

2013 STATE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM



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2013 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

Worldwide trade is being driven by a combination of political, economic, technological and environmental trends, as well as projected global business opportunities resulting from the expansion of the Panama Canal in 2015. Port Everglades is facing the challenges that these drivers pose along with increased competition from ports on the South Atlantic and Gulf coasts of the U.S. and the Caribbean. To complement our Master/Vision Plan investments, which capitalize on these drivers, a State adopted regionally based multimodal investment strategy is required. This must be a long-range plan that addresses infrastructure and terminal connectors, which includes building the physical capacity to enable ocean-carried cargo to and from Florida and beyond to be shipped directly to Florida seaports. Imperative initiatives to foster economic growth and increase direct foreign investments include strengthening the State in strategic funding partnership with all of Florida's seaports, the development of alternatives to fund vital capital improvement projects and the funding for a freight mobility program.

MEDICAID REFORM

Oppose any efforts to further limit Medicaid access or eligibility and oppose efforts to increase the County 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, 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 compensating the state for any unfunded mandates regarding juvenile justice. Further, the Board opposes eliminating state financial responsibility for juvenile detention, thus fully shifting the pre-dispositional secure detention funding and operational obligation to counties, unless the state appropriates money to fund juvenile detention upon delegating full responsibility to counties. We support the recommendations jointly presented by counties and DJJ to the Governor, through the efforts of the workgroup created in 2011 proviso, to reform the juvenile justice system. The Board supports legislation that provides opportunities for counties to develop, invest in, and implement alternatives to divert children and youth from secure detention facilities and opposes any policy increasing numbers of youth in adult facilities. The Board supports legislation that improves the accountability of the educational systems within juvenile detention facilities.

MEDICAID COUNTY COST SHARE

Oppose further legislative attempts to increase Florida counties' mandated payments for nursing home and inpatient hospitalization, which are the State's Medicaid financial responsibility. Oppose any effort to create a cost-sharing or mandated payment structure that is not based on actual

utilization and individually documented by user data. Support the Agency for Health Care Administration's efforts to improve data systems and billing practices. Oppose any additional erosion of counties' revenue through legislative mandates requiring counties to pay a portion of the State's share of Medicaid match, through revenue sharing or other direct-withholding.

OCEAN OUTFALL

Support legislation to amend the state's Ocean Outfall law to provide fiscal relief for taxpayers and local residents while also providing protection of our natural resources.

SHIFT OF PRISON INMATE TO JAILS

Oppose any attempt to shift inmates from prisons to jails when a sentence is less than one year at the time of sentencing.

STUDENT SAFETY

Support a requirement that emergency response agencies must notify private schools if the schools opt into the district school board's emergency notification procedures.

APPROPRIATIONS PRIORITIES

AVIATION GRANT PROGRAM

Support state funding for airport development that is equal to or exceeds the Florida Department of Transportation Tentative Work Plan for FY 2013-14.

BEACH RENOURISHMENT

Support the \$20,810,000 state appropriation request submitted by Broward County to support mitigation construction, beach fill and monitoring of the Segment II Beach Renourishment Project as a federally-reimbursable project. Support the protection and retention of the dedicated use of documentary stamp revenues for beach erosion programs and sand bypassing projects throughout the state of Florida.

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 community mental health and substance abuse services for children and adolescents.

CHILD PROTECTION TEAMS (CPT)

Support 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 overall program funds to ensure their continuation as a permanent part of the state budget. Support CMS management of the CPT system within DOH and oppose moving the system to any other department through reorganization.

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 recurring funding to the Homeless Housing Assistance Grant (HHAG) program to produce new permanent housing units for persons experiencing homelessness and support recurring funding for the Homeless Challenge Grant through the state Office on Homelessness.

LIBRARY GRANTS-IN-AID AND LIBRARY CONSTRUCTION GRANTS

Support full funding of libraries.

PORT EVERGLADES

Support \$34,500,000 request in non-recurring funds for preliminary engineering, design, permitting and construction for projects associated with Southport Turning Notch Extension which will create 2,227 temporary construction jobs, 5,529 new regional permanent jobs, and \$252.2 million in state and local taxes by the year 2027.

SERVICES FOR DEVELOPMENTAL DELAYS AND DISABILITIES AND COMPLEX MEDICAL NEEDS

Support the current levels of funding or greater for children and adolescents with developmental delays and disabilities and complex medical needs.

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 and expand the permitted uses of those funds to include administrative costs in the implementation of Driver Education programs in public and non-public schools.

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 s. 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.

WORKER'S COMPENSATION VERIFICATION

Amend Florida law to eliminate the requirement that building departments must receive a certificate of coverage, a state exemption letter or a copy of an employer's authority to self-insure for worker's compensation each time they receive a building permit application or issue a building permit.

LOST PERSONAL PROPERTY

Amend state law to provide authorization for 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

The Board supports the creation of state wide safety regulations, standards, and inspections for the parasailing industry.

REMOVAL OF CONVICTED FELONS FROM VOTER REGISTRATION

Require the Division of Elections to implement an electronic process to notify County Supervisors of Elections when a voter's rights have been suspended.

EARLY VOTING SITE EXPANSION

Expand locations where early voting may be conducted.

EARLY VOTING DAYS

Increase the number of days Early Voting may be held.

STUDENT SAFETY ALERT

Require school district emergency response agencies to notify private schools in the same manner public schools are notified of emergencies.

COMPETITIVE EATING CONTESTS

Require venues hosting competitive eating contests or events to have certified medical personnel on site.

TEXTING WHILE DRIVING

Support legislation prohibiting the operation of a motor vehicle manually typing or entering multiple letters, numbers, symbols, or other text in wireless communication device, or sending or reading data in the device, for the purpose of non-voice interpersonal communication.

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 and 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 play in our economy and quality of life, the Board supports legislation that promotes and enhances arts, culture, and historic preservation. The Board also supports the continuation of recurring funding for cultural affairs and historic preservation appropriations requests, including capital projects. The Board supports increased funding for the Viva Florida 500 Small Matching Historic Preservation Grant Program. The Board also supports increased statewide funding for the Entertainment Industry Financial Incentive Program.

Additionally, libraries are a free resource to the community that bring 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 Board supports the County's involvement into a global center for trade and investment. The Board supports legislation reviving or reenacting the Florida-Caribbean Basin Trade Initiative. The Board supports increased trade opportunities by funding resources for expanding Sister City programs and initiatives in concert with Chambers of Commerce. The Board supports legislation that promotes and enhances the growth of foreign direct investment, domestic and international trade, and travel and tourism as facilitated by its Office of Economic and Small Business Development, Convention & Visitors Bureau, Port Everglades Department and Aviation Department (Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport). The Board also supports programs and efforts providing capital formation for small and emerging businesses, the expansion and creation of enterprise zones, and commercial revitalization projects that create jobs and help to enhance redevelopment in all economically-distressed areas of the County. The Board opposes legislation that results in a disadvantage for county economic development, in general, and tourism, seaport, aviation, and transportation, specifically, and legislation which impedes the County's ability to make competitive business decisions.

EMERGING AND SMALL BUSINESS ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

Recognizing the significant role business plays in our economy, the Board encourages the growth and development of emerging and small business enterprises within our geographical boundaries. The Board supports policies and legislation that assist small, minority, and women-owned businesses through such capacity building components as access to banking and financing, insurance and bonding, business development and management technical assistance, and mentor-protégée programming. Specifically, the Board supports the creation of small business loan programs targeted to small and emerging businesses in Broward County. In addition, the Board supports prompt payment of contractors and subcontractors.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

The Board supports legislation that promotes energy efficiency. The Board supports legislation calling for greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to be reduced to 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050. The Board supports legislation that provides technical assistance and funding for counties to implement GHG emissions reduction programs. The Board also supports modes of transportation that encourage fewer cars on the road, such as public transit and transportation that utilizes alternative/clean renewable fuels.

CLIMATE ADAPTATION PLANNING AND SEA LEVEL RISE PROJECTIONS

Florida is considered one of the most vulnerable regions in the country to the consequences of climate change, with Southeast Florida on the frontline to experience impacts such as sea level rise. In recognition of this, the Board supports legislation that provides for greater incorporation of mitigation and adaptation strategies in the development and implementation of state climate and energy legislation and appropriations priorities. In particular, the Board supports current law which authorizes local governments to designate Adaptation Action Areas within their comprehensive plans and opposes any efforts to repeal current law or any initiatives that may serve to weaken the advances made to further climate preparedness, risk management, and hazard mitigation.

FLORIDA QUALIFIED ENERGY CONSERVATION BONDS (QECB)

The Board recognizes the contributions of the commercial and residential sectors to regional GHG emissions and the need to incentivize energy efficiency improvements and renewable energy installations through low cost finance strategies. The Board supports state efforts to expand the energy efficient finance options available to local governments, residents, and businesses. Through a U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Program and pursuant to DOE Guidance on July 27, 2010 that requires Legislative and or Executive Office approval, the state of Florida is able to access \$190 million in Qualified Energy Conservation Bond (QECB) funds. The Board supports necessary legislative or executive action to allow local governments to access portions of Florida's QECB allocation, in accordance with DOE guidelines.

RENEWABLE ENERGY PORTFOLIO STANDARD

The Board supports the passage of legislation that establishes a renewable energy portfolio standard of 20 percent renewable energy by 2020 and which defines renewable energy sources as wind, solar, geothermal, biomass, landfill gas, qualified hydropower, marine and hydrokinetic energy, and nuclear energy production that is safe and cost effective.

SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) ENERGY

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

The Board supports legislation encouraging direct financing, tax refunds, rebates, or other economic incentives to encourage and facilitate solar PV energy use in residential and commercial properties. The Board further supports incentives to promote the use of solar power purchase agreements and solar leases. Additionally, the Board supports legislation authorizing local governments to create energy financing districts on a voluntary basis.

SOUTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE COMPACT COUNTIES 2013 LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

As an ongoing effort to develop and collaborate regionally on energy and climate issues, the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact Counties of Broward, Miami-Dade, Palm Beach and Monroe and municipal partners renew support for the 2013 Southeast Florida Regional State and Federal Climate Legislative Program and affirm support for the following state legislative policies for 2013:

Adaptation Action Areas/Sea Level Rise:

Oppose any legislation or forthcoming state actions that would serve to preempt local governments' authority pursuant to current law to use peer reviewed science and assessments to determine plausible future climatic conditions including the future rates of sea-level change, precipitation patterns and temperatures. Current law respects home rule and the responsibility of local government to prudently and objectively plan for the protection of private and public property, health and welfare of Floridians.

Support legislation which complements and enhances the utilization and implementation of Adaptation Action Area comprehensive plan designation in law for areas that experience coastal flooding and that are vulnerable to the related impacts of sea level rise.

Electric Generation Fuels:

Oppose policies, legislation and incentives designed to facilitate the construction or expansion of coal-fired electric generation within the State of Florida as a strategy for "fuel diversity."

Support legislation to repeal s. 366.93, Florida Statutes, directing the Florida Public Service Commission to provide for advanced cost recovery for all costs incurred by investor owned utilities in constructing nuclear and integrated gasification combined cycle (IGCC) power plants and associated infrastructure.

Energy Efficiency:

Support energy efficiency and renewable energy finance options to advance greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions goals, alternative and renewable energy technologies, and green sector economic development.

Support rebate programs and other financial incentives that help to facilitate energy conservation and build climate resilient communities.

Energy Finance Options:

Support energy finance options that provide both local and regional opportunities, including legislative action to allow local governments to access a portion of the State's Qualified Energy Conservation Bond allocation, in accordance with Department of Energy Guidelines.

Everglades:

Support funding that will provide for the complete implementation of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan as fundamental to Everglades Restoration, and policies that recognize the role of a restored Everglades in planning for sustainability, climate adaptation, including the impacts of sea level rise and extreme weather, such as droughts and floods.

Investment Priorities:

Support funding for adaptation planning and investments in the areas of water management, water supply, transportation and other projects that provide hazard mitigation and serve to reduce immediate and long-term risks to infrastructure.

Support the recognition of areas identified as Adaptation Action Areas, or any other area subject to the impacts of sea level rise, in the prioritization of future funding for transportation, including roads and bridges, drainage and stormwater infrastructure projects funding.

Renewable Portfolio Standards:

Support state policies that promote alternative energy use such as renewable energy portfolio standards for utilities and tax credits for homeowners installing small-scale renewable systems.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

AIR QUALITY

Clean air is an essential natural resource that is important to public health, our environment, and our economy. Poor air quality can have a significant impact on public health, business, property and tourism. The Board supports the goals of the Clean Air Act and specifically legislation that would reduce air pollution and the adverse health impacts of poor air quality such as chronic respiratory ailments, asthma, cardiovascular disease, and premature mortality. The Board supports amending state law to enable direct pass-through funding of Title V air pollution fees to approved local air pollution control programs. The Board also supports preservation of current statutes establishing local pollution control programs and establishing funding to local air pollution control programs through the Air Pollution Control Trust Fund. The Board opposes any legislation that reduces funding to air quality protection programs.

BEACHES

Florida's beaches are a critical part of the state's travel and tourism industry, generating jobs and local, state, and federal tax revenues. Beaches are also the first line of defense against hurricane and storm surge threats to life and property. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' studies confirm that healthy beaches reduce flood damage to coastal properties, resulting in a reduction in federal disaster rehabilitation payouts. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection estimates that more than one-third of Florida's 787 miles of beaches are in a state of critical erosion. The Board supports the restoration to previous levels of the dedicated use of documentary stamp revenues for

beach erosion programs throughout the state of Florida in order to protect and maintain these essential elements that are vital to our environmental and economic infrastructure. The Board supports and encourages the state of Florida to study and promote methodologies, in addition to sand replenishment, which would prevent or repair beach erosion.

ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS

The Board has long valued its ability to protect the County's natural resources, including its sole source aquifer, the Biscayne Aquifer, through environmental regulatory programs such as surface water management, pollution prevention, natural systems preservation, and air quality monitoring. The Board opposes any legislation that lessens environmental protection at the local level, including preemption of local environmental regulatory authority such as through uniform statewide rules and standards on issues related to environmental regulations and enforcement. The Board opposes any reduction of funding to local environmental programs, particularly funding from the Inland Protection Trust Fund and the Air Trust Fund. In addition, the Board opposes any efforts that would negatively impact the County's ability to regulate air and water quality or the County's wetlands and marine resources, including through its delegated authority to implement the state Environmental Resource Permit (ERP) Program.

EVERGLADES RESTORATION

The Board supports Everglades restoration, recognizing that improving water quality is a key component to restoring the Everglades. The Board supports land acquisition and the acceleration of the project planning as defined in the Central Everglades Project Plan as a means to achieve water quality benefits.

The Board further recognizes that Everglades restoration is key to regional climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts. The expansive acreage of the Everglades provides the most significant opportunities for vegetative carbon sequestration in South Florida. Furthermore, rehydration of the Everglades will help to ensure adequate freshwater supply in the face of rising sea levels. The Board supports continued Everglades restoration as part of a regional climate change strategy.

The Board supports the construction, federal authorization and funding for, the Broward County Water Preserve Area (WPA), and the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP). Additionally, the Board recognizes that the Everglades and associated CERP projects contribute valuable educational and recreational benefits to residents and tourists. The Board strongly supports construction of, and state and federal funding for, 13 miles of trail and other recreational components of the WPA that provide significant recreational benefits to Everglades Holiday Park.

FLORIDA FOREVER/LAND ACQUISITION PROGRAMS

Land acquisition programs and initiatives are critical to preserving and protecting the state's endangered natural resources. The Board supports local, state, and federal land acquisition programs and initiatives, and urges the Legislature to fund Florida Forever. Recognizing that since 2009 the Legislature has provided only \$23 million for this landmark program, a 97% reduction

from previous funding, and that financing for land management and ecological restoration, including the Everglades, has been similarly diminished, the Board supports efforts to provide a dedicated funding source for Florida Forever.

OCEAN OUTFALLS

In 2008, the Legislature amended the ocean outfall law to provide for the elimination of ocean outfalls by 2025 and provide for interim advanced wastewater treatment and management requirements by 2018. In 2011 and 2012, legislation favorable to Broward County and other local governments in Southeast Florida was considered but failed during the final hours of both sessions. The Board supports legislation to amend the state's ocean outfall law to provide fiscal relief for taxpayers and local residents while also providing protection of our natural resources. To this end, the Board supports legislation that will: maintain current law that allows backup discharges of a functioning domestic wastewater reuse system after December 31, 2025, which meets equivalent advanced wastewater treatment standards; allows the discharge of up to 5 percent of the annual facility flow for peak flow management, subject to applicable secondary wastewater treatment and water quality based effluent limitations as prescribed in the Florida Department of Environmental Protection rules; and direct the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the South Florida Water Management District to collaborate with utilities to adjust mandated reuse requirements as dictated by future supply and demand.

WATER POLICY

The Board supports Florida's existing water law that is based on the principles that water is a public resource and that water allocations may not be sold or transferred. The Board supports current law which provides sufficient protection for water and natural resources while also providing for reasonable and beneficial uses of water for the public. The Board opposes any efforts to modify Chapter 373 in a way that would significantly amend the fundamentals of existing Florida Water Law that may lessen these protections. The Board further opposes any efforts to establish a statewide, centralized water authority to oversee statewide water distribution with potential implications for local water supply and water resource management. The Board supports policies that recognize conservation activities as a viable water supply planning option, reducing the need to develop other water supplies, and projects which can be offset by conservation strategies. The Board supports funding for goal-based water conservation activities that provide measurable results. The Board supports policies that offer local governments flexibility in the pursuit of alternative water supplies and consideration of regional, multijurisdictional water supply projects, as well as dedicated and continued funding for Alternative Water Supply projects and legislative changes that would improve the project planning and development process to better meet the growing water supply needs of the County. Specifically, the Board renews support for the "Water Protection and Sustainability Program" as provided for in SB 444, the Water Resources Act of 2005, as a source to advance the County's efforts to develop and fund critical water supply projects and programs.

WATER QUALITY

The Board supports the protection of surface waters and groundwater and the establishment of numeric water quality standards that are scientifically defensible. The Board supports the establishment of science-based standards that protect existing water quality and the designated uses of surface waterbodies and connected downstream systems. The Board opposes the establishment of numeric water quality criteria that are unnecessarily restrictive and do not reflect the range of water quality capable of supporting a designated use, as well as those that do not allow for the natural variability measured in aquatic ecosystems.

The Board supports the environmental protections provided through implementation of the Clean Water Act and recognizes the important role of local governments to develop rules and regulations needed to improve and protect the quality of waterbodies and downstream systems. The Board supports the authority of local governments to develop and implement programs and regulations to reduce nutrient loads to impaired water bodies and water resources of concern. Specifically, the Board supports the authority of governments to adopt local fertilizer ordinances and opposes legislation that would preempt local governments from adopting standards more restrictive than the Model Ordinance. Additionally, the Board supports regulations that require regular maintenance of septic tanks.

FINANCE AND TAX

Counties need a revenue base that serves local needs and adequately finances the services and programs required by state and federal mandates. Taxpayer Bill of Rights (TABOR) and other proposals seeking to limit the growth of ad valorem taxes have been considered during recent sessions of the Legislature. In many cases, these proposals are one-size-fits-all measures that cap local government spending and revenue to a defined base amount, plus inflation and population growth, or establish an unrealistic “aggregate” property tax cap. The effects of the ongoing recession along with revenue reductions resulting from the 2008 passage of HB 1B and Amendment 1 have strained the County’s ability to provide needed services to its residents as well as restricted the future recovery of revenue growth. These provisions would further limit local governments’ already decreasing tax base and stress the County’s continued obligation to provide essential services and ensure a good quality of life for its residents. Accordingly, 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. The Board additionally opposes any efforts to repeal or reduce local business tax receipts.

COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES

The Communications Services Tax (CST) is a significant revenue source supporting municipal-level services in unincorporated Broward. The Board supports the maintenance of an equitable tax structure for communications products and services to strengthen the economy and continue to

provide the revenue needed to support unincorporated services. The Board opposes efforts to reduce the tax base and revenues and any efforts to reduce local government's ability to manage its public rights-of-way.

STREAMLINED SALES TAX

The Board opposes federal efforts to institute a permanent ban prohibiting states from collecting sales taxes on online commerce, given that such a ban would have serious financial consequences for state and local governments. The Board supports legislation to bring Florida law into compliance with the Streamlined Sales Tax Agreement to simplify and modernize the state's sales and use tax administration and collection, and allow the state to require that remote vendors collect and remit Florida's state and local option sales tax. The sales tax revenue loss from increasing e-commerce sales is, and has been, detrimental to Broward County and specifically to cultural programs that receive funding from this revenue source.

LOCAL BUSINESS TAX RECEIPTS

The Board opposes any efforts to repeal or reduce local business tax receipts.

ONLINE TRAVEL COMPANIES

The Board supports amending existing transient rental tax law and local tourist development tax law to confirm that online travel companies utilizing a "merchant" or similar business model must collect and remit all 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.

AVIATION FUEL TAX EXEMPTION

The Board opposes attempts to waive, reduce, or suspend aviation fuel taxes statewide or locally.

HUMAN SERVICES

Broward County recognizes the importance of providing basic human services to protect and assist residents in need and has demonstrated its commitment to residents by providing county funding for the delivery of health and human services with the purpose of promoting wellness and achieving self-sufficiency.

- The Board supports local involvement in the formulation and implementation of policies that protect the health, mental health, safety and welfare of Florida's residents.
- The Board supports the establishment of formalized data sharing processes between state agencies, counties, cities and locally-funded programs for planning and reporting to funders and other boards to streamline and reduce service duplication.
- The Board supports local involvement in the roll-out of the local Managing Entity (ME) including representation on the local ME board. To reflect the County's vast contributions to behavioral health services, the Board supports representation on the ME board and direct involvement in

determining service needs, prioritization of services, funding allocation and policies impacting Broward County residents with substance abuse and mental health issues.

- The Board supports legislation revising definitions of incapacity and incompetence and clarifying health care surrogate and living will directives.
- The Board supports community resources to assure individuals with disabilities reside in the least restrictive settings, with appropriate, associated long-term care.
- The Board supports full engagement by the Governor's Office and Florida Legislature to ensure that all state agencies are fully utilizing funding resources available from the federal government to assist in meeting the basic human services needs of the residents of the State of Florida.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

The Board opposes any legislation that erodes the ability of local, voter-approved entities to determine the best use of local resources. The Board supports the continuation of local, voter-approved, independent bodies, with a dedicated and stable funding source that improves the lives of the county's children.

The Board supports legislation and/or funding allocations to increase the number of eligible children enrolled in Medicaid and KidCare to enable them to access needed physical and behavioral healthcare services.

The Board supports implementation of parent-friendly screening tools to promote early identification and intervention of developmental delays and disabilities in children.

The Board supports reinstating the role of Department of Health (DOH) in the regulation of Food Service and Environmental Health physical plant inspections in child care facilities. This function was removed from DOH during the 2010 State Legislative Session (HB 5311), and reassigned to the Department of Children and Families (DCF). The food inspection function is consistent with the core mission of DOH to provide environmental health services and this specialized function requires qualified and trained staff with expertise in environmental health to ensure children are not exposed to any public health risks or danger to their health and safety. The Board supports adequate and equitable funding for the child welfare system to ensure the safety and well-being of all children at-risk of abuse. The Board supports efforts to ensure that young children have access to high quality childcare, including those children who are funded through childcare subsidies.

HIV/AIDS

The Board supports adequate and equitable funding for health and human services from state agencies' budgets and opposes any funding reductions by the state in the areas of health, HIV core medical services, mental health substance abuse, and services to children, families and the elderly, recently incarcerated and those transitioning back to communities, including the homeless.

The Board supports expanded access to the Florida AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) by locating program services in community health centers and local community pharmacies. The

Board supports 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 to successfully manage their disease. The Board supports implementation of National HIV/AIDS Strategy goals in state funded programs promoting prevention and testing to reduce HIV infections consistent with goals of National HIV/AIDS Strategy. The board also supports the use of Viral Load Data to Monitor HIV Burden and Treatment Outcomes for each local community.

The Board supports full funding of the Florida ADAP in order to: 1) significantly reduce or eliminate the increasing number of individuals put on ADAP waiting lists; 2) restore the drugs removed from the Florida ADAP formulary, access to which is vital to effectively treat and manage chronic conditions common among individuals living with HIV/AIDS; and 3) keep the income eligibility criteria for the program at 400 percent of the federal poverty level.

The Board supports integrated planning activities between State and local governments focused on the prioritization of critical health and support services, allocation of funding for individuals in communities disproportionately impacted by HIV, and the use of best practice models engaging and retaining persons at risk for falling out of care through co-location of services within community based systems of care.

HOMELESSNESS

The Board opposes inappropriately discharging persons from publicly funded institutions, such as hospitals, foster care and prisons, who are homeless and in need of step-down shelter and housing. The Board supports efforts to promote housing-first strategies throughout the state of Florida as part of the homeless services continuum of care.

The Board supports legislation that provides tax credits to businesses that hire and continuously employ homeless individuals who reside in transitional or permanent shelters or housing facilities.

The Board supports the efforts of Florida's Council on Homelessness to develop and coordinate policies that reduce the prevalence and duration of homelessness. The Board also supports the continuation of funding for the state Office on Homelessness as it coordinates resources and programs across all levels of government and the private sector to serve the state's homeless population.

INSURANCE COVERAGE PARITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION

The Board supports a health insurance mandate requiring any size health insurance plan, including individual plans, to cover early detection, therapy services and other forms of treatment for children under 18 years of age with developmental disabilities, including Down's Syndrome and spina bifida.

The Board supports efforts to encourage living organ donation, which include, but are not limited to, ensuring individuals donating organs and/or bone marrow are not denied health insurance

coverage throughout the voluntary procedure, nor excluded from health or life insurance coverage subsequently, on the basis of having a “pre-existing” medical condition. The Board supports adequate Medicaid reimbursement for all organ transplants at the same rates used by Medicare or use of a global fee which takes into account actual costs.

The Board supports insurance parity legislation, requiring coverage for behavioral health services and ensuring behavioral health care is provided through general health insurance policies.

The Board supports individuals and families receiving access to a full range of mental health and/or substance abuse treatment options through private and public health insurance plans. This specifically includes the provision of intensive home based behavioral health services for children to support ensuring that adequate treatment is provided in the least restrictive environment.

MEDICAID REFORM

The Board opposes any efforts to further limit Medicaid access or eligibility and opposes efforts to increase the County share of funding for nursing home or inpatient hospital services. Additionally, considerable reductions to home care programs are causing children and adults of all ages to be moved out of their homes and into facilities, whose associated costs are significantly higher than in-home care. The Board supports repealing any elements of Medicaid Reform that limit or reduce cost-effective, in-home care.

MEDICALLY NEEDY FUNDING

The Board supports the continued funding of the Medically Needy Program to assist residents with their prescription needs and supports the reduction of the co-payment amount.

OLDER ADULTS

The Board supports cost-effective, evidence-based programs serving frail elders and allowing older adults to “age in place.” The Board supports Florida’s home and community-based care programs (Community Care for the Elderly, Home Care for the Elderly and the Aging and Disabled Adult Medicaid Waiver Program). The Board supports funding of Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRC) to coordinate long-term, home- and community-based care services and opposes efforts to increase counties’ contributions to Medicaid Nursing Home share.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Broward County is committed to programs that assist in linking people with substance abuse issues into care to help prevent the transmission of blood borne diseases that are spread through exchange of used syringes. The Board supports efforts to remove legal barriers on the use of funding for disease prevention for evidence-based syringe exchange programs.

The Board supports enforcement of Florida law regulating pain management clinics and full funding for Florida's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP). The Board is committed to

preventing the proliferation of the sale and use of new drugs, such as synthetic marijuana, bath salts, and “blue meth.” The Board is further committed to preventing the sale and marketing of smoking-related devices specifically designed to appeal to children and youth.

HOME RULE / GOVERNANCE

ANNEXATION

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Broward County’s 2010 unincorporated resident population is 15,876, or approximately 0.9 percent of the total population of 1,771,099. These residents occupy approximately 12.6 square miles (about 2.9 percent of the land area which can be developed) in five recognized neighborhoods and other areas spread throughout the County in parcels of varying size.

These neighborhoods continue to present a service delivery challenge for the County. While the Board supports full annexation, the County’s current policy position is to encourage tax base enhancement and job creation in the County’s urbanized unincorporated areas through investment in economic development activities and redevelopment programs. The intent is to create viable neighborhoods that are economically sustainable and attractive places to live, work and recreate.

ARTICLE V COSTS

Article V, §14(c), of the Florida Constitution divides the funding responsibilities for the state courts system, state attorneys, public defenders, court-appointed counsel, and clerks of the circuit and county courts, between the state and Florida’s 67 counties. Despite the clear division of Article V funding responsibilities in the state constitution, the Legislature has continued to expand the counties’ responsibilities to fund the state’s court system and associated elements.

The Board strongly urges the state to take responsibility for fully funding 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 calls on the Legislature to repeal existing statutory provisions mandating that 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 supports the continuation and enhancement of 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. The Board also supports the continuation and enhancement of other state imposed and local option court costs and fees, along with providing flexibility in using such costs and fees, to fund court-related local programs as deemed appropriate by counties.

EMINENT DOMAIN

Eminent domain is just one of the tools available to local governments to ensure the development of necessary public infrastructure. The Florida Constitution and implementing statutory laws provide adequate protections to make sure property owners are fully compensated when their private property is taken by government for public use. Accordingly, the Board opposes legislation that further restricts or preempts the powers of local government to effectively address critical infrastructure projects and other economic development projects that are vital to the economic prosperity of Broward County and the state of Florida.

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.

HOME RULE

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

The Board supports allowing local governments to have the option of complying with state public notice requirements through the use of electronic online advertising on publicly accessible websites. Meeting notices, proposed ordinances, resolutions, land use changes, bid notices, special elections or referenda, and budget information are among the types of public notifications which can be efficiently and effectively posted to the Internet for public notice.

The Board opposes legislation that preempts the ability of local governments to promulgate smoke-free air policies in workplaces and public places.

SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY / GOVERNMENTAL LIABILITY

Article X, § 13, of the Florida Constitution authorizes the Legislature by general law to allow for the bringing of suits against the state. Section 768.28, F.S., waives the sovereign immunity of the state, its agencies and subdivisions for tort liability, limited to \$200,000 per individual claim and \$300,000 per incident or occurrence.

The Board opposes legislative efforts to increase or eliminate the sovereign immunity waiver limitations in current law or to otherwise weaken other tort-related protections governmental entities now enjoy as defendant parties. The Board further opposes legislative efforts to increase local governments' liability exposure including new or expanded causes of action and/or providing for recovery of attorneys' fees and costs.

Trauma Care Center Designation

Broward County recognizes the need to ensure its citizens receive comprehensive, timely, and uniform access to trauma care services. Currently, county residents receive effective access to such services through a well-managed, local trauma care network that provides effective communications, pre-hospital care, patient transportation, trauma centers, and a well-defined management structure. Due to recent uncertainties concerning the validity of the Department of Health's trauma service-related rules, the department has decided to undertake rule development activities that are intended to modify how trauma care center designations are accomplished. Adopting rule standards that make it easier to designate trauma centers within dense urban areas, like Broward County, may adversely affect the existing local trauma care network and negatively impact patient care. Accordingly, the Board supports the County's current local trauma care network, and opposes any legislation or agency rule seeking to designate additional trauma care centers which will adversely affect: 1) the ability to effectively train trauma physicians or other trauma-related health care practitioners; 2) provide high-quality medical care to trauma patients; and 3) increase costs by escalating competition for needed specialty physicians, or reduce available funding for trauma center operations.

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 unless the state provides its own funding source.

WAGE RECOVERY PREEMPTION

The Board opposes any legislation preempting a local government's ability to address wage recovery issues locally.

HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

ATTAINABLE HOUSING

Broward County, as well as the state of Florida, has a large unmet demand for affordable rental housing. The South Florida metropolitan area (Broward/Miami-Dade) is the number one area in the nation for the number of severely cost-burdened households. In Broward County, this totals over 58,000 families. In order to adequately meet the needs of our population, the Board supports legislation that would provide funding solutions that could be implemented locally in order to fund affordable housing projects and programs.

Additionally, the Board urges the Legislature to fully fund the Sadowski Trust Fund and allocate all available funds to offer relief for our existing and future residents. The Board urges the Legislature to ensure that 30 percent of the affordable housing units developed with tax supported funds are designated to serve households earning 30 percent or less of the respective area median income. The Board urges the Legislature to require the Florida Housing Finance Corporation to modify the qualified allocation plan to allocate tax credits by a needs-based system that is generated on an annual basis. In addition, all affordable housing programs/resources should be allocated on a needs and affordable population basis.

Finally, the Board requests that legislation be adopted to provide a “local documentary tax” program dedicated to affordable housing similar to the program currently available in Miami-Dade County.

GROWTH MANAGEMENT

The Board supports the maintenance of Florida’s growth management laws, and the ability of local governments to implement strong growth management programs. The Board also supports the provision of adequate time frames for local governments to satisfy changes in growth management legislation. The Board opposes legislation that would restrict the County’s ability to assess and collect impact fees in order to mitigate the impact of new development on public facilities and services. The Board strongly supports retaining local government’s authority to identify and define “Adaptation Action Areas” or implement other adaptation strategies in comprehensive plans that would serve to maintain or enhance the advances made to ensure climate change preparedness, risk management, and hazard mitigation.

The Board supports retaining and strengthening local government land use controls over the siting of any mines, power plants, transmission lines, substations and other energy infrastructure. The Board opposes any action that reduces county and local government authority to review, comment on, and or take appropriate actions related to the siting of nuclear power plants or any other actions that may diminish environmental protection, such as but not limited to, the storage and handling of nuclear waste.

Through its home rule authority and Charter, ratified by a vote of the public in 1974, Broward County was granted the authority to coordinate all countywide land use planning through the Broward County Planning Council. The Board opposes legislation that would limit the County’s land use planning authority. The Board supports maintaining a state land planning agency (now the Division of Community Development within the Department of Economic Opportunity). The Board also supports retaining regional planning councils and opposes any further diminution of their functions, particularly with respect to issues of regional significance.

JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

CIVIL RIGHTS / HUMAN RIGHTS

The Board supports full implementation of federal and state civil rights laws that protect persons against discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disabilities, and marital status. In addition, the Board supports and urges the enactment of federal and state legislation that prohibits discrimination on the basis of gender identity and sexual orientation. The Board supports the establishment of a statewide domestic partnership registry.

COMMUNICATION SERVICES

Broward County desires to actively participate in expanding high-speed data transmissions between multiple government facilities to more cost-effectively deliver communication services. To this end, the Board supports legislation allowing unused fiber optic communication assets owned by federal and state agencies to become available for local government use.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND MANAGEMENT

The Board supports 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. There are real and ongoing financial challenges for local governments, particularly law enforcement and other first responders.

The Board supports an “all hazards” approach to emergency management, allowing local emergency managers the highest degree of flexibility in the expenditure of state and federal funds. Further, the Board supports an increased commitment from the state to assist its emergency management partners in responding to all emergency situations.

The Board opposes efforts to amend Chapter 252, Florida Statutes, or any other mandates, related to functional needs access to general population shelters.

HOMELAND SECURITY

Improvement of security measures has been given top priority at all levels of government. The Board supports expanding a close working relationship with federal, state, and local government agencies to improve homeland security. Recognizing that local government is usually the first responder in crisis situations, partnership support and funding from all higher levels of government is essential. Security enhancements at Port Everglades and the Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport are of the highest priority to the County. The Board supports state funding for equipment and technology to implement the Port and Airport security programs. The Board supports the restoration of funding for the Miami/Fort Lauderdale Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) Grant Program to FY 2010 federal allocation levels.

JUVENILE JUSTICE

The Board opposes any efforts to shift additional Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) costs to counties and strongly opposes counties compensating the state for any unfunded mandates regarding juvenile justice. Further, the Board opposes eliminating state financial responsibility for juvenile detention, thus fully shifting the pre-dispositional secure detention funding and operational obligation to counties, unless the state appropriates money to fund juvenile detention upon delegating full responsibility to counties. We support the recommendations jointly presented by counties and DJJ to the Governor, through the efforts of the workgroup created in 2011 proviso, to reform the juvenile justice system. The Board supports legislation that provides opportunities for counties to develop, invest in, and implement alternatives to divert children and youth from secure detention facilities and opposes any policy increasing numbers of youth in adult facilities. The Board supports legislation that improves the accountability of the educational systems within juvenile detention facilities.

PRISONS

The Board opposes the privatization of prisons in South Florida.

SHIFT OF PRISON INMATES TO JAILS

The Board opposes the shifting of prison inmates with less than a year on their sentence at the time of sentencing to jails.

ENTITLEMENT BENEFITS FOR INCARCERATED PERSONS AND RE-ENTRY PROGRAMS

The Board supports enforcing state law requiring that entitlement benefits are suspended, rather than terminated, during jail stays of 364 days or fewer. The Board supports providing health care to inmates and arrestees at a rate no higher than 10 percent above Medicaid reimbursement rates.

The Board supports only prison reforms that include a comprehensive approach and dedicated revenue source for quality re-entry programs.

JAIL DIVERSION

The Board supports increasing funding to sustain and expand jail diversion programs for persons with mental illness.

FIREARMS REGULATION

The Board supports amending state law to provide that it is unlawful to carry a handgun, concealed weapon, or firearm within certain governmental buildings or at certain meetings or events in Broward County.

TOURISM

DESTINATION RESORT GAMING

The Board supports the location of at least one resort in Broward County in parity with the number of licenses issued to other counties. Destination Resort Gaming legislation should include economic development provisions guaranteeing Floridians with long-term, high-wage, full-time positions meeting specific local hiring requirements and requiring that local governments be required to approve the siting of a resort in their district based on considerations that will include the number of jobs created for local residents. Furthermore, the Board supports language requiring that gaming facilities receiving licenses offer free training courses through established re-employment entities, to encourage local, un/under-employed persons to re/train for opportunities within the gaming industry.

ONLINE TRAVEL COMPANIES

Support amending existing transient rental tax law and local tourist development tax law to confirm that online travel companies utilizing a “merchant” or similar business model must collect and remit all 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.

TRANSPORTATION

Broward County is committed to providing a wide array of transportation options for residents, visitors, and commercial entities including public transit, airports, seaports, roads, bridges, and multi-purpose facilities. The Board supports continued state funding for operations, maintenance, and capital for transit, airport and seaport projects. The Board supports state legislation and funding that promotes safe, efficient regional interconnectivity and legislation reducing the local share for the statewide Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP) to less than fifty percent. The Board supports greater fairness and equity in the distribution of state appropriations through formula-based methodologies and also supports an increase in toll revenues for transportation improvements, operations, and maintenance. The Board further supports legislation exempting county buses from paying tolls when travelling outside the managed lane system.

The Board supports state legislation granting local governments maximum flexibility in planning and funding for viable transportation systems and infrastructure and opposes legislation that pre-empts local government authority to regulate the impact of current and future Florida Department of Transportation projects.

The Board supports preserving current law, which authorizes charter counties who adopted a charter prior to January 1, 1984 and county governments that have consolidated with one or more municipalities, to levy a 1-cent local option transit system sales tax and the discretion to distribute

these revenues to municipalities pursuant to an inter-local agreement, and further supports a dedicated funding source for regional transportation.

The Board opposes state legislation that preempts counties from regulating aggregate mining siting; although, the County understands the importance and need for aggregate in the region as a way to reduce costs for construction and transportation projects.

The Board supports preserving the State Transportation Trust Fund for transportation purposes only and opposes raiding the trust fund to balance the state budget or for other non-transportation related purposes. The Board further supports additional funding for public transportation.

The Board opposes any attempts to reduce the 15% funding allocation from the State Transportation Trust Fund which is allocated to public transportation program areas, with emphasis on equal distribution of the fund among the designated modes that include Aviation, Transit, Rail, Intermodal and Seaports.

PORT EVERGLADES

As one of South Florida's leading economic powerhouses, Port Everglades is the gateway for international trade and cruise vacations. Already the second busiest cruise port in the world, Port Everglades is also one of the nation's leading container ports and South Florida's main seaport for receiving petroleum products including gasoline, jet fuel, and alternative fuels. The Port Everglades Department is a self-supporting Enterprise Fund of Broward County government with operating revenues of approximately \$139 million in Fiscal Year 2011 (October 1, 2010 through September 30, 2011). It does not rely on local tax dollars for operations. The total value of economic activity at Port Everglades is approximately \$15.3 billion. The Port, including almost 11,400 people who work for companies that provide direct services, impacts more than 160,000 Florida jobs. These jobs generate \$532M in state and local taxes.

The Board supports:

- The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity and its efforts to create jobs and improve Florida's business climate.
- The increased funding (\$15 million) for the Florida Seaport Transportation and Economic Development (FSTED) program and the establishment of the Strategic Port Investment Initiative (SPII) (\$35 million minimum annual funding) and the Seaport Investment Program (\$10 million bondable revenue stream) for seaport projects. Full appropriations and allocations should be prioritized based on the level of the return on investment of those projects FDOT's adopted Work Program. All of these initiatives will provide a reliable source of capital funding to complement limited financial resources and facilitates the ability of Florida ports to compete outside of Florida.
- Rules prohibiting the elimination, deferral, or delay of capacity improvement projects contained in the first three years of the Florida Department of Transportation 5-year Work Program.
- Full implementation of Chapter 2010-201, Laws of Florida (HB 963), as passed by the 2010 Florida Legislature, which eliminate unnecessary roadblocks that inhibit economic development

at Florida seaports by streamlining environmental permitting, comprehensive plan regulations, and other regulations.

- A Freight Mobility Program with funding options. The realignment of global trade routes is clearly underway. This program will ensure that Florida ports are logistically positioned to take maximum advantage of this opportunity with a multimodal transportation network, that integrates waterborne transportation with highway transportation, rail transportation, and air transportation for the most effective and efficient movement of passengers and freight. This program must address the physical capacity to support increases in freight movement, which will be realized due to changing trade patterns with the opening of the expanded Panama Canal in 2015 and larger commodity flows through the Suez Canal. A successful strategy will make Florida self-sufficient in servicing its consumer population.
- Specific state initiatives directed at inducing international trade companies to locate or expand their facilities within Florida, thus fostering stronger economic relationships with our trading partners. Initiatives may include incentives for businesses to increase imports or exports through a Florida seaport, rewarding existing companies for expanding their seaport business and/or attracting international shippers to the state, and/or tax credit incentives for public-private partnerships to build related seaport infrastructure projects.
- Amend state law to allow access to funding from the Inland Protection Trust Fund (IPTF) for remediation of petroleum contamination on Florida's port lands where such contamination has been previously identified and found eligible for state cleanup, but is not yet funded because of the low priority ranking score and where such contamination directly inhibits Port infrastructure development, redevelopment, expansion or construction.

LOCAL BILLS

SPECIAL ASSESSMENT TO FUND MUNICIPAL LAW ENFORCEMENT

On behalf of the City of North Lauderdale, authorizes a special assessment levy by Broward County municipalities to fund law enforcement services.

REPEAL OF BROWARD COUNTY SPECIAL ACTS

Ch. 8636, Sections 1-4, Laws of Florida (Special Acts of 1921) codified at Section 13-5, BCC

Ch. 12554, Section 1, Laws of Florida (Special Acts of 1927) codified at Section 13-4, BCC

Ch. 25714, Sections 1-2, Laws of Florida (Special Acts of 1949) codified at Section 13-3, BCC

REPEAL OF THE BROWARD EDUCATION, RESEARCH AND TRAINING AUTHORITY

Repeal Chapter 94-431, Laws of Florida, relating to the Broward Education, Research and Training Authority.

MUNICIPAL QUALIFYING DATES

Reduce the municipal qualifying period consistent with county and state qualifying periods.