

PALM BEACH COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

WORKSHOP SUMMARY

Meeting Date:	November 29, 2016
Department:	Legislative Affairs
	I. EXECUTIVE BRIEF
Title: Staff recom Agenda.	mends motion to approve: the proposed 2017 State Legislative
general issues to su that the County's Le	quests Board approval of the 2017 State Legislative Agenda, which propriation and legislative issues, general appropriations, and appropriations. The State Legislative Agenda outlines issues egislative Affairs Office, in conjunction with the County's state orking on for the upcoming 2017 state legislative session.
Background and F adopts a program o Session.	Policy Issues: Each year the Board of County Commissioners f legislative and appropriation priorities for the State Legislative
Attachments:	
1. Proposed	2017 State Legislative Agenda
·	·
Recommended by:	Department Director Date
Approved By:	11-7-16

County Administration

Date

II. FISCAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

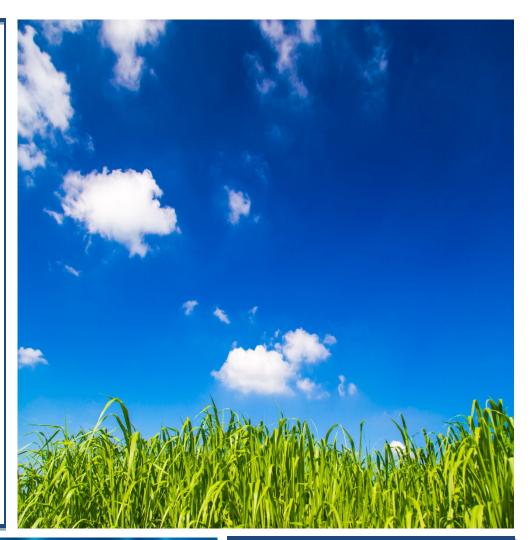
A.	Five Year Summary o	f Fiscal Impa	act:			
	Fiscal Years	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Op Ext	pital penditures erating Costs ternal Revenues ogram Income (County) Kind Match (County)					
N	ET FISCAL IMPACT ❤					-
	o. ADDITIONAL FTE OSITIONS (Cumulative)					
Bu	tem Included In Curre dget Account No.: ject Repo	Fund	Departm	No ent	Unit	
B.	Recommended So	urces of Fun	ıds/Summar	y of Fiscal In	npact:	
C.	Departmental Fisca ▼ There is no fiscal im	al Review: pact associat	ted with this i	tem.		
		III. <u>REVI</u>	EW COMME	NTS		
Α.	OFMB Fiscal and/o	r Contract D	ev. and Cor	itrol Comme	nts:	
	Dua Kinh	11/2/16		ontract Dev.	Jaybu and Control	1118/16
B.	Legal Sufficiency:					4
	Assistant County	Attorney	<u> </u>			
C.	Other Department F	Review:				
	Department [Director	-			

REVISED 9/03 ADM FORM 01 (THIS SUMMARY IS NOT TO BE USED AS A BASIS FOR PAYMENT.)

PALM BEACH COUNTY

2017 PROPOSED STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

GENERAL GOVERNMENT ISSUES





Board of County Commissioners

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

2017 STATE LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	5
LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES	
Glades Regional Initiatives	
Expansion of Gaming at Pari-Mutuel Facilities	
Florida's Film, Television and Digital Media Investment Program	(
Scripps, Max Planck and Biomedical Research Funding	
Enterprise Florida Funding	
BUDGET & TAXATION POLICY	7
LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES	
Unfunded Mandates/Medicaid Cost Shifts	
Article V	
Internet Sales Tax	
Tourist Development Taxes	
TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE	
LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES	
Growth Management and Infrastructure	
DMV Facility Service/Mounts Botanical Garden	
PUBLIC SAFETY	9
LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES	9
Reentry for Non-Violent Offenders	9
Electronic Cigarettes	
Mental Health/Substance Abuse Funding	10
Fire Rescue	10
Domestic Violence	
Center for Youthful Offenders	12
Lifeguard Certification and Training	12
Waiver of Public Record Fees and Disclosures for Criminal Justice Commissions	
Marchman Act Revisions	
SUPPORT ISSUES	14
Pre-Trial Release	
Regain Local Ability For Limited Gun Regulation	
Emergency Preparedness Issues	
Zero Tolerance Policy Revisions	
Brittany's Law - Driver Safety for Minors	10
Rental Cars Used in Thefts	

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES AND HEALTHCARE	17
LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES	17
Transportation Disadvantaged Programs	17
Homelessness	
Affordable Housing	
Public Records Exemption for Homeless Point in Time Count Identifying Data	
Child Welfare	
Senior Welfare	20
Adults/Students With Disabilities	20
SUPPORT ISSUES	20
Retinoblastoma	20
CONSUMER SERVICES	21
LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES	21
Towing Bill	21
Regulation of Transportation Network Companies (TNCs)	22
Mobile Home Disclosure	22
LOCAL GOVERNMENT/ADMINISTRATIVE	22
LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES	
Value Adjustment Board	22
Public Records Amendment	22
Residency of Elected Officals	23
Testimonials for Public Officials	23
EDUCATION	23
LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES	
State Library Funding	23
Palm Beach State College Funding	
Florida Atlantic University Funding	
Career Education Funding	
Cultural Arts and Historic Grants Funding	
AGRICULTURE	26
LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES	26
Local Agriculture	26
Farm to School Programs	26

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

GLADES REGIONAL INITIATIVES

In an effort to provide economic growth and stimulus to the region surrounding Lake Okeechobee, Palm Beach County has identified several legislative issues that will provide economic development and job creation to the area. The County **SUPPORTS**:

- Legislative initiatives to implement components of the Glades Region Master Plan
- The continuation and enhancement of SCOP funding for road reconstruction and repaving
- Funding for improvements to existing affordable housing units as well as the development of new affordable housing units
- Funding for improvements to the Pahokee Marina: \$1.2 million is being requested for repairs and renovations to the Marina, Campground, and Public Side to enhance economic tourism
- Funding for storm water improvements to enhance economic and housing development
- Funding to ensure that the Glades Region has appropriate shelter facilities for emergencies
- Economic Development Incentive and Transportation funding for the Glades Region Inland Logistics Center (formerly known as the Inland Port)
- Funding for youth prevention programs
- Facility improvements at West Tech to accommodate expansion of career academy programs

EXPANSION OF GAMING AT PARI-MUTUEL FACILITIES

In 2004, voters of the state passed an amendment that paved the way for expansion of gambling at parimutuel facilities in Broward and Miami-Dade Counties. Since that time, gambling facilities at several locations throughout the state have been allowed to expand their operations. The ability for these facilities to expand their operation has placed Palm Beach County pari-mutuels at an unfair competitive disadvantage. Legislation may prevent Palm Beach facilities from being able to expand gaming to compete with existing and future gambling facilities in Miami-Dade and Broward County. This could result in the demise of the Palm Beach Kennel Club, a local business that employs 624 people and attracts over 750,000 people a year.

In November 2012, voters in Palm Beach County approved a ballot question asking voters if they would like to allow slot machines in existing pari-mutuel facilities.

OPPOSE legislation that would place Palm Beach County pari-mutuel facilities at an unfair competitive disadvantage as it relates to the expansion of gambling in the state and support legislation providing for the inclusion of slot machines in Palm Beach County pari-mutual facilities.

FLORIDA'S FILM, TELEVISION AND DIGITAL MEDIA INVESTMENT PROGRAM

Florida's Entertainment Industry Financial Investment Program created thousands of new jobs for Florida workers, brought in substantial new money to our local communities, and spawned financial investment and tourism throughout the state.

Since 2004, Florida has had a statewide program in place to attract film, television and digital media production. First, this came in the form of a rebate program from 2004-2009, and was reissued as a tax incentive program in 2010. During the 2012 legislative session, the program was allocated an additional \$42 million in tax credits and extended an additional year. During the 2014 through 2016 legislative sessions, Florida's Entertainment Industry Financial Investment Program was not allocated additional tax credits and as a result the program sunset June 30, 2016.

In order to ensure the continued success of Florida's Film, TV and Digital Media Industry, the County **SUPPORTS** the following:

- 1. Create and support a long-term investment and growth program that will report a "Return on Investment" that is easily definable and includes tourism benefits of film and television programs.
- 2. The restoration of adequate funding for the State's Office of Film & Entertainment to reinstate full funding for the LA office and continue to properly oversee, administer and market Florida as an ideal destination for production.
- 3. Contract with Film Florida, Inc. (FL's lead trade association) to provide consistent leadership for Florida's entertainment production industries by 1) marketing the State's industry resources; 2) aligning and building the State's regional industry clusters; and 3) insuring that steps are being taken to protect Florida's current and future investment in the entertainment production industries.
- 4. It is highly recommended that the State's Office of Film & Entertainment implement an economic and job impact study to account for the true value of the industry in FL. The study should include the impact of film during the existence of incentives, assessments of any reduction of economic and job benefits or rate of economic or job growth that can be directly attributed to the loss of incentives.

SCRIPPS, MAX PLANCK AND BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH FUNDING

Current statute allows for a percentage of cigarette tax revenues to be deposited into the Alcoholic Beverage and Tobacco Trust Fund. For 2017-2018, it is estimated that \$359.4 million in tobacco settlement payments will be collected by the state. This is expected to be about \$16.3 million less than was earlier estimated due to an anomaly in calculation; the Attorney General's Office is looking into ways to recover these dollars. One percent of those tax revenues is then placed into the Biomedical Research Trust Fund in the Department of Health for the purpose of establishing activities and grant opportunities in relation to biomedical research. Those funds have been solely appropriated to Sanford-Burnham Medical Research Institute. **SUPPORT** a revision of 210.20, F.S. to strike Sanford-Burnham and replace with Scripps.

SUPPORT an increase in the percentage of cigarette tax net collections that will be deposited into the Biomedical Research Trust Fund, or a direct appropriation of \$5 million per year to Scripps, to enhance biotechnology research within the state. Efforts should be made to continue to enhance the Trust Fund to allow other research institutes to compete for funding.

SUPPORT new and recurring funding for educational programs produced by the Max Planck Florida Institute for Neuroscience and Florida Atlantic University's STEM and Life Sciences program at the Jupiter campus, such as the FAU/Max Planck Florida Scientific Fellowship Program, the Sunposium Global Neuroscience Conference, and the FAU/Max Planck joint PhD degree programs.

ENTERPRISE FLORIDA FUNDING

Palm Beach County will continue to monitor the discussions regarding the future of Enterprise Florida. In an effort to continue expanded resources to assist Palm Beach County's Office of Economic Sustainability and the Business Development Board, the state's economic development toolkit should be funded in a manner that supports continued economic growth and financial stability for regional businesses and those seeking to relocate to our area.

BUDGET & TAXATION POLICY

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

UNFUNDED MANDATES/MEDICAID COST SHIFTS

The State Legislature has frequently passed legislation that compels local governments to provide a service, program, or benefit without providing the appropriate funding or a funding source. This compromises local governments' ability to provide services requested by their local communities by diverting resources to these state-directed, unfunded mandates or cost shifts. In addition, as more and more mandates are created, local governments are faced with the burden of using local tax dollars to finance functions that they have little control over.

The state must do a better job of truthfully identifying costs to local governments when passing new legislation and <u>must</u> provide funding or a funding source for every legislative initiative that imposes a cost on counties. Palm Beach County **OPPOSES** new unfunded mandates and unfunded state to county cost shifts.

ARTICLE V

The State should allow for the expansion of the \$65 mandatory court fee to be applied to civil cases in addition to the already allowed criminal cases. This fee would allow for additional revenue to fund the state court system. The County **SUPPORTS** the continuation and enhancement of the \$2.00 recording fee to be

distributed to counties to fund court-related technology needs. Palm Beach **SUPPORTS** full funding for statewide traffic hearing officer programs.

Under existing law, counties are required to increase funding for courts by 1.5% a year. In recent years, counties successfully obtained an exemption from having to increase annual funding for court-related functions by 1.5% under section 29.008, Florida Statutes. Support eliminating the requirements of s. 29.008(4)(a), F.S. that require counties to fund this increase.

INTERNET SALES TAX

Palm Beach County **SUPPORTS** clarifying and enforcing the existing law relating to the collection of sales tax on taxable items purchased via Internet. Currently, individuals in the State of Florida are obligated to pay taxes on goods purchased online. The burden lies on *the individual* to remit to the Department of Revenue the tax incurred for online purchases unlike "brick and mortar" businesses where *the business* is required to collect and remit to the state. The Legislature should clarify law to require all businesses to collect and remit appropriate sales tax on goods purchased online. Additionally, the Federal Government should enact provisions that allow for the interstate collection and remittance of sales taxes paid on taxable goods that are purchased from businesses in said states.

TOURIST DEVELOPMENT TAXES

The Palm Beach County Tax Collector is requesting that Chapter 212.03 (1)(a) Transient rentals tax be amended to add **vessels** to the taxable list of entities renting for under six months. Currently, a number of on-line companies are now advertising vessels on their websites. One website has 17 vessel rentals to rent for less than six months. These rentals range from \$500 per night to \$59. This will enable Palm Beach County to amend their County Ordinance 95-30 to begin collecting bed taxes.

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

GROWTH MANAGEMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Growth management laws should take careful consideration of and protect the distinct home rule authority and land use controls of local governments. **SUPPORT** changes that 1) strengthen the intergovernmental review process, 2) ensure that the development impacts occurring outside the approving jurisdiction are adequately mitigated, 3) eliminate unnecessary duplication and expenses, and 4) support full funding of regional planning councils and oppose legislation prohibiting or restricting the ability of a regional planning council to provide planning and technical service to its local governments. The County additionally **SUPPORTS** efforts to strengthen intergovernmental coordination so land use decisions of one jurisdiction do not negatively impact another.

Current law requires "proportionate share" payments <u>only for the first project</u> to take a road segment from under capacity to an over capacity situation. The County **SUPPORTS** amending state law to require <u>any</u> project impacting an over capacity road to contribute an amount equal to their impact/use of the capacity they are absorbing.

Additionally, the County **OPPOSES** legislation that preempts the legislative and policy making powers of counties used to regulate land use and implement local zoning controls and **OPPOSES** additional conversions of independent special districts under S. 165.0615. Further, **OPPOSE** legislative efforts that mandate minimum land use densities for properties that meet specific size, use and location characteristics.

DMV FACILITY SERVICE/MOUNTS BOTANICAL GARDEN

Currently, the former Department of Motor Vehicles licensing building is located on a parcel of land that sits on the northeast corner of The Mounts Botanical Garden of Palm Beach County. The Garden exists to support the educational mission of the Palm Beach County Cooperative Extension Service whose office is adjacent to the Garden and the DMV facility. The Garden has extensive collections of native and exotic trees, shrubs, flowers, and grasses that are used for teaching, display, research and conservation. More than 2,000 species of tropical and subtropical plants are cultivated to educate and inspire the public and provide opportunities for people of all ages and backgrounds to learn the art, science, and joy of gardening. Additionally, it promotes a meaningful experience within nature, environmental stewardship, and sense of place within Palm Beach County.

In 1991, a design team was asked to prepare a master plan, which was revised in 2004, for the Botanical Garden that would enable it to expand and be used as an important teaching and research arm for the horticultural and agricultural community. Under this plan, the current site of the DMV office would become an integral part of the future Education Center.

DMV service at the Military Trail site ceased in June 2015. The County **SUPPORTS** future integration of the Military Trail DMV Office into the Mounts Botanical Garden Master Plan.

PUBLIC SAFETY

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

REENTRY FOR NON-VIOLENT OFFENDERS

Florida continues to house one of America's largest prison populations. More than 34,000 people return to their communities from prison each year with more than 1,200 of those coming to Palm Beach County. The County **SUPPORTS** efforts to restore rights to felons and to provide resources to ensure successful re-entry into the regular workforce. Palm Beach County also continues to **SUPPORT** corporate tax credits and bond

protection for businesses that hire non-violent felons as part of a re-entry program. In addition, Palm Beach County SUPPORTS the criminal justice reform described below:

Modify FS 1011.80

During the 2013 Legislative Session, Florida Statute 1011.84 was modified to prohibit the use of state funding of educational programs for state prison and county jail inmates. This dramatically affects our local state college, Palm Beach State College, from educating inmates at reentry facilities, including Sago Palm. Palm Beach County supports legislation aimed at increasing the successful reentry of state prisoners, including the ability of state colleges to provide coursework and training classes to inmates at reentry facilities.

ELECTRONIC CIGARETTES

SUPPORT an amendment Florida's Clean Air Indoor Act to prohibit "vaping"—or the use of electronic cigarette products—indoors in the same manner as tobacco products.

MENTAL HEALTH/SUBSTANCE ABUSE FUNDING

Increased community funding is required to meet the needs of persons residing in the Palm Beach County area who are mentally ill and often also have severe substance use disorders.

Additionally, the human and economic costs of untreated mental illness in our state continue to rise. Those costs include the criminalization of people with untreated mental illness, family erosion, substance abuse, job loss, domestic violence, homelessness, medical problems, crime and suicide. Florida must do more to invest and fund community-based and integrated mental healthcare. The County **SUPPORTS** increased funding for the region's managing entity, the South East Florida Behavioral Health Network, to be utilized to reduce mental health inmates in our jails and create overall safer communities.

FIRE RESCUE

Carbon Monoxide Detectors

Several times a year, the Palm Beach County Fire Rescue handles fatalities that have occurred because running car engines in garages have emitted toxic levels of carbon dioxide. If more homes were constructed with carbon monoxide detectors, these incidents could be eliminated. The County **SUPPORTS** legislation and associated funding to encourage the installment of detectors in garages of new construction homes.

Fall Prevention

Nearly 20 percent of calls to Palm Beach County Fire Rescue are fall related injuries. Last year, upwards of 25,000 calls were documented involving falls and associated injuries. Palm Beach County seeks state resources to provide fall prevention education in the community and expand the existing fall prevention workshop program.

Preventative Medical Care

SUPPORT a legislative change to allow Fire Rescue to perform preventative medical care on discharged patients in non-emergency situations. This preventative action will reduce the deployment of critical resources arising from future calls, thus resulting in increased public safety.

Narcan

SUPPORT state efforts to reduce the financial burden on entities that must purchase Narcan for public safety.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Domestic violence occurs in all races, across all economic classes and educational levels. Nearly all victims are female (94%), and 31% of the women murdered in the United States are killed by their significant others. Forty percent of homeless families in large cities are homeless because they are fleeing violence. Children whose mothers are abused are at a higher risk of also being abused. Furthermore, substance abuse is more likely to compound the risk of domestic violence. Locally, recent news reports of domestic violence victims dying at the hands of their abusers have raised the need to support further efforts to protect victims, treat abusers, and provide resources for families.

Therefore, Palm Beach County **SUPPORTS**:

- 1. Legislation that allows for a victim of domestic violence to receive unemployment compensation or terminate rental leases if the victim can prove that the discontinued employment or need to terminate a lease is a direct result of circumstances related to domestic violence as defined in s. 741.28. The victim must:
 - a. Provide evidence, such as an injunction, protective order, or other such reasonable documentation authorized by state law which reasonably proves that domestic violence has occurred.
 - b. Reasonably believe that a future act of domestic violence, including being a victim of stalking as provided in s. 784.048(3), (4), or (5), is likely to occur against the individual by a family or household member, as defined in s. 741.28.
 - c. Make reasonable efforts to preserve employment and lease by seeking a protective injunction prior to seeking a lease or voluntary employment termination.
- 2. If a victim successfully terminates a lease under the guidelines above, prior to a voluntarily termination of employment being granted, the victim must either attempt to relocate to a secure place or seek a reasonable accommodation from the employer, such as a transfer or different assignment, prior to being approved for unemployment compensation.

Palm Beach County also **SUPPORTS** a revision to Section 741.30(6)(a)(5), Florida Statutes that would *require* court-ordered intervention treatment for perpetrators of domestic violence. This change would be modeled after the Dupage County, Illinois Domestic Violence Program, a NACo award-winning program for Innovation. This intervention program is designed to treat the perpetrator by including a mandatory court-ordered assignment to this 26 week, 39 hour intervention program. The program fees are designed to accommodate indigent as well as full-fee payment.

EXPAND the allowable uses of the Domestic Violence Trust Fund articulated in Section 938.08, Florida Statutes to include programming for domestic violence victims. Some of the programs suggested are an inhouse batterer's intervention program and support services for victims to assist getting restraining orders and case management assistance, as well as, funding for prevention, housing and treatment. Currently, these funds generated by fees are only used for law enforcement training for domestic violence issues and to offset the costs of incarceration of domestic violence offenders.

CENTER FOR YOUTHFUL OFFENDERS

The County **SUPPORTS** urging the Florida Department of Corrections to open a Youthful Offender Facility in south Florida. Such facilities house inmates up to 24 years of age whose crimes were committed before they turned 21 and whose sentences are ten years or less. A vital component to the rehabilitation of youthful offenders is being close their families. However, the closest facility to Palm Beach County is in Sumter County. In 2012, a facility in Indian River County was closed down due to budget cuts in the Department of Corrections.

LIFEGUARD CERTIFICATION AND TRAINING

Coastal/open water lifeguards are employed by local governments around the state to provide effective injury prevention and emergency medical/rescue services. In emergency circumstances, pre-hospital medical care at Florida's public bathing places is necessary. In an effort to ensure minimum standards for rescue and pre-hospital medical care with transport providers, Palm Beach County **SUPPORTS** legislation or regulatory action that would license and/or certify coastal/open water lifeguard agencies under the United States Lifesaving Association - Agency Certification program.

WAIVER OF PUBLIC RECORD FEES AND DISCLOSURES FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSIONS

The County **SUPPORTS** amending Section 28.24, Florida Statutes regarding service charges by clerk of the circuit courts, to add "criminal justice commissions" to the list of agencies exempt from being charged for public documents. Criminal Justice Commissions exist in Palm Beach and Sarasota counties. The impact to the Commissions as a result of lacking the exemption is approximately \$2000 a year.

The County additionally **SUPPORTS** amending Section 119.07(6), Florida Statutes to add Criminal Justice Commissions that are created by County Ordinances to the list of agencies in the cited section, which would enable the Commissions to receive information that is exempt from public records disclosures.

MARCHMAN ACT REVISIONS

The Marchman Act is a civil process established in Florida law that provides for the involuntary or voluntary assessment, stabilization, and treatment of a person abusing or addicted to drugs or alcohol.

The Marchman Act involves a two-step process of assessment and then treatment. The most common way Marchman cases are initiated is with the filing of a petition for involuntary assessment in the county where the substance abuser is located. The criteria for the Marchman Act petition requires a demonstration that the individual has lost the power of self-control with respect to substance use and either (a) the individual is in need of substance abuse services and is incapable of making a rational decision in regard to receiving services or (b) is likely to suffer from neglect or has inflicted or threatened or attempted to inflict physical harm on oneself or another, or is likely to do so unless admitted.

The County **SUPPORTS** amending several sections of the Florida Statutes as follows:

397.697 Court determination; effect of court order for involuntary substance abuse treatment. -

The court may order the individual to attend a recovery residence upon completion of their treatment if it is recommended by the service provider and if additional funding is available. This allows the individual to reside in a supportive drug free environment with greater chances of continued sobriety.

Failure to complete treatment may result in a new protective custody order authorized by any duty judge. This will eliminate the process of filing an additional petition and allow a quicker reaction time for the individual to reenter treatment.

397.6977 Disposition of individual upon completion of involuntary substance abuse treatment. –

Notice from the service provider that an individual has satisfactorily completed treatment or extended treatment, the individual is automatically discharged. This allows input of the service provider's professional opinion to be conveyed to the courts that the individual has successfully completed the treatment program.

A non-completion of the involuntary treatment or relapses within the twelve month timeframe by the individual, the court may retain jurisdiction over the individual. This allows for the courts to have the power to overrule in the best interest of the individual, returning him/her treatment.

397.6773 Dispositional alternatives after protective custody. –

If an individual is taken into protective custody, the individual may be held beyond the allotted statute timeframe, allowing for a petition to be filed through the court. This will allow the individual to remain in a safe, secure, and drug free environment until further actions are taken and implemented.

397.6799 Disposition of minor upon completion of alternative involuntary assessment. –

When a minor has been assessed, based on the assessment and the service provider, the minor may be held in the treatment facility while a petition for involuntary treatment has been filed through the court. This will allow the minor to be monitored in a structured treatment environment as an alternative of being released.

The County additionally **SUPPORTS** increased and appropriate funding for crisis mental health and substance abuse beds statewide. The County **SUPPORTS** increased funding for public receiving facilities and maintaining funding for public facilities if new state general revenue is provided to private receiving facilities. The County also **SUPPORTS** coordinated efforts to increase access to acute care behavioral health services for individuals and families.

In addition, the County **SUPPORTS** legislation to apply confidentiality to Marchman Act filings in the same manner they are applied to other health related record confidentiality under Section 392.65. Florida Statutes.

SUPPORT ISSUES

PRE-TRIAL RELEASE

The County **SUPPORTS** maintaining county ability to provide non-monetary pre-trial release services that ensure the safety and welfare of local communities and oppose legislation that would limit the discretion of first appearance judges to prescribe pre-trial options for defendants.

The County **SUPPORTS** the expansion of state resources to assist treatment-based drug court programs. Eligible drug-addicted persons may be sent to Drug Court in lieu of traditional justice system case processing. Drug Courts keep individuals in treatment long enough for it to work, while supervising them closely.

REGAIN LOCAL ABILITY FOR LIMITED GUN REGULATION

During the 2011 Legislative Session, HB 45 was enacted, which created stiff financial penalties for counties and elected officials that pass local ordinances and administrative rules that regulate firearms or ammunition. These fines range from \$5,000.00 for individuals to \$100,000.00 for repayment of attorneys' fees. In addition to financial penalties, employees acting in an official capacity that knowingly violate these provisions can be subject to immediate termination. The two exceptions to the provision of law are ordinances or rules that enact waiting periods or criminal background checks.

Palm Beach County **OPPOSES** Chapter 2011-109 Laws of Florida on the grounds that it violates the County's Home Rule Authority. The County had four ordinances and two resolutions related to gun control that had to be either amended or removed from the books due to the enactment of the law. The local ordinances and resolutions related to gun possession in family daycares, sale or possession of firearms

during declared emergencies, locations where weapon discharging was permissible, records and holding periods of firearms by secondhand dealers (pawn shops), and forbidding the use of firearms in natural areas. The County continues to maintain the position that it should be able to pass ordinances or local rules that it believes are in the best interest of its citizens and visitors without interference from the Legislature.

Additionally, there has been concern over members of the public open carrying firearms at Juno Beach Fishing Pier. F.S. 790.25(3)(h) allows a person to open carry when the person is "engaged in fishing, camping or lawful hunting or going to or returning from fishing, camping, or lawful hunting expedition." **AMEND** the statute to clarify that open carrying of firearms is permitted while fishing on a boat, not on a public fishing pier.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS ISSUES

The Emergency Management Preparedness and Assistance Trust Fund (EMPA) was created within Ch. 252, F.S. Since inception of the Trust Fund in 1993, it has remained at the same funding level despite a substantial increase in demands on county and municipal emergency management. The EMPA is administered under the oversight of the Executive Office of the Governor. An annual surcharge of \$2.00 per residential property insurance policy and \$4.00 per commercial property insurance policy is currently imposed. A recent LCIR study suggests that changes in the insurance industry since the 1994 inception of the surcharge may be responsible for unintended "loopholes" in surcharge assessments. It is important to note that the fees or types of policies this surcharge affects have not been modified since the trust fund's inception.

The County **SUPPORTS** an examination of methods to correct the deficiencies in surcharge collection and the application of the surcharge to the number of units or parcels included for coverage in a commercial or residential insurance policy.

Prior to 2003, proceeds from the EMPA trust fund were distributed based on a fixed allocation formula in the statute and authorized each year by the Legislature. Since then, the annual appropriation levels for base grants to county emergency management programs have equaled \$7.1 million, a historical level representing approximately 44 percent of the annual trust fund proceeds. The County:

- 1. **Supports** maintaining this funding level as the minimum allocation for County Base Grants.
- 2. **Supports** an across the board increase in county base grants to reflect the increased demands on county emergency management programs.
- 3. **Opposes** any efforts to shift state funding of emergency management from counties to cities.

Additionally, the County **OPPOSES** any efforts to repeal 526.143, F.S., which requires gas stations to be prewired with a transfer switch to allow for an alternate generated power source in the event of a power failure caused by a disaster.

The County **SUPPORTS** efforts to increase the fee that the Division of Emergency Management can charge to review Comprehensive Emergency Management Plans to better balance the costs incurred by the County for staff to conduct the reviews. Currently, DEM can charge \$31.25 per hour.

ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY REVISIONS

Schools continue to be a major source of referrals into the Juvenile Justice system. In order to expand the use of civil citations (or similar programs), zero tolerance statutes need to be revisited. Implemented in the early nineties to address the increasing juvenile crime rates, zero tolerance policies served a purpose at that time.

Over the years it has become apparent that the current statutory language ties the hands of teachers and administrators. Furthermore, it does not provide for a uniform way of addressing misconduct on school grounds as shown by the various policies even at schools within the same school district.

The County **SUPPORTS** legislation similar to that proposed in the 2012 Legislative Session (SB 1886), which revises zero tolerance statutes in a way that provides for a more equal treatment of juveniles on school grounds, greater ability for school administration to address issues on campus, protects victims and supports the needs of law enforcement. Additionally, the County **SUPPORTS** efforts to provide opportunities for greater parental engagement to help increase their children's achievement and success.

BRITTANY'S LAW - DRIVER SAFETY FOR MINORS

In April 2015, a 17 year old was accused of running a stop sign and killing 18-year old Palm Beach County resident Brittany Baxter. At the time the 17 year old had been charged with eight traffic citations in the 33 months he was authorized to drive.

SUPPORT legislation that would create enhanced driver safety by either increasing points assigned for repeat driving infractions incurred by drivers under the age of 18 and adjusting the state's graduated driver license program to restrict driver privileges for repeat offenders.

RENTAL CARS USED IN THEFTS

The Law Enforcement Planning Council of Palm Beach County continues to see a proliferation of rental cars being used to commit crimes. **SUPPORT** legislation that would increase penalties for individuals using rental cars in thefts and other crimes including making it illegal to tint windows on rental cars and to stiffen penalties for individuals who alter license plates on rental vehicles. Work with car industry on innovations to assist law enforcement to make it easier to locate vehicles used in committing crimes.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES AND HEALTHCARE

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED PROGRAMS

Palm Beach County is requesting an additional \$2 million to continue providing paratransit services to the Transportation Disadvantaged (TD). In FY 2016 the total expenditures for this program totaled \$4.5 million, the State of Florida providing \$2,732,998; these funds provided 38,992 discounted fixed route bus passes and 86,406 trips to TD individuals residing beyond ¾ of a mile distance from fixed route. TD funding is an important funding source for Palm Tran, enabling Palm Beach County to provide the most economically challenged customers with public transportation when they are located outside of the fixed route service area, and to provide discounted fixed route bus passes. To maintain the existing level of services and accommodate the needs of TD residents, Palm Beach County has annually supported the TD program efforts with additional funding. This year the County's local contribution is \$2,151,354 million, of which \$326,894 is required. Palm Beach County **SUPPORTS** attempts to increase the funding to the TD program and to prevent diversion of these dollars for other purposes.

HOMELESSNESS

Dedicated Revenue Stream

Palm Beach County currently **SUPPORTS** efforts by members of the Legislature to identify a dedicated revenue stream to fund programs for the homeless. The County is experiencing a growing problem with homeless students, seniors, and veterans. For example, there are approximately 3200 homeless students in PBC public schools, with 3000 homeless Palm Beach State College students living in their cars. Three possible sources are being considered at this time:

1. Streamlining Challenge Grants

Challenge Grants have been funded the last two sessions. Chapter 420.622, Florida Statutes establishes the Challenge Grant Program and establishes criteria for local grant awards, competitively procured by the State Office on Homelessness. Palm Beach County supports providing a sustainable funding source for Challenge Grants. The County also supports a simplification of the Challenge Grant award process. Recommendations for simplification include:

- Revise qualifications for the Challenge program to the Lead Agency of the Homeless Continuum of Care to include an allocated funding level based on having and implementing a Long Range Strategic Plan;
- Creating and ensuring a coordinated assessment/central point of access; and
- Demonstrated ability of the CoC to provide quality services to homeless persons, with annual renewal of HUD SHP Grant.

• Preference given to lead agencies in Continuums with the greatest need for provision of services to the homeless relative to the population of the area.

The Lead Agency receiving Challenge program funds would establish a local process for priorities and award based on Continuum goals and needs. The Lead Agency would continue to be responsible for monitoring the recipient and submitting required reports to DCF.

2. Gaming Revenues

If the Legislature passes legislation related to gaming in Florida, Palm Beach County supports the designation of revenues resulting from an expansion of gaming or a renegotiated compact with the Seminole Tribe of Florida for homeless services.

3. Local Discretionary Sales Surtaxes

Palm Beach County supports a statutory change that would add a ninth category to the local discretionary sales surtax or an expansion of existing categories to fund homeless services through local referendum.

The County **SUPPORTS** legislation that would include a combination of any of these three potential revenue sources.

Additionally, **SUPPORT** a legislative tweak to the sober homes legislation that will provide options to prevent individuals who are forced to leave a home from becoming homeless.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Palm Beach County **SUPPORTS** efforts to ensure that funds within the Sadowski Housing Trust Fund are fully appropriated for affordable housing projects and not rolled into General Revenue. Palm Beach County received \$6.6 million for affordable housing during the 2016 session.

Furthermore, the Legislature should provide more flexibility in the use of housing dollars for administrative purposes. Currently, Palm Beach County has 1,750 SHIP mortgages and is required to monitor them ranging from 15-30 years. The current 10% administrative cap should be adjusted based on population to allow for 20% for counties with over 1 million population and 15% for counties between 500,000 and 1 million population.

PUBLIC RECORDS EXEMPTION FOR HOMELESS POINT IN TIME COUNT IDENTIFYING DATA

Federal law requires local homeless Continuums of Care to conduct a point-in-time homeless count every other year. These numbers determine funding levels for many of the homeless programs. An issue arose frequently when a newspaper reporter submitted a public records request for identifying information from the required survey. This is extremely sensitive because the homeless are often concerned during these surveys with their privacy being maintained. If there was concern about this information becoming public,

homeless individuals would be less likely to participate in the survey. This, in turn, affects federal funding levels from HUD. Therefore, Palm Beach County **SUPPORTS** legislation that would allow identifying information such as name and date of birth to remain exempt from public record requests. SB 552 passed the Senate 40-0 during the 2015 session but died in messages since HB 535 only cleared one of its three House committees.

CHILD WELFARE

Palm Beach County **SUPPORTS** the Florida Coalition for Children's appropriation request seeking increased funding for the agencies operating Florida's system of foster care and related services. The Florida Coalition for Children (FCC) is a statewide association of Community-Based Care lead agencies, such as ChildNet Palm Beach, and those agencies that directly serve Florida's abused, abandoned and neglected children. These funds will be used, both here in Palm Beach County and throughout the state, to provide a range of services including foster care, case management, adoption and family strengthening and support.

Since FY2013/14, the number of children being removed from their homes throughout Florida because of verified abuse, abandonment and neglect has increased substantially. Annual increases in statewide child welfare funding have not been sufficient to meet the needs of this expanding population. ChildNet Palm Beach has had to rely upon "emergency" one-time funding through vehicles such as the Legislative Budget Commission and the CBC Risk Pool to address its resulting shortfalls. The goal of this year's FCC appropriation request is to provide annual funding sufficient to enable lead agencies and their subcontracted service providers to consistently and effectively meet the needs of Florida's expanded foster care population.

Extended Foster Care Funding

The Legislature made positive modifications to the Independent Living Program during the 2013 Session and also provided for Extended Foster Care in the state of Florida; however, the unfunded mandate known as the My Future My Choice Program requires the following additional services from Community-Based Care lead agencies (CBCs):

- Full case management services for youth ages 18 to 22 in Extended Foster Care.
- Supervised living arrangements, with CBCs paying rent and utilities directly to the landlord or provider, for youth ages 18 to 22 in Extended Foster Care.

ChildNet has historically carried a deficit related to Extended Foster Care, and, with this unfunded mandate, the deficit is currently at \$1.6 million for ChildNet Palm Beach. Therefore, the County **SUPPORTS**:

- Revisions to existing statutes and associated regulations to adjust the language to clarify roles and responsibilities in serving youth over the age of 18 that opt to extend care.
- Allocating additional funding to cover ChildNet's costs associated with implementing the independent living legislation.

SENIOR WELFARE

Palm Beach County **SUPPORTS** the Area Agency on Aging's legislative priorities: 1) support funding for Florida's Aging & Disability Resource Centers client services workload under the Statewide Medicaid Managed Long Term Care Program to reduce the risk of nursing home placement for seniors and adults with disabilities; and 2) support funding to serve 1,287 most at-risk seniors statewide on the Department of Elder Affairs Waiting List for The Community Care/Home Care for the Elderly and the Alzheimer's Respite Care Programs.

ADULTS/STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Palm Beach County **SUPPORTS** restoring the statewide funding for the Adults with Disabilities Program to \$10 million. More than 13,000 Floridians with physical and learning disabilities use programs that are funded through the AWD program. However, in the 2015 /16 budget, funding was slashed to \$750,000 statewide. Five agencies in Palm Beach County serving people with disabilities lost a total of \$709,481 in funding for programs, leading not only to staff layoffs but also causing disabled adults to lose their jobs and training opportunities. These providers include Palm Beach Habilitation Center, Boca Raton Habilitation Center, Seagull Services, ARC of Palm Beach County and Jeff Industries.

The County **SUPPORTS** legislation similar to SB7030 filed during the 2015 legislative session that creates a pathway for funding and opportunities for post secondary training for students who are intellectually disabled and encourages career paths and adult transition.

SUPPORT ISSUES

RETINOBLASTOMA

Retinoblastoma is a disease that causes the growth of malignant tumors in the retinal cell layer of the eye and affects 1 in every 12,000 children. Most cases occur in the first two years of life, which is why it is important that screening of this disease take place between birth and 5 years of age. Worldwide, over 7,000 children die each year due to lack of early detection. Only the State of California has passed legislation that requires eye pathology screening of newborns and infants. In infancy, eye dilation is needed in order for an omthalmoscope to detect 100% of the tumors. The use of a photograph of the child from parents and/or physicians can aide in the determination of utilizing eye drops necessary for eye dilation. This 10 second exam will also detect other ocular diseases that affect newborns, infants and toddlers such as congenital cataracts.

The Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners continues to issue an annual proclamation declaring December as "Joey Bergsma Retinoblastoma Awareness Month" to raise the awareness of this disease. In addition, the Board passed a resolution urging the Legislature to require exams for early detection of Retinoblastoma in newborns and infants.

Legislation should **AMEND** Florida Statutes to "require the dissemination of information at prenatal, newborn, and preschool or kindergarten child exams to educate parents about the importance of receiving certain eye examinations that screen for retinoblastoma. Such information should also include instructions on how the exam should be conducted."

CONSUMER SERVICES

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

TOWING BILL

The County **SUPPORTS** the following changes to Florida Statute to provide additional consumer protection:

Section 715.07, Florida Statutes implies but does not require the direct and express authorization from a property owner to have a towing company remove an illegally parked vehicle. Amend statute to specifically define "express authorization" so that only a property owner or their specific designee can authorize the towing of inappropriately parked vehicles or vessels on private property and should include a signature, printed name, and telephone number.

Section 715.07, Florida Statutes provides no guidance or definition as to what documentation is required for owners of impounded vehicles or vessels to prove they are the actual owners. Right now, some Florida DMV and County websites state that the ownership status will not change until the buyer applies for and is issued a Certificate of Title which must be filled out by the buyer and signed by both the seller and buyer before then being submitted to the a local Tax Collector's Office. The statute should be amended to define the required documentation that towing companies must accept to prove that a person owns an impounded vehicle or vessel. If the required documentation that towing companies must accept "shall include but not be limited to" several other ownership documents (i.e. Bill of Sale property endorsed, Power of Attorney, a Trust, etc.), this would save the consumers considerable dollars in compounding storage fees and give towing companies direction in requiring specific types of ownership documentation.

Previous legislation filed in the Florida Legislature would have provided certification and training for wrecker operators and require at least two forms of payment, including cash, to be accepted but did not pass. Require towing companies to accept payment for towed vehicles/vessels beyond cash to include valid checks and credit cards.

A towing business' hours of operation currently defined in Section 715.07, Florida Statutes as between 8am and 6pm should also be defined in Section 713.78, Florida Statutes to provide consistency in Florida law and provide consumer protections from being required to pay excessive fees.

Additionally, a cap on towing mileage radius should be provided for in statute for certain regions of the state to ensure vehicles are not towed so far from the original destination so as to overly burden the car owner.

REGULATION OF TRANSPORTATION NETWORK COMPANIES (TNCs)

SUPPORT uniform statewide insurance requirements that would apply to both taxi and TNC companies such as Uber and Lyft. Additionally, **SUPPORT** uniform statewide regulations, including Level 2 background checks, which would govern the TNC industry and their drivers. Any statewide regulation of TNCs should require that drivers of TNC-operated paratransit services also be subject to Level 2 background screening.

MOBILE HOME DISCLOSURE

State law does not require mobile home owners to disclose to potential buyers of their homes that a developer has purchased the mobile home park, presumably for redevelopment. However, Chapter 723, Florida Statutes (Mobile Home Park Lot Tenancies) requires that a mobile home park owner must disclose certain zoning and land use information governing the park before entering into a rental agreement for a mobile home lot. It is unclear whether a buyer would receive such disclosure prior to closing on the purchase of a mobile home from a private seller. Therefore, **SUPPORT** clarifying Chapter 723, Florida Statutes to require a mobile home park owner to notify a buyer, before closing on the purchase of a mobile home from a private seller, of any change in ownership of the mobile home park and/or any definite future plans for changes in the use of the park.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT/ADMINISTRATIVE

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

VALUE ADJUSTMENT BOARD

The Palm Beach County Value Adjustment Board received a record 19,800 petitions in 2009 from residents who pay a \$15 filing fee in comparison to the approximate \$114 in costs to the County to facilitate a petition. In 2015 while the number of petitions filed has decreased significantly, the cost ratio to conduct the hearings has remained consistent. The current filing fee has been in effect since 1988. With the changes in law coupled with the vast number of petitions filed and expected to grow, the filing fee should be raised to \$50 to cover the anticipated increasing costs to process them.

PUBLIC RECORDS AMENDMENT

Currently, state law allows for local government agency exemptions from inspection or copying of public records relating to complaints of discrimination regarding race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, handicap, marital status, sale or rental of housing, the provision of brokerage services, and the financing of housing. **AMEND** s. 119.0713, F.S. to include familial status. Also, include language stating that all records created or received in the course of conciliation with any unit of local government to resolve

complaints of discrimination regarding race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, handicap, marital status, familial status, sale or rental of housing, the provision of brokerage services, and the financing of housing are confidential and exempt from s.119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Article I of the State Constitution. **SUPPORT** a statement of finding from the legislature that this exemption is necessary to encourage the resolution of complaints of discrimination and the effectiveness and efficiency of the conciliation process.

RESIDENCY OF ELECTED OFFICALS

Controversy over the creation of Westlake has raised questions over its governance, as its charter does not require its council members to live in the municipality. In fact, Westlake's charter states that only two of its five council members must live within Palm Beach County, and there is no requirement that they live within the city itself. Palm Beach County **SUPPORTS** legislation that requires elected officials of local municipalities to live in the districts they represent.

TESTIMONIALS FOR PUBLIC OFFICIALS

Palm Beach County **SUPPORTS** a revision to section 111.012, F.S., to clarify that the statute's provisions apply only to testimonials that are held to raise funds on behalf of any elected public officer. Presently, the statute applies to testimonials that are held to honor public officials, even if no funds are raised.

EDUCATION

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

STATE LIBRARY FUNDING

Local governments receive State support for libraries through three different programs: the State Aid program, the Regional Multi-type Library Cooperative Grant program, and the Public Library Construction Grant program. Continuation of these funding sources will ensure that the State will play an appropriate role in enhancing public library service by matching local library expenditures, enhancing consortia services to area libraries, and providing needed dollars for the construction of new public libraries.

The Legislature decreased **State Aid to Public Libraries** by \$5,110,989, to \$22,298,834 in the 2015-16 budget and kept it at that level in 2016-2017 budget. Palm Beach County and The Florida Library Association strongly **SUPPORTS** the restoration of the State Aid to Public Libraries program to at least **\$33,400,000**. This level of funding was last appropriated in FY 2001.

Currently 51% of Floridians have a library card and they checked out an average of 6 books per person in 2013. Floridians visited their public library 78.5 million times in person and made 94.8 million virtual visits. A strong fiscal foundation for our public libraries is critical to the state's economic and educational success.

Florida's State Aid grant program has been the cornerstone of public library support in our state since 1963 and is a national model. **State Aid grant funding assists Floridians with:**

- Economic development resources to small businesses and job seekers.
- Access to government services, especially e-government public libraries are the "go to" place when Floridians need to access the Internet and the vast array of services and products online.
- Education and reading libraries are the safety net that insures school success for students of all ages.

For every \$1.00 invested in public libraries, the return on investment is \$10.18, Gross Regional Product increases by \$13.23, and income (wages) increases by \$28.42. For every \$2,574 spent on public libraries from public funding sources in Florida, one job (in the economy, not just in libraries) is created.

Regional Multi-type Library Cooperatives

The Palm Beach County Library System is part of the regional multi-type library consortia known as the Southeast Florida Library Information Network (SEFLIN), which connects both public and private libraries of all types to one another and allows the community to be served more effectively through the joint use of technology, continuing education and training of library staff. Each grantee is awarded up to \$400,000 but it requires a ten percent cash match of local funds. The Legislature funded the Library Cooperative Grant program for the state's five multi-type library cooperatives (MLCs) at \$2 million in 2015-16 and Palm Beach County supports an appropriation of the same amount in 2016-17. These funds are critical for Florida's five multi-type library cooperatives (MLC's). These funds are used to:

- Promote resource sharing so Floridians can easily obtain resources from other libraries using statewide delivery and reciprocal borrowing services
- Continuously upgrade the skills of library employees to improve the experience of Florida library customers
- Create connections between libraries to encourage adoption of technologies and services important to Floridians.

PALM BEACH STATE COLLEGE FUNDING

The County **SUPPORTS** the allocation of additional construction funding (Public Education Capital Outlay, PECO) for new buildings on Palm Beach State College's campuses.

Also, the County **SUPPORTS** efforts to increase opportunities for PBSC and the School District to collaborate on programs to ensure that students are college and work ready.

FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY FUNDING

SUPPORT Florida Atlantic University as it pursues its goal of becoming the country's fastest-improving public research university.

JUPITER RESEARCH BUILDING

The Jupiter Research Building is a component of FAU's Life Sciences Initiative, which is transforming the university's John D. MacArthur Campus into a hub of scientific inquiry, innovation, and economic development. **SUPPORT** FAU's funding request to construct a 72,000 gsf facility that will provide research and instructional space to support the recruitment/retention of new research faculty and the program's student enrollment growth.

STEM LIFE SCIENCES INITIATIVE AT JUPITER

SUPPORT the continued funding and development of FAU's STEM Life Sciences Initiative that partners with Max Planck Florida Institute, and Scripps Research Institute to train the scientific leaders of tomorrow by allowing students to work, study, and conduct research alongside some of the world's leading scientists.

TECH RUNWAY

SUPPORT funding for FAU's Tech Runway. Since its inception in 2014, Tech Runway has successfully developed twenty-nine technology start-ups, which collectively have raised \$17.976 million in capital and created over 239 jobs.

KISSIMMEE RIVER RESTORATION PROJECT

SUPPORT funding to expand FAU's cyber-intensive, Indian River Lagoon monitoring network to the Kissimmee River to allow FAU to further establish itself as a regional resource and a global leader for monitoring, managing, and restoring water bodies while simultaneously catalyzing a new restoration economy in Florida.

CAREER EDUCATION FUNDING

STEM, Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, curricula has been predominantly taught in colleges or post-secondary institutions in Florida. Based upon the need for qualified candidates within the STEM fields, the County **SUPPORTS** efforts to expand, enhance and provide adequate funding of STEM programs to public career academies, K-12 educational programs, and career programs in higher education.

CULTURAL ARTS AND HISTORIC GRANTS FUNDING

The Florida Division of Cultural Affairs (DCA) at the Department of State recommends to the Legislature a ranked list of qualified grant applicants for Cultural and Museum Grants, Cultural Projects, Cultural Facilities, and the Cultural Endowment Program. During FY 2014-15 and 15-16, all of the projects on these four grant lists were funded by the Florida Legislature. Palm Beach County organizations benefitted from receiving over \$5 million of the overall funding allocation in both years. **SUPPORT** the FY 16/17 Cultural Grant application list as approved by the DCA.

SUPPORT Small Matching Historic Preservation Grant funding of at least \$670,645 to ensure that the DuBois Park Historic Preservation Plan (for \$48,000), which is ranked 21st out of 71 projects, is funded.

AGRICULTURE

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

LOCAL AGRICULTURE

Palm Beach County is called the "Winter Vegetable Capital of the United States." When it's too cold to grow vegetables in much of the country, Palm Beach County farmers grow 26 major crops, such as sweet corn and sugar cane. During the 2006-07 season, 467,480 acres were used for agriculture in the county, more than any other county in the state.

From the planting of the seeds to the selling of the food in the stores or serving the food in restaurants or at home, thousands of jobs depend on Palm Beach County agriculture. The County's approximately 1,400 farms generate \$1 billion in crop sales at the farm level, with a total economic impact of \$10 billion. Local farmers donate 40 percent of the 5 million pounds of food per year that the Palm Beach County Food Bank distributes.

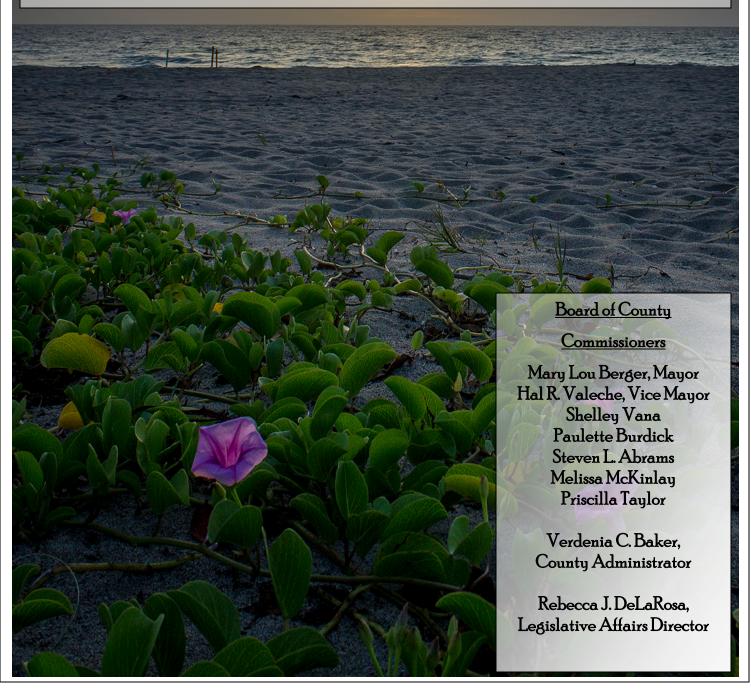
SUPPORT farmers in their efforts to produce fruits and vegetables for our country and our community.

FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Integrated Farm to School programs have the ability to positively affect entire communities. One of the most valuable components of supporting Farm to School initiatives is the opportunity to increase access to fresh produce within a domestic food assistance program that services low-income families. Farm to School programs encourage a lifelong appreciation for healthy eating habits by creating an environment that exposes children to a variety of fruits and vegetables. Aside from the nutritional benefits of increasing the availability of fresh produce in school meals, the local economy benefits from an additional marketplace and could indirectly promote job creation in the agricultural community. **SUPPORT** legislation that would assist in integrating locally grown produce into school meals.

PALM BEACH COUNTY 2017 PROPOSED STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

ENVIRONMENTAL & NATURAL RESOURCES PRIORITIES





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Table of Contents

2017 STATE LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

ENVIRONMENTAL/NATURAL RESOURCES	4
LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES	4
Lake Region Water Infrastructure Improvement Projects \$1,000,000	4
Beach and Inlet Management Project Appropriations: \$28,532,615	5
Loxahatchee River Preservation Initiative \$4,048,426	
Lake Worth Lagoon Initiative \$3,410,750	7
Lake Okeechobee Restoration \$4,000,000	8
Phase II of the J.W. Corbett Levee System Improvement Project	9
C-51 Structural Improvements	9
Mosquito Borne Disease Funding	
Department of Environmental Protection – Beach Funding & Permitting	10
Water and Land Conservation Initiative: Land Acquisition Trust Fund	11
Petroleum Storage Tank Compliance Local Program Funding	12
Maintain Funding for the State Petroleum Cleanup Program	13
Renewable Energy/South Florida Climate Change Compact	13
Flexibility in Mitigation Credit Generation	14
Expansion of Reclaimed Water	14
Alternative Water Supply, Water Resource Development and Infrastructure Funding	
Utility Worker Safety	16
Regulatory Flexibility	16
Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program	16

ENVIRONMENTAL/NATURAL RESOURCES

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

LAKE REGION WATER INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS \$1,000,000

Water infrastructure in the Lake Region (including the economically distressed cities of Belle Glade, South Bay and Pahokee) suffers from a history of inadequate design, substandard construction, the utilization of improper materials and a severe lack of investment for replacement and repair. As a result, the Lake Region suffers from the inadequate provision of water pressure and quality during both average and maximum daily flow conditions. Provision of adequate fire flow pressure during daily flow conditions is also difficult due to the significant deterioration of existing water mains. The continued deterioration of the water infrastructure has resulted in historic rates of 40% water loss throughout the system, leading to threats to the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the Lake Region. It has also curtailed the ability of Palm Beach County and the municipalities of the Lake Region to attract economic development and business expansion, as well as supporting residential and commercial development. Additionally, the Lake Region Water Treatment Plant, previously funded with state and federal contributions to produce high quality water for the Region, is depreciating at an accelerating rate, further preventing the expansion of the water delivery system to promote economic growth in the Region. A suite of Water Infrastructure Improvement Projects (Projects) are required in order to repair and restore the water infrastructure of the Lake Region to a level that will ensure the provision of high quality water delivery, protect the health, safety and welfare of the public and businesses of the Lake Region and improve the economic development outlook of the Region. The proposed projects are prioritized in the Glades Region Master Plan and are being coordinated with necessary storm water and transportation improvements to provide a multi-faceted approach to foster economic development through the improvement of basic infrastructure throughout the Region.

The Lake Region Infrastructure Improvement Projects were previously funded through a \$1 million appropriation during the 2014 Legislative Session and a \$1.5 million appropriation during the 2016 Legislation Session. The 2014 appropriation resulted in the completion of the \$3 million Bacom Point Project that restored adequate potable water and fire flow to adjacent residents and businesses within the project footprint and was completed within a 12-month timeframe, with expenditure of the appropriated funds within the first 5 months. The 2016 appropriation is being utilized to undertake a \$3.3 million project to improve Zones 2E and 2W in the City of Belle Glade that will be completed by early next year.

	FY 2016 Funding Request	
Project Name	Estimated Project Cost	Requested State Allocation
Lake Region Water Infrastructure Improvements	\$5 million	\$1 million

BEACH AND INLET MANAGEMENT PROJECT APPROPRIATIONS: \$28,532,615

Florida's beaches are the focus of our tourism industry and are critical in maintaining Florida's tourism brand. Their role in providing upland property protection against storm damage makes them key components of our economy. The benefits to property values, tourism, jobs by maintaining healthy beaches far outweigh the investment needed to combat coastal erosion. State matching grants are a critical component of the funding required to maintain this essential infrastructure, but state budgetary restrictions continue to force many communities to advance the necessary funding for projects without a guarantee of future reimbursements. The backlog of eligible funding requests continues to expand annually. The County is requesting inclusion of the following Palm Beach County shore protection projects in the State's Beach Erosion Control Program:

	FY 2017/18 Beach & Inlet Management FUNDING REQUESTS				
No.	Project Name	Grant Funding Request	Local Match	Estimated Project Cost	
1	Coral Cove Park Dune Restoration	\$825,000	\$825,000	\$1,650,000	
2	Jupiter/Carlin Shore Protection	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$200,000	
3	Juno Beach Shore Protection	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$300,000	
4	Southern Palm Beach Island Comprehensive Shore Stabilization	\$6,487,648	\$6,487,648	\$12,975,296	
5	South Lake Worth Inlet Mgmt	\$90,000	\$30,000	\$120,000	
6	Ocean Ridge Shore Protection	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$200,000	
7	Singer Island Shore Protection Project	\$599,175	\$900,825	\$1,500,000	
8	South Jupiter Beach	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$200,000	
9	Delray Beach Nourishment	\$26,013	\$26,013	*\$119,130	
10	Boca Raton North Beach Shore Protection	\$ 52,500	\$52,500	\$105,000	
11	Boca Raton Central Beach Shore Protection	\$3,260,454	\$4,443,833	\$7,704,287	
12	Boca Raton South Beach Shore Protection	\$824,915	\$837,885	\$1,662,800	
13	Boca Raton Inlet	\$425,800	\$141,900	\$567,700	
14	Lake Worth Inlet Maintenance Dredging	\$198,000	\$66,000	\$264,000	
15	Midtown Beach Restoration	\$7,855,420	\$9,221,580	\$17,077,000	
16	Phipps Park Restoration	\$7,437,690	\$11,633,310	\$19,071,000	
	TOTAL	\$28,532,615	\$35,116,494	\$63,597,083	

^{*}includes federal funding

LOXAHATCHEE RIVER PRESERVATION INITIATIVE \$4,048,426

The Loxahatchee River is the southernmost tributary of the Indian River Lagoon and includes the North Fork of the Loxahatchee River, one of two nationally designated Wild and Scenic Rivers in Florida. Despite its Federal designation as a Wild and Scenic River and the protective status associated with classification as an Outstanding Florida Water, significant problems need to be addressed.

The Loxahatchee River Preservation Initiative (LRPI) is the outgrowth of a watershed management effort started by the FDEP in 1996. LRPI has a long history of working with both the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to request and receive legislative appropriations to complete essential restoration. SFWMD is a local presence in the region that understands the system and the benefit each of these projects provide to the River. Projects are ranked and prioritized by the LRPI Board, including representatives of the state agencies.

Rank	Project Name	Applicant	LRPI Request	Local Match	Estimated Project Cost
1	Moonshine Creek Oxbow Restoration	Jupiter Inlet District	\$ 375,000	\$ 375,000	\$750,000
2	Cypress Creek Weir: Construction	Martin County Ecosystem Restoration Division	\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000	\$600,000
3	Neighborhood Sewering Phase 6	Loxahatchee River District	\$ 498,000	\$ 498,000	\$996,000
4	Neighborhood Sewering Phase 7- Whispering Trails	Loxahatchee River District	\$ 543,000	\$ 2,000,000	\$2,543,000
5	Jupiter Inlet Village Water Quality Improvements	Town of Jupiter	\$ 624,731	\$ 624,731	\$1,249,462
6	Seminole Avenue Stormwater Basin Improvements	Town of Jupiter	\$ 473,680	\$ 473,680	\$947,360
7	Jupiter Farms Elementary Force Main	Loxahatchee River District	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000	\$400,000
7	Elsa and Paulina Roads Infrastructure Improvements	Town of Jupiter	\$ 70,000	\$ 636,245	\$706,245
9	Hydrologic Restoration Phase II FY2017-2018	Jonathan Dickinson State Park	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	\$300,000
10	Urban Stormwater Management System Rehabilitation Phase VIII – Yacht Club Estates	Town of Jupiter	\$ 200,000	\$ 220,000	\$400,000

11	Loxahatchee River Water Quality Monitoring FY2018	Loxahatchee River District	\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000	\$120,000
12	Loxahatchee Slough / Hungryland Slough Hydrological Enhancement Study	Palm Beach County Environmental Resources Management	\$ 158,645	\$ 158,645	\$314,290
13	127th Drive North Drainage Improvement	South Indian River Water Control District (SIRWCD)	\$ 72,320	\$ 72,320	\$144,640
14	Exotic Vegetation Removal of Drainage Outfalls	South Indian River Water Control District (SIRWCD)	\$ 34,050	\$ 34,050	\$68,100
15	Pine Glades Natural Area Habitat Restoration	Palm Beach County Environmental Resources Management	\$ 225,000	\$ 225,000	\$450,000
16	Comprehensive Bio- Assessment of Invertebrates for the Loxahatchee River Floodplain	The Institute For Regional Conservation (IRC)	\$ 64,000	\$ 64,000	\$128,000
Total			\$ 4,048,426	\$ 6,071,671	\$10,120,097

LAKE WORTH LAGOON INITIATIVE \$3,410,750

The Lake Worth Lagoon (LWL) estuary stretches 20 miles along the shores of 13 municipalities from North Palm Beach to Ocean Ridge and has been subjected to pollution and habitat losses for decades. The Lake Worth Lagoon Initiative is supported by Palm Beach County, South Florida Water Management District, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Inland Navigation District and the League of Cities. Palm Beach County has adopted, and several local governments have endorsed the LWL Management Plan to restore the Lagoon. This plan includes projects to restore sea grasses, mangroves and oysters, capping of muck sediments and construction of storm water control projects. Revitalizing this important water body provides long-term environmental, recreational and economic benefits to the region.

The Initiative was created to define and evaluate the status of the entire watershed and propose actions that would improve and protect the natural resources within the lagoon and watershed. Each State dollar is matched at the local level on a minimum 50:50 cost-share basis. Through this program, over \$17 million in State funds and \$59 million in local funds have been dedicated to restoring the Lagoon. The projects below were prioritized by the LWLI members and funding partners:

LWL Funding Requests for Fiscal Year 2017-18

	FY 2017-18 LWLI FUNDING REQUESTS					
	Project Name	Grant Funding Request	Local Match	Estimated Project Cost		
1	Lantana Cove Storm Water Improvements — Town of Lantana	\$160,000	\$160,000	\$320,000		
2	Singer Island South – City of Riviera Beach	\$1,183,000	\$4,331,334	\$5,514,334		
3	Lost Tree Village Septic to Sewer Conversion – Lost Tree Village Property Owners Association	\$1,646,750	\$1,646,750	\$3,293,500		
4	Bingham Islands Restoration – Town of Palm Beach	\$83,000	\$83,000	\$166,000		
5	Sediment Sourcing Study of Lake Worth Lagoon - Palm Beach County	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$100,000		
	Monitoring and Administration	\$288,000	\$288,000	\$576,000		
	TOTAL	\$3,410,750	\$6,559,084	\$9,969,834		

LAKE OKEECHOBEE RESTORATION \$4,000,000

Historically, the shoreline of Lake Okeechobee along Palm Beach County had a gradual transition into the water with beaches and grassy waters. Without those natural barriers and natural water filtration systems, seasonal wave and wind patterns, as well as wind and wave variations from storms have negatively affected the aquatic ecosystem, with the associated effects of increased turbidity, muck accumulation, and sedimentation. These physical influences impair the local environmental resources upon which this area depends as well as negatively impacting the economy. Discharges from the lake in high water periods result in deleterious impacts to receiving estuaries and coastal waters. Palm Beach County is actively working with the US Army Corps of Engineers on a suite of projects to improve the near shore habitat of the lake.

	FY 2017-18 Lake Okeechobee FUNDING REQUESTS					
	Project Name	Grant Funding Request	Local Match	Estimated Project Cost		
1	Lake Okeechobee CAP Feasibility Study with USACE – Littoral Shelf Creation and Muck Removal	\$400,000	\$400,000	\$800,000		
2	Lake Okeechobee Littoral Shelf Construction and Habitat Development	\$1,600,000	\$1,600,000	\$3,200,000		
		\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$4,000,000		

PHASE II OF THE I.W. CORBETT LEVEE SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Background: In August 2012, Tropical Storm Isaac brought nearly 15 inches of rain over a 72-hour period in areas of central Palm Beach County, including communities served by the Indian Trail Improvement District. The South Florida Water Management District took immediate action to respond to flooding in support of local relief efforts, including taking around-the-clock measures to strengthen the Indian River Improvement District berm that borders the J.W. Corbett Wildlife Management Area. In September 2012, Governor Rick Scott directed the SFWMD to convene a multiagency working group to determine a timely plan to further strengthen the integrity of the berm.

The planning efforts resulted in the J.W. Corbett Levee System Improvement Project that will enhance flood protection and safety for the residents of the Indian Trail Improvement District from waters impounded within the Corbett Wildlife Management Area, which includes adding a levee north of the existing berm. In the 2013 session, \$4 million was appropriated to improve the J.W. Corbett Levee System and help improve water drainage and flow in the region. An additional \$4 million is required to complete the second phase of levee construction and provision of flood protection for the surrounding residents and commercial businesses. Palm Beach County was able to secure \$500,000 towards the second phase of the Project during the 2016 Legislative Session.

Recommendation: SUPPORT the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and South Florida Water Management District in securing the remaining funding to complete Phase II of the Project.

C-51 STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS

Background: The S155 tidal gate discharges stormwater from the C-51 canal to the Lake Worth Lagoon. The existing S-155 structure discharges from its base. It is the largest such structure with the highest discharge volume along the Lagoon. The stormwater discharges also carry suspended sediments that settle out as muck over the natural shelly-sand substrate of the Lagoon. Muck sediments are easily resuspended, reducing needed light penetration to nearby seagrasses. Sediments coat natural benthic and oyster habitat, leaving large areas devoid of sea life. Within two miles of the structure, 1.2 million cubic yards of muck has accumulated (~.9cm/yr). Significant federal, state and local funding is being expended to cap the sediment and restore the habitat, but continued discharge must be restricted in order for these projects to remain successful.

A muck trap, built just upstream in concert with Palm Beach County, the City of West Palm Beach and the South Florida Water Management District, is able to accumulate ~150 tons/year, but the canal carries an average of 8,000 tons of sediment per year (USGS). The muck trap fills rapidly, resulting in additional discharges of muck to the Lake Worth Lagoon that could be avoided through improved maintenance.

During the 2016 Legislative Session, \$286,900 was appropriated for an engineering study of the development of a boat lift at the S-155 structure to improve navigation from inland waters to the Lagoon. The study is currently being completed and efforts are being undertaken to secure funding to support the construction of the boat lift.

Recommendation: SUPPORT funding or policy direction to the South Florida Water Management District to empty and maintain the C-51 sediment trap.

SUPPORT studies to modify the S-155 structure from its current bottom discharge configuration. Modification of the structure could allow it to act as an additional muck trap, minimizing further degradation to the Lagoon's resources and dramatically reducing the cost of habitat restoration in the area.

SUPPORT funding for the construction of the C-51 boat lift to be constructed at the S-155 structure

MOSQUITO BORNE DISEASE FUNDING

Background: Heightened concerns regarding mosquito-borne diseases such as Dengue, Chikungunya and the Zika Virus have been especially challenging for local government mosquito control programs. The mosquito that transmits the three diseases is a daytime active container breeding mosquito species requiring daytime inspection of properties, elimination of artificial breeding sites, hand fogging residences, immediate response to suspect cases and public education. Current staffing levels and the need for additional equipment and chemicals limits the ability of local governments to operate an integrated program as required under Chapter 388 F.S. in protecting the public's health. Although additional state funding has recently been provided to address short-term needs, an expanded dedicated funding commitment from the state would allow for long-term program planning and ensure the availability of well-trained staff.

Recommendation: SUPPORT increased state funding for mosquito control and the eradication of mosquito borne diseases.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION - BEACH FUNDING & PERMITTING

Background: A Beach Management Working Group, formed pursuant to proviso language contained in the General Appropriations Act for FY 2008-9, was directed to review the state's beach management program and make recommendations for improvements. While several of the recommendations were subsequently implemented and recent rule clarifications represent a significant step in improving the Department's efficiency, additional changes are necessary to streamline a program that is vital to both the state and local economies.

Recommendation: Encourage and **SUPPORT** additional state beach program streamlining and dedicated funding for dune restoration as part of the beach management funding program.

- Dune restoration is a vital aspect of providing protection to our coastal shorelines that goes beyond sand placement. Funding criteria as articulated in Chapter 161, Florida Statutes and implementing regulations should be updated to enhance funding opportunities for dune restoration projects.
- With the reduction in federal, state and local funding availability for shoreline protection projects, the state's grant program should be adjusted to focus on reimbursement for completed rather than anticipated work.

- Eliminating redundancy in state and federal permit application review to reduce project costs, accelerate the permitting process and eliminate agency conflicts.
- Regionalization as defined in the Strategic Beach Management Plan is intended to coordinate multiple beach nourishment and inlet management efforts to result in cost savings through reduced mobilization and elimination of duplicative administrative tasks. Many times a single local sponsor (County) will coordinate these consolidated activities through funding agreements with local partners (Municipalities). Project Ranking Procedures should be updated to enhance funding opportunities for regionalized projects by eliminating the requirement for multiple local sponsors.
- Project Ranking Procedures should be revised to recognize efficiencies associated with smallerscale projects that dramatically reduce mobilization costs, minimize environmental impacts and reduce administrative costs.

WATER AND LAND CONSERVATION INITIATIVE: LAND ACQUISITION TRUST FUND

Background: Palm Beach County and its municipalities manage approximately 48,570 acres of conservation and preserve lands within its Natural Areas and Park properties. Statewide, local governments manage about 10% of the government owned lands. Funding management activities on these lands is an on-going financial commitment, particularly in South Florida where the subtropical climate allows exotic plan and animal species to thrive and necessitate continual treatment to maintain natural areas in their natural condition. The Florida Local Environmental Resource Agencies' (FLERA) land conservation committee has adopted a plan that calls for 10% of LATF funds targeted for land management or restoration activities being allocated to local governments. The 10% figure is linked to the fact that local governments currently manage about 10% of the lands conserved in the State. A suggested method of allocating that 10% funding would be based on the acreages of conservation lands reported and tracked by the Florida Natural Areas Inventory for each County. Each County's share would be based on their per acre share of the available funding.

Recommendation: The County **SUPPORTS** setting aside 10% of the available funds from the Land Acquisition Trust Fund that are appropriated for the management of natural lands for the management and maintenance of local government natural lands and adoption of the allocation method based on per acre shares of the available funding.

The County additionally **SUPPORTS** additional funding from the Land Acquisition Trust fund for beach restoration, Everglades Restoration, efforts to benefit Lake Okeechobee, Lake Worth Lagoon, the Loxahatchee River, alternative water supply and regional multi-faceted projects that benefit the environment and inhabitants of Palm Beach County, as well as the inclusion of the Loxahatchee River and Lake Worth Lagoon in legislation establishing dedicated funding for Everglades Restoration, including those local projects under consideration and development as locally preferred projects.

Additionally, the County **SUPPORTS** legislation expanding the approved uses of funding under the Florida Communities Trust (Chapter 380, F.S.) to address climate change, land management and coastal resiliency projects, as well as the expansion of funding appropriated for land acquisition under the FCT.

PETROLEUM STORAGE TANK COMPLIANCE LOCAL PROGRAM FUNDING

Background: Since 1988, PBC has contracted with the Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection (FDEP) to administer the Petroleum Storage Tank Compliance Verification Program. During 2012, FDEP moved towards a regional approach with the program and this resulted in PBC expanding its program duties into Martin and St. Lucie Counties. The current budget for FDEP's compliance program is \$5,900,000, a 41% budget reduction since FY 2010-11. The budget reductions have resulted in a dramatic decrease in the number of facilities being inspected annually. The rationale behind this reduction was that all petroleum storage tank systems are now double walled and less likely to leak, therefore requiring less frequent inspections. The reality is:

- Double-walled petroleum storage tank systems statewide are nearly 20 years old.
- Historical inspection records show that as tank systems age, equipment failures and maintenance issues occur more frequently. These issues are only discovered by regular site inspections.
- Reduced inspection frequencies has decreased compliance rates and increased the chances for petroleum discharges as equipment failures and maintenance issues persist for longer periods before being discovered by inspectors.

Recommendation: SUPPORT funding the Petroleum Storage Tank Compliance Verification Program at the local program level and maintain the current \$5,900,000 budget level resulting in approximately 43% of the facilities being inspected annually. Preferably, restore funding to the FY 2010-11 level of \$10,000,000 so all of the facilities can be inspected annually. The Storage Tank Compliance Program provides the first line of defense for protecting the State's drinking water supplies and early detection of leaks prevents costly clean-up efforts by the property owner.

COUNTY	# OF REGULATED FACILITIES TO MANAGE	# OF TANKS TO INSPECT
PALM BEACH	1377	2898
ST. LUCIE	358	825
MARTIN	229	484
TOTAL	1964	4207

MAINTAIN FUNDING FOR THE STATE PETROLEUM CLEANUP PROGRAM

Background: Palm Beach County's local petroleum cleanup program provides supervision of state contractors conducting assessment and remediation of petroleum contamination within the County. The Program also provides enforcement and oversight for non-eligible contamination cleanups. Contamination cleanups are overseen by an experienced local program staff with the ability to maintain on-site observation and supervision of the many phases of the cleanup process essential to conducting contamination cleanups in a timely and cost-effective manner. The cleanup process encourages development of impacted properties and protects local drinking water supplies.

Recommendation:

The state's Petroleum Restoration Program was encouraged during the 2016 Legislative session to use contracted services to improve the efficiency and productivity of the Petroleum Restoration Program. To ensure the continued success of the mandated programmatic changes, the established Palm Beach County local program should be designated the primary petroleum cleanup contracted service.

Petroleum Cleanup Sites Administered by Palm Beach County per FDEP Task Assignment Year								
Sites	171	186	174	171	150	129	178	241
Fiscal Year	2009/10	2010/12	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17

RENEWABLE ENERGY/SOUTH FLORIDA CLIMATE CHANGE COMPACT

Background

Southeast Florida is one of the most vulnerable areas in the country to climate change and sea level rise. Recognizing their shared challenges, Palm Beach, Broward, Miami-Dade and Monroe counties ("Compact counties") adopted the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact ("Compact") in 2010. The Compact includes a commitment to develop and advocate for joint state and federal legislative policies. Accordingly, the Compact counties have adopted a *State Energy and Climate Legislative Program* each year since 2011. The Compact has adopted as part of the Program *State Energy and Climate Legislative Principles* to articulate the overarching goals for the Program, as well as *State Energy and Climate Legislative Priorities* to identify those legislative issues that Compact members will support in the upcoming legislative session.

The County is committed to supporting the Principles and Priorities established by the Compact and has identified its top priorities from the Compact Program as:

SUPPORT Land Acquisition Trust Fund funding for regional priorities, including living shorelines, beaches, coastal and coral reef protection, preservation of native habitat areas, and maintenance of existing conservation lands.

SUPPORT legislation altering the funding criteria for beach renourishment projects to include shoreline protection measures beyond placement of sand, including dune projects.

The Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact Counties 2017 State Energy and Climate Legislative Priorities are:

OPPOSE any changes that would weaken existing net metering policies, which allow customers to receive retail-rate credits for any excess energy produced by their on-site renewable energy devices and returned to the grid.

SUPPORT legislation and funding for a matching fund program for local government flood risk reduction projects resulting from Adaptation Action Area designations or the risk reduction policies and actions included in the coastal elements of comprehensive plans pursuant to Chapter 2015-69, and legislation to add flood mitigation to the list of eligible uses of Florida Communities Trust funding.

OPPOSE preemption of local environmental regulations, including those pertaining to extreme well stimulation techniques and oil/gas exploration and extraction.

SUPPORT legislation to implement Amendment 4, "Solar Devices or Renewable Energy Source Devices; Exemption from Certain Taxation and Assessment."

SUPPORT legislation to authorize third-party sales of electricity in Florida.

SUPPORT Land Acquisition Trust Fund funding for regional priorities, including living shorelines, beaches, coastal and coral reef protection, preservation of native habitat areas, and maintenance of existing conservation lands.

SUPPORT legislation altering the funding criteria for beach renourishment projects to include shoreline protection measures beyond placement of sand, including dune projects.

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

SUPPORT incentives for electric vehicle charging infrastructure and electric vehicle purchases by businesses and individuals.

FLEXIBILITY IN MITIGATION CREDIT GENERATION

The County **SUPPORTS** efforts to create flexibility in the ability of businesses to obtain mitigation credits for the impacts of proposed projects when those projects are economic drivers for a local economy and will result in a certain level of job creation within the area.

EXPANSION OF RECLAIMED WATER

As part of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Reclaimed Water Work Group, The Utility Council of the Florida Water Environment Association (FWEAUC), of which the County is a member, has proposed legislation that will encourage the continued expansion of the efficient utilization

of reclaimed water. The proposed language creates flexibility in the utilization of impact offsets and substitution credits created through the development of reclaimed water projects, provides clarification regarding feasibility analyses regarding the utilization of reclaimed water by permittees, creates a study group to investigate the feasibility of reclaimed water by agricultural stakeholders, and other provisions encouraging the effective utilization of reclaimed water.

The County **SUPPORTS** the legislative concepts proposed by the FWEAUC and concepts offered by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and other stakeholders that will promote the continued implementation of reclaimed water throughout Palm Beach County.

ALTERNATIVE WATER SUPPLY, WATER RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING

In 2005, the State Legislature enacted the Water Protection & Sustainability Program, requiring the regional water supply planning function of the water management districts to promote alternative water supply projects and enhance the state's water supplies. At the beginning of each fiscal year revenues were to be distributed by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection into the alternative water supply trust fund accounts created by each water management district. A total of \$100 Million was established in recurring funding. The funds were to be used to assist in funding alternative water supply construction costs selected by each District's Governing Board for priority implementation. In 2008, funding from the Water Protection & Sustainability Program Trust Fund was reduced to \$7.7 Million statewide. Funding was further reduced in 2009 to only \$2.2 Million. Since 2009, the funding level has been zero.

As water and wastewater infrastructure ages, it becomes necessary to repair or replace aged components of the water infrastructure framework, as well as to integrate innovative technologies and approaches to provide high quality water and wastewater service. In its most recent Drinking Water Infrastructure Needs Survey and Assessment, the United States Environmental Protection Agency Identified Significant infrastructure Repairs and Replacements (R+R) that will be required in the decades ahead. The assessment identified nearly \$17 billion worth of upgrades needed in Florida. Provision of high quality water and wastewater provides basic building blocks for economic sustainability and advancement. Municipal and County Governments will require assistance from State and Federal sources to tackle these growing challenges.

The Department of Environmental Protection is currently administrating a Reclaimed Water Work Group that is developing recommendations on a number of policy and funding issues relating to reclaimed water and associated projects, including funding mechanisms to restore funding for alternative water supply and reuse projects.

The County **SUPPORTS** restoring previous alternative water supply and reclaimed water/reuse funding through existing mechanisms and the creation new statewide funding programs to provide substantial and perennial funding to:

- Enhance regional and local water resource and supply capacity development
- Provide adequate and reliable long-term funding for water and wastewater infrastructure

- Provide funding for alternative water supply development
- Provide funding for water quality protection and treatment of impaired waters
- Establish a system for prioritizing water resource projects to ensure that funding is utilized in the most efficient manner available

UTILITY WORKER SAFETY

Currently, Florida Statutes provide for the reclassification of the misdemeanor or felony degree of specified assault and battery offenses when those offenses are knowingly committed against law enforcement officers, firefighters, and other specified persons engaged in the lawful performance of their duties. The effect of this reclassification is that the maximum penalty increases. Proposed legislation, as originally filed in previous sessions, would add utility workers (a term defined in the bill) to the list of specified persons. Therefore, the felony or misdemeanor degree of certain assault and battery offenses would be reclassified if committed against a utility worker engaged in the lawful performance of his or her duties in the same manner as if those offenses were committed against a law enforcement officer or firefighter engaged in the lawful performance of his or her duties. Palm Beach County Water Utilities Department has experienced an increase in incidents involving angry and disgruntled customers threatening employees. Since June 2012 there have been several cases of aggravated assault, threats against utility workers and illegal tampering with criminal intent. Each of the cases was investigated as active case files by the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office.

The County **SUPPORTS** legislation that would reclassify certain assault and battery offenses committed against a utility worker engaged in the lawful performance of their duties in the same manner as if those offenses were committed against a law enforcement officer engaged in the lawful performance of their duties.

REGULATORY FLEXIBILITY

The County **SUPPORTS** legislation that increases regulatory flexibility in permitting and promoting cost effective solutions to deal with compliance priorities. The County specifically **SUPPORTS** legislation that amends or eliminates statutory provisions that duplicate requirements or causes of action already provided for in statute or rule, or that clarifies the sovereign immunity of local governments in the provision of necessary public services.

FLORIDA RECREATION DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection administers the Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program (FRDAP). This program is a competitive grant program that provides financial assistance through grants to local governments for the acquisition and development of land for public outdoor recreation purposes. This grant program has two funding thresholds, the Large Project Fund provides grants of up to \$200,000, and the Small Project Fund provides grants of up to \$50,000. In 2016/2017, the Legislature appropriated \$10,400,000 in funding with proviso language that \$3,000,000 was to be dedicated to projects that provide opportunities to individuals with disabilities, \$7,000,000 was

to be dedicated to fund the Small Project Development List and the remaining funds were to be dedicated to fund four large development projects, none located in Palm Beach County. In 2015/2016, the Legislature approved \$5,491,500 in funding with proviso language that the funds were to be dedicated to the Small Development Project list containing projects under \$50,000. In 2014/2015 the state approved \$2,479,820 in funding with proviso language that all the money was to fund municipal projects of \$50,000 or less. In 2013/2014 the state provided only \$642,000 in funding and FRDAP was not funded during the 2012 Legislative Session. For FY 2010-2011, total statewide funding for FRDAP was \$300,000 and the Village of Royal Palm Beach received \$200,000 for their Village Commons Park, one of only two applications funded statewide. In FY 2008-2009, funding was \$24 million and funded 212 projects in 54 counties/cities. Palm Beach County Parks and Recreation submitted two FRDAP applications last year for Large Development projects and while both projects scored well they were not funded.

The County **SUPPORTS** restoring FRDAP funding to levels that fund at least the top twenty projects in the Large Project Development list, including two large development project that have been submitted:

- John Prince Memorial Park Mound Circle Area Phase 1: Project elements include a new five pen dog park, pathways and renovations to the existing cricket field. The project also includes additional support facilities such as lighting, expanded parking and new landscaping.
- Okeeheelee Park South Boating Center: Project elements include a new non-motorized boat launching facility, car/trailer parking, restroom and associated underground infrastructure.