

PALM BEACH COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

Meeting Date: October 3, 2017

Consent Regular
 Public Hearing

Department: Legislative Affairs Office

Submitted By: Legislative Affairs Office

Submitted For: Legislative Affairs Office

I. EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Motion and Title: Staff recommends motion to adopt: The Palm Beach County 2018 State Legislative Agenda.

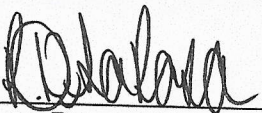
Summary: On August 29, 2017 the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) conceptually approved the 2018 State Legislative Agenda, and provided feedback on specific changes and clarification on priority items. The requested changes to the 2018 state policy priorities and appropriations include, but are not limited to:

- A more comprehensive and robust section supporting the Opioid Epidemic
- Prioritization of items such as Affordable Housing and the Opioid Epidemic
- Expanded support of The Sober Homes Task Force
- Prioritization of appropriations priorities
- Addition of Hurricane response related requests
- Additional background on several policy priorities
- Addition of support for continuation of Job Growth Grant Fund
- Creation of separate section for Mental Health
- Expanded support for the center for youthful offenders
- Add support for solar initiative
- Additional support for the agriculture industry in economic development statement. (DW)

Background and Policy Issues: To develop the State Legislative Agenda, Legislative Affairs held meetings with members of the Board, various department heads, as well as community partners and leaders to create a comprehensive legislative agenda.

Attachments:

1. 2018 State Legislative Agenda

Recommended by:  9/22/17
Department Director Date

Approved By:  9/25/17
Assistant County Administrator Date

II. FISCAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

A. Five Year Summary of Fiscal Impact: N/A

Fiscal Years	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Capital Expenditures	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Operating Costs	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
External Revenues	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Program Income (County)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
In-Kind Match (County)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
NET FISCAL IMPACT	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
No. ADDITIONAL FTE POSITIONS (Cumulative)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Is Item Included In Current Budget? Yes _____ No _____
 Budget Account No.: Fund _____ Department _____ Unit _____
 Object _____ Reporting Category _____

B. Recommended Sources of Funds/Summary of Fiscal Impact: N/A

C. Departmental Fiscal Review:
no fiscal impact

III. REVIEW COMMENTS

A. OFMB Fiscal and/or Contract Dev. and Control Comments:

[Signature] 9/27/17
 OFMB AR 9/27/17
 NK AR 9/27/17
[Signature] 9/29/17
 Contract Dev. and Control 9/29/17

B. Legal Sufficiency:

[Signature] 9/29/17
 Assistant County Attorney

C. Other Department Review:

 Department Director

(THIS SUMMARY IS NOT TO BE USED AS A BASIS FOR PAYMENT.)

PALM BEACH COUNTY

2018 PROPOSED STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

GENERAL GOVERNMENT ISSUES



Board of County Commissioners

Paulette Burdick, Mayor
Melissa McKinlay, Vice Mayor
Hal R. Valeche
Dave Kerner
Steven L. Abrams
Mary Lou Berger
Mack Bernard

PALM BEACH COUNTY

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



HAL R. VALECHE
DISTRICT 1
561/355-2201
HVALECHE@pbcgov.org



PAULETTE BURDICK
MAYOR
DISTRICT 2
561/355-2202
PBURDICK@pbcgov.org



DAVE KERNER
DISTRICT 3
561/355-2203
DKERNER@pbcgov.org



STEVEN L. ABRAMS
DISTRICT 4
561/355-2204
SABRAMS@pbcgov.org



MARY LOU BERGER
DISTRICT 5
561/355-2205
MBERGER@pbcgov.org



MELISSA MCKINLAY
VICE MAYOR
DISTRICT 6
561/355-2206
MMCKINLAY@pbcgov.org



MACK BERNARD
DISTRICT 7
561/355-2207
MBERNARD@pbcgov.org

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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 promote economic development and job creation in the Glades Region. The County **SUPPORTS**:

- Legislative initiatives and funding to implement components of the Glades Region Master Plan
- The continuation and enhancement of Small County Outreach Program (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 storm water improvements to enhance economic and housing development
- Funding to ensure that the Glades Region has appropriate shelter facilities for emergencies
- Funding for youth prevention programs
- Efforts from the state legislature to appropriate funds to help improve infrastructure surrounding agricultural communities
- Legislation to help farmers in their efforts to produce fruits and vegetables for our country and our community.

EXPANSION OF GAMING AT PARI-MUTUEL FACILITIES

In 2004, voters of the state passed an amendment that paved the way for expansion of gaming at pari-mutuel facilities in Broward and Miami-Dade Counties. Since that time, gaming facilities at several locations throughout the state have expanded 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 gaming 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. In 2017, the Florida Supreme Court ruled that a ballot question without a constitutional amendment or statute from the legislature was not valid.

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

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. From the 2014- 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. Initiation of 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, as well as assessments of any reduction of economic and job benefits that can be directly attributed to the loss of incentives.

BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH

The Jupiter Neuroscience Campus of Max Planck consists of collaboration between neuroscientists from MPFI, Scripps Florida, and Florida Atlantic University. Faculty, investigators, and students regularly organize seminars, poster sessions, training activities, symposia, and networking events to help foster collaborative exchange of scientific ideas and to increase exposure and opportunities for scientists and students.

Using the latest cutting-edge technologies, researchers at Scripps Florida focus on basic biomedical research and drug discovery. More than 600 full-time faculty members, scientific, technical, and administrative staff work at the 350,000-square-foot campus, which is comprised of three state-of-the-art research buildings.

Much of the work at Scripps Florida is dedicated to basic biomedical research, a vital segment of medical research that seeks to decipher the most fundamental processes of life.

Palm Beach County **SUPPORTS** new and recurring funding for educational programs produced by local universities and state colleges and their partnerships -- such as Max Planck and Scripps of Florida. Biomedical research funding is beneficial to not only the residents of Palm Beach County, but to residents nationwide.

As an example of this research, Scripps Florida has been conducting research focusing on battling the Opioid Epidemic. Scripps researcher Courtney Miller has been focused on opioid addiction research. When someone uses a drug, the brain forms memories associated with it. Miller’s research is focused on deleting those memories. Her lab developed a compound that, in mice, erases memories associated with methamphetamine use. Ground-breaking research such as this is critical in helping fight the epidemic.

ENTERPRISE FLORIDA

Palm Beach County will continue to **MONITOR** the discussions regarding the future of Enterprise Florida. In an effort to continue the provision of resources to assist Palm Beach County’s Office of Housing and 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.

The County **SUPPORTS** continued allocation of funds for the Florida Job Growth Grant Fund (Section 288.101, F.S.) to support the development of infrastructure and workforce training related to the expansion of economic development throughout the state.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH

OPIOID/SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Palm Beach County **SUPPORTS** policy changes on opioid abuse, as well as, appropriations to support providing life-saving interventions, medically-assisted detoxification programs, and diversions from the criminal justice system for those suffering from opioid addiction and other substance abuse.

The county **SUPPORTS** Senator Jack Latvala and others in their efforts to urge the Governor to use his executive authority to allocate \$20 million of the state’s reserve funds for the following specific opioid-related direct care services:

- | | |
|---|--------------|
| • Detox services | \$ 5,000,000 |
| • Residential Treatment | \$ 9,000,000 |
| • Outpatient Treatment and Recovery Support | \$ 3,000,000 |
| • Specialized Services | \$ 600,000 |
| • Prevention | \$ 2,400,000 |

Ultimately, the appropriation of these and other funds can help provide a significant funding match for a future Palm Beach County receiving facility to help treat individuals suffering from addiction.

Palm Beach County additionally **SUPPORTS** state efforts to reduce the financial burden on entities that must purchase Narcan for public safety.

In 2016, the Florida Legislature amended Chapter 381, Florida Statutes, to provide for the “Miami-Dade Infectious Disease Elimination Act (IDEA).” IDEA provided for a sterile needle and syringe exchange pilot program in Miami-Dade County, subject to reports to the Department of Health detailing the performance and outcomes of the program. The program was established due to the increase in newly diagnosed HIV and Hepatitis C cases in Florida, which are transmitted through sharing of dirty needles and syringes by intravenous drug users. The University of Miami is assisting in the administration of the program and the program is seeing success in limiting the spread of infectious disease.

The County **SUPPORTS** the expansion of the sterile needle and syringe exchange pilot program to include Palm Beach County, which has been drastically impacted by the ongoing opioid epidemic and anticipates the associated increase in newly diagnosed HIV and Hepatitis C cases.

MENTAL HEALTH FUNDING

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 illnesses, family erosion, 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. The County also **SUPPORTS** increased funding to assist those suffering from mental illness in our county and state correctional facilities.

The County also **SUPPORTS** funding efforts by the legislature for additional beds to treat mental health and substance abuse disorders.

SOBER HOMES

The Palm Beach County Sober Homes Task Force was created in 2016 to monitor operation of unregulated “sober homes”. According to figures released by the Palm Beach County Medical Examiner, in 2016, there were 590 opioid overdose deaths. Operation of Sober Homes with no oversight or regulation can lead to, among other things, homelessness and relapse for those suffering from substance abuse.

Palm Beach County **SUPPORTS** the Sober Homes Task Force, and any recommended changes they may suggest during the 2018 session.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

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 \$5.9 million for affordable housing during the 2017 session.

Furthermore, the Legislature should provide more flexibility in the use of housing dollars for administrative purposes. The current 10% administrative cap should be adjusted based on population to allow for 15% for counties with over 1 million population.

HOMELESSNESS

Palm Beach County **SUPPORTS** efforts by members of the Legislature to fund programs for the homeless. The County is experiencing a growing problem with homeless students, seniors, and veterans. The County proposes the following:

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. Full-funding of the State Apartment Incentive Loan (SAIL).
4. Funding for working with continuum of care for wrap around services for homelessness.
5. Support funding for mental health.
6. Support the recommendations of the Task Force on Affordable Housing.
7. Support additional funding to prevent college and university students, and unaccompanied minors from becoming homeless.
8. Support creation of and funding for the Poverty Council first proposed in 2016 under SB 556, which would establish a Poverty Council to: a) Conduct a review of policies and programs that work to move people out of poverty; b) Develop strategies to address the causes of poverty in the state; c) Develop recommendations to reduce the percentage of people living in poverty in the state.

TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED PROGRAMS

Palm Beach County is requesting an additional \$2 million to continue providing paratransit services to the Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) program. 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. Palm Beach County **SUPPORTS** attempts to increase the funding to the TD program and to prevent diversion of these dollars for other purposes.

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 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. Additionally, Palm Beach County **SUPPORTS** legislation that would keep youth information exempt from public record. SB 1024 passed the Senate 36-0 during the 2017 session but died in messages since HB 381 never got a hearing.

CHILD WELFARE

Palm Beach County **SUPPORTS** the following enhancements to Florida's statewide child welfare funding that together will improve the child welfare system in Palm Beach County and throughout the state.

Palm Beach County **SUPPORTS** the Florida Coalition for Children's appropriations 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 (CBC), such as ChildNet Palm Beach, and those agencies that directly serve Florida's abused, abandoned and neglected children. Since fiscal year 2013-2014, 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. The increased appropriation of funds will enable lead agencies and their subcontracted service providers, in Palm Beach and throughout the state, to deliver a comprehensive range of high quality services sufficient to consistently and effectively meet the needs of Florida's expanded foster care population.

Palm Beach County **SUPPORTS** full funding for Guardian ad Litem (GAL).

Additionally, Palm Beach County **SUPPORTS** increasing statewide child welfare funding with recurring revenue, as opposed to one-time, non-recurring funding. The non-recurring increases to statewide child welfare funding that have been allocated in the past have only offered a temporary fix to a continuing problem of underfunding. The use of recurring funding will also enable Community-Based Care lead agencies to more effectively plan, sustain and retain existing and effective programs, services and staff.

Finally, Palm Beach County **SUPPORTS** recommended changes to the CBC Equity Allocation Model currently described in Florida Statute 409.991 that will facilitate a more equitable distribution of any new core funding allocated to Community-Based Care lead agencies throughout the state. The goal of such changes is to prevent a recurrence of the most recent allocation of such funds which included Palm Beach County receiving only \$140,000 of an \$18,000,000 statewide increase in CBC core funding for the current 2017-2018 state fiscal year.

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 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.

Additionally, Palm Beach County **SUPPORTS** the continued funding of the Senior Smiles Pilot Program. The Senior Smiles project provides much-needed access to comprehensive dental care to economically disadvantaged senior citizens.

ADULTS/STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Palm Beach County **SUPPORTS** increased funding for rate increases for services provided through the Agency for Persons with Disabilities. Currently, the rate crisis is causing many agencies to go out of business and others find it extremely difficult to attract and maintain staff. An 11% increase will establish funding at the 2003 level in actual dollars.

Palm Beach County additionally **SUPPORTS** agendas including Unicorn Children's Foundation, Palm Beach and Boca Raton Habilitation Centers, which are dedicated to infants, children and adults with developmental, communication, and learning disorders through education, awareness, and research so that they have every opportunity to lead productive and fulfilling lives.

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 ophthalmoscope to detect 100% of the tumors. The use of a photograph of the child from parents and/or physicians can aid in the determination of utilizing eye drops necessary for eye dilation. This ten 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 receiving of certain eye examinations that screen for retinoblastoma.”

Additionally, Palm Beach County **SUPPORTS** development of education handout by Agency for Health Care Administration to educate parents.

MID-LEVEL DENTAL PROVIDER

A growing number of states and tribal communities are allowing dentists to employ dental therapists to help meet the need for routine dental care.

Dental therapists are midlevel providers, similar to physician assistants in medicine, whom dentists hire to extend quality care to more patients, expand their practices, and deliver treatment to underserved populations. They can also bring care directly to community settings such as schools or nursing homes under the supervision of a dentist. Dental therapists provide preventive and routine restorative care, such as filling cavities, placing temporary crowns

Palm Beach County **SUPPORTS** the expansion and use of mid-level dental providers, akin to physician assistants in medicine, who work under the supervision of a dentist and offer routine restorative and preventive services, including preparing and placing fillings and performing simple tooth extractions.

BUDGET & TAXATION POLICY

UNFUNDED MANDATES

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 must 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.

Additionally, Palm Beach County **OPPOSES** any action by the state to preempt the home rule authority of local governments or to restrict local governments' ability to levy ad valorem taxes.

During the 2017 Legislative Session, HB 17 would have prohibited local governments from regulating businesses, professions, and occupations within their governments, and would have vested that power within the state. The County continues to **OPPOSE** any such legislation.

ARTICLE V

The State should allow for the expansion of the \$65 mandatory court fee to be applied to civil cases in addition its current application to criminal cases. Expansion of the fee would provide 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.

SHORT-TERM RENTALS

The County supports the Palm Beach County Tax Collector's request for amendment of Section 212.03 (1)(a), F.S. regarding transient rentals tax 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 for rent under six months. These rentals range from \$59 to \$500 per night. This will enable counties and municipalities to begin collecting bed taxes.

VACATION RENTALS

In 2011, the Florida Legislature prevented municipalities and counties from regulating vacation rentals, unless such regulations were implemented prior to June 1, 2011.

In 2014, SB 356 loosened the broad preemption on regulation of vacation rentals but left in place language that prevents cities or counties from prohibiting vacation rentals or regulating their frequency or duration.

Palm Beach County **SUPPORTS** legislation to amend Section 509.032 F.S. to authorize local laws, ordinances, and regulations to regulate the duration and frequency of rental of vacation homes.

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

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. The County **SUPPORTS** 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 affect another.

Current law requires “proportionate share” payments **only for the first project** to take a road segment from under capacity to an over capacity situation. The County **SUPPORTS** amending state law to require **any** project affecting 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/or fire codes 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.

RAIL TRANSPORTATION

There are two main rail corridors running through Palm Beach County, the Florida East Coast (FEC) Railway corridor and the CSX railway corridor, a portion of which is used by Tri-Rail for commuter trains. Additionally, U.S. Sugar owns and operates the South Central Florida Express (SCFE) railway in western Palm Beach County.

Palm Beach County continues to **MONITOR** state funding and other opportunities for rail transportation available in Palm Beach County.

DMV FACILITY SERVICE/MOUNTS BOTANICAL GARDEN

Mounds Botanical 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 on Military Trail would become an integral part of the future Education Center.

Currently, the former Department of Motor Vehicles licensing building remains vacant on a parcel of land that sits on the northeast corner of The Mounds 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

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

PUBLIC SAFETY

HURRICANE ISSUES

In the aftermath of Hurricane Irma, the County **SUPPORTS** recommendations to help better prepare for future storm and disaster related events. Those recommendations for state assistance include:

1. State medical staffing, including nurses, CNAs, mental health professionals and medical administration at shelters.
2. Funding for cots/mats for all shelters. Cots cost between \$60-\$200/unit; sleeping mats cost between \$50-\$100/unit.
3. State requirement for nursing homes, assisted living facilities (ALF), and group homes to have generator(s) that run entire center including air conditioners.
4. State funded positions to monitor adherence to emergency evacuation plan for nursing homes, ALFs, and group homes, and penalties in statute for non-compliance.
5. Local government reimbursements for the purchase and rental of generators for high priority infrastructure including school shelters.

6. Provide clarity on the criteria used to recommend federal disaster declarations.
7. Faster response to mobilize programs available to post storm victims such as Food for Florida (D-SNAP) and mobile housing units for displaced residents with home damage.
8. Encourage communities with large residential associations to have some type of emergency plan to assist residents in their communities.
9. Amend state emergency procurement rules to ensure equity of services to local governments particularly for debris removal.

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. 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.

During the 2017 Legislative Session, Palm Beach County's RESTORE Re-entry program was appropriated \$500,000. The County **SUPPORTS** continued funding of this program, which connects returning citizens from our local Palm Beach County jail, the Florida Department of Corrections, and the Federal Bureau of Prisons to necessary services.

REGULATION OF DRONES NEAR CRITICAL COUNTY FACILITIES

During the 2017 Legislative Session, HB 1027 enacted the "Unmanned Aircraft Systems Act" (F.S. 330.41) which vested authority to regulate drones in the State and prohibited local governments from enacting ordinances that regulate drones. The new law also makes it unlawful for a person to operate a drone over or near a "critical infrastructure facility". However, critical infrastructure facility was defined as electrical generation or transmission facilities, chemical storage facilities, mining facility, natural gas facility or pipeline, natural gas or propane terminal or storage facility, oil or gas pipeline, wireless communications facilities. Many of the County's critical facilities are not covered by this definition such as jails, law enforcement facilities, courthouses and other government buildings. The County is concerned that without a prohibition of drones over or in the proximity of critical county facilities that the possibility of escapes, terrorism, and breaches in confidentiality increase significantly; all which impact public safety or potentially compromise the judicial and policy setting process.

The County **SUPPORTS** an amendment to the definition of “critical infrastructure facility” in F.S. 330.41 to include jails, law enforcement facilities, courthouses, water and wastewater infrastructure, and buildings designated as the County Seat.

PUBLIC RECORDS EXEMPTION – EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Formerly, the American Red Cross used to manage the operations of emergency shelters, with Palm Beach County Emergency Management providing support. Currently, Palm Beach County Emergency Management operates and oversees emergency shelters, thus leaving identifying information open to public record.

Palm Beach County **SUPPORTS** legislation to amend s. 119.071(1), F.S.; to provide for an exemption for individual assessment data which is provided by our residents to emergency management agencies for the purpose of damage assessment.

Additionally, Palm Beach County **SUPPORTS** legislation to amend s. 119.071, F.S.; to provide for an exemption for identifying data collected at county-run shelters.

PRESUMPTION OF IMPAIRMENT WHILE UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF THC

While it is unlawful to operate a motor vehicle or boat while impaired by alcohol or a controlled substance, there is currently no provision within state law that sets a presumptive level of impairment by marijuana, like there is with alcohol. This makes it difficult for judges and juries to determine if a defendant was impaired by marijuana, whether lawfully consumed or not, when a victim is either killed or seriously injured by the actions of the defendant. In light of the passage of the constitutional amendment allowing for the use of medical marijuana, and the Florida Legislature’s past actions authorizing medical marijuana, Palm Beach County **SUPPORTS** amending 316.193 and 327.35, F.S., to create a standard for determining a presumptive level of impairment when a person is operating a motor vehicle or boat while under the influence of marijuana, and a victim is either killed or seriously injured by the actions of the driver.

In Colorado, law specifies that drivers with five nanograms of active tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) in their whole blood can be prosecuted for driving under the influence (DUI). However, no matter the level of THC, law enforcement officers base arrests on observed impairment

CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSIONS PUBLIC MEETING EXEMPTION

During the 2013 Legislative Session, HB 361 was passed which provided exemption from public meeting requirements for that portion of meeting of duly constituted criminal justice commission at which members of commission discuss active criminal intelligence information or active criminal investigative information currently being considered by, or which may foreseeably come before the commission.

This section is subject to sunset in October 2018. The County **SUPPORTS** legislation to renew this exemption. In addition, the county also **SUPPORTS** an amendment to add “criminal justice commission **and its committees**” to the renewed statute.

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** the expansion of 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 in-house 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.

BATTERERS' INTERVENTION PROGRAMS (BIPs)

In 2012 the Florida Legislature eliminated formal certification of Batterers' Intervention Programs (BIP) statewide which were, at that time, overseen by the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF). The amendment left the "identification" of these programs to counties. Certification under DCF entailed a treatment and administrative review of providers. Every county in Florida is now struggling with how to "identify" providers, therefore:

Palm Beach County **RECOMMENDS** that The Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA) evaluate the usage and effectiveness of BIPs across the State to determine whether the current 29-week psychoeducational model is being consistently ordered as envisioned and whether the curriculum is achieving the intended result of reducing repeat incidents of domestic violence.

Palm Beach County additionally **SUPPORTS** amending and revising section 741.325, F.S. to:

1. Require BIP providers to submit program and participant data including, but not limited to, number of participants, client outcome status, fees imposed and collected, sliding fee scales, program curriculum, demographic information, and similar reporting and data metrics for the purpose of evaluating program efficiency and compliance.
2. Amend BIP requirements to include minimum provider training and education, reduced program duration, acceptable program content to include alternative program models, and data collection and reporting requirements.
3. Authorize each local jurisdiction to utilize alternative BIP models for the community in cooperation with the local participants in the justice system as well as social service agencies at the community level. These alternative programs may include programming for children of domestic violence victims or perpetrators.

CENTER FOR YOUTHFUL OFFENDERS

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. 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. The County **SUPPORTS** urging the Florida Department of Corrections to open a Youthful Offender Facility in South Florida; a Youthful Offender center can be created within an existing structure in South Florida.

FLORIDA RETIREMENT SYSTEM – OCEAN LIFEGUARDS

Palm Beach County **SUPPORTS** legislation to amend Florida Statute to add EMT certified Ocean Lifeguards to the Special Risk class of the Florida Retirement System.

MARCHMAN ACT REVISIONS

The Marchman Act is a civil process established in Chapter 397, Florida Statutes 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** the amendment of the Marchman Act to:

- Clarify the definitions of access center, designated receiving facility, and triage center to define functionality and the ability to receive and hold involuntary patients
- Provide flexibility for courts to retain jurisdiction over an individual who fails to complete involuntary treatment or relapses within 12 months, and to order individuals to be transferred to licensed recovery residences upon completion of treatment if recommended by a service provider and if additional funding is available
- Provide for circumstances under which an individual may be held in protective custody to allow for additional petitions to be filed in state court, and to allow minors to be held in treatment facilities until a petition for involuntary treatment is heard in court

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.

FIRE RESCUE

Mobile Integrated Health

From the National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians, Mobile Integrated Healthcare – Community Paramedicine (MIH-CP) is the provision of healthcare using patient-centered, mobile resources in the out-of-hospital environment.

The program, consisting of a licensed social worker working in tandem with a paramedic, is designed to meet the needs of residents' non-emergency medical needs.

Palm Beach County **SUPPORTS** change in statute to allow for MIH-CP to bill insurance for non-emergency transport and care.

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.

Fire Code Enforcement

OPPOSE any effort by state government to infringe upon home rule authority by attempting to mandate change to Palm Beach County's established Fire Code and Enforcement practices.

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 to require installment of detectors in garages of new construction homes to be added to the Fire Code.

SUPPORT ISSUES

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.

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.
4. **Supports** maintaining the EMPA program administered by Florida Division of Emergency Management consistent with the original statutory intent (i.e., F.S. 252.373)."

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.

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.

TEXTING WHILE DRIVING

At any given daylight moment across America, approximately 660,000 drivers are using cell phones or manipulating electronic devices while driving, a number that has held steady since 2010.

In 2015, there were more than 45,700 distracted driving crashes in Florida resulting in more than 39,000 injuries and more than 200 fatalities, according to the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles. Texting while driving takes your eyes off the road for an average of 4.6 seconds, equivalent at 55 mph of driving the length of a football field, blind.

As of 2016, Florida is one of only five states that have banned texting and driving as a secondary offense. Currently, 47 states, D.C., Puerto Rico, Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands ban text messaging for all drivers.

SUPPORT legislation that would make texting while driving a primary offense.

RENTAL CARS USED IN THEFTS

The Criminal Justice Committee's Law Enforcement Planning Council 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.

CONSUMER SERVICES

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 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.

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 six months prior to the change of ownership in the park.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT/ADMINISTRATIVE

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 OFFICIALS

Florida law allows any city that does not specifically outline residency requirements for elected officials in their charters to not have residency requirements for elected officials.

Palm Beach County, therefore, **SUPPORTS** legislation that requires elected officials of local municipalities to live in the city 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.

HOUSING AUTHORITIES

The Palm Beach County Housing Authority (PBCHA) was created in accordance with Chapter 421, Florida Statutes on December 16, 1969 to help address unsafe and unsanitary living accommodations and alleviate a shortage of affordable housing. The Board of PBCHA consists of five commissioners appointed by the Governor.

Housing assistance programs for individuals and families offered through the Palm Beach County Department of Economic Sustainability and Community Services departments. Additionally, rental assistance vouchers are administered through city housing authorities and the Palm Beach County Housing Authority.

Palm Beach County **SUPPORTS** a change of the name of the housing authority to "Housing Authority of the Palm Beaches" to clarify their governance structure.

Palm Beach County also **SUPPORTS** legislation to include accountability of Housing Authorities, as well as, the ability for the County to choose at least two members who will sit and govern these authorities.

EDUCATION

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 increased **State Aid to Public Libraries** by \$800,000, to \$23,298,834 in the 2017-18 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.

Library Technology Grants

For some citizens, Public Libraries are the only way to access a computer for things like: school work, and employment searches.

Palm Beach County **SUPPORTS** the restoration of Library Technology Grants that enable libraries to improve the technology services they can offer to citizens statewide.

New Library Construction Grants

The addition of new libraries would assist even more residents with getting access to the invaluable services provided by our library systems. In the 2017 Legislative Session, New Library Construction Grants were zeroed-out by the close of the session.

Palm Beach County **SUPPORTS** the restoration of the New Library Construction Grants

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 COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Palm Beach County **SUPPORTS** the School District of Palm Beach County legislative agenda covering six different focus areas:

1. Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) Funding.
2. Capital Outlay Funding.
3. Charter School Accountability.
4. Flexibility to provide adequate funding for creative curriculum that allows for more individualized learning.
5. Accountability Transition to allow alternative testing to better gauge learning gains and teacher effectiveness.
6. Expand language in fl. St. 212.055(2) to include technology implementation including hardware and software.

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 – including \$16.7 million for the Dental and Medical Services building.

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.

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.

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. **SUPPORT** the FY 18/19 Cultural Grant application list as approved by the DCA.

AGRICULTURE

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

2018 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

ENVIRONMENTAL & NATURAL RESOURCES PRIORITIES

Board of County

Commissioners

Paulette Burdick, Mayor
Melissa McKinlay, Vice Mayor
Hal R. Valeche
Mary Lou Berger
David Kerner
Steven L. Abrams
Mack Bernard

Verdenia C. Baker,
County Administrator

Rebecca DeLaRosa,
Legislative Affairs Director



PALM BEACH COUNTY

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



HAL R. VALECHE
DISTRICT 1
561/355-2201
HVALECHE@pbcgov.org



PAULETTE BURDICK
DISTRICT 2
561/355-2202
PBURDICK@pbcgov.org



DAVID KERNER
DISTRICT 3
561/355-2203
DKERNER@pbcgov.org



STEVEN L. ABRAMS
DISTRICT 4
561/355-2204
SABRAMS@pbcgov.org



MARY LOU BERGER
DISTRICT 5
561/355-2205
MBERGER@pbcgov.org



MELISSA MCKINLAY
DISTRICT 6
561/355-2206
MMCKINLAY@pbcgov.org



MACK BERNARD
DISTRICT 7
561/355-2207
MBERNARD@pbcgov.org

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ENVIRONMENTAL/NATURAL RESOURCES

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

GLADES REGION INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM: \$6,000,000

Infrastructure in the Glades Region of Palm Beach County (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 Glades Region suffers from the inadequate provision of water pressure and quality during both average and maximum daily flow conditions, as well as chronic wastewater overflow issues due to infiltration of stormwater into the wastewater collection system, particularly during major storm events. 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 infrastructure has resulted in threats to the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the Glades Region and has also curtailed the ability of Palm Beach County and the municipalities of the Region to attract economic development and business expansion, as well as supporting residential and commercial development. As a result of the infrastructure deficiencies, and to develop a strategy for economic development for the Glades Region, the County finalized the Glades Region Master Plan, which detailed specific Infrastructure Improvement Projects (Projects) that are required in order to repair and restore the water, wastewater, stormwater, and transportation infrastructure of the Glades Region to a level that will protect the health, safety and welfare of the public and businesses of the Region, provide resiliency against major storm events, and improve the economic development outlook for the citizens of the area. The proposed projects are prioritized in the Glades Region Master Plan and are coordinated to provide a multi-faceted approach to foster economic development through the improvement of basic infrastructure throughout the Region.

	FY 2018 Funding Request	
Project Name	Estimated Project Cost	Requested State Allocation
Glades Region Infrastructure Improvement Program	\$25 million	\$6 million

BEACH AND INLET MANAGEMENT PROJECT APPROPRIATIONS: \$22,100,502

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 2018/19 Beach & Inlet Management FUNDING REQUESTS					
No.	Project Name	Description	Grant Funding Request	Local Match	Estimated Project Cost
1	Coral Cove Park Dune Restoration	Construction	\$825,000	\$825,000	\$1,650,000
2	North County Comprehensive Shore Protection Project - Segment 1 (formerly Jupiter/Carlin Nourishment)	Construction	\$7,200,000	\$7,200,000	*\$14,400,000
3	North County Comprehensive Shore Protection Project -Segment 2	Design/Permitting	\$83,293	\$83,293	\$166,585
4	North County Comprehensive Shore Protection Project - Segment 3 (formerly Juno Beach Nourishment)	Design/Permitting, Monitoring, Construction	\$7,337,500	\$7,337,500	\$14,750,000
5	Southern Palm Beach Island Comprehensive Shore Stabilization	Design/Permitting, Monitoring, Construction	\$5,625,000	\$5,625,000	\$11,250,000
6	South Lake Worth Inlet Management	Monitoring	\$180,000	\$60,000	\$240,000
7	Ocean Ridge Shore Protection	Monitoring, Design/Permitting	\$202,600	\$202,600	*\$600,000
8	Singer Island Shore Protection Project	Monitoring, Construction	\$647,109	\$972,891	\$1,620,000
TOTAL			\$22,100,502	\$22,306,284	\$44,676,585

*includes federal funding

LOXAHATCHEE RIVER PRESERVATION INITIATIVE: \$2,626,580

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.

Palm Beach County **SUPPORTS** legislative funding for the priority list of projects as established by the steering committee of the LRPI.

	Project Name	Sponsor	Grant Funding Request	Local Match
1	Septic to Sewer Conversion – Imperial Woods	Loxahatchee River District	\$117,500	\$300,000
2	Jupiter Inlet Village Water Quality Improvements	Town of Jupiter	\$628,760	\$628,760
3	Jones Creek Preserve Hydrologic Enhancement	Town of Jupiter	\$19,000	\$19,301
4	Septic to Sewer Conversion – Whispering Trails	Loxahatchee River District	\$543,000	\$543,000
5	Hydrologic Restoration Phase II – Jonathan Dickenson State Park	Jonathan Dickinson State Park	\$500,000	\$515,000
6	Loxahatchee /Hungryland Slough Hydrological Restoration Phase I	Palm Beach County Environmental Resources Management	\$160,000	\$160,000
7	Turtle Creek Weir: Design and Construction	Martin County Ecosystem Restoration Division	\$350,000	\$350,000
7	Pine Glades Natural Area Habitat Restoration	Palm Beach County Environmental Resources Management	\$200,000	\$200,000
8	Hydrologic Restoration Phase III FY 2018 - 2019	Jonathan Dickinson State Park	\$25,000	\$25,000
9	127 th Drive North Drainage Improvement	South Indian River Water Control District	\$72,320	\$72,320
10	Loxahatchee Riverine 2019 Transect Vegetation Survey	South Florida Water Management District / Jonathan Dickinson State Park	\$11,000	\$11,000
			\$2,626,580	\$2,824,381

LAKE WORTH LAGOON INITIATIVE: \$3,866,660

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, which have endorsed LWL Management Plan to restore the Lagoon. This plan includes projects to restore sea grasses, mangroves and oysters, cap muck sediments and construct storm water control projects and septic to sewer conversions. 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.

Palm Beach County **SUPPORTS** legislative funding for the priority list of projects as established by the LWLI.

Project Name	Sponsor	Grant Funding Request	Local Match
Tarpon Cove Phase II - Restoration	Palm Beach County	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
Septic to Sewer Conversion	Town of Hypoluxo	\$333,660	\$667,320
Washington Rd. Utilities and Stormwater Improvements	City of West Palm Beach	\$500,000	\$1,800,000
Lakeshore Drainage Improvements	Town of Lake Park	\$600,000	\$6,900,000
Singer Island South Stormwater Improvements	City of Riviera Beach	\$1,183,000	\$4,331,334
Lake Worth Lagoon Water Quality Monitoring	Palm Beach County	\$250,000	\$250,000
		\$2,626,580	\$2,824,381

LAKE OKEECHOBEE RESTORATION: \$2,000,000

Historically, the shoreline of Lake Okeechobee along Palm Beach County transitioned gradually from beaches and grassy waters into deeper water, serving as a natural barrier and filtration system. During construction of the Herbert Hoover Dike, the shoreline was significantly altered, inhibiting the natural flow of water and resulting in consequences to the ecosystem; habitat loss, increased turbidity and sedimentation. These changes impair the environmental resources upon which the adjacent communities depend on and negatively affect the economy. Palm Beach County is actively working with the US Army Corps of Engineers on a suite of projects to improve the nearshore habitat of the lake.

FY 2018/19 Lake Okeechobee FUNDING REQUESTS				
	Project Name	Grant Funding Request	Local Match	Estimated Project Cost
1	Lake Okeechobee CAP Feasibility Study with USACE – Nearshore Habitat Planning & Development	\$400,000	\$400,000	\$800,000
2	Lake Okeechobee Nearshore Habitat Construction	\$1,600,000	\$1,600,000	\$3,200,000
		\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$4,000,000

PHASE II OF THE J.W. CORBETT LEVEE SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT PROJECT: \$3,500,00

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: Palm Beach County **SUPPORTS** the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and South Florida Water Management District in securing the remaining funding to complete Phase II of the J.W. Corbett Levee System Improvement Project.

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: Palm Beach County **SUPPORTS** 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: Palm Beach County **SUPPORTS** 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.
- 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 smaller-scale 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 plant 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: Palm Beach County **SUPPORTS** the appropriation of funding for the management/restoration and maintenance of local government natural lands at a level of 10% of the funds that are appropriated for the management or restoration of natural lands.

Palm Beach 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, Palm Beach 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: Palm Beach County **SUPPORTS** full funding for the Petroleum Storage Tank Compliance Verification Program at the local program level so all local 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. An experienced local program staff oversees contamination cleanups 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. Palm Beach County’s Department of Environmental Resources Management implements the Program throughout the County, but is not the only contracted service within the County.

Recommendation: Palm Beach County **SUPPORTS** designation of the County as the petroleum cleanup contracted service for all Petroleum Restoration sites within the County. Palm Beach County staff has the local knowledge expertise to effectively and efficiently use state dollars within the County.

Petroleum Cleanup Sites Administered by Palm Beach County per FDEP Task Assignment Year									
Sites	171	186	174	171	150	129	178	241	164
Fiscal Year	2009/10	2010/12	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18

RESILIENCE/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 nourishment projects to include shoreline protection measures beyond placement of sand, including dune projects.

SUPPORT legislation and appropriations to assist local governments in the implementation of policies and projects promoting renewable energy and the construction of infrastructure resilient to sea level rise and flooding related to tropical impacts.

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

SUPPORT legislation and policies requiring state agencies, water management districts, local governments, and regulated industries to consider projected sea-level rise, coastal flooding, and potential storm surge in all infrastructure and facility-siting decisions.

FLEXIBILITY IN MITIGATION CREDIT GENERATION

Palm Beach 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.

SEPTIC TO SEWER CONVERSIONS

In June 2016, significant algal blooms on Lake Okeechobee was exacerbated by substantial rainfall that resulted in the discharge of water to the coastal waters of Florida, including the Lake Worth Lagoon, transporting the algal blooms to the coastal areas and resulting in deleterious water quality impacts. As a result, Governor Scott issued an emergency order to expedite the construction of water resource projects to alleviate the harmful discharges. One of the major sources of nutrient pollution that results in the worsening of algal blooms is the leaching of wastewater from septic tanks and their associated drainfields to adjacent waters.

Palm Beach County **SUPPORTS** funding to assist in the conversion of properties currently on septic systems to central wastewater in areas impacted by harmful algal blooms and nutrient impacts.

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.

Palm Beach County **SUPPORTS** the legislative concepts proposed by the state Utility Councils 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.

Palm Beach 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 AND EMERGENCY RESPONDER STATUS

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 and emergency responders engaged in the lawful performance of their duties. The effect of this reclassification is that the maximum penalty increases. The addition of utility workers (a term defined in the bill) to the list of specified persons and recognition of them as first responders in emergency scenarios would provide those protections and benefits commiserate with the risks taken by the workers on a daily basis. The Water Utilities Department has experienced an increase in incidents involving angry and disgruntled customers threatening employees, and its employees are often the first on the scene during an emergency event to ensure the safety of the public water supply and continued provision of water and wastewater services.

Palm Beach 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.

Palm Beach County additional **SUPPORTS** the recognition of utility workers as first responders in state law given their roles prior to, during and immediately after emergency events to keep vital services running.

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.

Palm Beach 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:

- Okeehelie Park South Boating Center: Project elements include a new non-motorized boat launching facility, car/trailer parking, restroom and associated underground infrastructure.
- John Prince Park Improvements – Phase II: Project elements include new group picnic shelters, play grounds, restrooms, bike/pedestrian paths, parking and landscaping.

Palm Beach County Proposed State Appropriations Priority Requests

The following chart depicts appropriations requests included in Palm Beach County’s State Legislative Agenda and are sorted by budget category. The top appropriations priorities as recommended by staff are delineated in each category and the other requests in those areas make up the additional priority requests.

FY 2019 Appropriations	\$ Amount
Transportation & Economic Development	
1. Affordable Housing	\$ TBD
2. SCOP Funding	\$9,000,000 (FY18 amount)
Glades Community Street Resurfacing and Reconstruction	\$1,000,000
South Bay Park of Commerce	\$1,000,000
South Bay Multi-Purpose (Community/Emergency) Center	\$1,899,000
South Bay Flood Control/Reduction & Waterway Management	\$853,100
South Bay Roads/Sidewalks/Streetlights (assorted projects)	\$7,265,470
Pahokee - Storm Water Improvement (1 st Street)	\$660,000
Pahokee - Storm Water Improvement (Main Street)	\$790,000
Pahokee Marina Improvements	\$990,000
Pahokee King Park Renovations/Improvements	\$550,000
Pahokee Gymnasium/Community Center Renovation	\$1,500,000

Old Pahokee High Visitor and Tourism Center	\$650,000
Belle Glade Glades Community Street Resurfacing	\$894,757
Belle Glade Drainage Improvements	\$450,000
Belle Glade Demolition	\$2,160,000
Belle Glade Multi-Purpose Community Center	\$26,431,340
Public Safety	
1. RESTORE ReEntry	\$500,000
2. Youthful Offender Center	\$TBD
3. Youth Employment Program	\$400,000
Health and Human Services	
1. Opioid Epidemic Funding	\$20,000,000
2. Funding for Additional Treatment Beds for Substance Abuse and Mental Health	\$ TBD
3. Stockade Receiving Facility	\$1,000,000 (matching)
Jerome Golden	\$575,000 \$320 additional bed
Senior Smiles Pilot Program	\$535,252 (FY18 amount)
Palm Beach Habilitation Creative Arts	\$1,000,000 (Matching)

Education	
1. Library Grants	Funded Statewide
2. Cultural Grants	Funded Statewide
3. Small Matching Historic Preservation Grants	Funded Statewide
Palm Beach County Zoo & Conservation Society	\$1,028,000 (Guaranteeing the Safety of Visitors - \$578,000) (Adding Recreational Water Activities - \$250,000) (Saving Florida Species - \$200,000)
African American History Museum at Historic Roosevelt High	\$350,000
Palm Beach County State College – Dental & Medical Services Technology Building	\$16,700,000
Florida Atlantic University	\$TBD
Environment & Natural Resources	
1. Glades Region Infrastructure Improvement Plan	\$6,000,000
2. Lake Worth Lagoon Initiative	\$3,866,660
3. Beaches	Full funding of DEP Priority List (TBD)
Loxahatchee River	\$2,626,580

Lake Okeechobee Restoration	\$2,000,000
Petroleum Monitoring and Clean Up	Full Funding