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Palm Beach County Days 2008
Joint Legislative Agenda

Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners

School District of Palm Beach County

Palm Beach County League of Cities, Inc.

EDUCATION

Education Pre K-20 and Vocational Programs

To fully fund high school career and adult vocational programs so that the Palm Beach County School District and Palm Beach Community College can offer high-quality, well-equipped programs to meet workforce demands. Ensure that enrollment growth for all Pre K-20 programs is funded so that no child or student is denied a seat or a quality education as defined by Article IX of Florida's Constitution.

Cost Differentials

Return the District Cost Differential (DCD) to a formula that fully recognizes Palm Beach County's higher cost of living, particularly in housing and transportation (gas).

Budget Issues

Schools Districts should be held harmless from state budget reductions and provided flexibility in expenditure of funds.

FISCAL

Unfunded Mandates

Oppose any mandatory legislation that requires local governments or school districts to take action if state funds to cover the cost of such action are not appropriated at the same time.

Cost Shifting

Oppose legislation that shifts the state's funding responsibility of Medicaid, juvenile justice or any other state programs to local governments.

ENVIRONMENT

Lake Region Water Treatment Plant

Support a funding request of $3.5 million for the Lake Region Water Treatment Plant, a proposed regional reverse-osmosis water treatment plant that will replace aging surface water treatment systems in Belle Glade, Pahokee and South Bay.

Lake Worth Lagoon Partnership Grant

Support the funding of $5.25 million to restore the Lake Worth Lagoon, which stretches 20 miles from North Palm Beach to Boynton Beach. Through this 50:50 state/local matching grant program, which has been endorsed by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, more than $15.8 million in state funds has been dedicated to restoring the Lagoon.

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Chain of Lakes Restoration

Support a $1.5 million funding request for the Chain of Lakes restoration that will provide for essential fish and wildlife habitat and will improve water quality by dredging muck and organic contaminants derived from stormwater discharges.

Beach and Inlet Management

Maintain the current $30 million statewide allocation for beach and inlet management. Palm Beach County's beaches provide a positive local and state economic impact, storm protection for uplands, and recreational benefits for residents and visitors.

Everglades Restoration/Trust Fund Protection

Ensure that any legislative actions related to Everglades funding recognize the financial contributions provided by the taxpayers within the South Florida Water Management District and do not result in an inordinate financial burden on taxpayers and local governments. Oppose any "redirection" of Florida Forever funds and other conservation-related trust funds for any purposes not specified in the originating legislation.

TRANSPORTATION

Traffic Safety Photo Enforcement

Support legislation that creates a pilot program in Palm Beach County to use traffic cameras to help reduce the number of motorists who run red lights. This program could potentially reduce traffic accidents, injuries and fatalities at major intersections.

Strategic Intermodal System Funding

Support legislation that provides a funding formula that distributes SIS funds based on gas tax revenues collected. This will allow for funding to more adequately meet the needs of Southeast Florida by recouping a proportionate allocation of gas revenues collected.

HEALTH CARE

Medicaid Non-Emergency/Transportation Disadvantage Funding

Support legislation to restore budget cuts in Medicaid Non-Emergency Transportation funding. This program provides transportation for life sustaining medical appointments of Medicaid clients in Palm Beach County and the State of Florida.

Trauma Care

Support legislation clarifying current law to ensure trauma agencies and their hospitals may claim reimbursement for payment to doctors for services rendered to indigents.