

A photograph of the Palm Beach County Courthouse, a large, classical-style building with a prominent dome and a portico supported by columns. The building is white with red and white striped awnings over the windows. The sky is clear and blue.

PALM BEACH COUNTY 2021 LEGISLATIVE WRAP-UP

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BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

2020-2021 BUDGET SB 2500

Total Budget: \$101.5 billion

- General Revenue: \$36.3 billion
- Trust Funds: \$65.2 billion

Reserves: \$9.5 billion Total Aggregate:

- \$4.9 billion in unallocated GR
- \$2.7 billion - Budget Stabilization Fund
- \$1.9 billion in unallocated TF

The total veto amount was \$1.5 billion; all but \$54 million were federal ARP dollars.

Palm Beach County items vetoed: 12 projects for \$6.2 million.



BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Agency for Health Care Administration

Total: \$35 billion

- \$4.3 billion in funding to cover the highest Medicaid enrollee workload in history.
- \$240 million to extend postpartum Medicaid coverage to mothers and newborns, from two months to a full year following birth.
- \$22 million increase for Healthy Start
- \$106.7 KidCare Workload

Department of Children and Families: \$3.7 billion

Department of Elder Affairs Total: \$405.1 million

Department of Health Total: \$3.2 billion

Department of Veterans Affairs: \$153.0 million



BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND CORRECTIONS

Criminal and Civil Justice Appropriations totaled \$5.9 billion.

- Increase Federal Victims of Crime Act Assistance Grant Program - \$74.2 million
- \$9 million for Public Safety, Mental Health & Substance Abuse Local Grant Program

Department of Corrections: \$2.896 billion

- Reducing from 12 to 8.5 Hour Corrections Shift - \$17.4 million
- Staffing to Support Statutory Changes - \$4.6 million
- DOC may develop facility consolidation plan by 12/31/2021

Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE): \$313.7 million

Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ): \$586.1 million

State Court System: \$667.2 million



BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

TRANSPORTATION, TOURISM AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Dept. of Transportation Work Program - \$10.3 billion

Department of State

- Cultural and Museum Grants - \$23.2 million
- Library Grants in Aid - \$ 21.5 million

Department of Economic Opportunity - \$1.1 billion

- Economic Development Toolkit Payments (existing contracts) \$20.5 million
- Economic Development Partners (VISIT Florida - \$54 million, Space Florida, Enterprise Florida, Florida Sports Foundation) – Total: \$81.6 million
- Job Growth Grant Fund - \$50 million
- Affordable Housing Programs - \$209.2 million
 - State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) - \$146.7 million (**Palm Beach County - \$7.3 million**)
 - State Apartment Incentive Loan (SAIL) Programs – \$62.5 million



BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Department of Environmental Protection: \$2.2 billion

- DEP Everglades Restoration - \$360.1 million LATF
- Beach Funding - \$150 million
- Water Quality Improvements - \$354.5 million
 - Wastewater Grant Program - \$116.7 million
 - Water Quality Improvements Everglades - \$50 million
 - Septic Upgrade Incentive Program - \$10 million
- Water Projects - \$116.6 million including:
 - Lake Worth Lagoon Initiative - \$250,000
 - LRPI - \$353,650
- Resilient Florida Grant Program- \$500 million
- Wastewater Grant Program- \$500 million
- Land Acquisition- \$300 million
- C-51 Reservoir- \$48 million



BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

Federal Stimulus/Relief Highlights - \$6.7 billion

- Pandemic Response
 - New Emergency Preparedness and Response Fund- \$1 billion - VETOED
 - Child care for essential workers- \$950.4 million
 - \$1000 bonuses to essential first responders – \$208.4 million
 - \$1000 bonuses to classroom teachers and principals - \$215.7 million
 - \$1000 bonuses to child care / early learning instructors - \$166 million (from supplemental CARES funding)
- Infrastructure
 - Florida Department of Transportation- \$2 billion
 - New State Emergency Operations Center- \$100 million



BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

Palm Beach County Projects Funded:

Security Funding in Jewish Day Schools (Rep. Caruso)	\$3,500,000
Learning for Life* (Rep. Caruso)	\$500,000
West Technical Education Center Adult Vocation Training (Sen. Polsky/Rep. Skidmore)	\$426,857
Stay Kidsafe! Elementary Safety Education and Human Trafficking Prevention* (Sen. Polsky)	\$184,760
The Alpert Jewish Family and Children's Service Mental Health First Aid* (Sen. Berman/Rep. Silvers)	\$100,000
Boca Raton Habilitation Center for the Handicapped – Adults with Disabilities* (Sen. Polsky/Rep. Caruso)	\$200,000
Place of Hope – Child Welfare Services* (Sen. Harrell/Rep. Snyder)	\$250,000
ChildNet – Preventing Opioid/Substance Abuse Based Removals* (Sen. Berman/Rep. Silvers)	\$360,000
4Kids – Foster Parent Recruitment and Stability (Sen. Harrell/Rep. Caruso)	\$750,000
Palm Beach County Rape Crisis Center - Butterfly House	\$282,039
Jewish Association for Residential Care (JARC) Community Works* (Rep. Caruso)	\$335,000
Loggerhead Marinelifelife Center Improving Water Quality & Coastline Cleanliness (Sen. Harrell/Rep.Snyder)	\$249,779
Riviera Beach Public Safety Complex	\$1,000,000
RESTORE Ex-Offender Reentry Program	\$500,000
Everglades Workforce Training* (Sen. Polsky/Rep. Skidmore)	\$750,000

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

Beach Projects

Central Boca Raton Beach Nourishment Post-Construction Monitoring	\$29,624
Coral Cove Dune Restoration Post-Construction Monitoring	\$35,000
Delray Beach Shore Protection Project	\$1,188,250
Delray Beach Shore Protection Project Post-Construction Monitoring	\$54,250
Mid-Town Beach Nourishment	\$4,763,017
North Boca Raton Shore Protection Project Post-Construction Monitoring	\$183,400
Phipps Ocean Park Beach Nourishment Post-Construction Monitoring	\$19,500
Singer Island Dune Restoration	\$800,229
Singer Island Dune Restoration Post-Construction Monitoring	\$39,575
South Boca Raton Beach Nourishment	<u>\$4,121,520</u>
TOTAL:	\$11,234,365



STATEWIDE FINANCE ISSUES

SB 50 – Taxation

Online Sales Tax; revenues to Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund; Commercial Rent tax decrease

HB 7061 - Tax Package

- 10-day “back-to-school” sales tax holiday from July 31 to August 9, 2021
- 10-day “disaster preparedness” sales tax holiday from May 28 to June 6, 2021
- 7-day “Freedom Week” sales tax holiday from July 1 – July 7, 2021

Did not pass:

SB 1906 – Reemployment Assistance

SB 1014 / HB 835 – Employee Organizations

SB 84 – Pension System

SB 510 / HB 13 - Affordable Housing Trust Fund

STATEWIDE BILLS OF LOCAL IMPACT

HB 1 - Combating Public Disorder

SJR 204 – Constitutional Review Commission Repeal

SB 90 - Election Administration

VBM ballots, drop boxes, absentee requests

SB 7072 / HB 7013 - Social Media Platforms *

Deplatforming candidates, policy clarifications

SB 498 / HB 259 – Firearms in Religious Institutions

Property owner, not lessee, to determine

SB 72 - Civil Liability for Damages Relating to COVID-19

Civil liability protections against COVID-19-related claims.

SB 7072 / HB 1567 – Redundant Utility & Communication Poles

Moves regulatory purview to PSC, rather than FCC

Did not pass:

SB 969 / HB 971 – Data Privacy

TRANSPORTATION BILLS

SB 100 / HB 763 - MCORES Repeal – Highway Projects
West coast toll road project repeal

SB 54 – HB 719 - Motor Vehicle Insurance
Repeals no-fault law and PIP requirement - VETO

SB 566 / HB 365 - Motor Vehicle Rentals
Peer-to-peer rental surcharge

SB 426 / HB 267 - Preemption of Seaport Regulations
Prohibits a local ballot initiative or referendum from restricting maritime commerce in Florida's Municipal seaports.

Did not pass:

SB 1034 / HB 1629 – SR 715 Designation

PUBLIC SAFETY

SB 2006 – Emergency Management

Limits local-government emergency orders to 7 days with an option to renew 5 times and gives the governor or the Legislature the power to invalidate the actions. Prohibits vaccination passports.

SB 418 / HB 327 – Public Records – Persons Seeking Shelter

Protects address and phone number of the sheltered.

SB 1084 / HB 805 – Volunteer Ambulance Services

Exempts certain faith-based volunteer first responder agencies that have operated for at least 10 consecutive years from the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (COPCN) requirements.

Did not pass:

SB 1824 / HB 1153 – Public Records – Emergency Management

Exempting after action report and emergency assessment reports from public record.

SB 972 / HB 1019 – Administrative Telecommunications Meetings

Would permit the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact to conduct public meetings online.



PALM BEACH
COUNTY
PRIORITIES:
OPPOSING PRE-
EMPTIONS

SB 266 / HB 403 - Home Based Businesses

Requires local regulations of home-based business parking not be more stringent than other residential property

SB 1076 / HB 53 - 1076 – Public Works Projects

Prohibits a county, municipality or other entity from imposing certain penalties in competitive solicitations for construction services when any state-appropriated funds are to be used to fund the project.

SB 750 / HB 337 – Impact Fees

Limits impact-fee increases and defining the types of infrastructure projects that can be funded with impact-fee money.

Did not pass:

SB 62 - Regional Planning Councils

Would have eliminated Regional Planning Councils



PALM BEACH
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PRIORITIES:
OPPOSING PRE-
EMPTIONS

SB 1382 / HB 667 - Building Inspections

Require local governments to provide an electronic method to request building inspections

SB 1146 / HB 667 – Building Codes

Would prohibit local governments from regulating specific building design elements for residential dwellings, with certain exceptions

SB 60 / HB 883 - County & Municipal Code Inspections

The bill prohibits local government code inspectors from conducting inspections based upon anonymous complaints

SB 402 / HB 35 - Legal Notices

The bill gives governmental agencies the option to publish legal notices on a publicly accessible website in lieu of newspaper publication if certain conditions are met.

Did not pass:

SB 522 / HB 219 – Vacation Rentals

Would preempt the regulation of advertising platforms to the state.



PALM BEACH
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PRIORITIES:
OPPOSING PRE-
EMPTIONS

SB 1294 / HB 663 - Cottage Food Operations

The bill preempts the regulation of cottage food operations to the state.

SB 268 / HB 735 - Preemption of Local Occupational Licensing

Preempts the licensing of occupations to the state, unless already authorized by general law.

Did Not Pass:

SB 1429 / HB 2008 – Tourism Development Taxes

Would allow local governments to spend tourist taxes to combat climate change flooding, and require a referendum on new TDTs.

SB 102 / HB 1053 – Attorney General Matters of Great Governmental Concern

Would authorize the Legislature to declare that a matter is one of great governmental concern and provide the Attorney General with the sole authority to file certain civil proceedings.



AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

SB 1954 / HB 7019 - Statewide Flooding and Sea Level Rise Resilience
This bill creates the Resilient Florida Grant Program, which includes a DEP administered grant fund to provide funding to local governments for the costs of resilience planning such as vulnerability assessments.

SB 2516 - Water Storage North of Lake Okeechobee
The Lake Okeechobee Watershed Restoration Project (LOWRP) is an ongoing watershed restoration effort going on north of Lake Okeechobee as part of the larger CERP initiative.

SB 1086 / HB 639 – Operation and Safety of Motor Vessels
The bill authorizes local governments to enact and enforce regulations that allow the local law enforcement agency to remove an abandoned or lost vessel within its jurisdiction that is affixed to a public mooring.

Did Not Pass:

SB 722 / HB 333 – Everglades Protection Area

LOCAL BILLS

Local Bills Passed; signed by the Governor

HB 979 - Village of Wellington

Prohibits the sale and use of fireworks located within the Equestrian Preserve of the Village of Wellington.

HB 915 - Port of Palm Beach

Updates Port Director's title and swearing in date; salaries re-set at \$12,500 in statute.

HB 1185 - Indian Trails Improvement District

Determining the feasibility of converting the District into a municipality. Provides for a procedure for the District to pay for a study.

HB 1035 - Loxahatchee River Environmental Control District

Codification of special acts and conforming changes.

Did Not Pass:

HB 973 - Town of Lake Clarke Shores

Involuntary annexation of Edgewater Park enclave.



FUTURE ISSUES AND QUESTIONS

