

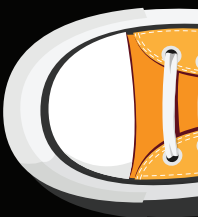
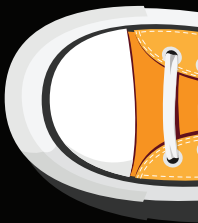


VIRTUAL PBC DAY 2021

Joint Legislative Agenda



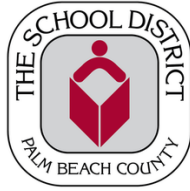
**STRONGER
TOGETHER...**



PALM BEACH COUNTY DAY 2021

Joint Legislative Agenda

Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners
School District of Palm Beach County
Palm Beach County League of Cities, Inc.
Economic Council of Palm Beach County



AFFORDABLE HOUSING/HOMELESSNESS

Support efforts to identify additional funding and a dedicated revenue stream to fund programs for the homeless. Also support the Governor's proposal to ensure that funds within the Sadowski State and Local Government Housing Trust Funds are fully appropriated only for affordable and workforce housing projects.



SUBSTANCE USE/SOBER HOMES/MENTAL HEALTH

Support providing life-saving interventions, medically-assisted detoxification programs, and diversions from the criminal justice system for those suffering from opioid addiction and support recommendations of the Sober Homes Task Force. Provide additional beds for mental health treatment, with focus on youth services.

WATER AND NATURAL RESOURCES

1. Support Lake Okeechobee Operations and Watershed Restoration
2. Support Loxahatchee River Watershed Restoration Plan
3. Support Governor's recommended \$50 million appropriation to benefit Beach Management
4. Support funding for the Lake Worth Lagoon Initiative, Loxahatchee River Preservation Initiative and Lake Okeechobee Restoration
5. Support funding for Glades Region Infrastructure Improvement Program
6. Support legislation that enhances the development of alternative water supply sources
7. Support funding to assist residents moving from septic tanks to sewer systems



COVID RESPONSE AND DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

Support funding for equitable, statewide COVID-19 testing and vaccination distribution. Support a public records exemption that protects our sheltering residents from vendors seeking their information during a vulnerable time, as well as for providing an exemption of emergency management after-action reports.

TRANSPORTATION/GLADES REGIONAL INITIATIVES

Oppose use redirection of existing trust funds dedicated to specific transportation and infrastructure purposes. Additionally, in an effort to provide economic growth, resiliency, and stimulus to the region surrounding Lake Okeechobee, support funding for road resurfacing, local workforce and career training, water funding, ecotourism initiatives, expansion of rail transportation, development of an inland port and emerging transportation technologies.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

In an effort to continue expanded resources to assist Palm Beach County's Office of Housing and Economic Sustainability, Business Development Board, and Economic Council, the state's economic development toolkit should be funded in a manner that supports continued economic growth, availability of workforce housing and financial stability for regional businesses, as well as full funding of the Job Growth Grant Fund, Visit Florida, Enterprise Florida, the Florida Sports Foundation and a refreshed Qualified Target Industry incentive. We support tourism and funding to continue marketing Palm Beach County as a destination.

SALES TAX FAIRNESS

Support legislation that reforms Florida's sales and use tax laws to apply to online/e-commerce sales from out of state retailers with no physical presence in Florida, ensuring that in-state retailers are treated equitably.



SHORT-TERM/VACATION RENTALS

Support legislation that repeals the state preemption of the regulation of short term/vacation rental properties in order to allow local governments to regulate such properties to protect the health and welfare of residents, visitors and businesses, and oppose any further preemption of local protection and control.

MANDATES AND PREEMPTIONS

Support home rule authority of local governments; therefore recommend a moratorium on any additional preemption attempts or mandates of any kind during the 2021 Legislative Session. Local governments are working to maintain current service levels within the confines of the economic realities of the pandemic. We request the State Legislature allow time for governments to focus on current requirements without additional mandates.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Support efforts to expand the use of diversion programs, re-entry efforts, and alternatives to detention for juvenile offenders, as well as appropriations for badly needed upgrades to juvenile detention centers and DCF Youth facilities. Support the use of state dollars to provide educational and workforce training programs for those currently in the criminal justice system.



PRE-K-12 EDUCATION GOVERNANCE

Maintain the current Required Local Effort (RLE) instead of continuing to roll it back to ensure adequate education funding for all of Florida's children. Increase the Base Student Allocation (BSA) to keep up with increased costs to educate students and continue to provide meaningful salary increases to all PreK-12 teachers as well as other critical support staff. Allocate resources to promote and expand high quality Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK) programs. Require equal accountability and standards for all schools, both district and charter, including mandates related to school hardening, safety, and security. Finally, given the ongoing impact of COVID-19, refrain from using 2020-2021 state assessment results to calculate school grades and waive the requirement for school districts to use high-stakes testing data to make retention-related decisions, such as 3rd grade promotion and high school graduation eligibility. Support measures that empower local school districts to make their own decisions during emergency situations.

PALM BEACH STATE COLLEGE AND FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY

Support increased recurring operational funding for Palm Beach State College to meet the workforce demands of each industry for our state as well as maintain Florida's ranking of #1 in Higher Education according to US News & World Report. In addition, support increased recurring operational funding to assist FAU in their University of Distinction designation in Applied Artificial Intelligence and Big Data Analytics.

Support the increased allocation and identification of additional funding sources for Public Education Capital Outlay (PECO) dollars for deferred maintenance to continue the renovation and preservation of current buildings on Palm Beach State College's campuses, and for FAU to complete Phase 2 of its A.D. Henderson/FAU High replacement facility. Also support increased funding for behavioral and mental health services at the K-12 and postsecondary level.

For more information on these and other local priorities, please contact:

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**The legislative priorities contained herein are a compilation of various priorities from each of the partnering organizations.*

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