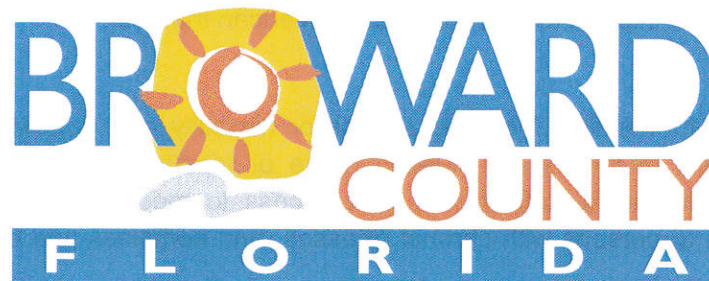


# **2014 STATE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM**



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# 2014 PRIORITIES

## ENTERPRISE ZONES

Support legislation reducing the Enterprise Zone Business Property and Equipment Sales Refund Incentive spending threshold from \$5,000 to \$500, and expanding the eligible employee base under the Enterprise Zone Jobs Tax Credit.

## PORT ISSUES

Support state legislation and other strategic initiatives to foster economic growth and increase direct foreign investments in Florida, including strengthening strategic funding partnerships with Port Everglades, development of alternatives to fund vital capital infrastructure projects, and full funding of an aggressive and resourceful freight mobility program to ensure increased access to Asian Pacific markets and exports to emerging Latin American markets.

## MEDICAID ACCESS

Oppose any efforts to further limit Medicaid access or eligibility and oppose efforts to increase Broward County's share of funding for nursing home or inpatient hospital services. Support repealing elements of Medicaid Reform that limit access to medical services or reduce cost-effective, in-home care to persons with chronic illnesses, and homeless and chronically homeless persons.

## JUVENILE JUSTICE

Oppose any efforts to shift additional Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) costs to counties and strongly oppose counties unfairly compensating the state for unfunded mandates. Support legislation that codifies the financial responsibility of the counties and state as upheld by Florida's courts. Support initiatives which reduce juvenile detention through prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation services. Oppose legislation which would infringe upon a juvenile's due process rights such as video proceedings for first detentions hearings. Support a review of the "Roadmap to Excellence" to ensure consistent alignment with the applicable statutes. Support legislation that provides opportunities for counties to develop, invest in, and implement alternatives to divert children and youth from secure detention facilities, such as intensive home detention, electronic monitoring and evening reporting centers. Oppose any policy increasing numbers of youth in adult facilities. Support legislation that improves the accountability of the educational systems within juvenile detention facilities.

## EVERGLADES RESTORATION

Support restoration of the Everglades, to protect one of the world's most extraordinary ecosystems and to promote climate mitigation and adaptation efforts, including protecting the Biscayne aquifer. Support the construction of, and state funding for the Broward County Water Preserve Area (WPA) including, 13 miles of trail and other recreational components of the WPA that provide significant recreational benefits to Everglades Holiday Park.

## BEACH RENOURISHMENT

Support the \$5,200,000 state application submitted by Broward County to support mitigation, construction, beach fill and monitoring of the Segment II Beach Renourishment project as a federally-reimbursable project. Broward County's Segment II Beach Renourishment project will

receive a 55 percent federal cost-share participation, which is \$24,200,000 of the total construction project budget of \$44,000,000. The remaining 45 percent (\$19,800,000) will be cost shared between the state of Florida, Broward County and Cities within the project limits (City of Fort Lauderdale, City of Pompano Beach and Lauderdale by the Sea). As the state of Florida appropriated \$4,700,000 for the project during the 2013 Legislative Session, the Board requests an appropriation of the remaining \$5,200,000 of the state's cost share.

#### **AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

Support full funding of the Sadowski Trust Fund and implementing a needs-based system to fund affordable housing projects and programs. Support legislation to provide a "local documentary tax" program dedicated to affordable housing similar to the program currently available in Miami-Dade County.

# **APPROPRIATIONS PRIORITIES**

## **AVIATION FUNDING**

Support state funding for airport development that is equal to or exceeds the Florida Department of Transportation Tentative Work Plan for FY 2014-2015.

## **BEACH RENOURISHMENT**

Support the \$5,200,000 state application submitted by Broward County to support mitigation, construction, beach fill and monitoring of the Segment II Beach Renourishment project as a federally-reimbursable project. Broward County's Segment II Beach Renourishment project will receive a 55 percent federal cost-share participation, which is \$24,200,000 of the total construction project budget of \$44,000,000. The remaining 45 percent (\$19,800,000) will be cost shared between the state of Florida, Broward County and Cities within the project limits (City of Fort Lauderdale, City of Pompano Beach and Lauderdale by the Sea). As the state of Florida appropriated \$4,700,000 for the project during the 2013 Legislative Session, the Board requests an appropriation of the remaining \$5,200,000 of the state's cost share.

## **PORT EVERGLADES**

Support the \$14,718,000 request in non-recurring funds in FY 2014-2015 for preliminary engineering, design, permitting and construction for projects associated with Southport Turning Notch Extension which will add up to five new ship berths at Port Everglades, create 2,227 temporary construction jobs and 5,529 new regional permanent jobs, generate \$252.2 million in state and local taxes by the year 2027 and create 16.5 acres of new mangrove habitat.

## **TOPEEKEEGEE YUGNEE PARK (T.Y. PARK)**

Support \$1,000,000 for desperately needed reclaimed water mains, master valves, reclaimed water booster pumps, irrigation systems, and electrical systems at T.Y. Park. The T.Y. Park project has been reviewed by the South Florida Water Management District as an alternative water supply development project for potential funding under the Water Protection and Sustainability Program. Further, the project was recommended in the previous Lower East Cost Water Supply Plan as a regional project to provide highly treated reuse/recharge that may allow for increased withdrawals of fresh groundwater. This is consistent to the goals of the water supply plan (373.709, F.S.) and it remains eligible for funding.

## **BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES**

Support restoration and maintenance of state funding for adult community mental health and substance abuse services and elimination of the requirement for local matching funds to supplement funding of such services. Allocation of Broward County resources for adult mental health and substance abuse services should be at the sole discretion of the local governing body. Support protecting current levels of funding for Substance Abuse and Community Mental Health Community services. Additionally, support protecting at a minimum the current levels of funding or greater for mental health and substance abuse services for children and adolescents.

## **CHILD PROTECTION TEAMS (CPT)**

Support an increase to recurring funding for the Florida Department of Health/Children's Medical Services (DOH/CMS), which funds Child Protection Teams (CPT) throughout the state, including Broward County. Support maintenance of CMS-CPT program funds to ensure their continuation

as a permanent part of the state budget. Support CMS management of the CPT system within DOH.

#### **COMMUNITY CARE FOR THE ELDERLY**

Support cost-effective, evidence-based programs that serve frail elders and allow older adults to “age in place.” Specifically, support increased funding to the Community Care for the Elderly (CCE). Oppose any cuts to programs targeting community-based services for elders, which save the state of Florida millions of dollars in emergency and nursing home care, while offering autonomy and dignity to aging citizens.

#### **HOMELESSNESS**

Support restoration of recurring funding to the Homeless Housing Assistance Grant (HHAG) program to produce new permanent housing units for persons experiencing homelessness utilizing Mortgage Settlement Funding through the Florida Housing Finance Corporation. Support recurring funding for the Homeless Challenge Grant through the state Office on Homelessness and support an increase in recurring funding to the Designated Local Coalition.

#### **FLORIDA NETWORK OF CHILDREN’S ADVOCACY CENTERS (FNCAC)**

Support \$3,500,000 in recurring funding for the FNCAC, an accredited State Chapter of the National Children’s Alliance, and a not-for-profit 501(c)3 organization of child advocacy center programs in Florida. FNCAC provides specialized training, technical assistance and other support services for CACs and communities interested in starting CACs. FNCAC advocates for CACs at the state and national levels and provides oversight and administration of state funds to local CACs. The Nancy J. Cotterman Center is Broward County’s CAC and an accredited member of the National Children’s Alliance.

#### **LIBRARY GRANTS-IN-AID AND LIBRARY CONSTRUCTION GRANTS**

Support full funding of libraries.

#### **SERVICES FOR DEVELOPMENTAL DELAYS AND DISABILITIES AND COMPLEX MEDICAL NEEDS**

Support, at minimum, the current levels of funding for children and adolescents with developmental delays and disabilities and complex medical needs.

#### **FIRE RESCUE STATION 106 – ALLIGATOR ALLEY**

Support state funding for Broward Sheriff’s Office Fire Rescue Station 106. Fire Rescue Station 106 is located on Alligator Alley (Interstate 75) at the eastbound rest area between mile markers 34 and 35, approximately 10 miles west of the Broward toll plaza. The station is the only emergency response facility on Alligator Alley between Weston and Naples.

#### **WATER INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING**

Support state funding for water infrastructure projects including replacing 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.

# **LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS**

## **DRIVER EDUCATION AND SAFETY PROGRAMS**

Amend state law to allow counties to designate local school boards as agent to receive and disburse funds from civil traffic penalties collected by the county clerk of court.

## **CHILD-CARE VEHICLE ALARMS**

Amend state law to require that child care facilities or family child care homes transporting children in vehicles made for six or more passengers install child safety alarm devices prompting the driver to inspect the vehicle for children before exiting.

## **FIREARM REGULATION IN TREATMENT FACILITIES**

Amend state law to prohibit the possession of weapons and ammunitions in substance abuse programs, mental health programs and sexual assault treatment facilities.

## **ARTICLE V COURT TECHNOLOGY COSTS**

Amend state law to increase the document recording service charge in 28.24(12)(e), F.S., that is distributed to counties for court-related technology, to fund costs associated with implementation of legislatively-mandated e-filing requirements on state trial courts, state attorneys, and public defenders and other court technology cost increases.

## **LOST PERSONAL PROPERTY**

Amend state law to authorize public transit systems to dispose of abandoned or lost property.

## **E911 COMMUNICATIONS**

Increase E911 revenues by guaranteeing the collection of fees on prepaid wireless phones.

## **PARASAILING**

Support the creation of statewide safety regulations, standards and inspections for the parasailing industry.

## **PAPERLESS PAYROLL**

Support legislation which would allow counties to mandate paperless payroll.

## **ELECTRIC VEHICLES AND CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE**

Support legislative incentives for the purchase of electric vehicles and support the deployment of electric vehicle charging infrastructure in the State of Florida.

## **INCREASE INVENTORY MINIMUM ACCOUNT**

Support legislation that would allow the Board to set the limit for items to be inventoried or to increase the threshold. Currently, state law requires annual inventory of all tangible personal property valued at greater than \$1,000. This creates unnecessary and burdensome effort on county resources.

## **UNIFORM CHART OF ACCOUNTS**

Support legislation eliminating the requirement that all governmental entities in Florida utilize a uniform Chart of Accounts for financial reporting purposes.

**E-PERMITS**

Support legislation that will allow the County to implement an electronic permitting system.

**CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICE BUDGETS**

Support legislation amending state law to change the date by which a state agency must approve a Constitutional Officer's budget until after a county has adopted its final budget and final millage rate in accordance with s. 200.065(2)(d), F.S. The Board further supports legislation prohibiting a state agency from approving a Constitutional Officer's budget that exceeds the County's approved final budget for such office absent clear and convincing evidence showing the Constitutional Officer's budget has been significantly underfunded and the budget approved by the County, in comparison to previously approved budgets, will not permit the Constitutional Officer to carry out the duties and responsibilities of the office.



# **FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES**

## **BROWARD COUNTY – LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

### **CONSUMER PROTECTION**

Broward County has been a leader in the enactment of ordinances to protect its residents against unfair and deceptive trade practices. The Board supports legislation that provides increased consumer protection for Florida residents. The Board opposes legislation which would preempt local consumer protection including, but not limited to, taxi and limousine permits, moving services and used cars.

### **CULTURAL SERVICES**

The Board supports a vision statement and strategic goal for cultural amenities and recreation, which includes raising community awareness of the need for diverse cultural and historic amenities and programs while maintaining a network of parks and libraries that provide a variety of recreation and learning opportunities. An objective of this goal is to increase attendance and expand opportunities for participation in arts and cultural events. Recognizing the significant role that arts and culture and libraries play in our economy and quality of life, the Board supports legislation that promotes and enhances arts, culture, historic preservation and libraries. The Board also supports increased and recurring funding for arts, cultural affairs and historic preservation appropriations requests, including capital projects.

Additionally, libraries are a free resource to the community that provide various learning opportunities to all. 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.

### **ELECTIONS**

The Board supports legislation amending state law to allow the Supervisor of Elections (SOE) to designate municipal community centers as early voting sites in addition to city halls, SOE branch offices, and public library facilities.

### **HUMAN RESOURCES**

As major employers in the state of Florida, county commissions are directly accountable to thousands of residents and employees. County commissions are responsible at the local level for fiscal, administrative and personnel decision-making. The Board supports home rule ability to effectively manage, at the local level, all aspects of employee salary and benefit packages in the best interest of taxpayers and employees. The Board supports the ability to protect the privacy and safety of its employees.

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

A major goal of county government is to encourage economic development to promote a full range of high-wage/high-skilled employment, as well as business and housing opportunities, which lead to improving the economy, increasing the tax base, and encouraging diversity. The Board supports policies to enhance economic development utilizing various tools and incentives to induce business expansion, targeted industry retention, new capital investment and job creation. The