

PALM BEACH COUNTY

2018 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

GENERAL GOVERNMENT ISSUES



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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.

JOB GROWTH GRANT FUND

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, location for expectant mothers to decrease the risk of complications and birth defects due to opioid addiction, 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 aide 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

Mounts 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 Mounts Botanical Garden of Palm Beach County. The Garden exists to support the educational mission of the Palm Beach County Cooperative Extension Service whose office is adjacent to the Garden and the DMV facility

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

PUBLIC SAFETY

HURRICANE ISSUES

In the aftermath of Hurricane Irma and Maria, 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) – and the fuel to run them -- 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.
10. Work with local governments and school boards who will receive citizens who have been displaced from their homes in affected areas.

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.