florida's air and seaports.

Flood Protection in Water Funding Program (New Proposal)

SUPPORT the creation of a dedicated funding source for water resources, including funding for stormwater management and flood protection projects.

Sea Level Rise (New Proposal)

SUPPORT legislation requiring the assessment and evaluation of state agency efforts to address sea level rise and other weather impacts on the county.

State of Emergency Permit Extension Restrictions (New Proposal)

SUPPORT restriction of state-of-emergency permit extensions.

Texting While Driving

SUPPORT legislation making texting and engaging in any social media activity while driving a primary offense.

Towing Fee and Licensing Structure

OPPOSE any efforts to prohibit a county from enacting a rule or ordinance that imposes a fee or license on wrecker and towing operators.

Transient Rental Taxes (New Proposal)

The Board supports amending existing transient rental tax law and local tourist development tax law to confirm that businesses engaged in travel-related service models must collect and remit all applicable state transient rental and local tourist development taxes when receiving from a customer the consideration for the lease or rental of a hotel room or other transient accommodation.

Water Quality

SUPPORT legislation to study, identify and develop plans to prevent or mitigate blue green algae and red tide that has adversely impacted certain Florida counties.

FORT LAUDERDALE-HOLLYWOOD INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

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.

HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Adult Civil Citations

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.

Expansion of LIP Requirements (New Proposal)

SUPPORT legislation that allows Providers to self-fund their own match requirement instead of relying on the County contribution.

Expansion of Needle Exchange Program

SUPPORT the expansion of the sterile needle and syringe exchange pilot program to include Broward County.

WATER AND WASTEWATER SERVICES DIVISION

Reclaimed Water (New Proposal)

SUPPORT legislation and appropriations that increase alternative water supply funding, additionally **SUPPORT** state funding of the Leah Schad Memorial Ocean Outfall Program.

APPROPRIATION REQUESTS

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND GROWTH MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

Coral Reef Disease Water Quality Monitoring Project | \$1 million

SUPPORT continued and increased funding for the Southeast Florida Coral Reef Ecosystem Conservation Area and resource condition monitoring program to document and track the health of the coral reef ecosystem.

Osborne Reef Tire Removal Project | \$1 million

SUPPORT continued funding of the tire removal project to reduce waste tires in the ocean off the shore of Fort Lauderdale.

T.Y. Park Water Reuse | \$1.4 million

SUPPORT funding for the Topeekeegee Yugnee Park (T.Y. Park) reclaimed water irrigation system.

HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Challenge Grant Program Funding | \$5 million

SUPPORT increased funding for Challenge Grants and continued appropriations for Continuum of Care (CoC) Lead Agency Staffing Grants, which competitively award grants to assist local CoC agencies in implementing strategies to address the needs of persons experiencing homelessness. Additionally, preserve financial and programmatic accountability provisions in state law for programs administered by the State Office on Homelessness.

Human Trafficking Outreach Program | \$200,000

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

Nancy J. Cotterman State Attorney Liaison Program | \$250,000

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.

Opioid Narcotic Abusing Parents – Family Services Funding | \$350,000 (New Request)

SUPPORT development of a family-centered recovery system that brings together collaborative team members from child protection services, local law enforcement, courts, substance abuse and mental health providers and other child welfare and human service representatives under one roof to achieve safety, permanency, and well-being goals for children and their opioid-narcotic abusing parents.

Statewide Home Health and Community Care Funding | \$13 million

SUPPORT increased and continued funding for the following programs that have been funded annually.

- Alzheimer's Disease Initiative | **\$2,162,586**
- Community Care for the Elderly | **\$10,716,576**
- Home Care for the Elderly | **\$607,403**

Test and Treat Program Funding | \$2 million (New Request)

SUPPORT funding for the Test and Treat Program to provide prescription drugs for one fiscal year for clients who are not eligible for AIDS Drug Assistance Program or other coverage.

LIBRARIES DIVISION

SUPPORT increased funding for the State Aid to Libraries Program to a minimum of \$33 million. Additionally, **SUPPORT** full funding of all projects recommended by the State Library as eligible for Public Library Construction Grant funding. (New Proposal)

PORT EVERGLADES

Port Everglades Funding

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. 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.

WATER AND WASTEWATER SERVICES DIVISION

Davis Isles Septic to Sewer Project | \$750,000 (New Proposal)

SUPPORT funding for the Davis Isles Septic to Sewer conversion project to convert eighty waterfront homes within the City of Dania Beach from septic tanks to Broward County's public sewer system.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS STAFF

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