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Message from Delegation Chair, Representative Matt Willhite

It is my pleasure to present the 2019 Palm Beach County Legislative Delegation wrap-up report.

Inside you will find highlights of legislation and appropriations that members of our delegation worked diligently on during the 2019 Legislative Session.

This Session the Legislature passed a $91.1 billion budget: The budget includes a $783 million increase in K-12 funding, including $364 million districts can use for teacher pay raises. The budget also invests $682.6 million in water quality and protection, and $1.8 billion for Hurricane Michael recovery efforts.

It has been my honor to serve as Chair of the delegation this past year. It is a privilege to be among those who advocate for Palm Beach County and Home Rule in the Legislature, and I am very proud to work with my colleagues on behalf of Palm Beach County’s residents.

I have enjoyed working closely with the members and staff of the delegation this year as Executive Director of the Palm Beach County Legislative Delegation.

Executive Director’s Report

We have composed this report to give you a comprehensive overview of the priority issues the delegation has worked on during the 2019 Legislative Session. You will also find a detailed list of appropriations that the legislature allocated to Palm Beach County, as well as those vetoed by the Governor. Our delegation members worked countless hours to bring these appropriations home.

These hours consisted of individual meetings with constituents and groups, numerous public hearings throughout the County (including joint workshops with the Palm Beach County League of Cities, School Board and Board of County Commissioners), several weeks of committee hearings, and the annual 60-day Legislative Session in Tallahassee.

I would like to thank the delegation members and especially the delegation staff for their tireless work this Session. They are the hardest working people I have met and their successes this session reflects all their efforts. Kudos on a job well done! I would also like to thank Christine Shaw for her leadership as the Executive Director of the delegation for the past three years, we wish her all the success in her new role with Florida Atlantic University. I would be remiss if I did not thank Rachel Zara for all her hard work and dedication as the Legislative Delegation Aide for the past two years, we wish her well in all her future endeavors and congratulate her on her new role as Legislative Aide for New Castle County, Delaware, Councilman Carter.

I want to take a moment to introduce Teresa Hadjipetrou as our new Delegation Aide, she comes to the delegation with many years of legislative and community experience and has hit the ground running.

Finally, I would like to thank our Delegation Chair, Representative Matt Willhite, for his leadership over the past year and for his advocacy for Palm Beach County and its residents.
The 2019 legislative session ended on Saturday May 4, 2019, with a one day extension to pass a record $91 billion state budget. Lawmakers filed more than 3,500 bills for the 2019 legislative session and fewer than 200 passed both chambers of the Legislature before it adjourned its annual session on Saturday.

This session’s budget was focused on Hurricane Michael recovery for the Panhandle with an allotment of $220.9 million. The largest portion of the hurricane-related spending for the coming year will be $115 million for affordable housing. Another $35 million will go to county and municipal roads through the budget and transportation bill. A separate $14.2 million will help school districts cover declining enrollments that stem from families and students being displaced by the hurricane.

Encouraged by Governor DeSantis, lawmakers agreed to spend more than $680 million to address water quality, springs protection and Everglades restoration, including $25 million to battle blue-green algae and red tide. The Florida Red Tide Mitigation and Technology Development Initiative was established to develop technologies and other approaches to mitigate the impact of red tide. This includes investment of $3 million per year for six years in red tide mitigation.

**SB 426 - The Firefighters Cancer Coverage**, one of Chairman Willhite’s priorities, passed and was signed by the Governor. This bill establishes cancer as an occupational hazard tied to firefighting and provides certain benefits to firefighters who are diagnosed with cancer and benefits to the families of firefighters who die as a result of cancer or cancer treatment.

**HB 19 - Prescription Drug Importation Programs** will allow drugs approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to be imported into Florida by Canada and other countries. The bill will create a framework for importing drugs, with the hope that it would hold down prescription costs for the state and consumers. Importing prescriptions into Florida still needs approval from the federal government.

**SB 366 - Infectious Disease Elimination Program** expands the pilot needle exchange established in Miami-Dade County by allowing other counties to create their own programs with the approval of their county commissions. This expansion of the needle exchange program will help to reduce HIV transmission rates, lower healthcare costs and open the door for addicts to receive health services. Palm Beach County is poised to become Florida’s second county to implement this program.

**HB 107 - Wireless Communication While Driving** was sponsored by Rep. Emily Slosberg and Rep. Jackie Toledo passed overwhelmingly in the House and Senate and was signed by Governor DeSantis on May 17, 2019. Texting while driving now becomes a primary, instead of a secondary offense, and drivers are required to go totally “hands-free” when operating wireless communications devices in school zones and in construction zones when workers are present. Florida now becomes the 44th state to make texting while driving a primary offense.
Continuing the response to the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School tragedy on February 14, 2018, the legislature voted to let teachers carry loaded guns, subject to training. **CS/CS/HB 7030 - Implementation of Legislative Recommendations of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Commission** expands the state’s “guardian” program, with the original program allowing some school staffers to carry guns on campus. The expansion now allows classroom teachers to be armed, as well. There are stipulations: School districts must approve the measure, teachers must volunteer for the program, and all participants are required to undergo a background check and psychiatric evaluation. Armed teachers must also attend a gun-safety training course with a sheriff’s office. This legislation makes Florida the first state to put firearms in classrooms. Most urban school districts, including Palm Beach, Broward and Miami-Dade, won’t participate in the guardian program.

**CS/CS/HB 369/SB 900 - Substance Abuse Services** by Rep. Mike Caruso and Sen. Gayle Harrell continues to tighten up sober home standards and address unintended consequences of previously passed legislation. The bill exempts “Oxford Homes” from certification requirements, strengthens patient brokering and deceptive practices statutes, provides for certification and background checks of peer specialists, expands background check requirements for recovery residence administrative personnel and expands violations eligible for exemption, and covers residences that have day/night treatment centers. The Legislature unanimously passed legislation this legislation

A full session summary of the legislation that passed can be found at the Florida House websites, [www.myfloridahouse.gov](http://www.myfloridahouse.gov) under the publications link.
Palm Beach County Appropriations

**EDUCATION**

**Florida Atlantic University**
- Florida Atlantic University – Education Enhancement: $27,939,279
- Florida Atlantic University – A.D. Henderson/FAU High Developmental Research School
  - K-8 Replacement Facility: $11,500,000
- Florida Atlantic University – Medical School: $26,121,007
- Florida Atlantic University – Jupiter STEM/Life Sciences Bldg.: $11,000,000
- Florida Atlantic University – Autism Program: $1,056,776
- Florida Atlantic University – Operating: $119,583,168
- Florida Atlantic University – Max Planck Scientific Fellows: $750,000
- Florida Atlantic University – Max Planck Scientific Fellowship Program (Recurring): $889,101
- Florida Atlantic University – Secondary Robotics Team Support: $100,000
- Florida Atlantic University – Tuition Authority: $136,074,256

**Palm Beach State College**
- Palm Beach State College – Operating: $56,172,015
- Palm Beach State College – Education Enhancement: $7,443,097
- Palm Beach State College – Student Success Incentive Fund: $1,762,142

**Palm Beach County Schools K-12**
- Palm Beach County Public Schools K-12 FEFP Total Funds: $1,545,785,560
- Palm Beach County Workforce Education Programs: $17,692,976
- Palm Beach School Readiness: $40,845,982
- Palm Beach County Voluntary Prekindergarten: $28,827,543
- Riviera Beach Early Learning to Kindergarten Pilot: $150,000
- Kindness Matters Florida (Statewide): $25,000 – VETOED
- Mangonia Park Reading Program: $110,5000
- Palm Beach School District - West Technical Education Center Adult Vocational Training: $250,000
- Wayne Barton Study Center After School Program: $325,000

**Education Fixed Capital Outlay**
- WXEL-TV, Boynton Beach—Replace Chiller in HVAC System: $224,648
- Belle Glade Community and Recreation Center: $3,250,000 – VETOED

**COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**
- Palm Beach Habilitation Center: $225,000
- Alzheimer's Community Care Association - Critical Support Initiative: $500,000
- Place of Hope – Child Welfare Foster Care Regionalization Phase IV: $250,000
- Jerome Golden Center for Behavioral Health: $100,000
- Community Action Treatment for Mental Health/Substance Abuse – Sinfonia: $750,000
- Palm Beach County Rape Crisis Center: $282,039
- Holocaust Survivors Assistance Program - Boca Raton Jewish Federation: $92,946
- Homeless Housing Assistance Grants: $4,490,800
- Feeding South Florida Community Kitchen: $1,000,000
- Federation Transportation Services, Inc.: $250,000 – VETOED
Projected Net Payments DSH (LIP Not Available until September)
- Palms West Hospital $5,831
- St. Mary’s Medical Center $19,728

PUBLIC SAFETY

Criminal & Civil Justice
- Sago Palm Facility – PILT $142,900
- South Bay Correctional Facility – PILT $275,560
- Continuum of Care Program (Bay, Glades and Palm Beach) $2,961,680
- South Bay Correctional Facility $1,521,875
- Justice Administrative Commission for PIP Fraud (Palm Beach and other counties) $1,767,857
- West Palm Beach Incident Command Vehicle VETOED
- RESTORE Ex-Offender Reentry Program $250,000
- Home Builders Institute (HBI) Building Careers for Inmates and Returning Citizens Miami-Dade, Orange, Palm Beach $500,000

TRANSPORTATION & GROWTH MANAGEMENT

Transportation Economic Development
- Rales Rides – Senior Transportation $159,520
- Jewish Association for Residential Care (JARC) Community Works $300,000
- Transportation Disadvantaged (Statewide) $55,900,000
- Town of Loxahatchee Groves North Rd. Equestrian Trails VETOED

Arterial Highway Construction
- Boutwell Rd from SR 802/Lake Worth Rd to 10th Ave North $3,000,000
- Fiber Optic Communication Cable, Various Locations $2,240,241
- Lowson Boulevard/SW 10th Street from Military Trail to SE 6th Avenue $4,463,000
- Swinton Avenue from S 10th Street to NE 4th Street $1,228,205

Aviation Development Grants
- Belle Glade State Municipal Airport Taxiway Charlie Construction $1,400,000
- North Palm Beach County General Aviation Airport Construct Hangars $1,200,000
- Palm Beach County Glades Airport Expand Aircraft Parking Apron $2,600,000
- Palm Beach International Airport $2,000,000
- Palm Beach International Airport Concourse B Expansion $10,468,062

Bridge Construction
- El Claire Ranch Road over LL-30 Canal $2,457,615
- Seminole Drive at L-16 Canal $2,235,784
- SR 704/Okeechobee Blvd Westbound to Southbound SR 9/I-95 Interchange $2,100,461

Construct/inspect/Consult
- SR 25/US 27 from the Broward/Palm Beach Countyline to Mp 12.599 $2,936,361
- SR 9/I-95 from Gateway Boulevard to Lantana Road $1,305,343

County Transportation Programs
- SR 809/Military Trail at Forest Hill Blvd $1,094,964

Highway Maintenance
- I-95 Asset Maintenance Palm Beach County $2,000,000
- I-95 Asset Management Palm Beach County $1,915,000
- Palm Bch Co ITS Maintenance $1,800,000
- Palm Beach County JPA's for Maintenance Lighting Maintenance $3,284,972
- Palm Beach County Road Ranger Service Patrol $1,664,852
- SR 25/US 27 Asset Management Contract US 27 & Belle Glade Area $1,900,000
**Highway Safety Construction/Grants**

SR 9/1-95 from Gateway Boulevard to Lantana Road $4,432,817  
SR 9/1-95 from SR 706/Indiantown Rd to Palm Beach/Martin County Line $6,962,003

**Intrastate Highway Construction**

Palm Beach County Push Button Contract Traffic Ops (Roadway) $1,026,000  
SR 25/US 27 from the Broward/Palm Beach Countyline to Mp 12.599 $12,863,295  
SR 9/1-95 from Brow/Palm Bch Co Line to South of Glades Rd $1,050,000  
SR 9/1-95 from South of Glades Rd to South of Linton Blvd $1,000,000  
SR 9/1-95 NB Noise Wall Extension to North and South of Diane Dr $1,238,138

**Preliminary Engineering Consult**

SR 5/US 1 Federal Highway from CR A1A to Beach Road $1,906,333  
SR 5/US 1 over Earman River (C-17) Bridge 930003 $1,001,692  
SR 710/Beeline Hwy from Northlake Blvd to SR 708/Blue Heron Blvd $2,000,000  
SR 806/Atlantic Ave from Turnpike to Jog Road $2,500,000  
SR 9/1-95 from Broward/Palm Beach County Line to North of Linton Blvd $1,000,000  
SR 9/1-95 from S of 10th Ave N to SR 882/Forest Hill Boulevard $1,010,000  
West Palm Beach Service Plaza Parking Improvements (Mp 94) $1,000,000  
Widen Tpk - Palm Beach C/L to Glades Rd (Mp 73-75) (6-10 Lns) W/El $2,354,918  
Widen Tpk (SR 91) Boynton Beach Blvd-Lake Worth Rd (4 to 8 Lns W/El), Mp 87-94 $2,329,126  
Widen Tpk (SR 91) WPB Service Plaza to Okeechobee Blvd (4 to 8 Lns) W/Exp Ln $5,000,000  
Widen Tpk from Glades to Atlantic Ave (Mp 76.4 - 81.6) (6 to 10 Ln) W/El $3,819,828  
Widen Tpk from SR 710 (Mp 106.1) to Mp 117 (4 to 8 Lns) $21,784,000

**Public Transit Development**

Palm Beach County Block Grant Operating Assistance $5,344,100

**Rail Development**

SFRTA New Station Study Area, N of Glades Rd to N of Palmetto Pk Rd $3,916,735  
South Central Florida Express $4,930,050

**Right of Way Land Acquisition**

SR 806/Atlantic Ave from West of SR 7/US 441 to East of Lyons Road $14,200,259  
SR 9/1-95 at Linton Boulevard Interchange $1,270,700  
SR 9/1-95 at Northlake Boulevard Interchange $6,087,547  
SR 9/1-95 at SR 804/Boynton Beach Blvd Interchange $14,971,956

**Right of Way Support**

SR 9/1-95 at Northlake Boulevard Interchange $2,477,230  
SR 9/1-95 at SR 804/Boynton Beach Blvd Interchange $3,913,893  
SR 9/1-95 at Gateway Blvd Interchange $2,873,766

**Seaport Grants**

Port of Palm Beach Area D Mitigation $1,125,000
### Small County Outreach Program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Barfield Hwy from E 7 Street to E Main Street</td>
<td>$2,952,534</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SW 10 Ave from S Terminus to Dr MLK Jr Blvd</td>
<td>$1,307,813</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Toll Operation Contracts

Account Management System/CCSS Operations                                           $49,497,101

### Transport Planning Grants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Palm Beach UPWP FY 2018/2019/2020 Turnpike System Equipment &amp; Development</td>
<td>$3,114,354</td>
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<tr>
<td>Account Management System/CCSS Operations</td>
<td>$3,000,000</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Traffic Engineering

Palm Beach County Signal Maintenance & Operations on State Hwy System                $2,497,583

### ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

#### Water Projects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lake Clarke Shores - Septic Conversion Project</td>
<td>$300,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Palm Beach County Loxahatchee River Watershed</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Hydrological Refinements Phase I</td>
<td>$160,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palm Beach Gardens Stormwater Maintenance, Repairs and Operation Program</td>
<td>$300,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Royal Palm Beach Canal System Rehabilitation Project</td>
<td>$500,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Beach Restoration

Delray Segment/Palm Beach County Shore Protection Project                            $27,293

#### Environmental Project

Loggerhead Marinelife Center Improving Water Quality & Coastline Cleanliness in Palm Beach County $250,000

### CULTURE & FINE ARTS

#### Historic Preservation Grants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City of Delray Beach 5 District Historic Resource Survey</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Lake Worth - Historic Resources Survey Update, Phase IV</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Lake Worth Digital Preservation of Historic Property Records for Public Education and Access</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town of Lake Park - Town Hall Structural Condition Assessment and Report: Town Clerk Ceiling and Exterior Doors</td>
<td>$28,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Delray Beach Education and Outreach: Digitizing Historical Records</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### Cultural and Museum Grants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adolph &amp; Rose Levis Jewish Community Center, Inc.</td>
<td>$43,370</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aequalis, Inc.</td>
<td>$14,113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African American History Museum and Library</td>
<td>$150,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue Planet International Explorers' Bazaar &amp; Writers' Room, Inc.</td>
<td>$6,969</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boca Ballet Theatre Company</td>
<td>$31,223</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boca Raton Historical Society, Inc.</td>
<td>$25,007</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boca Raton Museum of Art, Inc.</td>
<td>$45,673</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boca Raton Philharmonic Symphonia, Inc.</td>
<td>$26,840</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boynton Cultural Centre, Inc.</td>
<td>$5,604</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Center for Creative Education, Inc.</td>
<td>$20,951</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Riviera Beach - Parks and Recreation</td>
<td>$6,572</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creative City Collaborative of Delray Beach, Inc.</td>
<td>$35,131</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cultural Council of Palm Beach County, Inc.</td>
<td>$43,132</td>
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<tr>
<td>Delray Beach Chorale, Inc.</td>
<td>$3,412</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expanding and Preserving Our Cultural Heritage, Inc.</td>
<td>$14,357</td>
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<tr>
<td>Florida Atlantic University - University Galleries</td>
<td>$17,727</td>
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<tr>
<td>Historical Society of Palm Beach County</td>
<td>$28,812</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lighthouse ArtCenter, Inc.</td>
<td>$38,496</td>
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<tr>
<td>Loxahatchee River Historical Society, Inc.</td>
<td>$37,647</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lynn University, Inc.</td>
<td>$42,417</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maltz Jupiter Theatre, Inc.</td>
<td>$45,673</td>
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<tr>
<td>Norton Museum of Art, Inc.</td>
<td>$44,959</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Old School Square Center for the Arts, Inc.</td>
<td>$41,124</td>
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<tr>
<td>Palm Beach Dramaworks, Inc.</td>
<td>$45,197</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palm Beach Opera, Inc.</td>
<td>$45,276</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palm Beach State College Presenting Season</td>
<td>$44,595</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raymond F. Kravis Center for the Performing Arts, Inc.</td>
<td>$45,685</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Florida Science Center and Aquarium, Inc.</td>
<td>$43,302</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunfest of Palm Beach County, Inc.</td>
<td>$43,234</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Henry Morrison Flagler Museum</td>
<td>$45,140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Lake Worth Playhouse, Inc.</td>
<td>$25,737</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Morikami, Inc.</td>
<td>$44,005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Palm Beach Symphony Society, Inc.</td>
<td>$40,928</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Zoological Society of the Palm Beaches, Inc.</td>
<td>$44,051</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Village of Royal Palm Beach - Parks and Recreation - Cultural Center</td>
<td>$39,626</td>
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<tr>
<td>Village of Wellington - Cultural Programs and Facilities Division</td>
<td>$40,647</td>
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<tr>
<td>Young Singers of the Palm Beaches, Inc.</td>
<td>$27,673</td>
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</table>

### Cultural Facilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maltz Jupiter Theatre, Inc. - Maltz Jupiter Theatre: Renovation</td>
<td>$500,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Raymond F. Kravis Center for the Performing Arts, Inc- Kravis Center Renovations</td>
<td>$500,000</td>
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### Culture Builds Florida

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>For the Children, Inc. - Multicultural Arts Program</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lake Worth Cultural Renaissance Foundation, Inc. - Dia De Los Muertos 2019</td>
<td>$11,900</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sofia Valiente - Foreverglades</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Andrew's Episcopal Church - Arts at St. Andrew's</td>
<td>$9,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Children's Coalition Incorporated - Believe &amp; Achieve – A Multicultural Histories Project</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Children's Museum, Inc. - Earth Day</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
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### Library Grants

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Organization</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State Library State Aid</td>
<td>$23,954,678</td>
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<tr>
<td>Library Cooperatives</td>
<td>$2,500,000</td>
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2019 Local Bills

HB 901 – City of West Palm Beach, Palm Beach County by Rep. Matt Willhite

The West Palm Beach Firefighters’ pension fund receives tax revenue under the Clayton Act and must meet statutory requirements to maintain its eligibility. This bill increases the minimum benefit accrual factor to the statutory minimum of 2.15%, adjusts the plan’s assumed investment rate of return from 8% to 7.5%. Further, this bill revises the claims appeals process to extend board action deadlines, and allows the plan administrator to tape and maintain hearings. Finally, clarifies the adjustment in the Plan’s assumed investment rate of return should only apply retroactively to October 1, 2018.

Signed by the Governor on 5/23/2019 and became effective when signed.

HB 819 – West Palm Beach Downtown Development Authority, Palm Beach County by Rep. David Silvers

This bill requested an amendment to the West Palm Beach Downtown Development Authority boundaries to include the commercial portions of CityPlace.

This bill died in the Local, Federal & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee.
Legislation Sponsored by Delegation Members

HRJ 57 - Percentage of Elector Votes Required to Approve Constitutional Amendment or Revision by Rep. Rick Roth
This bill as a proposed amendment to the State Constitution to increase percentage of elector votes required to approve amendment or revision to the State Constitution from 60 percent to 66 2/3 percent. This change would have aligned with Federal guidelines.

This bill died in the Judiciary Committee.

House Bill 93 - Judicial Nominating Commissions by Rep. Al Jacquet
Would have revised composition of judicial nominating commissions; establishes additional restrictions regarding commission members; terminating terms of commission members as of specified date; provides for initial appointments & staggered terms for reconstituted commissions; prohibits commission member from serving more than two full terms; provides an exception; requires appointing authorities to consider certain attributes in making appointments to ensure diversity on commissions; requires appointing authorities to collect & release certain demographic data regarding commission members & applicants for commission membership; specifies circumstances under which commission member may not vote on matter & must disclose conflict; requires commission member to complete an educational course after his or her appointment; prescribing minimum requirements for course.

This bill died in the Civil Justice Committee.

This bill makes texting while driving a primary offense starting July 1, 2019. A public awareness campaign will begin October 1, 2019, and continue through the end of the year, with citations starting January 1, 2020.

This bill was signed into law by the Governor on May 17, 2019.

HB 159 - Sales Tax Exemption For the Elderly by Rep Joe Casello
Exempts from sales & use tax specified items that enable disabled and elderly persons to live independently in their homes or residences.

This bill died in the Ways and Means Committee.

SB 198 - Trademarks by Sen. Lori Berman
Periodically, Florida has updated its trademark classification system to match that of the national and international systems. An update had not been done since 2006. This legislation levels the playing field for businesses that wish to expand outside of the state and country to reach international destinations.

This bill was signed into law by the Governor on June 7, 2019.

HB 353 - Housing Trust Fund by Rep. Tina Polsky
This bill would have required that any sweep of the Affordable Housing Trust Funds be repaid in 5 years and that a report be created to indicate what the swept funds were used for.

This bill died in Transportation and Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee
In 2017, this Legislature created a task force in DCF to look at the issues around this increase in the number of involuntary examination of minors.

This bill implements two recommendations of the Baker Act Task Force’s created in 2017. This bill prevents children’s suicides by enhancing the voluntary Suicide Prevention Certified Schools Program; and helps Department of Children and Families (DCF) collect more data on children who had involuntary examinations so we can learn how to address this issue. Requires Baker Act receiving facilities to report more information to DCF on individuals receiving involuntary assessments; and requires DCF to analyze and report on child Baker Acts to the Governor and Legislature every 2 years. The bill requires that mental health clinicians report to law enforcement when a patient threatens someone with severe harm or death and is likely to carry it out, and requires law enforcement to act to protect the victim.

This bill was signed into law by the Governor on May 23, 2019

HB 363 -Public Records/Admission to Mental Health Facilities by Rep. David Silvers
This bill protects the privacy of children that are impacted by the Baker Act. It also provides that all petitions for voluntary and involuntary admission for mental health treatment, court orders, and related records that are filed with or by a court pursuant to the Baker Act are confidential and exempt. The information contained in these court files will not be open for public inspection and can only be released to certain entities.

This bill was signed into law by the Governor on June 25, 2019.

SB 426/HB 857 – Firefighters by Rep. Matt Willhite
HB 857 allows firefighters to obtain cancer treatment under their health insurance and not the costly workers comp system. Requires the firefighter’s employer to provide certain levels of coverage to the firefighter when he/she is diagnosed with cancer. This bill covers 21 different types of cancers more prevalent in firefighters. Also, puts restrictions into place – no tobacco use, minimum years of service, and no other employment in cancerous workplaces.

Although HB 857 was not heard in committee, the House and Senate filed identical bills and SB 426l was signed into law by the Governor on May 3, 2019.

HB 449 – Alzheimer’s Disease by Rep. Matt Willhite
This bill requires the Alzheimer’s Advisory Committee to provide a report including recommendations on Alzheimer’s disease policy to the Governor, Speaker of the House, Senate President, and Secretary of Elders Affairs. The Department of Elders Affairs (DOEA) will be required to use the committee’s report to review and update the Alzheimer’s disease state plan every three years. The bill will expand the Alzheimer’s Disease Advisory Committee from 10 to 15 members. Finally, this bill removes requirements that memory disorder clinics be funded before June 30, 1995, to avoid decreased funding due solely to additions of memory disorder clinics since then.

This bill was signed into law by the Governor on June 26, 2019.

HB 573 - Strategic Fuel Reserve by Rep Joe Casello
Creates Florida Strategic Fuel Reserve Task Force within DEM to develop strategic fuel reserve plan for emergencies or disasters; requires DEM to provide administrative & support services; specifies membership of task force; requires task force to elect chair & vice chair; requires task force to submit recommended plan to Governor and the Legislature.

This bill died in Justice Appropriations Subcommittee.
Department of Children and Families regulates substance abuse treatment through licensure. Individuals in recovery from substance abuse may reside in recovery residences and Florida offers voluntary certifications for recovery residences. The bill amends some of the housing and referral sections to allow for due process and transfers of residents, it also expands the peer specialist definition, which is a person who has lived experience and wants to work with someone in recovery to get through the process as they did. It sets up a certification process for peer specialists and amends the background screening and credentialing process to increase the number of peer specialists available to aid in the recovery process.

This bill was signed into law by the Governor on June 27, 2019.

HB 595 - Alcohol or Drug Overdose Prosecutions by Rep. David Silvers
The bill provides immunity from arrest, charge, prosecution, or other penalty under specified circumstances to a person who provides alcohol to an individual under 21 years old and to a person under 21 years old who possesses or consumes alcohol. Such immunity protects a person who seeks aid for an individual believed to be experiencing an alcohol or drug-related overdose. A person may receive this immunity only by staying at the scene and cooperating with emergency medical services personnel and law enforcement.

This bill was signed into law by the Governor on June 7, 2019.

HB601/SB 318 - Public Records/Child Abuse, Abandonment, or Neglect by Rep. Rick Roth
This legislation is intended to improve Florida’s critically important structure for reporting child abuse and neglect. The public policy in Florida is that every single citizen has an obligation to call the Child Abuse Hotline if they believe a child is being abused, abandoned, or neglected. Some people in certain occupations named in statute cannot report anonymously but must leave their name. However, even if you leave your name with Hotline, if you are a reporter your name is supposed to be confidential and not released except in very narrow circumstances. Because of the importance of having Floridians feel that they would be protected if they have to call to report child abuse, this bill strengthens the current statutory protections, for teachers specifically and for all reporters.

This bill was signed into law by the Governor on May 23, 2019.

SB 410 - Long-acting Reversible Contraception by Sen. Lori Berman
This legislation would require the Department of Health to establish the Long-Acting Reversible Contraceptive (LARC) Pilot Program. This program would improve the provision of LARC services to women residing in the three pilot counties to expand access to family planning services. The Senate heard this bill in two committees and therefore recognized the importance of family planning services and the positive impacts increasing access can provide, especially to low-income families.

This bill died in the Appropriations Committee.
SB 478 - Office of Drug Control by Sen. Kevin Rader
This bill proposed to reestablish the Office of Drug Control within the Executive Office of the Governor. The Office of Drug Control would be managed by a director which the Governor would appoint and the Senate would confirm. The Office of Drug Control would report annually to the Governor, the Legislature, and also partner with the Office of Planning and Budgeting to execute a list of duties. Some of these duties include to coordinate drug efforts and enlist private and public sectors at the federal, state, and local level. In addition to this, the Office of Drug Control would also educate and inform the public about the problem of substance abuse and available programs or services. It would do so through educational campaigns at schools and community projects addressing adolescent drug and alcohol use. The reimplementation of this office would allow for there to be an effective treatment and enforcement of non-harmful drug consumption in the state of Florida.

This bill died in the Health Policy Committee. During Legislative Session Governor DeSantis announced that he would be reinstating and restoring this important office, and signed Executive Order 19-97 reestablishing this essential Office.

House Bill 517 - Minimum Wage by Rep. Al Jacquet
Revises formula for adjusted state minimum wage.

This bill died in the Workforce Development and Tourism Subcommittee.

HB 615 - Campaign Finance by Rep. Rick Roth
This bill repeals provisions relating to Florida Election Campaign Financing Act: deletes provisions governing public funding of campaigns for candidates for statewide office who agree to certain expenditure limits.

This bill died on Second Reading Calendar

HB 687 - Automated Pharmacy Systems by Rep. Matt Willhite
Current statute allows the use of an automated pharmacy-dispensing machine in an institutional setting, such as a nursing home or hospital, and must be operated by staff. This bill amends the statute to allow a patient to use an advanced technology-dispensing machine. The machine must:
- Allow patient to see on a video screen and speak directly with a Florida licensed pharmacist.
- Be controlled at all times by a Florida licensed pharmacist, who must be able to verify prescriptions prior to the machine dispensing the medication.
- Be owned by a Florida licensed community pharmacy, which is also responsible for the formularies available in the machine.
- Not dispense any controlled substances.

The bill also mandates that the Board of Pharmacy must be notified of every machine location or change in location and directs the Board of Pharmacy to adopt the rules governing the use of the machines.

This bill passed the House and then died in Senate messages.
CS/CS/HB 741 – Anti-Semitism by Rep. Mike Caruso
The bill amends the Florida Educational Equality Act to add religion as a protected class in Florida’s public educational institutions. The bill also defines “anti-Semitism” as a certain perception of the Jewish people, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jewish people, rhetorical and physical manifestations of anti-Semitism directed toward a person, his or her property, or toward Jewish community institutions or religious facilities; and provides examples of what qualifies as anti-Semitism, including examples related to Jewish persons and the State of Israel. The bill requires a public K-20 educational institution to treat discrimination motivated by anti-Semitism in an identical manner to discrimination motivated by race.

This bill was signed into law by the Governor on May 31, 2019.

SB 764/SB 7106 - Risk Protection Orders by Sen. Lori Berman
Current law states that only a law enforcement officer or a law enforcement agency may petition a court for a Risk Protection Order. SB 764 would have allowed for a household or family member to also file a petition as well as create a “safe storage” aspect to firearms in the household. Working with Judicial Committee Chair David Simmons, another version of this legislation, SB 7106, would have allowed for the expansion of petitioning ability only to someone with a biological or legal parent-child relationship, step-parent, grandparent, and sibling. Spotting violent behavior is key to disarming threats where access to a firearm is available and family members are no doubt the most aware of these signs. Although SB 7106 was heard and passed in the Education Committee, it did not receive another hearing.

Both of these bills died in Committee.

SB 828 - Lewd or Lascivious Exhibition in Prisons by Sen. Kevin Rader
This legislation corrects a law that was passed unanimously in the House and Senate in 2010, which protects employees in state and private correctional facilities from lewd and lascivious actions performed in front of them. Many prison workers, mainly female, have been victimized by this behavior. Unfortunately, employees in county detention facilities were not included in the 2010 law. This legislation would include such employees, making this practice a Third-degree felony in county detention facilities, thus protecting them and putting them in the same position as their state and private colleagues. This bill passed all its committees as well as the House and Senate unanimously.

This bill was signed into law by the Governor on May 23, 2019.

CS/CS/CS/SB 844 - Orange Alert Plan by Sen. Lori Berman
Senate Bill 844 would create the ‘Orange Alert’ here in Florida. This alert would function similarly to the Silver Alert and would be activated should someone who has a developmental or intellectual disability go missing. It is imperative that we have the ability to use all tools available to locate these individuals as quickly as possible to ensure their safety and well-being.

This bill died on Second Reading in the Senate.
SB 1136– Cyberharassment by Sen. Gayle Harrell
This bill was filed at the request of Martin County Sheriff William Snyder. Cyberharassment; Redefining the terms “personal identifying information” and “sexually cyberharass”; requiring that a person have a reasonable expectation of privacy in an image for the publication or dissemination of the image to qualify as sexual cyberharassment; providing criminal penalties. A sexual cyberharassment violation is generally a first degree misdemeanor, which is punishable by up to one year in county jail and a fine of up to $1,000. However, a person who has one prior conviction for sexual cyberharassment and who commits a second or subsequent sexual cyberharassment commits a third degree felony, which is punishable by up to five years in state prison and a fine of up to $5,000.

This bill was signed into law by the Governor on May 23, 2019.

HB 1221/SB 1666 - Vessels by Rep. Tina Polsky
This bill modernizes the Florida Boater Safety Program, allows the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission to conduct a study on long term stored vessels, and allows for full due process for individuals whose vessels have been declared derelict. It is hoped that the study conducted by FWC will help create legislation that will curb the number of derelict vessels in state waters that cause economic and environmental issues.

The Senate bill was signed into law by the Governor on May 23, 2019.

HB 1271- Tax Exemption for Use of Real Property by Rep. Mike Caruso
Florida is the only state in the county to charge a commercial rent tax. While each year the legislature slowly lowers the tax by a percentage or two, it will take some time before we eliminate it completely. In order to attract more businesses to Florida and help others stay here while not taking a giant chunk out of our state’s budget, this bill would have worked with the Department of Revenue to determine a dollar threshold for real property rented or leased to an entity with 100 percent common ownership. Currently, an owner may own two properties but have them in separate corporations for insurance purposes, and because of this they have to pay tax on the property. This bill would work to eliminate this small slice of the commercial rent tax. While this bill was not heard in committee, it has enabled numbers to be looked at with the Department of Revenue for next Session.

This bill was not heard in any committee of reference.

Prohibits state & local law enforcement agencies, school law enforcement officers, & security agencies from certain actions for purposes of immigration enforcement; requires state & local law enforcement agencies to review & revise confidentiality policies; prohibits state & local law enforcement agencies & health care providers from making inquiry or recording information concerning immigration status of certain persons; authorizes limited inquiry & recording of information; provides that certain persons who are unable to afford legal counsel are entitled to representation; requires AG to prescribe format for submittal of complaints; authorizes AG & state attorneys to institute injunctive proceedings.

This bill died in the Criminal Justice Subcommittee
SB 1326 – Incarcerated Women with Newborn Children by Sen. Bobby Powell
This bill would have allowed women inmates who were detained while pregnant or have given birth to a child up to 1 month before being detained to have consistent visitation privileges with their newborn, physical touch privileges with their newborn, and be placed in a Department of Corrections facility closest to their newborn child.

The bill provides for visitation hours with a newborn child every day for the first 6 weeks and at least 4 days a week until the child reaches 1 year of age UNLESS visitation is prohibited due to their classification status (e.g. sex offender). The bill provides for physical contact privileges with the newborn child UNLESS contact is prohibited due to their classification status. The bill requires the mother of a newborn child to be initially placed in a Department of Corrections facility closest to the newborn child’s permanent residence and restricts the mother from being relocated unless her classification status requires relocation to an appropriate facility or if the mother requires access to certain medical treatments or programs and services that are offered at a separate facility.

This bill died in the Criminal Justice Committee.

CS/CS/SB 1418 - Mental Health by Sen. Bobby Powell
This bill implements two recommendations of a Department of Children and Families (DCF) task force which has been studying the issue of Baker Act cases involving minors. First, it encourages school districts to adopt a standardized suicide assessment tool through the voluntary “Suicide Prevention Certified Schools” program that school based mental health professionals would implement prior to initiating an involuntary examination. Second, it increases the number of days, from the next working day to five working days that the receiving facility has to submit paperwork on involuntary examinations to DCF. The bill also requires that when a patient communicates a specific threat against an identifiable individual to a mental health service provider, the provider must release information from the clinical record of the patient sufficient to inform law enforcement of the potential threat.

This bill was signed into law by the Governor on June 25, 2019.

SB 7078/HB 843 - Health Care by Sen. Gayle Harrell
This Legislation transforms health care in the state of Florida with the goal of putting patients first. The bill addresses a variety of health care and health insurance issues, including: Access to dental services; Transparency of hospital quality information; Access to primary and specialist care in a hospital setting; Ambulatory surgical center services; Pediatric cardiac standards of care; Patient notification of hospital observation status; Health care contracts in restraint of trade or commerce; Expansion of direct health care agreements; Consumer cost-containment in health insurance; Portability of health care occupational licensure in the United States; Expanded duties of the Pediatric Cardiac Technical Advisory Panel.

The House bill was signed into law by the Governor on June 25, 2019.
The Palm Beach County Legislative Delegation Office is a non-partisan office that serves all thirteen members of the Florida Senate and House of Representatives representing Palm Beach County in Tallahassee. The delegation office is responsible for: scheduling and coordinating all delegation meetings in Palm Beach County and Tallahassee; developing the delegation's legislative program including local bills, appropriation requests, and county and municipal legislative priorities; providing legislative assistance and research to the delegation during the legislative session; and serving as a liaison between the delegation and local governments and community organizations. At the end of each legislative session, this comprehensive report is published by the delegation for all county, municipal and federal offices, as well as other parties interested in all local bills and appropriations affecting Palm Beach County, and general bills passed by Palm Beach County Delegation members.

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