

Broward County State Legislative and Executive Program

2026 Legislative Session

Key Principles and Policies

Broward County supports:

1. Maximizing and protecting the County's autonomy as a Charter County (i.e. local elected officials setting ad valorem millage rates and appropriation levels).
 2. The County's strategic plan.
 3. Equitable state funding allocations.
 4. Partnerships to further joint priorities and goals with the following organizations: Florida Association of Counties, Florida Airports Council, Florida Ports Council, Florida Public Transit Association, Broward Behavioral Health Coalition, Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact, South Florida Regional Transportation Authority, South Florida Regional Planning Council, the Area Agency on Aging of Broward County, the Florida Cultural Alliance, and the 16 County Coalition for the Responsible Management of Lake Okeechobee.
 5. Collaboration with the state in the form of direct appropriation requests that enhance services for Broward County constituents.
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Commission Priorities

1. **Affordable Housing**
 - Advocate for increased funding to expand affordable housing initiatives, with particular attention to seniors and vulnerable populations.
 - Promote policies to balance resilience planning with affordable housing development to address climate risks.
 - Support full utilization of the Sadowski Affordable Housing Trust Fund for housing programs, opposing any diversion of these funds for unrelated purposes.
2. **Homelessness**
 - Secure increased funding to address homelessness through comprehensive housing navigation and support services.
 - Advocate for programs that provide emergency assistance with a focus on intervention and prevention such as eviction prevention and transitional housing for individuals and families in crisis.
 - Support initiatives targeting vulnerable groups, such as seniors, veterans, and individuals with mental health challenges, to break the cycle of homelessness.
3. **Economic Development**
 - Encourage the growth of small businesses through capacity-building programs, funding mechanisms, and initiatives.
 - Promote workforce development by investing in apprenticeship and training programs including hard-to-hire individuals.

- Incentivize economic development in Opportunity Zones.
 - Support incentives for creative industries, such as film, television, and digital media, to boost tourism and create high-wage jobs.
 - Support Tourist Development Taxes that produce capital investments and long-term agreements to fund both cash-funded capital projects as well as debt on the larger projects that improve and sustain tourism.
4. **Environmental Protection**
- Champion resilience efforts to address flooding and sea-level rise by supporting related state policies and funding initiatives.
 - Advocate for renewable energy adoption and the expansion of electric vehicle infrastructure.
 - Push for the preservation and restoration of critical natural resources and sustainable water management.
5. **Transportation (Multimodal including Airport and Seaport)**
- Prioritize funding for transportation solutions, including enhancements to public transit, airport, and seaport masterplans.
 - Support legislation to modernize transportation systems.
 - Advocate for increased investment in local and state transportation infrastructure projects.
 - Sustain the voter approved and state audited 30-year transportation surtax.
 - Multimodal Funding: Advocate for recurring funding for multimodal transportation options, including rail and public transportation.

Proposals for Consideration to Address Operational Efficiencies Consistent with Commission Priorities

1. **Affordable and Resilient Housing**
- **Affordable Housing Impact Fees:** Advocate for amendments to state laws to classify affordable housing as a "capital facility," enabling the imposition of impact fees on commercial developments to fund housing programs.
 - **Long-Term Affordability Requirements:** Push for policies ensuring affordable housing rental developments funded through impact fees remain affordable for at least 30 years.
 - **Building Code Resilience:** Support updates to the Florida Building Code to include stricter energy performance and resilience standards, such as flood elevation requirements, renewable energy integration, and structural fortifications.
2. **Public Safety and Emergency Management**
- **Enhanced Emergency Facilities:** Request funding for the design and construction of a modern Emergency Operations and Communications Center to improve disaster response and emergency communication systems.
 - **Forensic Science Center:** Request funding for the Broward County Forensic Science Center to efficiently provide forensic expertise for the Broward County Office of the Medical Examiner and Trauma Services and the Broward Sheriff's Office following death and criminal activity.

- **Flexible Disaster Response:** Advocate for increased flexibility in using state and federal disaster response funds, allowing for adaptive approaches to emergencies, including terrorism and natural disasters.
- 3. **Transportation**
 - **Peer-to-Peer Ridesharing:** Advocate for legislation requiring peer-to-peer car-sharing platforms to enter into agreements with public airports, ensuring fair regulation and consistent revenue from airport facility usage.
 - **Surtax Funded Projects:** Support municipal efforts to seek funding for the Miramar Parkway Extension (MIRA – 001, 002, 003, 004) and the Pompano Beach Dixie Highway (POMP - 002) surtax supported projects.
- 4. **Environmental Restoration and Protection**
 - **Everglades and Water Management:** Support state and federal funding for the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan and other initiatives aimed at preserving natural ecosystems and improving water management.
 - **Recycling and Solid Waste:** Promote modernized recycling infrastructure, education campaigns to improve consumer habits, and adoption of zero-emission technologies for waste management.
- 5. **Health and Human Services**
 - **Mental Health Support:** Request funding to expand peer support initiatives, increase detoxification bed capacity, and enhance crisis intervention programs for substance use disorders.
 - **Sexual Violence Reporting:** Advocate for legislation requiring law enforcement to share reports of sexual violence with certified rape crisis centers within 24 hours to ensure timely support and services for survivors, much like domestic violence cases are required to be shared under Florida law.
 - **Justice:** Support civil rights and equitable treatment of individuals.
 - **Public Safety:** Support criminal justice diversion programs and policies to reduce recidivism.
 - **Alternative Transportation for Behavioral Health:** Secure funding for pilot programs exploring humane and cost-efficient transportation solutions for mental health patients, reducing dependency on emergency services for non-critical transport needs.
- 6. **Economic Development**
 - **Workforce Housing Concurrency:** Develop policies requiring commercial developments to offset their impact on workforce housing needs through financial contributions or housing unit allocations.
 - **Small Business:** Support policies that foster fair competition practices among businesses including procurement and contracting opportunities. Propose funding for initiatives that provide technical assistance, financial literacy training, and support programs for small and disadvantaged businesses.
 - **Infrastructure Investments:** Advocate for significant investments in public infrastructure projects to enhance business opportunities and community connectivity.