

Palm Beach County 2020 Federal Agenda



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Table of Contents
2020 Federal Legislative Issues

TRANSPORTATION.....	5
AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL TOWER	5
OPERATIONS OF LANTANA AIRPORT.....	5
ROAD CONSTRUCTION, RAIL AND TRAFFIC ENGINEERING.....	5
INFRASTRUCTURE PACKAGE	5
FARM TO MARKET ROAD REPAIR	6
PASSENGER RAIL ON FEC CORRIDOR & US-27 CORRIDOR	6
STATE ROAD 7 EXTENSION	6
GLADES AREA ROAD CONSTRUCTION/STREET REPAIR.....	7
TRUCK SIZE AND WEIGHT.....	7
PALM TRAN	7
ENVIRONMENTAL & NATURAL RESOURCES.....	9
GLADES CITIES WATER INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT.....	9
WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.....	9
NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT	10
ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS REGULATORY CHANGES	10
SAND TRANSFER PLANT	11
SOUTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE COMPACT	11
COMPREHENSIVE EVERGLADES RESTORATION PLAN (CERP).....	12
LAKE OKEECHOBEE OPERATIONS	14
CORAL REEF PROTECTION AND RESTORATION	14
WATERS OF THE US (WOTUS)	15
OFFSHORE OIL DRILLING/EVERGLADES OIL DRILLING	15
DERELICT VESSELS	15
PUBLIC SAFETY & DISASTER RELIEF	16
SOBER HOMES	16
OPIOID USE / SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER.....	16
HURRICANE RELIEF SUPPORT	17
NEXT GENERATION 911	17
CRIMINAL JUSTICE FUNDING	17
TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS.....	18
CYBER SECURITY.....	18
UNMANNED AIRCRAFT	18
HOMELAND SECURITY FUNDING.....	18
FEMA FUNDING FOR PRE-DISASTER MITIGATION PROGRAMS.....	19
MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FUNDING.....	19
FEDERAL CATASTROPHIC INSURANCE	19
NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM (NFIP) REFORM	20
HERBERT HOOVER DIKE (HHD) REHABILITATION.....	20
VETERANS/PENSION POACHER	21
FUNDING FOR ENHANCED LIGHTING IN HIGH CRIME AREAS	21
REIMBURSEMENT FOR COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH PRESIDENTIAL VISITS	21
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & FINANCE	22
OPPORTUNITY ZONE DESIGNATIONS WITH THE U.S. TREASURY	22

SOUTH FLORIDA INLAND LOGISTICS CENTER	22
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT	23
COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT	23
LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.....	23
NEW MARKET TAX CREDIT GRANT	24
MARKETPLACE FAIRNESS ACT	24
FREE TRADE	24
FAIR CHANCE ACT.....	24
DAVIS BACON ACT	25
HOUSING.....	25
INCOME LIMITS	25
RURAL DEFINITION/USDA HOUSING	25
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES	26
TITLE IV-E FUNDS.....	26
VETERANS' HOMELESSNESS	26
FAMILY CAREGIVING.....	26
MENTAL HEALTH PARITY & SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER ACT.....	27
FUNDING FOR SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.....	27
EDUCATION	27
E-RATE AND UNIVERSAL SERVICES FUNDING	28
NETWORK NEUTRALITY.....	28

TRANSPORTATION

AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL TOWER

The Palm Beach County Department of Airports is currently preparing an Environmental Assessment for a 1,700-foot extension to Runway 14-32 at F45. The Palm Beach Gardens City Commission agreed not to oppose the 1,700-foot runway extension provided Palm Beach County submits an application to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for the construction of an air traffic control tower (ATCT) and diligently pursues funding the ATCT through completion.

This agreement took the form of an Interlocal Agreement, which was approved by the Board of County Commissioners in 2016. This condition of approval can best be met utilizing the FAA's Federal Contract Tower Program. Under the Contract Tower Program, the FAA contracts air traffic control services to the private sector. The FAA provides oversight and monitoring of these contract towers and the FAA certifies all contract controllers.

The FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018 makes contract tower construction and equipment eligible for funding from the Small Airport AIP account. The runway extension and an ATCT at F45 would not only make the airport a more desirable reliever for Palm Beach International Airport, it would also assist in fulfilling a commitment to the neighboring community.

OPERATIONS OF LANTANA AIRPORT

Palm Beach County is seeking relief from temporary flight restrictions (TFRs) that have been imposed on aircraft operations at the Lantana Airport during Presidential visits to Mar-a-Lago. While all county-owned airports are impacted by limitations imposed by TFRs, the Lantana Airport bears an undue burden since it is the only airport that is effectively closed when TFRs are active due to its proximity to Mar-a-Lago.

The County continues to SUPPORT encouraging the United States Secret Service (USSS), Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), and the United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to continue to work to find a reasonable accommodation to allow limited aircraft operations during TFRs without comprising the safety or security of the President.

ROAD CONSTRUCTION, RAIL AND TRAFFIC ENGINEERING

INFRASTRUCTURE PACKAGE

House Transportation and Infrastructure (T&I) Committee Chairman Pete DeFazio (D-OR) has plans to craft an infrastructure package. The bill would likely include funding for surface transportation, rail and transit among other things. Chairman DeFazio also

has plans to reauthorize surface transportation legislation, which is set to expire in 2020.

Palm Beach County will work with local stakeholders to advocate for and monitor programs and projects that benefit our region in any infrastructure package introduced this session. In addition to transportation infrastructure funding, Congress should look to expand existing grant funding opportunities for water and wastewater infrastructure, including septic to sewer conversion to achieve water quality improvements.

FARM TO MARKET ROAD REPAIR

Agriculture is essential to the economy and to ensure the well-being and nutrition of our citizens. To transport produce from farms to our tables, trucks and other heavy equipment use rural roads which service agricultural communities. These roads experience severe and accelerated wear and tear and are typically located in areas where the resources and funds to repair these roads can be limited.

Palm Beach County SUPPORTS resources being made available to rural communities to assist in repairing these roads as efficiently as possible, so transport of agricultural products can move safely and quickly from farms to consumers.

PASSENGER RAIL ON FEC CORRIDOR & US-27 CORRIDOR

All Aboard Florida is developing a privately owned, operated and maintained intercity passenger rail service. Its first trains began operations between its newly built stations in Fort Lauderdale and West Palm Beach in January 2018, and later connected to a station in downtown Miami. A future Intermodal Station is planned at the Orlando International Airport. Continue to monitor rail development progress on the FEC corridor, and the US-27 corridor to seek opportunities and additional dedicated funding for Tri-Rail service area expansion, mitigation of adverse noise impacts through continued investment in equipment to establish quiet zones, increased safety, and minimizing traffic impacts where possible.

STATE ROAD 7 EXTENSION

State Road 7 has been on the County's Thoroughfare Plan and Long Range Transportation Plan since 1980. It is shown on the County's Comprehensive Plan extending from Okeechobee Boulevard to Northlake Boulevard. The County has already constructed a portion of this roadway from Okeechobee Boulevard north to 60th Street. This roadway extension from 60th Street to Northlake Boulevard is considered a necessary connection for adequate traffic flow in the central/western area and will be an important safety/evacuation route. SUPPORT efforts to continue the extension of State Road 7.

GLADES AREA ROAD CONSTRUCTION/STREET REPAIR

More than any other issue facing Belle Glade, South Bay and Pahokee today, the repair and rebuilding of streets are the cities' number one concern. The three cities have outlined road resurfacing and reconstruction projects on Collector/Residential Roadways. SUPPORT the tri-cities request to continue repair and maintenance on these roads essential for future economic recovery in the region.

TRUCK SIZE AND WEIGHT

There is concern that Congress is considering changes to federal standards that would increase the allowed truck size and weight on roads. Longer and heavier trucks accelerate the deterioration of roads and bridges, putting additional pressure on financially strained local governments to fund infrastructure. Since most truck trips begin and end on the local road system, local government agencies would face increased responsibility for impacts and repairs. Taxpayers subsidize heavy truck operations by nearly \$2 billion each year on federally funded roadways, and an equal amount annually on state and locally funded roadways, since truck fees do not cover the damage that trucks do to roads and bridges. Additionally, road safety would be strongly affected. Longer trucks are harder to steer and have poorer stability, a longer stopping distance, and a larger crash footprint. These characteristics contribute to them having a higher fatal accident involvement rate than smaller trucks.

OPPOSE any legislation that seeks to increase truck size or weight limits beyond those in current federal law because of the tremendous highway safety, infrastructure damage, and transportation funding implications.

PALM TRAN

FAST ACT

Palm Beach County SUPPORTS attempts to increase the appropriations under the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act in addition to increasing public transit funding levels from the 2019 Consolidated Appropriations Act. Palm Beach County SUPPORTS continued funding appropriations for the following Federal Transit Administration grant programs funded through the FAST Act:

- Section 5339 Bus and Bus Facilities Grant Funds—This grant makes federal resources available for designated recipients to replace, rehabilitate and purchases buses and bus-related equipment. Palm Tran received \$2,087,965 in grants for Bus and Bus Facilities in FY19.

- Section 5310 Senior and Disabled Individual Grant Funds—One-third of Palm Tran’s budget is allocated to Palm Tran Connection, a division that provides transportation for seniors, the disabled and individuals that are transportation disadvantaged. Palm Tran received \$1,218,851 in FY19 grants to overhaul the paratransit fleet.
- Section 5311 Rural Grant Funds—Palm Tran received \$323,507 in Section 5311 grant funds in FY19 to assist with providing service to Palm Beach County residents in the Glades region.
- Section 5324 Emergency Relief Grant Funds—Palm Tran has applied for grant funds under this section in the amount of \$1,084,533 to cover costs of emergency operating expenses for evacuations, temporary emergency service, disaster preparation, emergency repairs and protective measures.

Palm Beach County, with the help of funding available through the FAST Act, is planning to undertake the following projects:

Palm Tran Connection Efficiencies Initiative

After a successful implementation of Palm Tran’s Route Performance Maximization (RPM) Project, which was a comprehensive evaluation and system-wide redesign of the bus network, Palm Tran is embarking upon a similar overhaul for Palm Tran Connection. Besides Miami-Dade Transit, Connection provides more paratransit trips than any other provider in the State of Florida. Palm Tran is seeking to revamp the process for eligibility determinations, reservation procedures, existing policies and future growth strategies. In addition, Connection seeks to implement its fleet replacement schedule making it more nimble and adaptable to the quickly changing transit landscape.

Palm Tran Connection is a vital service in the community. Palm Tran will revamp the service in order to control growth and continue meeting the needs of the community. Palm Beach County is seeking \$500,000 for the procurement of consulting assistance on this project.

Transit Worker and Pedestrian Protection Act

Palm Beach County SUPPORTS legislation designed to protect bus operators and reduce vehicular and pedestrian accidents involving buses. The County would propose, however, removing any mandates that grant recipients cooperatively develop risk reduction plans with collective bargaining unit representatives as this might thwart the implementation of such risk reduction plans.

Bus Shelter Expansion

Palm Beach County is requesting \$11.8 million to completely overhaul our bus shelter inventory. This includes replacing 315 existing shelters that are between 10 and 15 years old, and 250 additional shelters for a new total of 565. Currently, only 10% of our 3,000 stops have shelters. The existing shelters are deteriorating and need replacement as well as upgrades to shelter pads to maintain ADA compliance. Additional shelters are necessary to protect riders from the weather, especially during the summer months and rainy season.

ENVIRONMENTAL & NATURAL RESOURCES

GLADES CITIES WATER INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT

The Cities of Belle Glade, Pahokee and South Bay are located in a socio-economically disadvantaged area of Western Palm Beach County. Prior to 2008, their source of water was Lake Okeechobee, an unreliable and poor quality source. The County constructed a \$58 million regional water plant using a reliable brackish water source and reverse osmosis technology to improve water supply delivery in the area. Unfortunately, the water infrastructure (pipelines) in all three cities is aged, was poorly constructed, and has greatly increased the costs in providing high quality potable water to the population of the region. As much as 40% of the water being produced by the plant is leaking into the ground, compromising overall water quality. Furthermore, the deteriorating and undersized pipes of the system have problems providing adequate pressure during maximum daily flow conditions, particularly during fire flow events. There is considerable piping in each community that needs to be replaced to stem the leakage and improve operating pressures. These improvements are desperately needed in order to preserve the high quality of the water from the new plant and to maintain adequate fire flow pressures in the system protecting the public health and safety of the citizens of the three cities. The cost to construct these improvements was originally \$25 million and has significantly exceeded this due to the existing conditions of the infrastructure. To assist in the restoration of the infrastructure, the county requests federal matching assistance to ensure the ability to deliver the highest quality water to meet established demands.

WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

SUPPORT funding for the County proposed Continuing Authorities Projects for habitat restoration in Lake Okeechobee.

SUPPORT a study of the feasibility of using foreign sand in beach renourishment projects.

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT

SUPPORT changes to the **National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)** to address reoccurring issues resulting in delays and increased costs in many County habitat restoration activities.

1. SUPPORT amendments to existing laws and regulations to hold Agencies accountable for their review timelines.
2. SUPPORT a revision to 40 CFR 1508.7 allowing flexibility in the interpretation of NEPA language to allow counties to utilize non-traditional alternatives to beach maintenance. The following language is suggested: **“Where cumulative impact uncertainties remain or multiple resource objectives exist, adaptive management provisions for flexible project implementation, such as pilot project configuration, may be incorporated into the selected alternative.”**

ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS REGULATORY CHANGES

Corps regulations contain timeframes for issuing or denying permits. However, federal commenting agencies often exceed regulatory timeframes when reviewing permit applications. When the Corps’ process (including waiting on required comments from other agencies) exceeds the regulatory timeframes, there is currently no consequence or avenue for relief.

The County SUPPORTS an amendment to 33 CFR Part 325 (d) (10) such that a complete application (public notice) starts not only the Corps’ internal timeframes for review but also the NEPA Section 7 Consultation timeframes of commenting agencies as well.

SUPPORT legislation to streamline the opportunity for local sponsors to perform all phases of Federal Shore Protection Projects and Continuing Authorities Program (CAP) projects and seek reimbursement upon completion of each phase. Local sponsors typically have extensive experience building environmental projects and understand the local conditions that can influence project timelines, costs and success. The Corps’ Project Development Teams are often based out of regional or district offices and may not have the local knowledge necessary to design and construct projects in the most cost-effective manner or that optimize the potential for project success. As a result, the projects could create a financial liability to local sponsors who are obligated to fund all operation and maintenance after initial construction.

SAND TRANSFER PLANT

The Sand Transfer Plant plays an integral role in maintaining the Lake Worth Inlet federal channel, but presently at the sole cost of the local sponsor. As the Army Corps does provide for annual channel dredging in its O&M budget, the addition of approximately \$300,000/year is far less than the alternative of having to fund an additional dredging event.

The County seeks federal support for the implementation of Section 1106 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2016, which would allow the Army Corps of Engineers to enter into agreements to assume the operations and maintenance costs of the Sand Transfer Plant if the costs to operate it are less than the costs of maintaining the channel without the project.

SOUTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE COMPACT

Resolution to Congress Supporting Action on Climate Change and Energy and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019

Palm Beach County encourages the United States Congress to take action to address climate change and urging them to enact the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019, H.R. 763 (EICDA) or similar legislation

EICDA seeks to impose a national carbon fee on fossil fuels based on the amount of carbon dioxide the fuel will emit when burned and allocate the collected proceeds to all U.S. households in equal shares via a monthly dividend. Setting a national price on carbon emissions will help ensure that the full environmental, health, and social costs of greenhouse gas emissions are included in fossil fuel prices, which will lead to greenhouse gas emissions reductions.

Southeast Florida is one of the most vulnerable areas in the country to climate change impacts, especially sea level rise. United Nations climate scientists have said that the world has only until the year 2030 to make massive and unprecedented changes to global energy infrastructure to limit climate change consequences to moderate levels. To achieve climate stabilization, greenhouse gas emissions, including carbon dioxide emissions, should be reduced. Palm Beach, Broward, Miami-Dade and Monroe counties (“Compact counties”) adopted the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact (“Compact”) in 2010. The Compact includes a commitment to develop and advocate for joint state and federal legislative policies. Accordingly, the Compact counties have adopted a Federal Energy and Climate Legislative Program each year since 2011. The Compact has adopted as part of the Program the 2019 Federal Energy and Climate Legislative Principles to articulate the overarching goals for the Program, as well as Federal Energy and Climate Legislative

Priorities to identify those legislative issues that Compact members will support in the upcoming legislative session.

The County is committed to supporting the Principles and Priorities established by the Compact in the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact Counties 2019 Federal Legislative Priorities and Principles with the top priorities as:

SUPPORT action by the US Army Corps of Engineers to reassess the Central and South Florida Flood Control Project given changing climate conditions, especially sea level rise.

SUPPORT the establishment of a national price on carbon, especially revenue-neutral and public dividend proposals.

OPPOSE weakening of vehicle fuel-economy standards and revocation of the waiver allowing California to set its own fuel-economy standards.

OPPOSE efforts to weaken carbon emissions standards for new and existing power plants and/or eliminate energy efficiency and renewable energy goals for the federal government.

SUPPORT international climate agreements that strive to limit the global average temperature rise in this century to well below 3.6 degrees Fahrenheit (2 degrees Celsius) above pre-industrial levels.

COMPREHENSIVE EVERGLADES RESTORATION PLAN (CERP)

Excess freshwater during the wet season and inadequate freshwater during the dry season along with excess nutrients in surface water bodies is a widespread, complex, multi-dimensional problem that requires focused investment and regional-scale and local-scale water storage infrastructure and water quality treatment strategies. The Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) is the roadmap to addressing these issues. However, the pace of CERP implementation has been disappointingly slow, with many projects delayed indefinitely or re-formulated with reduced scopes.

Consistent future federal funding is critical to the full implementation of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP). Anything less jeopardizes anticipated benefits to the environmental and water resources of South Florida which ultimately impacts County residents, visitors and taxpayers. The County SUPPORTS appropriating consistent federal funding and other resources to plan, design, construct, operate and maintain CERP projects.

LAKE OKEECHOBEE WATERSHED RESTORATION

Excess freshwater during the wet season and inadequate freshwater during the dry season along with excess nutrients in surface water bodies is a widespread, complex, multi-dimensional problem that requires focused investment and regional-scale and local-scale water storage infrastructure and water quality treatment strategies. The Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) is the roadmap to addressing these issues. However, the pace of CERP implementation has been disappointingly slow, with many projects delayed indefinitely or re-formulated with reduced scopes.

No estuary or community should have to endure short-term toxic algae bloom conditions or long-term water quality degradation that have resulted due to the cumulative impacts of decades of excess stormwater flows via the regional water management system. Unfortunately, instead of looking toward a comprehensive regional strategy, much recent discussion has focused on drastically lowering Lake Okeechobee. Drastically lowering Lake Okeechobee has the potential to negatively affect public water supply utilities, businesses and communities throughout Palm Beach County.

Palm Beach County SUPPORTS a renewed focus on the implementation of regional-scale and local-scale water storage and water quality treatment projects in Lake Okeechobee tributary basins north of Lake Okeechobee consistent with the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan.

LOXAHATCHEE RIVER WATERSHED RESTORATION PLAN

In 1985, the U.S. Department of the Interior designated the Northwest Fork of the Loxahatchee River a National Wild and Scenic River. In 2000, the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) was authorized by Congress and included several projects to restore the river. The goal of the Loxahatchee River Watershed Restoration Plan is to improve flows to the Northwest Fork of the Loxahatchee River and restore wetlands that form the historic headwaters of the river.

Joint state and federal planning efforts related to the Loxahatchee River Watershed Restoration Plan began in 2003, were put on hold in 2011 and re-started in 2015, with a much reduced project scope. County staff have been engaged in every iteration of the Loxahatchee River restoration project including its previous incarnation, the North Palm Beach County Project. In addition, Palm Beach County has acquired and restored almost 28,000 acres of natural areas and wetlands within the Loxahatchee River watershed for the benefit of the ecosystem.

Unfortunately, there are many project elements and benefits that were envisioned in CERP, approved by Congress in 2000 that are not included in the current Loxahatchee River Watershed Restoration Plan. In addition, the County along with some local stakeholders have concerns with some of the proposed project features, the lengthy implementation schedule and the high cost.

Palm Beach County SUPPORTS efforts to collaborate with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the South Florida Water Management District, the County and other key local stakeholders to identify potential forward paths that would address County and stakeholder concerns with the proposed Loxahatchee River Watershed Restoration Plan.

Palm Beach County also SUPPORTS efforts to advance projects within Palm Beach County that provide benefits to the Lake Worth Lagoon, reduce potential flood damages, and increase the availability of water supplies, similar to those envisioned in CERP.

LAKE OKEECHOBEE OPERATIONS

Lake Okeechobee is a critical component in achieving environmental restoration, water supply, agriculture, tourism and recreation objectives in South Florida. The Lake is essential and interconnected to communities, businesses, public water supplies, and ecosystems. Palm Beach County residents, taxpayers and visitors depend on healthy and predictable lake levels to sustain a robust and diverse economy. As such, Lake Okeechobee operations are a high priority for the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners.

Palm Beach County SUPPORTS an open, transparent and inclusive public process to re-evaluate Lake Okeechobee operations. The County is actively working with the ACOE on their re-evaluation of Lake operations, referred to as the Lake Okeechobee System Operating Manual or LOSOM.

Palm Beach County SUPPORTS efforts by ACOE to ensure future Lake Okeechobee operations are appropriately evaluated, maximize the protection of water supplies, minimize the potential for water use restrictions, avoid widespread damage to the economy and ecosystems such as Lake Okeechobee, the Lake Worth Lagoon and the Loxahatchee River and comply with state law while maintaining the original purposes of the Central and Southern Florida Project for Flood Control and Other Purposes (1948).

CORAL REEF PROTECTION AND RESTORATION

Background

The Florida Reef Tract is a valuable national resource that protects our shores and beaches by reducing wave energy from storms and hurricanes and provides a vital marine habitat for over 6,000 species. In 2014, a coral disease of unknown origin harmed over 50 percent of the coral species present in the Florida Reef Tract. The National Ocean and Atmospheric

Administration Coral Reef Conservation Program was established in 2000 by the Coral Reef Conservation Act to protect, conserve, and restore the nation's coral reefs by maintaining healthy ecosystem function. Due to the coral disease outbreak, the reauthorization of the Coral Reef Conservation Act is integral to the success of the restoration efforts.

SUPPORT reauthorization of the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000 that includes a five-year authorization with a focus on restoration activities, increased funding and the ability for emergency funds to be disseminated to ensure rapid responses to coral reef emergencies.

WATERS OF THE US (WOTUS)

Palm Beach County SUPPORTS the efforts of the Trump administration to further clarify the definition of "Waters of the United States" under the Clean Water Act. The County SUPPORTS legislative and regulatory efforts to balance the needs of a growing population and economy with the need to protect and preserve those natural resources that are vital to support that growth. Palm Beach County understands the meaning and purpose of the Clean Water Act and the agencies' goal of protecting our nation's water resources while providing clarity and certainty for the regulated community. Any approach to protecting water quality in America must be accomplished through the Clean Water Act's vision of cooperative federalism, including partnerships at the local, regional and state levels. Palm Beach County continues to welcome the opportunity to work with the EPA, the Corps and our local, regional and state governments in promulgating a reasonable and rational rule that will achieve the protection of our nation's water resources while recognizing the practical realities of specific regions.

OFFSHORE OIL DRILLING/EVERGLADES OIL DRILLING

In November of 2018, the citizens of the state of Florida passed Amendment 9, which is a ban on offshore drilling for oil and natural gas on lands beneath all state waters. The County SUPPORTS federal legislation that will establish an Act prohibiting offshore drilling on the outer continental shelf off the State of Florida. The County OPPOSES sonic blasting off the Atlantic coast that is known to damage ocean wildlife. The County also OPPOSES oil drilling exploration in the Everglades.

DERELICT VESSELS

A vessel is considered derelict when it is left stored or abandoned in a wrecked, junked or demolished condition on public waters or private property without the consent of the property owner. Derelict vessels cause harm to waterways and danger environmental stability.

Palm Beach County SUPPORTS any grant or funding opportunities to assist in derelict vessel removal.

PUBLIC SAFETY & DISASTER RELIEF

SOBER HOMES

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is charged with the interpretation of the Fair Housing Amendments Act. There have been changes made by HUD regarding the language within the Fair Housing Amendments Act (“the Act”) and its application to sober homes. The courts have applied the Act inconsistently over the years and this has caused a great burden to be placed upon the states and local governments, some of which are currently facing over-concentration of sober homes in their single-family residential communities, as well as rampant abuse of vulnerable residents with substance use disorder who have been exploited by unscrupulous sober home owners and managers.

While the County has made strides with supported changes to federal rules, changes to state law, and funding of a local Sober Homes Task Force, there is still work to be done.

The County SUPPORTS continued clarifications to the Fair Housing Amendments Act and changes to state laws to prevent abuse and exploitation of patients in sober homes by operators in an effort to protect the health, safety and welfare of both the residents of the sober homes and the surrounding areas where the homes are located.

OPIOID USE / SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that more than 140 Americans die every day from drug overdoses—including, on average, 91 specifically from opioids.

The Cures Act passed in both the House of Representatives and Senate with strong support and was signed into law in December of 2016. The Cures Act provides multiyear funding to reduce opioid/substance use, mental research and drug development. The funding will total \$4.8 billion over the next ten years; however, the funding must be appropriated every year.

Palm Beach County SUPPORTS continued full-funding of the 21st Century Cures Act, requests flexibility to use these dollars in support of innovative initiatives including syringe exchange programs, and will continue to monitor the activities of the federal Opioid Task Force.

Because Palm Beach County is integrating the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration’s (SAMHSA) long-standing guidance related to establishing Recovery Oriented Systems of Care into its substance use disorder and behavioral health services planning, the County needs additional funding to further expand its recovery services and supports.

SAMHSA has two grant programs, Recovery Community Services Program (RCSP) and Building Communities of Recovery (BCOR) to support this integration. Palm Beach County SUPPORTS increased funding for both RCSP and BCOR grant programs to allow recovery

community organizations, services and supports to further grow in the County and nationally.

HURRICANE RELIEF SUPPORT

FEMA has reimbursed for Category B (i.e., protective measures) at 100% cost for the first 30 days of the hurricane relief efforts in declared storms. For Hurricane Michael, however, the timeframe was reduced to 5 days. Palm Beach County SUPPORTS maintaining FEMA reimbursement for Category B at 100% cost for the first 30 days of the hurricane relief efforts in declared storms.

The County continues to SUPPORT expedited funding relief efforts to industries and individuals affected by natural disasters.

NEXT GENERATION 911

The safety and security of the nation begins with 911. Yet the 911 system remains limited by decades-old technology, and is in urgent need of modernization to what is known as Next Generation 911 (NG911). NG911 would leverage modern broadband for the benefit of the public and law enforcement, fire, and emergency medical personnel, creating opportunities for cost savings and advanced features such as the ability to send photos and videos to 911.

Without significant federal funding, there is a concern that 911 networks across the country including in rural and urban areas will not be upgraded quickly and efficiently. With a significant federal grant program, Congress can ensure that our nation's leadership in broadband technology includes the world's most advanced emergency communications networks.

Palm Beach County SUPPORTS funding to upgrade 911 networks.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE FUNDING

Palm Beach County SUPPORTS budget requests and funding for important criminal justice programs such as the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act (VAWA), to build on current protections and increase access to justice and safety for all survivors.

Palm Beach County SUPPORTS funding for the Second Chance Act grant program which aims to reduce recidivism and increase public safety and provide access to services to promote re-entry programs.

TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS

In December of 2019, the Board of County Commissioners drafted a letter calling for an additional extension of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for El Salvador, Haiti, Nicaragua, Sudan, Honduras, and Nepal beyond the current January 4, 2021 expiration date.

Continue to monitor and request for the continuation of the Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Haitians living in Florida who have been displaced due to economic instability and natural disasters in their country.

CYBER SECURITY

Cyberspace and its underlying infrastructure are vulnerable to a wide range of risk stemming from both physical and cyber threats and hazards.

A range of traditional crimes are now being perpetrated through cyberspace. This includes child exploitation conspiracies, banking and financial fraud, intellectual property violations, elections data breaches and other crimes, all of which have substantial human and economic consequences.

Palm Beach County SUPPORTS legislation to strengthen the security and resiliency of cyberspace.

UNMANNED AIRCRAFT

The County is concerned that without a prohibition of drones over or in the proximity of critical county facilities, such as jails, law enforcement facilities, courthouses, and other government buildings, 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.

Palm Beach County SUPPORTS a continued partnership with the FAA to ensure that critical infrastructure facilities are also protected under unmanned aircraft use rules.

HOMELAND SECURITY FUNDING

Omnibus legislation could include up to \$1.5 billion for State and Local Programs, which includes funding for several stand-alone DHS/FEMA grant programs, including: state homeland security grants, UASI, and Port Security. The programs are administered primarily through formula allocations to the states, but also entail competitive grants to states and

regions for specific policy areas, including critical infrastructure, counterterrorism, and transportation. Palm Beach County SUPPORTS the maintenance of current funding levels, or further enhancement of grant opportunities for security funding.

FEMA FUNDING FOR PRE-DISASTER MITIGATION PROGRAMS

Monitor any legislation concerning reauthorization of the Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act particularly language that would have a significant negative impact on public lands and recreation areas. Specifically, language should be opposed that denies funding under the Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Act for disaster relief to parks, recreation departments, beaches and other similar entities. Also, monitor any proposals for FEMA to offer pre-disaster mitigation pilot grants in communities throughout the nation.

Also, SUPPORT the National Parks and Recreation Association's legislative platform.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FUNDING

The County SUPPORTS the continued appropriation of funds for mental health services. It is estimated that untreated and mistreated mental illness costs American business, government and taxpayers \$113 billion annually. The County SUPPORTS efforts to develop evidence based community care that is accessible to all as well as treatment models that provide for a coordinated continuum of care for patients. Funding efforts should not be solely focused on treating those with the most disabling forms of mental illness, but rather a range of prevention, wellness, and crisis treatment, as well as educational outreach to reduce the stigmatism surrounding mental health. This also would include supporting legislation that seeks detection of stress and suicide prevention in rural farming areas of the country. Additionally, the county SUPPORTS protecting the expansion of mental health benefits and parity protections under the Affordable Care Act.

FEDERAL CATASTROPHIC INSURANCE

For years, members of Congress from Florida and other coastal states have proposed creating a regional or national catastrophe fund to pool the risk for states and reduce the burden on taxpayers from natural disasters.

Previous House proposals called for a portion of homeowner's insurance premiums in participating states to be used to create a national fund. They provided reinsurance for state disaster funds, and would create federal financial backing of the fund if necessary.

Federal Catastrophic Insurance could be modeled similar to the Federal Flood Insurance Fund and could cover hurricanes, floods, tornados, earthquakes, and other natural disasters.

The County SUPPORTS amending the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) to allow multi-peril coverage from a national catastrophic insurance fund which could help create solvency for the flood program.

NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM (NFIP) REFORM

SUPPORT legislative efforts, policies, and programs that ensure all property owners can receive affordable flood insurance within a program framework that helps the NFIP become financially stable.

HERBERT HOOVER DIKE (HHD) REHABILITATION

The federal share of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) should be sufficient to fully implement all plan components at the agreed upon cost share in accordance with adopted project schedules.

The failure of the Herbert Hoover Dike surrounding Lake Okeechobee could have severe effects on the surrounding region, including Palm Beach County. The Dike is currently undergoing rehabilitation with an estimated date of completion of 2022. The Board SUPPORTS any and all actions by the federal government to expedite full rehabilitation of the Herbert Hoover Dike. The State of Florida contributed \$50 million to help expedite the necessary work on the Dike during the 2017 Legislative Session and an additional \$50 million during the 2018 Legislative Session. The federal government committed \$514 million in 2018 for the completion of the dike repairs.

The County will monitor this appropriation for the Hoover Dike and OPPOSES any redirection of these funds for other federal projects.

GLADES REGION FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAPS

Since 2014, Palm Beach County has been coordinating with the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) and FEMA regarding incorporating information related to the rehabilitation of Herbert Hoover Dike (HHD) into flood insurance rate maps (FIRMs). Under the current flood maps, which do not account for improvements that have been made to HHD, much of the Glades region of the County is in a designated flood zone which results in increased flood insurance premiums and negatively impacts economic development. The County SUPPORTS continued efforts to expedite repairs to HHD and SUPPORTS the timely completion of assessments and certifications by ACOE to enable FEMA to prepare updated FIRMs in the Glades region. The County SUPPORTS efforts to mitigate the negative economic impacts to Glades region communities until HHD repairs and expedited certifications by ACOE are completed and incorporated into updated FIRMs by FEMA.

VETERANS/PENSION POACHER

Individuals known as “pension poachers” are those who charge to ostensibly assist seniors with applying for benefits, but often times are trying to do little more than prey on America’s elderly and disabled veterans. It is illegal for anyone who is not an approved agent or attorney to charge veterans a fee for assisting them in filing a claim or appeal with the VA; however, there is currently no penalty for violations. Due to this, veterans are being defrauded, often up to thousands of dollars, by financial predators who charge fees and provide little to no help.

SUPPORT legislation that would make it easier to identify and penalize individuals participating in these types of scams that have compromised a veteran’s ability to receive their pension benefits.

FUNDING FOR ENHANCED LIGHTING IN HIGH CRIME AREAS

In an effort to continue promoting safety in high crime areas, grant opportunities should be created to enhance lighting in these areas. According to a systematic review published by the Campbell Collaboration, improved street lighting is thought to affect crime in two ways: by increasing surveillance, thus deterring potential offenders, and by signifying community investment and pride in an area.

In Palm Beach County, Countywide Community Revitalization Team (CCRT) areas are residential neighborhoods generally characterized by infrastructure deficiencies (such as lack of water, unpaved roads or roads in substandard conditions, etc.); a need for neighborhood parks; a high number of code enforcement violations; and a high level of law enforcement need. These 85 designated areas may also be characterized by a concentration of very low to moderate-income populations and lower property values with an increased neighborhood crime rate.

Palm Beach County has adopted and currently applies Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles in order to use lighting, amongst others, as a crime deterrent and enhance public safety in numerous areas of the County.

REIMBURSEMENT FOR COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH PRESIDENTIAL VISITS

President Donald J. Trump, a Palm Beach County resident, has spent considerable time in our community both pre and post-election. When the President is in town, local law enforcement and other security related functions will be required of the County and other local governments. Since 2017, the County has received \$13,740,030 in DOJ and FEMA grants to reimburse for costs associated with Presidential visits. \$3.86 million is currently pending for reimbursements for services provided between October 2018 and September 2019. Continue to work with the federal government to ensure that the local costs (i.e. law

enforcement, fire rescue, and emergency management) associated with Presidential visits to his home in Palm Beach County are reimbursed by the federal government.

Additionally, work with the Secret Service to minimize the economic impact to the County and area businesses from closures to the Lantana Airport related to those visits.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & FINANCE

OPPORTUNITY ZONE DESIGNATIONS WITH THE U.S. TREASURY

Palm Beach County worked collaboratively with the County's municipalities to submit to the State in March 2018 the request of eligible Opportunity Zones for designation. Approximately half of the requested zones were presented to the U.S. Treasury by the State while the other half were replaced with other eligible zones. Requested zones that were eliminated included some of the most distressed areas in Palm Beach County including Riviera Beach and portions of Belle Glade where incentives for businesses would provide a significant economic boost. Support initiatives to increase the percentage of approved designated eligible Opportunity Zone census tracts nationwide to foster economic development in distressed areas.

SOUTH FLORIDA INLAND LOGISTICS CENTER

The development of an inland intermodal logistics complex in Western Palm Beach County, including completion of rail connections serving ports of South Florida and Tampa Bay, would create a significant economic impact to an area that is fiscally and economically depressed. At the same time, it will provide a critical link in Florida's ability to efficiently handle rapidly growing levels of international commerce. Land to accommodate this project in Western Palm Beach County is consistent with recommendations of the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funded Glades Region Master Plan (GRMP). It is located in the Glades Region of Western unincorporated Palm Beach County. The target site of 850 acres can accommodate 10 million square feet, including a rail yard tie-in to the South Central Florida Express track and is within close proximity to an area of high unemployment/underemployment.

This inland facility, which has gained significant regional support, would be a hub for goods assembly, warehousing and manufacturing, as well as furnishing logistics providers with a central intermodal location between ports that lack sufficient waterfront acreage to accommodate trade volumes projected to double by 2030. This would create additional options for freight movement and distribution from Post-Panama ships heading to South Florida. SUPPORT workforce and economic development funding opportunities to further the development of the inland logistics center and strategic regional partnerships to enhance its development.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program offers a source of grant funding to states, counties, and municipalities used to meet local housing, economic and community development needs. Palm Beach County focuses its CDBG funds on investments in infrastructure and public facilities including water and sewer systems, roadways and drainage improvements, and parks and recreational facilities in lower income neighborhoods. CDBG proves particularly important in lower income communities where municipal governments are fiscally constrained and property owners cannot bear assessments for public improvements. The impact of CDBG dollars is amplified by their use to leverage public and private investment in local projects. In Palm Beach County, this is exemplified by the provision of CDBG to non-profit social service agencies which use CDBG to leverage private donations and to meet matching requirements for State and other federal funding programs. CDBG funds are also a vital tool to stimulate economic activity. In addition to the economic activity directly generated by CDBG expenditures, Palm Beach County uses CDBG to support business growth and entrepreneur development through technical assistance, financial sourcing, and other business services. Support continued and enhanced funding for the Community Development Block Grant Program.

COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT

The goal of the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) is the reduction of poverty, the revitalization of low-income communities and the empowerment of low-income families and individuals to become fully self-sufficient. The Community Services Block Grant is designed to help low-income individuals and families: secure and retain meaningful employment; attain an adequate education; improve the use of available income, obtain adequate housing, obtain emergency assistance, including health and nutrition services; remove obstacles which block the achievement of self-sufficiency; and achieve greater participation in the affairs of the community.

LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) assists eligible households with their heating and cooling energy costs, bill payment assistance, energy crisis assistance, weatherization and energy-related home repairs. The mission of LIHEAP is to assist low income households, particularly those with the lowest incomes that pay a high proportion of household income for home energy, primarily in meeting their immediate home energy needs.

NEW MARKET TAX CREDIT GRANT

In 2018, Palm Beach County submitted a \$43 million New Market Tax Credit application (Control Number: 18NMA005881). The County's Department of Housing and Economic Sustainability (HES) Loan Programs Experience and Success Rate over the past three years, including programs from HUD, EPA, USDA, DOE, has created over 2000 jobs to date. Of the \$35 million in local loan pool, \$27 million in loans have been made, creating almost \$100 million of private investment in Palm Beach County. Florida received one NMTC allocation in 2017 and one in 2018 consisting of 2.2% and 1.2% respectively of the nationwide allocation.

SUPPORT efforts to more equitably distribute future NMTC grants.

MARKETPLACE FAIRNESS ACT

SUPPORT Marketplace Fairness Act (MFA) legislation that grants states the authority to compel online and catalog retailers ("remote sellers"), no matter where they are located, to collect sales tax at the time of a transaction - exactly like local retailers are already required to do.

The latest iteration of the Marketplace Fairness Act (MFA) would address a loophole in the current tax code by effectively allowing state and local governments to collect sales tax on online and remote sales, which they are already owed under current law. The legislation would seek to reach a compromise between business community and state/local governments, encouraging states to join a clearinghouse for collecting sales tax.

FREE TRADE

Monitor the implementation of federal trade agreements so that jobs related to Palm Beach County's agricultural industry are not adversely impacted. SUPPORT language in trade agreements that include strict measures to control the spread of animal, insect, and animal pests to protect Florida's crops and close the free trade loophole to protect produce crops.

FAIR CHANCE ACT

The Fair Chance to Compete for Jobs Act of 2017 or "Fair Chance Act" was introduced in April of 2017. The Fair Chance Act would require both the federal government and federal contractors to remove the conviction history question from their job applications and defer any background checks to the end of the hiring process. It includes exceptions for law enforcement and national security jobs, positions requiring access to classified information, and those for which access to criminal history information before the conditional offer stage is required by law.

Palm Beach County SUPPORTS the passage of this legislation.

DAVIS BACON ACT

The Davis Bacon Act was originally passed by Congress in 1931 in part to ensure that contractors pay local prevailing wages and fringe benefits to workers for all federally funded projects. The prevailing wage requirement that passed and amended in the mid-1930s set the threshold for all construction or rehabilitation of public buildings, public facilities, public infrastructure or housing related projects in excess of \$2,000. For projects of this scope, these requirements reduce productivity and increase the cost of these projects considerably due to the manpower required from the developer and local and federal employees to monitor compliance. Since that time, the economy and construction costs have changed significantly. The value of \$2,000 in the 1930's adjusted for inflation is equal to approximately \$38,000 in 2019. Support an amendment to the Davis Bacon Act to increase the threshold amount to \$50,000 and for applicability to projects only if at least 30% are paid by federal funds.

HOUSING

INCOME LIMITS

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) sets income limits that determine eligibility for assisted housing programs. These income limits are based on median family income estimates for metropolitan regions as a whole including the entirety of Palm Beach County. Work with HUD to develop guidelines that separate the Glades region or other local disadvantaged communities from the overall county calculations if those calculations are beneficial to securing additional housing funds and resources to the region. In addition, SUPPORT efforts to maintain and expand USDA rural housing options, as well as, SUPPORT for senior housing initiatives.

RURAL DEFINITION/USDA HOUSING

Due to the USDA definition of "rural", the City of Belle Glade does not qualify for USDA single housing programs. One factor considered for eligibility within the Rural Definition is the Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) that communities are designated within. According to the U.S. Office of Management and Budget, these classifications are utilized for collecting statistics in geographical areas and not for the purpose of dispensing federal funds. Belle Glade located in a rural region of western Palm Beach County is in dire need of housing and is distinctly different than the urbanized eastern portion of the County. Support a common updated definition of rural to set parameters for "rural" development program

In addition, continue to monitor and support opportunities through USDA and HUD to upgrade housing conditions throughout Palm Beach County.

HOME-Community Housing Development Organizations

The HUD HOME Investments Program requires a mandatory 15% set aside for Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) activities. Grantees have been challenged by the lack of CHDOs with the capacity and experience to successfully deliver projects while meeting regulatory expenditure deadlines. Support revision to the regulation to remove the mandatory CHDO 15% set aside to an amount not to exceed 15% of the grant for CHDO activities to allow flexibility.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

TITLE IV-E FUNDS

Every state's largest source of funding for child welfare services comes from federal Title IV-E funds. In nearly every state, these funds can only be expended after the government removes a child from a home due to unsafe conditions. In 2005, Florida recommended another solution to the federal government: Allow flexibility in the use of Title IV-E funds so necessary services could be provided to children and families before safety is threatened, and before children endure the trauma of being removed from their families. Florida's Title IV-E Waiver expired in September 2019. Palm Beach County SUPPORTS the reauthorization of Florida's Title IV-E Waiver.

VETERANS' HOMELESSNESS

According to the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans, over 40,000 veterans are homeless on any given night. In Palm Beach County, there has been a 73% increase in homeless veterans over the previous year.

Palm Beach County SUPPORTS efforts and programs put forth by the federal government to assist in ending homelessness for our veterans.

FAMILY CAREGIVING

The RAISE Family Caregivers Act, which became law on January 22, 2018, directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services to develop a national family caregiving strategy. This strategy is intended to identify actions that communities, providers, governments, and others may take to recognize and support family caregivers.

Because there are at least 1.3 million caregiving youth in the United States ages 8-18 years old, Palm Beach County SUPPORTS resources for caregiving youth.

MENTAL HEALTH PARITY & SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER ACT

Congress passed the landmark Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008, with overwhelming bipartisan support to end discrimination in mental health and substance use disorder insurance coverage. Despite the 2008 law, lack of mental health parity continues to limit insurance-covered access to care, which causes personal suffering and other handicaps, economic and legal burdens, and a loss of productivity for those persons so affected

In the 2019 US Congress, several bills (HR 3165 and 2874, and S 1737 and 1576) have been filed to enforce and expand the Federal 2008 Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act.

The Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners, recognizing the Mental Health and Parity Addiction Equity Act of 2008, and recognizing the need for access to treatment for mental illness and substance abuse, knowing it will further and improve the quality of life for all, urge Congress to pass laws which require full mental health parity and urge insurance providers to comply with such laws.

FUNDING FOR SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program provides nutrition benefits to supplement the food budget of needy families so they can purchase healthy food and move towards self-sufficiency. SNAP program reductions and changes in the President's 2021 proposed budget would move toward providing food delivery as a portion of the benefit, rather than providing stipends for local purchases.

Support reasonable changes to SNAP that allows the flexibility to access the most appropriate food choices for each participating family.

EDUCATION

FUNDING FOR THE INSTITUTE FOR MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES AND THE LIBRARY SERVICES AND TECHNOLOGY ACT

The Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS) is the main agency tasked to advance, support, and empower America's museums, libraries, and related organizations through grant making, research, and policy development. Palm Beach County supports full funding for IMLS.

The majority of federal library funds, \$189.3 million, are distributed through IMLS to each state through the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA). LSTA funds technology

purchases and related activities. This past year, \$68,387 was awarded to Palm Beach County through the Florida Department of State to fund Digital Media Labs at 13 of our branch locations. Palm Beach County supports full funding for LSTA.

Palm Beach County SUPPORTS the Presidential appointment of Kansas City Public Library Director Crosby Kemper III to the position of IMLS Director. It is currently pending Senate approval.

Palm Beach County SUPPORTS full funding for The Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA).

E-RATE AND UNIVERSAL SERVICES FUNDING

E-rate, also known as the Universal Services Schools and Libraries program, is the program that provides discounts to public libraries and schools on telecommunications services, internet access, Wi-Fi equipment, and closely related costs. The E-Rate program E-rate program has a positive impact in increasing broadband capacity and Wi-Fi access. Over that past three years, Palm Beach County has received \$435,898.77 in E-rate funds.

Palm Beach County SUPPORTS full funding for the E-Rate and Universal Services programs which support telecommunications and internet access.

NETWORK NEUTRALITY

Network neutrality is the principle that internet service providers should treat all data equally and should not discriminate or provide preference to any data. Without strong net neutrality protections, internet service providers may block, throttle, or prioritize certain legal internet traffic. A non-neutral net gives entities who can afford to pay more, control over what information every American can access, potentially relegating libraries and other non-commercial enterprises to the internet's "slow lanes."

Palm Beach County SUPPORTS Network Neutrality in order to ensure all our residents equality for their Internet traffic.