

BROWARD COUNTY
STATE LEGISLATIVE AND
EXECUTIVE PROGRAM
2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Mayor Beam Furr, District 6
Vice Mayor Mark D. Bogen, District 2
Nan H. Rich, District 1
Michael Udine, District 3
Lamar P. Fisher, District 4
Steve Geller, District 5
Alexandra P. Davis, District 7
Robert McKinzie, District 8
Hazelle P. Rogers, District 9



COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Monica Cepero, County Administrator

COUNTY ATTORNEY

Andrew J. Meyers, County Attorney

COUNTY AUDITOR

Bob Melton, County Auditor

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS CONTACTS

C. Marty Cassini, Director

Cell: 954-599-8088

Office: 954-357-6440

Email: mcassini@broward.org

Andrea Knowles Hill, Assistant Director

Cell: 954-295-3978

Office: 954-357-7347

Email: aknowles@broward.org

Stuart Rimland, Legislative Counsel

Cell: 954-789-9293

Office: 954-357-6610

Email: srimland@broward.org

INTRODUCTION

This State Legislative and Executive Program will serve as the guiding policy platform for the Broward County Board of County Commissioners during the 2025 State Legislative Session, which convenes in Tallahassee on Tuesday, March 4, 2025.

The Office of Intergovernmental Affairs will work with the county's state legislative delegation, contract lobby teams, and the Florida Association of Counties to file legislation and appropriations on behalf of the Board of County Commissioners to further their adopted priorities and oppose and mitigate state preemption and unfunded mandates.

In advance of session, Office of Intergovernmental Affairs staff will attend all legislative interim committee meetings as follows:

- Monday, December 2 – Friday December 6, 2024, House Only
- Monday, December 9 - Friday, December 13, 2024, Senate Only
- Monday, January 13 – Friday January 17, 2025
- Tuesday, January 21 – Friday January 24, 2025
- Monday, February 3 – Thursday February 7, 2025
- Monday, February 10 – Friday, February 14, 2025
- Monday, February 17 – Friday, February 21, 2025

Respectfully,

The Office of Intergovernmental Affairs



100, S. Andrews Ave., 8th Floor, Main Library, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

intergovernmental@broward.org

BROWARD COUNTY STATE LEGISLATIVE AND EXECUTIVE PROGRAM

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION..... 3

I. STATE PRINCIPLES AND POLICIES..... 7

 BROWARD COUNTY STATE PRINCIPLES 7

 LOCAL DECISION-MAKING 7

 POLICY STATEMENTS 7

 FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES 7

 16 COUNTY COALITION..... 7

 SOUTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE COMPACT AND CLIMATE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM 7

 FLORIDA AIRPORTS COUNCIL..... 7

 FLORIDA PORTS COUNCIL 7

 FLORIDA PUBLIC TRANSIT ASSOCIATION 7

II. COMMISSION PRIORITY ISSUES 8

 AFFORDABLE HOUSING 8

 AFFORDABLE HOUSING DISCRETIONARY SURTAX 8

 AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR SENIORS 8

 AFFORDABLE HOUSING RESILIENCY 8

 SADOWSKI AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST FUND 8

 STATE HOUSING INITIATIVE PARTNERSHIP FUNDING DISTRIBUTION 8

 CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM 8

 JAIL DIVERSION, PRISONS & RE-ENTRY PROGRAMS 8

 JUVENILE JUSTICE 9

 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT 9

 BROADBAND FOR HOUSEHOLDS AND BUSINESSES..... 9

 SMALL BUSINESSES 9

 APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS 9

 MINORITY-OWNED BUSINESS..... 9

 OPPORTUNITY ZONES 9

 FILM, TELEVISION, AND DIGITAL MEDIA INCENTIVES..... 9

 ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY 10

 STATEWIDE FLOODING AND SEA LEVEL RISE RESILIENCE..... 10

 BEACHES AND INLET MANAGEMENT 10

 REGULATION OF POLYSTYRENE PRODUCTS..... 10

 SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES..... 10

III. LOCAL BILLS.....	11
IV. COMMISSION POLICY POSITIONS.....	11
AVIATION	11
AVIATION FUEL TAX EXEMPTION.....	11
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION	11
ARTICLE V COSTS.....	11
EMINENT DOMAIN.....	11
FIREARMS REGULATION	12
GENERAL REVENUE.....	12
HUMAN RESOURCES.....	12
SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY.....	12
TAX CREDITS.....	12
WAGE RECOVERY AND LIVING WAGE PREEMPTION	12
HUMAN SERVICES.....	12
CHILD WELFARE	12
CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM	13
HOMELESSNESS	13
HUMAN & CIVIL RIGHTS/DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION.....	13
REGIONAL EMERGENCY SERVICES & COMMUNICATIONS.....	13
COMMUNICATION SERVICES TAX.....	13
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND MANAGEMENT.....	13
RESILIENT ENVIRONMENT	13
ALTERNATIVE FUEL VEHICLES AND CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE.....	13
ANIMAL CARE.....	13
BUILDING CODE	14
EVERGLADES RESTORATION	14
EXEMPTIONS TO ANONYMOUS CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORTING	14
HIGH-PRESSURE WELL STIMULATION.....	14
LOCAL OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING PROGRAMS	14
PER-AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES (PFAS) REGULATION LIABILITY	14
RECYCLING AND SOLID WASTE	14
RENEWABLE ENERGY	14
V. DEPARTMENT POLICY PROPOSALS.....	15
AFFORDABLE HOUSING CAPITAL FACILITY & IMPACT FEES HOUSING FINANCE AUTHORITY.....	15
CONDOMINIUM INSPECTIONS AND RESERVES BUILDING CODE DIVISION	16

STRUCTURAL INTEGRITY RESERVE STUDIES AND FUNDING	16
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR PUBLIC RECORDS EXEMPTION COUNTY ADMINISTRATION.....	16
PEER-TO-PEER RIDESHARING AVIATION DEPARTMENT.....	16
INCIDENT REPORT SHARING / CRISIS INTERVENTION AND SUPPORT DIVISION	16
VI. BROWARD COUNTY’S APPROPRIATIONS REQUESTS.....	17
HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT REQUESTS.....	17
BAKER ACT ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION.....	17
BROWARD ADDICTION RECOVERY CENTER – PEER SUPPORT SPECIALISTS PROGRAM.....	17
HOUSING SUPPORT SERVICES.....	17
NANCY J. COTTERMAN CENTER – CRISIS INTERVENTION PROGRAMS	17
PUBLIC WORKS APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST	17
BROWARD COUNTY FORENSIC SCIENCE CENTER	17
EMERGENCY OPERATIONS and communications center.....	17
ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION	18
MUNICIPAL APPROPRIATIONS REQUESTS	18
MIRAMAR PARKWAY	18
VII. STATEWIDE APPROPRIATIONS REQUESTS.....	18
911 SERVICE FUNDING.....	18
ALTERNATIVE WATER SUPPLY	18
BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB.....	18
CRIME LAB FUNDING	18
DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE DETENTION CENTERS	18
EARLY LEARNING FUNDING	18
FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (FDOT) FIVE-YEAR WORK PROGRAM FUNDING	18
FLORIDA JOB GROWTH FUND.....	18
FLORIDA RECREATION DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (FRDAP) FUNDING	19
HIV/AIDS FUNDING	19
HOME AND COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES FUNDING	19
HOMELESSNESS	20
LIBRARY AND CULTURAL GRANTS FUNDING	20
MEDICAID EXPANSION.....	20
NATIONAL SUICIDE AND CRISIS LIFELINE	20
TANF EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.....	20
VOLUNTARY PREKINDERGARTEN.....	20

I. STATE PRINCIPLES AND POLICIES

BROWARD COUNTY STATE PRINCIPLES

LOCAL DECISION-MAKING

SUPPORT proposals that provide a greater share of total available state funding to Broward County.

SUPPORT proposals that provide local governments with greater autonomy and **OPPOSE** state preemption of local government authority.

OPPOSE proposals that impose new unfunded mandates on the County or reduce the County's share of total funding.

OPPOSE proposals that increase spending for one program by cutting other programs of greater benefit to the County, or that result in a net revenue loss or a cost-shift to the County.

SUPPORT proposals to reduce or relax local match requirements that hinder the ability of local governments to receive or use state funds.

POLICY STATEMENTS

*Broward County is a member of the **Florida Association of Counties (FAC), 16 County Coalition for the Responsible Management of Lake Okeechobee, Florida Airports Council, Florida Ports Council, Florida Public Transit Association, and the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact** and works in concert with these associations to further joint priorities and goals.*

FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

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

16 COUNTY COALITION

SUPPORT the 16 County Coalition legislative priorities unless specific issues conflict with Broward County positions.

SOUTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE COMPACT AND CLIMATE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

SUPPORT the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact State Energy and Climate Legislative Principles unless specific issues conflict with Broward County positions.

FLORIDA AIRPORTS COUNCIL

SUPPORT the Florida Airports Council legislative priorities unless specific issues conflict with Broward County positions.

FLORIDA PORTS COUNCIL

SUPPORT the Florida Ports Council legislative priorities unless specific issues conflict with Broward County positions.

FLORIDA PUBLIC TRANSIT ASSOCIATION

SUPPORT the Florida Public Transit Association legislative priorities unless specific issues conflict with Broward County positions.

II. COMMISSION PRIORITY ISSUES

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

AFFORDABLE HOUSING DISCRETIONARY SURTAX

SUPPORT legislation that authorizes Broward County to levy a discretionary surtax on documents pursuant to s. 201.031, F.S., to create and finance affordable housing throughout the County.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR SENIORS

SUPPORT funding for all housing projects dedicated to serving income eligible seniors as an increasing number of seniors “age-in-place” or relocate to South Florida. As Broward County is one of the primary locations in the state where this population is growing, it is vital to find sustainable solutions to address the affordable housing needs of seniors.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING RESILIENCY

The “Live Local Act” presently allows a developer meeting affordable housing provisions to bypass local land use review and resilience determinations potentially concentrating vulnerable populations in high-risk areas of the county with increasing exposure costs. **SUPPORT** policies that preserve local governments’ ability to address resilience planning needs as part of land use plans and project approval, to ensure safety, minimize losses, and provide a high quality of life for all our residents, especially considering rising sea levels and changing climate conditions in our communities.

SADOWSKI AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST FUND

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

STATE HOUSING INITIATIVE PARTNERSHIP FUNDING DISTRIBUTION

SUPPORT modifying the current requirements of SHIP funding distribution. Currently, s. [420.9075\(5\)\(a\)](#) requires at least 65 percent of awarded SHIP funding to be used for home ownership, and s. [420.9075\(5\)\(b\)](#), indicates that up to 25 percent of funding may be used for rental housing. The COVID-19 Pandemic exacerbated the residual effects of the Great Recession resulting in Broward and all urban counties having a much greater need for rental housing than home ownership. Due to extreme home prices in Broward County, the median single-family sales price is nearly triple the Broward County median household income (\$600,000). **SUPPORT** amending the current law to allow 50 percent of SHIP funding for home ownership and 50 percent for multifamily rental housing for a more equitable distribution of SHIP funds.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

JAIL DIVERSION, PRISONS & RE-ENTRY PROGRAMS

SUPPORT increased funding to expand all jail diversion programs. **SUPPORT** the Stepping Up Initiative and legislative efforts that reduce the number of people with mental illness in jails. **SUPPORT** prison reforms that include a comprehensive approach and dedicated revenue source for quality re-entry programs. **OPPOSE** the privatization of prisons in South Florida.

SUPPORT providing health care to inmates and arrestees at a rate no higher than 10 percent above Medicaid reimbursement rates.

JUVENILE JUSTICE

SUPPORT investing in facilities for detained youth which provide comprehensive services to decrease juvenile offender recidivism.

SUPPORT measures that promote pre-arrest diversion programs such as civil citations, like the Broward County Civil Citation Program, that provides an alternative to arresting youth who commit misdemeanor acts and ensures that juveniles are expeditiously held accountable, supervised, and receive appropriate intervention services.

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 reporting centers. **OPPOSE** any policy increasing of the youth population in adult facilities.

SUPPORT legislation that improves the accountability of the educational systems within juvenile detention facilities.

SUPPORT legislation that stops the practice of direct file for children under the age of 18 and requires all decisions to transfer children to the adult system be made by a judge based on testimony and evidence presented in a hearing, with a presumption in law that children should remain in the juvenile system.

SUPPORT continued funding for organizations providing pre-apprenticeship, apprenticeship, or internship programs, for disadvantaged youth and for organizations providing re-entry programs.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

BROADBAND FOR HOUSEHOLDS AND BUSINESSES

SUPPORT legislation and funding that improve access to reliable and affordable high-speed internet to every household and business throughout the County and the State.

SMALL BUSINESSES

SUPPORT legislation that assists small and disadvantaged businesses through capacity building components such as access to banking and financing, insurance and bonding, business development, technical assistance trainings, workforce development, and mentor-protégé programming. **SUPPORT** the creation of small business loan programs targeted to small and emerging businesses in Broward County.

APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS

SUPPORT policy proposals and funding for workforce development, apprenticeship, and pre-apprenticeship programs.

MINORITY-OWNED BUSINESS

SUPPORT continued funding for the Black Business Loan Fund. Also, **SUPPORT** legislation that increases funding for economic development programs in low-income/high poverty communities that stimulate development within Broward County.

OPPORTUNITY ZONES

SUPPORT legislation providing guidelines and incentives for investors that provide employment and contracting opportunities for those living in all Florida designated opportunity zones.

FILM, TELEVISION, AND DIGITAL MEDIA INCENTIVES

SUPPORT film, television, and digital media production, and other entertainment grant opportunities that focus on local talent and businesses, in turn increasing local revenue and tourism. 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.

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

STATEWIDE FLOODING AND SEA LEVEL RISE RESILIENCE

SUPPORT measures to establish the total amount of funds to be distributed to water management districts and other state agencies, and the total amount of funds to be distributed to local governments under the Resilient Florida Grant Program.

SUPPORT full funding of the Statewide Flooding and Sea Level Rise Resilience Plan where counties, municipalities, and regional resilience entities are authorized to submit to DEP lists of proposed projects for inclusion in the plan to ameliorate the effects of climate change.

SUPPORT funding to address water infrastructure needs, as well as the development of prioritized and science-based grant programs for the implementation of projects identified by local governments, the water management districts, and state agencies.

SUPPORT legislation intended to assess the financial need to address Florida's water infrastructure relating to conservation, the protection of water quality, stormwater, flood control, and environmental protection and restoration.

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

SUPPORT funding to water management districts for resiliency initiatives, which include updating design standards, planning and regulatory criteria, and level of service studies to maintain project compatibility, and infrastructure connectivity under potential future climate conditions.

SUPPORT direct funding for the South Florida Water Management District to complete the Central and Southern Florida (C&SF) Flood Resiliency Study as a non-federal partner to address priority needs and advance regional projects more expeditiously.

BEACHES AND INLET MANAGEMENT

SUPPORT a minimum of \$50 million in state funding for beach nourishment and inlet management projects.

REGULATION OF POLYSTYRENE PRODUCTS

SUPPORT legislation to remove the prohibition on local government action to regulate or ban the use of disposable plastic bags and polystyrene products.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

SUPPORT state funding and additional resources to address the significant unmet behavioral and mental health needs in Broward County, including permanent, supportive, and transitional housing for vulnerable populations, i.e., economically disadvantaged, racial, and ethnic minorities, uninsured, low-income children, elderly adults, persons experiencing homelessness, and those with chronic health conditions including severe mental illness. **SUPPORT** access to case management and therapeutic services including mental health, vocational, social, and recreational services to decrease homelessness, hospitalization, and incarceration of individuals with mental illness. **SUPPORT** community support services, short-term residential treatment beds, recovery beds, extended acute care beds, and integrated primary/behavioral health programs to provide services to special populations.

SUPPORT multidisciplinary teams, specifically designating Children's Community Action Treatment Teams (CAT), Family Intervention Treatment Teams (FIT), and Florida Assertive Community Treatment Teams (FACT) in Broward County. **SUPPORT** funding and inclusion of an additional CAT Team for Broward County.

SUPPORT funding for local initiatives to respond to the continuing Opioid use and overdose epidemic.

- **SUPPORT** local projects that provide evidence-based interventions to hard-to-reach sub-populations, particularly individuals lacking sufficient healthcare coverage, housing, and other social supports.
- **SUPPORT** funding for long-acting injectable buprenorphine.

- **SUPPORT** funding for local expansion of detoxification beds in conjunction with or utilizing Opioid Settlement funds by qualified counties, in accordance with the FL MOU approved and eligible uses.

SUPPORT measures that regulate recovery residences.

SUPPORT the protection and full funding of the existing behavioral health safety net in Broward County.

SUPPORT the Broward Behavioral Health Coalition’s (BBHC’s) 2025 Legislative Priorities and Funding Requests.

SUPPORT additional funding for local initiatives to combat the rapidly increasing use of fentanyl, methamphetamine, and other stimulants, particularly when combined with opioids.

- **SUPPORT** funding for evidence-based interventions for fentanyl, methamphetamine, and other stimulant use disorders. Currently no FDA approved medications exist for stimulant use disorders but evidence-based interventions, such as contingency management are effective.
- **SUPPORT** additional funding for local peer support initiatives to increase the number of certified peer support specialists providing care at licensed SUD providers, including workforce development projects to combat the shortage of licensed professionals.

III. LOCAL BILLS

Support the abolishment of the Broward County Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Intelligence and Enforcement Unit.

Background: In 1971, a Local Bill established the Broward County Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Intelligence and Enforcement Unit (the “Unit”), codified in Chapter 18, Article III of the Broward County code. The Unit’s purpose was to enforce drug abuse laws and gather intelligence data, and an advisory council was created to advise the Unit’s operations. Broward Sheriff’s Office confirmed that the services previously provided by the Unit are provided by the Broward County Drug Task Force and other operations, that the unit no longer exists, and that its establishing legislation can be repealed. As the Unit is no longer in operation, we recommend filing a local bill to repeal Special Act 71-574 which created the Unit.

IV. COMMISSION POLICY POSITIONS

AVIATION

AVIATION FUEL TAX EXEMPTION

OPPOSE attempts to waive, reduce, or suspend aviation fuel taxes.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

ARTICLE V COSTS

Urge the State fully fund the state’s court system and opposes the Legislature’s continuing efforts to expand counties’ funding responsibilities beyond the specific items authorized in [Article V, §14\(c\)](#) of the state constitution.

The Board **SUPPORTS** the repeal of existing statutory provisions mandating counties fund responsibilities not found in the state constitution or that require counties to automatically increase court expenditure levels without appropriate review and budgetary justification. The Board also **SUPPORTS** an increase in the recording fee distributed to counties to fund the court-related technology needs of the state attorneys, public defenders, and state trial courts, but **OPPOSES** the distribution of these limited funds to other entities.

EMINENT DOMAIN

OPPOSE legislation that restricts or preempts the powers of local government to address critical infrastructure projects and other economic development projects that are vital to the economic prosperity of Broward County and the state.

FIREARMS REGULATION

SUPPORT legislation allowing local governments to regulate or prohibit firearms in government-owned buildings and facilities. **SUPPORT** legislation prohibiting the possession of firearms, weapons, and ammunition in substance abuse programs, mental health programs, and sexual assault treatment facilities. **OPPOSE** legislation allowing individuals with concealed-weapons licenses to open carry firearms on college and university campuses, state legislative and cabinet meetings, governing board meetings of counties, cities, school boards, and special districts, and in courthouses.

GENERAL REVENUE

OPPOSE any efforts that erode the capability of local governments to fulfill their financial obligations or provide necessary services to their residents.

HUMAN RESOURCES

SUPPORT 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. **SUPPORT** the ability to protect the privacy and safety of its employees.

SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY

OPPOSE legislative efforts to increase or eliminate the sovereign immunity waiver limitations in current law.

TAX CREDITS

SUPPORT the repeal of s. [215.179](#), F.S., to restore local governments' ability to benefit financially from the federal Section 179D tax deduction for installation of certain energy efficiency features in government-owned buildings.

WAGE RECOVERY AND LIVING WAGE PREEMPTION

OPPOSE legislation preempting the enactment and enforcement of county ordinances providing local workers a non-judicial forum and appropriate remedies to recover the nonpayment or underpayment of earned wages.

SUPPORT legislation repealing any preemption of the County's existing living wage ordinance, and repealing preemption of the County's local hire and local preference programs.

HUMAN SERVICES

CHILD WELFARE

SUPPORT adequate and equitable resources for the child welfare system to ensure the safety and well-being of children at risk of abuse. Provide a continuum of high-quality services for children in the dependency system and youth in transitional independent living programs.

SUPPORT access to high quality trauma focused services for survivors of sexual violence from certified rape crisis centers funded through the Florida Council Against Sexual Violence (FCASV).

SUPPORT legislation to extend KidCare coverage to include children of "lawfully residing" immigrants as allowed by federal law and funded with federal matching dollars under provisions of the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act (CHIP).

SUPPORT expanding the School Readiness Program to provide subsidized childcare services for children from low-income families and reduce the waiting list for such services. **SUPPORT** efforts to ensure that children have access to high-quality childcare services, including those who are funded from childcare subsidies (School Readiness funds).

SUPPORT the expansion or implementation of evidence-based prevention and intervention programs to serve survivors of child abuse and their non-offending family members in addition to reducing the likelihood of child maltreatment through increased funding of the Florida Network of Children's Advocacy Centers (FNCACs).

CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

SUPPORT the enforcement of state law requiring that entitlement benefits be suspended, rather than terminated, during jail stays of 364 days or fewer.

HOMELESSNESS

SUPPORT clearer distinctions between the liability of municipal governments and county governments in civil actions brought under Section 125.0231, Florida Statutes (HB 1365).

HUMAN & CIVIL RIGHTS/DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

SUPPORT legislation prohibiting law enforcement agencies from engaging in or tolerating police brutality and funding for de-escalation and crisis intervention training for law enforcement officers. **SUPPORT** proposals that mandate racial equity and diversity training in the workplace to ensure everyone in the workplace is respected and treated appropriately regardless of race, gender, religion, sexual orientation, and gender identity.

SUPPORT legislation that expands the list of hate crimes to include those committed due to disability, gender, and gender identity. **SUPPORT** legislation that calls for the equitable treatment and elimination of discrimination based on race, gender, religion, sexual orientation, and gender identity.

SUPPORT policies and legislation that further Broward County's Dismantling Racism Initiative, which is an educational platform to change perspectives from and perceptions of a focus on personal bigotry and bias, to develop the capacity of participants to better understand racism in its institutional and structural forms.

SUPPORT legislation banning housing discrimination based on source of income, military or veteran status, or status as a victim of domestic violence.

REGIONAL EMERGENCY SERVICES & COMMUNICATIONS

COMMUNICATION SERVICES TAX

SUPPORT the maintenance of an equitable tax structure for communication products and services. **OPPOSE** efforts to reduce the tax base and revenues and efforts to reduce local government's ability to manage its public rights-of-way.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND MANAGEMENT

SUPPORT public safety initiatives, funding for much needed public safety facilities, and the implementation of policies protecting countywide emergency communication infrastructure.

SUPPORT measures that increase flexibility for counties to respond to and recover from emergency incidents.

SUPPORT a viable, fully integrated and coordinated local, state, and federal disaster response structure. County emergency managers are the first to respond to citizens and visitors during all emergencies including terrorism and natural disasters.

SUPPORT an "all hazards" approach to emergency management, allowing local emergency managers the highest degree of flexibility in the expenditure of state and federal funds.

RESILIENT ENVIRONMENT

ALTERNATIVE FUEL VEHICLES AND CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE

SUPPORT legislative initiatives to expand the use of electric vehicles and other low-carbon alternative fuel vehicles, including hybrid and hydrogen fuel cell, vehicles, and support the expansion of electric vehicle charging infrastructure.

ANIMAL CARE

SUPPORT policies which protect the personal identifying information of animal service employees.

BUILDING CODE

SUPPORT legislation that allows local governments to adopt local amendments to the Florida Building Code (FBC) pertaining to energy conservation and amendments which would allow those local amendments to carry over into new editions of the FBC, subject to the normal review and modification procedures outlined in law and the Code. **SUPPORT** legislation or Florida Building Code updates requiring higher energy performance standards and resilience standards for new and existing buildings including, but not limited to, energy conservation, renewable energy, drainage, flood elevation, wetproofing, and seawall requirements, to prepare for and lessen the impacts of future conditions.

SUPPORT policies that allow counties to issue permits for new construction of county-owned buildings.

EVERGLADES RESTORATION

SUPPORT continued state funding for Everglades Restoration Projects under the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP), specifically the Broward County Water Preserve Area (WPA) and the Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP). Additionally, the Board recognizes that the Everglades and associated CERP projects contribute valuable educational and recreational benefits to residents and tourists. **SUPPORT** state and federal funding to construct 13 miles of trail and other recreational components of the WPA that will provide significant recreational benefits to the County-owned Everglades Holiday Park.

OPPOSE the sale of undeveloped lands within Broward County under the South Florida Water Management District's land assessment program that support restoration of the Everglades and protect natural resources.

EXEMPTIONS TO ANONYMOUS CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORTING

SUPPORT policies that allow code inspectors to initiate enforcement proceedings for reported violations of building codes made pursuant to an anonymous complaint if the violation relates to a childcare facility.

HIGH-PRESSURE WELL STIMULATION

SUPPORT legislation that prohibits high-pressure well stimulation and matrix acidization in the state, specifically for oil and gas wells. **SUPPORT** legislation that clarifies that a permit for drilling or operating an oil or gas well does not authorize the performance of high-pressure well stimulation or matrix acidization.

OPPOSE preemption of local regulation of extreme well stimulation and oil and gas exploration and extraction, including hydraulic fracturing.

LOCAL OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING PROGRAMS

SUPPORT legislation that repeals or revises s. 163.211, F.S, before the sunset date of the law, July 1, 2025, to allow counties the ability to maintain local occupational licensing programs, which protect small business owners and consumers.

PER-AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES (PFAS) REGULATION LIABILITY

SUPPORT proposals that exempt airports, seaports, and water and wastewater services from liability for costs, damages or penalties related to PFAS contamination. If regulatory actions are developed, **SUPPORT** efforts for state agencies to work closely with local governments throughout the rule-making process. **OPPOSE** preemption of state or local regulations addressing PFAS contamination.

RECYCLING AND SOLID WASTE

SUPPORT funding and legislation to implement equitable and informed recycling access to consumers including policies that increase education, outreach, and consumer behavioral change. **SUPPORT** modernizing and upgrading materials recovery facilities, expediting the adoption of renewable and/or zero-emission technologies, and increasing access to recycling containers.

RENEWABLE ENERGY

SUPPORT legislation that moves the state towards carbon-free electricity generation by 2050.

SUPPORT legislation that streamlines the permitting and regulatory processes for solar product manufacturers, installers, and consumers. **SUPPORT** legislation reducing burdensome regulations on solar manufacturers and products that hamper solar photovoltaic (PV) market penetration.

SUPPORT legislation encouraging direct financing, tax refunds, rebates, or other economic incentives to encourage and facilitate solar photovoltaic energy use and battery storage in residential and commercial properties. **SUPPORT** legislation strengthening local governments' ability to create voluntary energy financing districts.

SUPPORT the preservation of Resiliency Energy Environment Florida (REEF), formerly Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE), as a finance strategy to expand investments in weatherization, energy efficiency, and renewable energy by residential and commercial property owners through voluntary property assessments.

OPPOSE legislation that would diminish economics of net metering for energy utility customers.

V. DEPARTMENT POLICY PROPOSALS

Each County Department, Division, Office, and Section may submit proposed policy proposals that may be addressed in the current Legislative Session or carried over until the policy has been successfully implemented or removed by the Commission, whichever comes first.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING CAPITAL FACILITY & IMPACT FEES | HOUSING FINANCE AUTHORITY

Amend [s. 163.3180, F.S.](#) - Concurrency, to include "affordable housing unit construction" in the definition of "capital facility." This would provide stronger authority for the County to apply impact fees for affordable housing to commercial development by defining affordable housing as a "capital facility" under state law. In addition, affordable housing impact fees would provide a source of revenue for the funding of affordable housing programs and projects, and ultimately increase the supply of affordable housing units in Broward County.

Require that affordable projects funded by impact fees remain affordable over the long-term (e.g., minimum of 30 years). This will most likely result in commercial developments paying additional impact fees. County residents would benefit from an increased number of affordable housing units. Local governments would benefit from the collection of impact fees to fund affordable housing programs and projects, and affordable housing developers and agencies would benefit from increased funding.

BACKGROUND

In 2019, the Legislature approved [Ch. 2019-165, L.O.F.](#), which authorizes counties and municipalities to continue using inclusionary housing ordinances that require a developer to either provide a specified number or percentage of affordable housing units within a development, or require the developer to contribute to a housing fund or other alternative. In exchange, a county or municipality must provide incentives to fully offset all costs to the developer for its affordable housing contribution. Incentives may include:

- Allowing the developer density or intensity bonus incentives or more floor space than allowed under the current or proposed future land use designations.
- Reducing or waiving fees, such as impact fees or water and sewer charges.

Additionally, the law codifies the dual rational nexus test by requiring an impact fee to be proportional and have a rational nexus both to the need for additional capital facilities and to the expenditure of funds collected and the benefits accruing to the new construction. Local governments must designate the funds collected from impact fees for acquiring, constructing, or improving capital facilities to benefit new users.

Affordable housing is one of the most critical issues facing Broward County. While we are expecting a significant increase in job growth across the county and region, the shortage of affordable workforce housing has risen exponentially. In 2019, Florida International University's Metropolitan Center published a study titled the [Broward County Commercial Linkage Fee Nexus Study](#). The Study found that new commercial development creates demand for new affordable housing, resulting in a rational nexus between development and the imposition of impact fees required under state law. More than 911,000 very low-income households pay more than 50% of their income on housing and these individuals and families are one missed paycheck away from homelessness.

CONDOMINIUM INSPECTIONS AND RESERVES | BUILDING CODE DIVISION

STRUCTURAL INTEGRITY RESERVE STUDIES AND FUNDING

SUPPORT amending s.718.112, F.S., to extend the date a condominium must maintain certain reserves pursuant to a structural integrity reserve study and/or find a suitable funding mechanism to help condominiums reach such reserves.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR PUBLIC RECORDS EXEMPTION | COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

SUPPORT a public records exemption for county administrators, deputy county administrators, and assistant county administrators.

BACKGROUND

Protecting the private information of senior county leadership and their families is a public necessity. Over the past several years, and particularly because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the County Administrator of Broward County received death threats requiring investigation by law enforcement. The state must address and neutralize threats of violence against county government policymakers and prevent those threats from escalating into violence. County administrators, deputy county administrators and assistant county administrators provide essential functions for the continuity of local government and must be protected. The abuse of the public records requests system has created security gaps that must be addressed to ensure that the public's First Amendment rights are balanced against the rights of county leadership to be safe and secure.

PEER-TO-PEER RIDESHARING | AVIATION DEPARTMENT

SUPPORT legislation that requires peer-to-peer car-sharing service providers to enter into an agreement with a public airport for such services.

BACKGROUND

Peer-to-peer car sharing is a rental platform like Airbnb, but for cars. Some companies allow people who own cars to hire them out for a few hours to a few weeks. Rental car companies have been lobbying state legislatures to regulate car-sharing platforms as rental agencies, in the same way that hotel chains and taxi companies spearheaded efforts to regulate online vacation rentals and ride-sharing apps.

Currently, peer-to-peer companies may enter into contracts/agreements with locally owned airports; however, locally owned airports need to ensure that these car-sharing platforms are required to enter into contracts/agreements. Without the mandatory distinction, locally owned airports will be at a disadvantage to enforce local authority over these entities. Agreements/contracts should be mandatory for use of the airport facilities on the same terms and conditions, including, but not limited to, the requirement to pay fees, like those required of off-airport rental car companies that use airport facilities.

INCIDENT REPORT SHARING / CRISIS INTERVENTION AND SUPPORT DIVISION

SUPPORT legislation that requires law enforcement agencies to share police reports for incidents of sexual violence with the nearest certified sexual assault program.

BACKGROUND

Law enforcement is required to share police reports of domestic violence with the nearest locally certified domestic violence center within 24 hours of receipt of the report. This proposal would require the same for reports of sexual violence. This is necessary due to the significant disparity of sexual assaults reported to LE compared to those referred to a rape crisis center for services. Per FDLE, in 2021, 592 cases were reported in Broward with only 248 of those were referred to the County's only certified rape crisis center (RCC). The RCC needs the reports to reach out to victims/survivors to offer support and services.

Sexual violence negatively impacts not only the individual victimized, but also the individual's loved ones, the community, and society. The individual experiences emotional, psychological, and physical trauma that can last a lifetime. The victim's loved ones may share in the trauma as they support the victim. The violence also causes fear in the community as it deals with the heinous crime. An incidence of sexual violence also breaches society's trust and imposes a substantial financial burden including medical, mental health services, criminal justice expenses, and loss of productivity from those impacted. This legislative proposal will expedite the victim/survivor connection to professionals at RCC's to begin their journey to recovery no matter the outcome of the investigation or prosecution process.

VI. BROWARD COUNTY'S APPROPRIATIONS REQUESTS

HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT REQUESTS

BAKER ACT ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION

SUPPORT state funding of up to \$300,000 for a local pilot program seeking to find alternative cost-efficient and humane methods of transportation for medically stable behavioral health patients from on-scene to the appropriate mental health receiving facilities.

BROWARD ADDICTION RECOVERY CENTER – PEER SUPPORT SPECIALISTS PROGRAM

SUPPORT state funding of up to \$490,000 for a local peer support initiative to increase the number of certified peer support specialists providing peer-based care at licensed substance use disorder (SUD) providers.

HOUSING SUPPORT SERVICES

SUPPORT state funding of up to \$1,000,000 for the Broward County Housing Options and Support Services Division to fund eviction prevention programs for the elderly and tenants below the federal poverty level. These programs help prevent unjust evictions by providing legal and financial support, connecting tenants with services, and improving their budgeting and housing stability.

SUPPORT state funding of up to \$1,000,000 for rental assistance programs to provide immediate financial relief to those at risk of losing their housing to homelessness and stabilize vulnerable households.

SUPPORT state funding of up to \$1,000,000 for mental health services.

NANCY J. COTTERMAN CENTER – CRISIS INTERVENTION PROGRAMS

SUPPORT state funding of up to \$585,000 for the Nancy J. Cotterman Center (NJCC) in FY 2025, which improves and enhances the quality of life for child and adult survivors of human trafficking, sexual assault, and child abuse through effective forensically sensitive interventions implemented by professionals specializing in these fields. Survivors will have the support needed to successfully go through the criminal justice system increasing the likelihood of reporting and successful criminal prosecution of the offender.

PUBLIC WORKS APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST

BROWARD COUNTY FORENSIC SCIENCE CENTER

SUPPORT funding of \$5 million for the design phase and preconstruction services for the Broward County Forensic Science Center, a forensics and criminology facility that will collocate two major Forensic Science and Pathology Institutes of Broward County, the Broward County Office of Medical Examiner & Trauma Services (OMETS) and the Broward Sheriff's Office (BSO) Crime Laboratory and Crime Scene Unit that is a state responsibility. The building will provide advanced technological and scientific tools for forensic experts to meet the demands of a growing County population. The new facility supports broad scientific pursuits such as medical examination and evidence analysis that will benefit the community by answering the difficult questions that follow death and criminal activity.

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS CENTER

SUPPORT state funding of up to \$5,000,000 for planning and design of a new Emergency Operations and Communications Center, which will include a Public Safety Answering point and dispatch center for taking and responding to emergency calls.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION

SUPPORT state funding of up to \$1,000,000 in FY 2025 to fund 50 percent of the environmental remediation of publicly owned land in Broward County.

MUNICIPAL APPROPRIATIONS REQUESTS

MIRAMAR PARKWAY

SUPPORT an appropriations request filed by the City of Miramar seeking funding for the surtax supported project extending of Pembroke Road to US27 and improvements to Miramar Parkway.

VII. STATEWIDE APPROPRIATIONS REQUESTS

911 SERVICE FUNDING

SUPPORT an increase to monthly telephone 911 fees to cover the increasing costs associated with providing 911 services.

ALTERNATIVE WATER SUPPLY

SUPPORT a minimum of \$50 million of state funding for an alternative water supply and water resource development grant program to help communities plan for climate impacts affecting water supply and availability and to implement conservation, reuse, and other water supply and water resource development projects.

BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB

SUPPORT state funding for Florida's Boys and Girls Clubs so youth may continue to benefit from the organization's 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.

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.

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.

EARLY LEARNING FUNDING

SUPPORT increased funding for children in early learning and school age care to ensure access to educational and enrichment programs that support low-income working families and children's readiness for and success in school. **SUPPORT** investments in early learning infrastructure through stabilization grants to providers and additional funding to families for childcare.

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (FDOT) FIVE-YEAR WORK PROGRAM FUNDING

SUPPORT continued funding for projects in the FDOT adopted Five-Year Work Program, which are prioritized based on the level of the return on investment. The Program provides a reliable source of capital funding.

FLORIDA JOB GROWTH FUND

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, encouraging businesses to choose Florida as a business destination.

FLORIDA RECREATION DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (FRDAP) FUNDING

SUPPORT and encourage the state to reinstate full funding to the Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program (FRDAP). The FRDAP assists local governments in improving and/or completing capital construction projects focused on recreation. Investing in such capital improvements support tourism and recreation throughout Florida.

HIV/AIDS FUNDING

SUPPORT full funding and increased access to the Florida AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) by locating program services in community health centers and local community pharmacies. **SUPPORT** expanding ADAP's insurance premium assistance program, which allows for patient adherence and increased availability of antiretroviral and opportunistic infection medications, as well as over the counter medications required by low income and uninsured HIV positive persons with comorbid conditions.

SUPPORT implementation of National HIV/AIDS Strategy goals in state funded programs promoting prevention and testing efforts that include care and treatment models and viral load data to monitor HIV burden and treatment outcomes for local communities. Increase financial support to communities with a high incidence of sexually transmitted diseases to expand the availability of same day screening and treatment sites in communities at greatest risk.

HOME AND COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES FUNDING

SUPPORT funding of home and community-based services at a minimum of \$24 million.

Historically, Home and Community Based Services for seniors have been funded at a deficit. These programs allow older adults to age in place with dignity and minimal support. They defer/delay admittance to long-term care facilities and reduce the growth of Medicaid spending.

As of August 27, 2024, there were 118,510 Floridians on the Department of Elder Affairs Assessed Prioritized Consumer List, of which 5,339 are Broward County residents. Additional recurring funding necessary to service these frail seniors is as follows:

Florida's Alzheimer's Disease Initiative (ADI)

The ADI provides services to meet the changing needs of individuals and families living with Alzheimer's disease and similar memory disorders. The ADI respite care is available for caregivers of adults who have been diagnosed as having probable Alzheimer's disease or other related memory disorders, where mental changes appear and interfere with daily activities. Respite services include in-home, adult day care, emergency, and extended care (up to 30 days) for caregivers who serve patients with memory disorders. The ADI also provides for support services including case management, specialized medical equipment and supplies, caregiver counseling and support groups, and caregiver training.

Community Care for the Elderly (CCE)

CCE provides community-based services organized in a continuum of care to help functionally impaired elders live in the least restrictive, yet most cost-effective environment suitable to their needs. Eligible clients may receive a wide range of goods and services, including: adult day care, adult day health care, case management, case aide, chore, companionship, consumable medical supplies, counseling, escort, emergency alert response, emergency home repair, home-delivered meals, home health aide, homemaker, home nursing, information and referral, legal assistance, material aid, medical therapeutic services, personal care, respite, shopping assistance, transportation, and other community-based services.

Home Care for the Elderly (HCE)

HCE supports care for Floridians age 60 and older in family-type living arrangements within private homes, as an alternative to institutional or nursing home care. A basic subsidy averaging \$160 per month is provided for all program participants. Special subsidies are authorized for some consumers and can be used for incontinence supplies, medications, medical supplies, wheelchairs, assistive devices, ramps and home accessibility modifications, nutritional supplements, home health aide, home nursing, and other services to help maintain the individual at home. Formal case management is provided when needed.

HOMELESSNESS

SUPPORT \$3 million for local coalition funding for Florida’s coordinating agency for the 28 local homeless coalitions, which includes Broward County, that draw down more than \$80 million in federal funds targeted to housing and supportive services for homeless individuals and families. **SUPPORT** funding of individual coalitions through a statewide coordinating entity that has become a best practice in social service delivery systems.

SUPPORT the full funding of the Challenge Grant Program at \$5 million. The Challenge Grant Program authorized by s. [420.622\(4\)](#), F.S., assists the local homeless Continuum of Cares (CoC) in meeting the needs of individuals and families experiencing homelessness as identified in the CoC Plan. Statutory language also provides that each CoC may be awarded up to \$750,000, annually. Funds are utilized for housing navigation, as it is a priority identified in the updated CoC plan.

SUPPORT \$560,406 for the State of Florida Office on Homelessness. The Florida Office on Homelessness is essential for the receipt of non-entitlement federal funds and to coordinating the activities of the Council on Homelessness.

LIBRARY AND CULTURAL GRANTS FUNDING

SUPPORT the Florida Cultural Alliance’s Legislative Platform that calls for maintaining current levels of funding for all Division of Arts and Culture grants, as arts and culture support jobs, tourism, and education.

SUPPORT increased funding for the State Aid to Libraries Program to \$33 million. **SUPPORT** full funding of projects eligible for Public Library Construction Grant funding and full funding of State Aid to Libraries based on the current statutory formula providing counties a match for every local dollar spent.

MEDICAID EXPANSION

SUPPORT a state implemented Medicaid expansion to provide affordable healthcare coverage for uninsured Floridians.

NATIONAL SUICIDE AND CRISIS LIFELINE

SUPPORT funding for 988 call centers across Florida.

TANF EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

SUPPORT 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., which improves the County’s ability to prevent homelessness for Individuals and Families facing eviction and/or foreclosure.

VOLUNTARY PREKINDERGARTEN

SUPPORT increased funding for Florida’s Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program (VPK) to reduce the program waitlist in Broward County.