

# PBC Legislative Update

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## IN THIS ISSUE:

### County Priority Issues

1. Budget Issues

### WHAT PASSED

2. Top three Priorities
3. Fiscally Const. Funding
4. Property Taxes
5. Autism
6. Inmate Assist
7. Working Water
8. Florida Forever
9. TD
10. School Signs
11. Scanner Bill
12. VAB

### WHAT DIDN'T PASS

13. Photo Enforce
14. SFRTA
15. Enterprise Zones
16. Equine
17. Dot Com Bill
18. Clerk's Bill
19. Transparency
20. Growth Mgt.
21. Revenue Limits
22. Mining
23. Ag Enclave
24. Moving Bill
25. Fertilizer Bill
26. Ag Bill Preempt
27. Transportation Package
28. Scripps
29. TBRC

## State Issues – Legislative Session– Week 9

### County Priority Issue Updates

#### Budget Issues

By: County Staff

#### Appropriations SB 2900 / HB 5001

Below are Palm Beach County highlights of the State's 2008-09 budget. Despite a major reduction in spending this year due to the decrease in collection of state sales tax, Palm Beach County was extremely successful in securing funding for many of our legislative priorities. Thank you to the leadership of our Legislative Delegation, who despite having to make some difficult decisions on major spending areas, always understood the benefits of funding issues that were important to the residents of Palm Beach County.

The FY 2008-09 budget is \$66.2 billion, \$4.1 billion less than FY 2007-08's \$70.3 billion budget.

This year:

- Education funds budgeted are **\$18.1 billion**, an overall decrease of 5.9% from the prior year
- Health Care funds budgeted are **\$23.4 billion**, an overall decrease of 2.1% from the prior year
- Criminal Justice funds budgeted are **\$4.96 billion**, an overall increase of 1.5% from the prior year
- Transportation and Economic Development funds budgeted are **\$11.6 billion**, an overall decrease of 8.6% from the prior year
- Environmental and Natural Resources funds budgeted are **\$2.7 billion**, an overall budget decrease of 12.6% from the prior year

Here are some of the highlights for Palm Beach County:

#### Education

Education K-12	<b>1,213,426,730</b>
Higher Education	
Palm Beach Community College - gen rev	<b>48,037,907</b>
PBCC - roofs, utilities, parking	<b>4,217,076</b>
PBCC - Palm Beach Gardens labs	<b>2,643,658</b>
PBCC - Lake Worth classrooms	<b>3,080,550</b>
PBCC - Safe Training Center	<b>3,000,000</b>
PBCC - Humanities Building	<b>333,334</b>
PBCC - Baccalaureate Programs	<b>15,000</b>
Florida Atlantic University - gen revenue	<b>159,902,071</b>
Florida Atlantic University - student fee TF	<b>76,094,024</b>
Florida Atlantic University - Medical School	<b>14,600,000</b>
Florida Atlantic University - FL Energy Consortium	<b>8,750,000</b>
Florida Atlantic University – Autism	<b>651,484</b>
FAU - Wellness Phase I	<b>4,000,000</b>
FAU - Wellness Phase II	<b>4,433,359</b>
FAU - Student Union Renovation, Jupiter	<b>75,000</b>
FAU - Student Financial Assistance	<b>1,058,819</b>
Adults with Disabilities - Palm Beach	<b>1,320,703</b>

Workforce Education - Palm Beach	278,857
Workforce Development - Palm Beach	15,888,063
Voluntary Pre Kindergarten - Palm Beach	22,896,625

**Health Care**

Community Based Dementia-Specific Day Care	250,000
St. Mary's Hospital - Medicaid low-income pool	195,801
Applied Behavioral Analysis Therapy	200,000
South Florida Holocaust Survivors Assistance Program	350,000

**Criminal Justice and Public Safety**

Road Ranger Program (Statewide)	2,560,000
PIP Fraud Prosecution - Palm Beach County	410,000
City of Pahokee – PILT	421,000
Sago Palm Lease	1,481,825
Place of Hope - Seven Stars Emergency Shelter Expansion	700,000

**Transportation and Economic Development**

Museum Grants (statewide)	500,000
Historic Preservation (statewide)	600,000
Library Construction Projects (statewide)	0
Library Funding	

**Environment and Natural Resources**

Everglades Restoration	50,000,000
Florida Forever	294,729,000

**Water Projects:**

Lake Region Water Treatment Plant	400,000
Lake Worth Lagoon Restoration	500,000
Loxahatchee River Preservation Initiative	1,300,000
Chain of Lakes Restoration	200,000
Shawano Drainage District - Central Everglades Water Quality Improvement	250,000
City of Boca Raton - Intracoastal Parallel Force Main	125,000
Town of Lake Park - Storm Water Improvements	100,000
Town of Lantana - Western Wellfield	300,000
Town of Mangonia Park - Drainage Improvements	500,000
Village of North Palm Beach - Earman River Water Pipeline Replacement	85,000
City of Pahokee - Water Main Improvements	100,000
City of West Palm Beach - Drinking Water Quality Improvement	500,000

FRDAP (Recreation Development Assistance Grant) Grants **24,474,875**

Here is the FRDAP Funding breakdown for Palm Beach County:

The following projects in Palm Beach County will each be funded at be funded at **135,199**:

- City of Palm Beach Gardens Lilac Park, Ph. II
- City of Palm Beach Gardens PGA National Park, Ph.III
- City of Boynton Beach Congress Avenue Community Park
- Village of Wellington K-Park
- Village of North Palm Beach Tennis Complex
- City of Belle Glade Airport Park
- City of Greenacres Greenacres Freedom Park, Ph. IV
- Palm Beach County John Prince Memorial Park
- Palm Beach County Lake Ida Park

The following projects in Palm Beach County will each be funded at be funded at **76,049**:

- Village of Palm Springs Lillian Road Lakeside Park
- Town of Lake Clarke Shores Community Park, Ph. III

The following project in Palm Beach County will each be funded at be funded at **60,839**:

- City of Delray Beach Family Recreation and Fitness Center

The following projects in Palm Beach County will each be funded at be funded at **33,800**:

- City of Atlantis Atlantis Tennis Park Heart Trail
- City of Lake Worth Howard Park
- Village of Golf Village Park

Statewide Beach Projects	<b>21,935,695</b>
Jupiter Carlin Park funding \$103,500	
Singer Island funding \$3,000,000	
Alternative Water Projects – SFWMD	<b>3,000,000</b>
Lake Okeechobee Scenic Trail	<b>1,000,000</b>
City of Belle Glade Recycling Program	<b>127,500</b>
Arthur R. Marshall Foundation – Everglades exhibits	<b>300,000</b>
Mosquito Control Program (Statewide)	<b>2,166,168</b>
<b>Transportation</b>	
<u>Resurfacing</u>	
SR-845/POWERLINE RD FROM BROWARD CO/LINE TO SR-808/GLADES ROAD	<b>11,032,629</b>
SR-882/FOREST HILL FROM PINEHURST DR TO W. OF HAVERHILL ROAD	<b>2,976,429</b>
SR-882/FOREST HILL FROM W OF HAVERHILL RD TO W OF I-95	<b>5,388,325</b>
SR-806/ATLANTIC AVE FROM VIA FLORA TO E. OF CONGRESS AVE	<b>4,946,219</b>
SR-80/ FROM SR-25/US-27 TO E OF CANAL BR#930054	<b>3,415,377</b>
SR-15 FROM HILLSBORO CL/BR#338 TO HOOKER HWY	<b>5,610,247</b>
SR-700/US-98/CONNERS FROM OLD 700 ALIGNMENT TO OLD CONNERS HWY	<b>13,804,293</b>
SR-7/US-441 FROM BROWARD COUNTYLINE TO GLADES ROAD	<b>6,961,411</b>
<u>Add Lanes &amp; Reconstruct</u>	
SR-806/ATLANTIC AVE FROM W. OF TURNPIKE TO E. OF JOG ROAD	<b>10,750,000</b>
SR-710/BEELINE HWY FROM W OF AUSTRALIAN AVE TO OLD DIXIE HWY	<b>3,000,000</b>
SR-710/BEELINE HWY FROM W. OF CONGRESS AVE TO W. OF AUST AVE	<b>4,870,663</b>
WIDEN TPK FROM LAKE WORTH RD (SR 802) TO OKEE BLVD (SR 704)	<b>9,363,222</b>
WIDEN TPK(SR91) LANTANA TOLL PLAZA - LAKE WORTH RD(SR802)	<b>116,041,485</b>
<u>Add Turn Lanes</u>	
SR-704/OKEE BL FROM W OF CLEARLAKE BRDG TO AUST AVE/TAMARIND	<b>2,400,000</b>
SR-708/BLUE HERON BL @ CONGRESS AVE PHASE II	<b>4,968,000</b>
<u>Aviation, Seaport, Rail</u>	
NORTH PBC GENERAL AVIATION/CONSTRUCT APRON & TAXI LANES	<b>1,500,000</b>
PBIA AIRPORT ACQUIRE LAND, RUNWAY 9L/27R	<b>2,075,000</b>
PBIA AIRPORT PURCHASE ARFF VEHICLES	<b>1,000,000</b>
PALM BEACH INTL. EXTEND RUNWAY 9R-27L EIS AND DESIGN	<b>2,642,000</b>
PALM BEACH INTL. EXTENSION OF TAXIWAY "F" TO RW 13	<b>4,848,500</b>
PORT OF PALM BEACH RO/RO FACILITY AT SLIP 3	<b>1,891,000</b>
PALM BEACH INTL. TAXIWAY LIMA EAST OF RUNWAY 13-31	<b>10,730,500</b>
SFRTA STP FUNDS FROM MPO FOR EXTENSION TO JUPITER	<b>1,500,000</b>
<u>New Road Construction</u>	
LYONS ROAD FROM SR-804/BOYNTON BH BL TO SR-806/ATLANTIC AVE	<b>2,400,000</b>
JOG ROAD FROM ROEBUCK ROAD TO SOUTH OF 45TH STREET	<b>12,020,467</b>
<u>Landscaping</u>	
FLAGLER DRIVE RECONFIGURATION	<b>2,715,566</b>
US-1 / FLAGLER DRIVE WATERFRONT REDEV & TRAFFIC CALMING	<b>1,777,584</b>
<u>Bridge Replacement</u>	
SR-A1A FLAGLER MEMORIAL BRIDGE BRIDGE	<b>17,849,745</b>
SR-A1A/LITTLE BLUE HERON-BRDG REPLACEMENT BR	<b>9,389,444</b>
SR-A1A OVER LITTLE LAKE WORTH BRIDGE	<b>5,230,055</b>
<u>ADV Traveler Information System</u>	
I-95/SR-9/ITS DEPLOY FROM BROWARD/PBC/ LINE TO PBC/MARTIN CO LINE	<b>25,289,527</b>
<u>Interchange Ramp</u>	
LAKE WORTH RD / TPK (SR802 / SR91) INTCHG MODIFICATION (MP 93)	<b>64,403,567</b>

#### Operating for Fixed Route

SFRTA STP FUNDS FROM MPO FOR EXTENSION TO JUPITER **1,500,000**

#### Park & Ride Lots

TRI RAIL STATION PARKING/CIRCUL **1,593,842**

**Total for Palm Beach County Transportation 378,088,555**

## What Passed

### The County's Top Three Priorities

*By: County Staff*

Palm Beach County's Top Priority, funding for the Lake Region Water Treatment Plant was allocated \$400,000 this year. Thank you to **Sen. Aronberg** and **Rep. Taylor** for your leadership on this important issue. On our second priority, there were no intentional unfunded mandates or cost shifts that were passed down to local governments this year. Our third priority – funding for fiscally constrained counties – was done so this year at \$10 million out of general revenue and not out of a funding source that drew dollars away from other local governments. Thank you to **Sen. Ken Pruitt** and **Rep. Ray Sansom** who were instrumental in making sure that did not happen despite a tough budget year.

### Fiscally Constrained Counties

*By: County Staff*

**SB 1588** includes language that would provide funding for the fiscally constrained counties in order to hold them harmless from the diminished revenues to those counties caused by reductions from the passage of Amendment 1 on property tax reform. The \$10 million for fiscally constrained counties will be derived from nonrecurring general revenue dollars this year.

### Property Tax Legislation

*By: Pittman Law Group*

**SB 1588 by Haridopolos** was approved by both the House and Senate and sent to the Governor's office. The legislation does the following:

- Rollback: Ties the max millage rate to what would have been charged the prior year adjusted for the CHANGE (not growth) in per capita income
- To exceed the rollback in 2009-2010:
  - to go to 110% of cap, need 2/3 of THE MEMBERSHIP of the governing body must approve it.
  - For more than 110%, need 3/4 of THE MEMBERSHIP of the governing body must approve it.
- Fiscally constrained counties: the legislature will appropriate funds beginning in '08-'09 to offset reductions in ad valorem taxes in fiscally constrained counties.

### Autism

*By: County Staff, Akerman Senterfit and Ericks Consulting*

The House concurred with **SB 2654 by Senator Geller** relating to Autism in the final minutes of session on Friday. The Select Committee on Autism & Development Disorders met on April 21<sup>st</sup> and presented their proposal called "The Window of Opportunity Act". The proposal included insurance coverage for all children with autism and other developmental disabilities. The House returned the Bill to the Senate including the provisions for other disabilities that were included in the "Act". The Senate did not concur with those amendments although they did agree to the increase of \$200,000 over the original \$108,000 lifetime cap that health insurers would be mandated to cover and sent it back over to the House. The House passed the bill unanimously with the pledge to address other development disorders during the next legislative session.

### **Medical Assistance Eligibility of Inmates**

*By: County Staff, Ericks Consulting*

**SB 1456 by Senator Wilson** provides for the suspension of Medicaid for incarcerated persons and immediate eligibility upon release. This bill changes current law that terminated benefits and caused a 90 day wait period for re-activation of benefits. This will result in a significant savings in health care for local governments who provided health care during this re-establishment of eligibility.

### **Working Waterfront and Highest and Best Use**

*By: County Staff*

In **HB 909** language was included that will require property appraisers, when calculating highest and best use to take into consideration "the legally permissible use of the property...including any zoning changes, concurrency requirements, and permits necessary to achieve highest and best use." Additionally, the voters will have before them in November an amendment to the Constitution approved by the Taxation and Budget Reform Commission that will tax waterfront properties based on how the property is actually used, rather than on the best use of the land, such as the potential for highly profitable condominiums.

### **Florida Forever**

*By: The Wren Group and County Staff*

This legislature adopted **SB 542** that extends the Florida Forever program another 10 years, through 2010, provides additional emphasis on management of lands owned for conservation; mandates additional reporting and data collection about where those lands are and their uses, and provides increased emphasis on using state lands to relocate gopher tortoises from private lands to enhance and preserve viable populations of the species. The Florida Communities Trust program will remain with the Department of Community Affairs – legislators had considered moving that program to the Department of Environmental Protection.

### **Transportation Disadvantaged Programs**

*By: County Staff*

**HB 1175** passed the legislature. This bill ensures the coordinated planning of transportation disadvantaged services by all human service agencies; strengthens the alternative provider procedure process for purchasing agencies to ensure all agencies follow the exact same process; requires all agencies to identify dollars spent on non-emergency transportation services to transportation disadvantaged clients; and requires all agencies to pay the approved transportation rates.

### **School Board Sign Issue**

*By: County Staff*

In discussions between the County, School Board, and the League of Cities, language was agreed upon that would create a 3 year pilot program that would allow schools to continue displaying advertisements on their facilities. The language would specifically preempt to the School Board the authority to regulate these signs in unincorporated areas. In doing so, it would suggest that where possible, the School Board should adhere to stands as defined in the existing local county ordinance. The language is only specific to the unincorporated county and will not affect any municipalities. The language passed in both the Education and Transportation packages that came out of both chambers.

### **Scanner Law**

*By: County Staff, Pittman Group, Corcoran, Moya*

**HB 151 by Representative Reed** relating to radio equipment using law enforcement agencies and amended with the County's language allowing employees of a local or state government agency to carry radios with access to law enforcement signals inside a non-emergency vehicle is now ordered enrolled

after passing third reading and awaiting the Governor's signature.

### **Value Adjustment Boards**

*By: County Staff, Foley & Lardner*

**HB 909 by Representative Nehr** relating to Ad Valorem Taxes includes language that changes the composition of the value adjustment board and requires all members to be private citizens who are not members of the governing body of the county or the school board, and precludes county attorneys from serving as counsel to the board. The bill also requires the Department of Revenue to develop a uniform policies and procedures manual that does not currently exist and training for special magistrates at least once each state fiscal year in at least five locations throughout the state. The effective date was July 1, 2008 but at the request of the County, Representative Nehr moved the date to September 2008 to give the Department and governmental entities sufficient time to enact these changes. An earlier amendment to the bill was adopted in the House by Representative Attkisson requiring the Board of County Commissioners to agenda the concerns of the taxpayer or property appraiser if they are not resolved by the value adjustment board no later than 30 days after the filing of the form and to issue written findings on the complaint. This language, however, was deleted in an amendment filed by the Senate bill sponsor Senator Haridopolos, and the change was subsequently agreed to by the House before its final passage.

## **What Did Not Pass**

### **Traffic Safety Photo Enforcement**

*By: County Staff, Moya Group, Akerman Senterfit, Corcoran, and Pittman Law Group Foley and Lardner*

Because **SB 816 by Bennett and HB 351 by Reagan** were not heard in their remaining committees of reference, the only way to move this legislation without withdrawing it from the committees was to amend portions on the bill to another piece of legislation. **Senator Margolis** placed language from the Senate red light bill into **SB 2220 by Senator Baker** relating to transportation. The bill died on the calendar on second reading.

Representative Reagan filed an amendment that also included the Senate language into **HB1992** relating to Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles by Senator Baker, which was substituted for HB 1329 by Representative Glorioso. Late Thursday evening, Representative Reagan withdrew the amendment on the floor.

The lobby team met with Senator Baker who agreed to file the Senate language in an amendment to **SB1978** relating to transportation. The language increased the \$60 fine to \$70 with the additional \$10 to go towards trauma care. **Thank you to Senator Deutch, Senator Atwater and Senator Bennett** who supported the amendment with co-sponsorship. Additional amendments were filed related to traffic safety photo enforcement by Representative Needleman and Senator Geller. During the last week of session, almost 50 amendments were filed to the transportation bill ultimately killing the bill which was calendared on Special Order but not heard despite efforts by the lobby team.

The only transportation bill that passed was SB 682 by Senator Bullard. The bill, among other issues, requires the Department of Transportation to complete a study of transportation alternatives for the travel corridor parallel to Interstate 95 which takes into account the transportation, emergency management, homeland security, and economic development needs of the state.

## **SFRTA**

*By: County Staff*

**HB 1245 by Representative Galvano** which would have diverted 80% of the rental car surcharges into the Regional Transportation Authorities died this week in Senate messages despite last minute efforts to revive the language by amending it into HB1992. The amendment was ultimately abandoned. Thank you to **Rep. Adam Hasner and Rep. Susan Bucher** for their support in moving this bill through the House.

**SB1978 by Senator Baker** relating to Department of Transportation included an amendment filed by Senator Webster that would allow counties to levy discretionary local surcharge if approved by referendum that would place an additional \$2 per day surcharge on car rentals originating from an international airport for the first 30 days of rental. The bill was temporarily postponed, placed on second reading and also died on the calendar.

## **Enterprise Zone Boundaries**

*By: County Staff, Corcoran, Pittman Law Group, Wren Group*

**HB 7111 by the Economic and Infrastructure Council** relating to economic development contained the language requested by the County to expand Enterprise Zones three additional miles in rural areas of critical economic concern. The bill was temporarily postponed while negotiations on the language continued. The bill was laid on the table with reference to SB 2778. An amendment containing the language was filed by Representative Weatherford to SB 2778 by Senator Fasano but was withdrawn late Wednesday night. The amendment contained the majority of HB 7111 Economic Development language including the expansion of enterprise zones. The bill died in returning messages.

## **Equine Activities**

*By: County Staff*

**HB 305 by Representative Vana and SB 964 by Senator Aronberg** designates the "Nicole Hornstein Act", which provides that a person under the age of 16 must wear a helmet if they are riding a horse on public lands. The Senate bill was not considered by its last committee of reference and the House bill died in Senate Messages.

## **DOT Com Issue**

*By: County Staff*

**HB 7147** relating to general tax administration includes a provision that grants a tax exemption to online travel companies. Because of instances where online travel companies are collecting taxes only on the actual hotel room instead of the total amount of consideration paid by the guest occupying the room, several counties filed lawsuits to collect these taxes due. Proponents and opponents argued the interpretation of the current law. HB 7147 was never calendared but efforts were made late Thursday night by Expedia to amend the language into another bill. The amendment and a motion to reconsider both failed as a result of hard lobbying from the counties.

## **Clerk's Bill**

*By: County Staff, Moya Group, and Pittman Law Group*

**HB 399 by Rep. Grant and SB 640 by Senator Oelrich** received a tremendous amount of attention since several Counties had serious concerns with the legislation. Palm Beach County had language that was amended into the bill several weeks ago that addressed some of our early concerns but both bills died on the calendar.

### **Local Government Transparency**

*By: Pittman Law Group, Ericks Consulting, and County Staff*

**SB 392 by Senator Storms** relating to General Local Govt. Transparency and Contract Information requires local governments with a website to electronically post contract information relating to certain contracts. The bill died in returning messages.

Similar legislation, **HB 181 by Representative Harrell**, also was amended HB 7123 relating to government efficiency and accountability which includes the language relating to budget transparency. The bill was temporarily postponed on third reading and died in Senate Messages.

### **Growth Management**

*By: FAC*

A new growth management bill (**HB 7129** by Rep. Cannon and **SB 474** by Sen. Garcia) that was making its way through the legislative process ultimately died during the last days of session. The highly controversial bill, opposed by FAC, would have preempted local governments and virtually eliminated school concurrency. During the final days of session many strike-all amendments were filed which while making other changes to the bill did not address the concerns FAC has had with the bill throughout session. FAC and county lobbyist successfully lobbied against the bill because it would have forced local governments to use portables when setting its school concurrency. This provision, when coupled with other language in the bill, would have severely hampered school concurrency.

### **State and Local Government Revenue Limitations**

*By: County Staff*

**HB 7125** by the Government Efficiency and Accountability Council passed the House of Representatives this week by a vote of 79-38. The bill proposed an amendment to the State Constitution to revise state revenue limitations by providing that state revenue growth is limited to changes in population and inflation, plus one percent. It also changed the types of revenues that are subject to the limitation, and provided revenue limitation for counties, municipalities, school districts, and special districts to be implemented by the Legislature. The bill was sent to the Senate in messages; but died in the Senate since it did not have a companion bill.

### **Mining**

*By: County Staff, Ericks Consulting, and The Wren Group*

Both Senate mining bills were voted down by the Senate Environmental Preservation and Conservation Committee. The only mining related issue that passed was a one year extension of the Aggregates Mining Task Force.

### **Ag Enclave Bill**

*By: County Staff*

**HB 1173 by Mayfield and SB 2246 by Sen. Baker.** Despite the House bill passing, the issue was never taken up on the floor of the Senate and the bill died on the Calendar.

### **Moving Bill (Local Government Preemption)**

*By: County Staff*

**SB 530 by Senator Saunders** would have preempted local government ordinances related to household moving services by eliminating county authority to impose local ordinances regulating moving companies. **HB 611 by Representative Nehr** was not heard in any of its' three committees of reference.

**Fertilizer Preemption**

*By: County Staff and The Wren Group*

**SB 2352** was temporarily passed in Senate Community Affairs; and therefore, died in that committee. The House bill **HB 1267 died** in the Policy and Budget Council. It would have preempted local governments from regulating the use of household fertilizers.

**Agriculture Bill/ Wetland preemption/ Stormwater preemption**

*By: County Staff*

**SB 1376 by Dean and HB 761 by Pickens** would have prohibited a county government from imposing a tax, assessment or fee for stormwater management on agricultural land if the agricultural operation has an agricultural discharge permit or implements best-management practices adopted by the state. The House bill passed, but eventually died in the Senate.

**Transportation Package**

*By: Pittman Law Group*

**SB 1978 by Baker and HB 1399 by Aubuchon**, while passing their respective chambers in one form or another, ultimately died due to the inability to reach a consensus on the state's purchase of the CSX railway for a Central Florida Commuter rail.

Had the Transportation Package been met will full approval from the legislature, legislation regarding traffic safety photo enforcement, South Florida Regional Transit Funding, Transportation Disadvantaged funding, and increased funding for trauma care would have most likely passed with that package.

**Scripps Research Institute**

*By: County Staff*

**SB 2778 by Senator Fasano** died in Senate returning messages but would have required the Scripps Florida Funding Corporation, along with the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development and Enterprise Florida, Inc., to review the performance and progress of grant recipients of the Innovation Incentive Program, and required the Legislative Budget Commission to review and approve an innovation incentive award before the Executive Office of the Governor releases the funds.

## Taxation and Budget Reform Commission

*By: County Staff, the Moya Group, and Foley and Lardner*

As a recap, the Taxation and Budget Reform Commission concluded their work and have approved the following Constitutional Amendments to appear on the ballot this November.

- An amendment allowing the use of state money to pay for scholarship vouchers that students could use to pay for private school, and requiring school districts to spend 65 cents of every education dollar in the classroom, thus capping administrative expenditures at 35 cents for every dollar. The voucher proposal would overturn a Supreme Court ruling that struck down former Governor Jeb Bush's school-voucher program as unconstitutional.
- An amendment that would allow the state to distribute tax dollars to religious groups.
- An amendment to tax waterfront properties based on how the property is actually used, rather than on the best use of the land, such as the potential for highly profitable condominiums. The change would save marinas and other working waterfront properties about \$70 million next year and \$306 million by 2012.
- An amendment to cut property taxes by 25% (by elimination the Required Local Effort) in exchange for increasing the state sales tax from 6 cents to 7 cents. Under this proposal, schools would receive their funding from a combination of sales tax and other state taxes rather than property tax.

Stay tuned for programs that will be conducted by Legislative Affairs staff this Fall around the County to discuss these and other amendments that will be on the November ballot.

### THANK YOU

Thank you to our Legislative Delegation and their staff who worked especially hard on so many of our legislative priorities this year. Of note, **Sen. Jeff Atwater** was instrumental in obtaining funding for the Lake Worth Lagoon Partnership Grant program. **Sen. Ted Deutch** was active in almost every discussion in his committees and on the Senate floor in arguing on the side of local governments when adverse issues that would have affected the County were before the body. **Sen. Dave Aronberg** assured that our top legislative priority was funded.

**Rep. Adam Hasner and Rep. Ellyn Bogdanoff** assisted on issues too numerous to mention during Policy and Budget meetings that would have been detrimental to the County's interests.

We want to thank our term limited delegation members: **Sen. Mandy Dawson, Rep. Richard Machek, and Rep. Susan Bucher**. I think we all agree no member worked harder than **Rep. Machek** in assuring that all of our County's water and environment projects were funded, and no member was more prepared to discuss any issue before the legislature than **Rep. Bucher**. You will all be missed in Tallahassee.

Thank you to **Rep. Mary Brandenburg and Rep. Shelley Vana** who served as our Chair and Vice Chair of the delegation and assisted in coordinating appropriations items and local bills.

Finally, we owe a great appreciation to **Sen. Ken Pruitt** for his service the past two years as Senate President. President Pruitt's cautious and deliberate leadership style helped slow down many of the bills moving through the legislature and prevented many issues that would have been detrimental to state growth management, criminal justice and health care policies from becoming law. Sherry and I again thank you all for your support of our County's issues.

### Palm Beach County

#### Board of County

#### Commissioners

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Chairperson

Jeff Koons, Vice Chair

Karen T. Marcus

Robert Kanjian

Mary McCarty

Burt Aaronson

Jess Santamaria

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