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Delegation Digest

2023 Legislative Session / Final Report

Message from Delegation Chair: Senator Tina Polsky

It is my pleasure to present the 2023 Palm Beach County Legislative Delegation final report.

Inside you will find highlights of legislation and appropriations that members of our delegation worked diligently on during the 2023 Legislative Session. 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 I am very proud to work with my colleagues on behalf of the county's residents.

In May, the Florida Legislature passed a record budget of \$117 billion. The budget has important investments in environmental projects, a variety of education programs and many millions to address the state's affordable housing crisis. Most notably, we have the \$711 million set aside for the Live Local Act. A priority of Senate President Kathleen Passidomo, which would allow over \$600 million to affordable housing programs and \$100 million to Florida's Hometown Heroes program. There is also a continued effort to provide hurricane relief by providing \$3.5 billion in new appropriations which include \$350 million to the Hurricane Ian and Nicole Recovery Grant Program and \$181 million to beach and bridge repair projects.

The budget also includes \$2.7 billion in consumer tax cuts, \$47 billion for health care which does not include Medicaid expansion, and \$26 billion for K-12 education.

Consumer tax breaks include ongoing reduction in tolls and the permanent elimination of taxes on diapers, cribs, strollers and other baby and toddler items.

The Governor vetoed a total of \$510,865,232 million of special appropriations to give us a \$116.5 billion dollar budget. It is much appreciated that The State of Florida was fortunate enough to have received federal funding that accounts for nearly 40% of the budget. You can see the vetoes affecting Palm Beach County towards the middle of the report. Overall, the budget provides new funding in many areas including education, infrastructure, and the environment to name a few.

Notable good legislation was also passed. Below are just a few highlights:

- **CS/CS/SB 154, Condominium and Cooperative Associations** – This legislation revises the milestone inspection requirements for condominium and cooperative buildings that are three or more stories; requires the Florida Building Commission to establish by rule a building safety program to implement the milestone inspection requirements within the Florida Building Code; revises the requirement that all personal lines residential policies issued by the Citizens Property Insurance Corporation must include flood coverage to exempt condominium or cooperative units that are in certain flood-risk areas and above specified floors in a building; clarifies that both the condominium or cooperative unit owner and any person authorized by any owner as his or her representative may inspect the official records of the association; revises the reserve funding requirements relating to condominium and cooperative associations; provides additional presale notice requirements in contracts for sales of a unit by a developer or non-developer; and effective July 1, 2027, the bill permits condominium and cooperative unit owners may use the mediation process in this section for specified disputes related to compliance with the milestone inspection.
- **CS/CS/SB 1550, Prescription Drugs** - This bill works to regulate Pharmacy Benefit Managers and make drugs more affordable for the general public and those who need them most. This bill will require drug manufacturers and distributors to report drug pricing and regulate cost appeals to better benefit the public and ensure that all citizens are able to obtain the drugs they need and deserve without any loopholes within the system. This bill is expected to lower the cost and ensure patients will have access to the exact pricing of these drugs.
- **CS/CS/HB 1379, Environmental Protection** – This is the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) legislative package. It creates the Indian River Lagoon Protection Program, expands the Wastewater Grant Program, and makes changes to the regulation of wastewater treatment, onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems, sanitary sewer services, basin management action plans, and land acquisition.
- **CS/SB 106, Florida Shared-Use Non-motorized Trail Network** - This

legislation expands access to Florida's Wildlife Corridor by connecting the corridor to Florida's Greenways and Trails System and the Florida Shared-Use Non-Motorized (SUN) Trail Network. The bill establishes priorities for funding, including projects that are recommended priorities by the Florida Greenways and Trails Council, projects that have national, statewide or regional importance; projects that complete gaps between existing trails; and projects that support the transportation needs of bicyclists and pedestrians.

- **CS/CS/HB 121, Florida Kidcare Program Eligibility** – This legislation increases Florida KidCare subsidized health insurance coverage to families with incomes up to threshold to 300 percent of the federal poverty level, or \$90,000 for a family of four.

I am happy to have worked with my colleagues to pass good important bills that help our residents, however, there were unfortunately more controversial bills this session than ever before. Here is a sampling of those:

- **SB 300, 6-Week Abortion Ban** - This bill bans abortion after 6 weeks gestation, defined as the first day of the pregnant person's last menstrual period, or just 4 weeks post-fertilization. It criminalizes healthcare providers who provide such care and makes it a felony of the third degree, punishable by up to five years in prison and \$5,000 in fines. It makes it more difficult for victims of rape, incest and human trafficking to access abortion. Finally, the law prohibits telehealth medication abortions and requires that abortion medication be dispensed in person by a provider.
- **CS/CS/CS HB 1, Education** - This bill would create universal vouchers or "education savings accounts" (ESAs), which would offer education spending accounts in the amount of whatever the Florida Education Finance Program Unweighted Full-Time Equivalent amount is in a given year (it is \$8,248 in school year (SY) 2022-23) to all K-12 eligible students in Florida, regardless of family income. The cost of the bill has been estimated by some to be anywhere from \$2-\$4 billion. Unfortunately, parents could be enrolling their children to private schools that have little to no accountability through a measure that takes funding away from public schools that have stricter accountability standards they must meet.
- **CS/CS/SB 256, Union-Busting** - This legislation prohibits public employee unions from collecting dues through paycheck deduction, which is the preferred method. This bill creates a 60% threshold for public sector unions other than police, firefighters, and correction or parole officers. Unions representing public sector workers other than law enforcement officers, correctional officers or correctional probation officers, or firefighters, are now required to submit a membership form with prescribed language and note the salaries of the highest paid officers and employees; and also be subjected to onerous audits.
- **CS/CS/CS/SB 266, Higher Education** - SB 266 prohibits general

education core courses from content that is based on theories that systemic racism, sexism, oppression, and privilege are inherent in the institutions of the United States, usurps faculty hiring decisions to the Governors' appointees and allows tenure to be reviewed at any time, prohibits spending on activities that promote diversity, equity and inclusion, and creates new general education requirements prioritizing neoclassical education focused on Western European civilization.

- **CS/CS/SB 1718, Immigration** - This bill prohibits counties and municipalities from providing funds to any person, entity, or organization to issue identification documents to an individual who does not provide proof of lawful presence in the United States; specifies that certain driver licenses and permits issued by other states exclusively to unauthorized immigrants are not valid in this state; requires hospitals to collect patient immigration status data information on admission or registration forms; and increases the maximum fine that may be imposed for a first violation of specified provisions relating to employing, hiring, recruiting, or referring aliens for private or public employment. The bill also requires all employers with over 25 employees to use the e-verify system.
- **CS/HB 1521, Facility Requirements Based on Sex** - This bill states the legislative purpose and intent is to provide state-run restrooms and changing facilities for exclusive use by females or males according to their sex assigned at birth. This is an anti-transgender bathroom bill that would make it a crime to use a bathroom designated as the opposite sex of your birth, even for those who have fully transitioned.
- **CS/SB 254: Treatments for Sex Reassignment** - This legislation prohibits gender-affirming care for minors (including prescription medications), unless they are currently receiving such care. It allows a non-supportive parent to invoke emergency proceedings and obtain a warrant to take immediate physical custody of a child if the other parent is supporting the child by allowing access to prescription medications. It bans state or local governments from funding gender-affirming care (including for adults) in employee health plans and Medicaid. Finally, it makes it a third-degree felony, punishable by up to five years in prison, for any healthcare practitioner to provide gender-affirming care to a minor. The bill also prevents adults undergoing care to be treated by physician assistants or nurse practitioners as they are currently. Note, this bill has been found to be unconstitutional by the federal court.
- **CS/CS/HB 1069, Education (Don't Say Gay Expansion)** - This bill expands 2022 legislation prohibiting classroom instruction on gender identity and sexual orientation to include prekindergarten through grades K-8. The bill also prohibits a school employee, contractor, or student from being required to refer to a person with a pronoun that differs from that person's sex. School employees are also prevented from telling students their preferred

pronouns. This bill also tightens the hold on school districts relating to the approval of instructional materials that are approved for students and allows a “ban first, review later” process for books which may be contested by a parent or even any resident of the county.

- **SB 1438, Attack on Freedom of Expression by targeting Drag Shows** - Despite already existing laws, this bill prohibits people from knowingly admitting children into adult live performances (by conveniently framing the conversation around the potential dangers of drag shows). If any person that admits a child into a live performance and possesses a license to operate a public lodging establishment, public food service, or beverage license they will be subjected to having that license suspended, revoked, or fined. Note, this bill has been found to be unconstitutional by the federal court.

It is always an honor to work with my colleagues to ensure that Palm Beach County is seeing millions of dollars back to the county in appropriations and working on important legislation that helps our residents. However, I feel that there was too much legislation brought forward this session that does not aim to help our residents and instead has the gruesome consequence of hurting many individuals. Notably, most of the anti-LGBTQ+ bills mentioned are currently in litigation and some have already been struck down including the bills targeting drag shows and prohibiting access to gender-affirming care which were both found unconstitutional. I am also disappointed with legislation surrounding public education that has left many of our school teachers feeling afraid to lose their jobs and also feeling underappreciated. It is also disheartening to see measures taken to limit academic freedom in higher education that ultimately threatens our system’s preeminence.

I would like for our residents to see that their legislature is working for them and not being used in a way that prioritizes politics over the well-being of a wide-array of diverse individuals that makeup Palm Beach County. Many of us are willing to do the work and I hope that we can take necessary steps that aim to unify instead of divide. We owe it to all of the amazing residents of Palm Beach County. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve

With gratitude,
Senator Tina Polsky
Chair of the Palm Beach Legislative Delegation



In Remembrance

J.J. Piskadlo



It is with deep sadness and heavy hearts that we inform you of the death of our colleague and friend, John Joseph “J.J.” Piskadlo Jr., a senior legislative aide to Delegation Chairwoman, Sen. Tina Polsky.

“J.J.” passed away unexpectedly on June 17th, at the age of 52, leaving behind a wife and young daughter.

We will all miss him more than words can express. He was not just our co-worker, but a dedicated public servant for decades and a member of the Palm Beach Legislative Delegation family.

Executive Director Report

We have prepared this report to provide you with a comprehensive overview of the priority issues that the delegation has worked on during the 2023 Legislative Session. Additionally, you will find a detailed list of appropriations allocated to Palm Beach County by the Legislature, including those vetoed by the Governor. Our delegation members have devoted countless hours to securing these appropriations for our community.

Even during the off season, the Delegation remains committed to its work through meetings, legislative updates, and tours of the various economic and cultural drivers that shape Palm Beach County. These efforts help us understand the resources we have and fight for in Tallahassee.

I would like to express my gratitude to the delegation members, as well as the dedicated delegation staff, for their tireless work during Committee Meetings, Session, and throughout the summer months. They are truly the hardest-working individuals I have had the privilege of meeting, and the successes achieved this

Session are a testament to their unwavering dedication.
Congratulations on a job well done!

Lastly, I want to extend my thanks to Senator Tina Polsky, our esteemed Delegation Chair, for her exceptional leadership over the past year. Her unwavering commitment and advocacy for Palm Beach County and its residents have been instrumental in our achievements.

Thank you all for your ongoing support and commitment to serving our community.

Thank you,
Victoria Nowlan

2023 Legislative Session Summary

The 2023 Legislative Session commenced in March and swiftly transformed into a microcosm of national politics with a distinct Florida flavor. Several fiercely contested issues took center stage, including:

AFFORDABLE HOUSING: Senate President Kathleen Passidomo prioritized an affordable housing initiative (SB 102) aimed at making housing more accessible for workers. This bill, endorsed by the Governor, includes incentives for affordable housing investments and promotes mixed-use developments in commercial areas.

BUDGET: On the session's final day, the House and Senate approved a historic \$117 billion budget for the upcoming 2023-2024 fiscal year, commencing on July 1. Governor DeSantis signed the budget on June 15th and exercised his line-item veto power to reduce it by \$510.9 million. Lawmakers also passed a comprehensive tax package (HB 7063) incorporating various sales-tax "holidays" and a

reduction in the commercial-lease tax.

DEATH PENALTY: Legislation (SB 450) was passed to remove the requirement for unanimous jury recommendations before judges can impose death sentences. The bill lowers the threshold to recommendations from eight of the 12 jurors. Additionally, a bill (HB 1297) was approved to allow death sentences for individuals convicted of raping children under the age of 12.

ELECTIONS: Engaging in partisan debates over election laws, legislators passed a bill (SB 7050) imposing additional restrictions on voter-registration groups, streamlining campaign-finance reporting requirements, and amending the "resign to run" law to potentially facilitate Governor DeSantis's 2024 presidential bid.

GUNS: Lawmakers and Governor DeSantis approved a measure (HB 543) enabling Floridians to carry guns without concealed-weapons licenses. Referred to as "constitutional carry" by its supporters, this measure eliminates a longstanding licensing process. The House also made unsuccessful attempts to repeal a 2018 law that prohibits individuals under 21 from purchasing rifles and other long guns.

LAWSUIT LIMITS: Business groups celebrated a major victory as lawmakers and Governor DeSantis approved a bill (HB 837) intended to safeguard businesses and insurance companies against costly lawsuits. The bill, which faced opposition from plaintiffs' attorneys, introduces changes such as shortening the timeframe for filing negligence lawsuits and substantially limiting one-sided attorney fees.

During this session, 1,753 general bills, 61 local bills, and 1,729 appropriations projects bills were filed. Out of these, 267 general bills, 37 local bills, and 2 concurrent resolutions passed both chambers. For a detailed overview, please refer to the House End of 2022 Session Summary, which can be

accessed through this [link](#).



Palm Beach County Appropriations: Education

Those projects marked with * indicate that it was a PBC delegation-member

sponsored project. Projects in red have been vetoed.

FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY	
FAU Education and General Activities	174,032,161
FAU University Grants & Aid	119,222,224
FAU University Grants & Aid for Nursing Education	4,073,283
*FAU Enhancing and Expanding Florida's Nursing Workforce	4,261,000
FAU Cultural & Museum Grants	37,460
FAU Autism Program	1,386,508
*FAU Max Planck Scientific Fellowship Program	889,101
FAU Medical School	16,747,039
FAU Medical School Establishment of a Doctor of Dental Medicine Program	5,000,000
FAU College of Dentistry Planning, Engineering, and First Tranche of Construction	30,000,000
FAU Student Financial Assistance	399,658
FAU University Lottery Funds	53,920,836
TOTAL:	\$409,969,270

PALM BEACH STATE COLLEGE	
PBSC Florida College System Program Fund	\$65,047,135
PBSC Florida College System Grants & Aid for Nursing Education	\$1,576,533
PBSC Florida College System Lottery Funds	\$13,961,552
PBSC Board of Trustees Cultural & Museum Grants	\$102,629
PBSC Florida College System Student Success Initiatives	\$1,524,062
*PBSC Emergency Response Training Center	\$3,000,000
TOTAL:	\$85,211,911

PALM BEACH COUNTY SCHOOLS K-12	
Total FEFP	\$1,404,669,959
Public Schools Workforce Education Program Funds	\$18,651,113
*West Technical Education Center Adult Education & Workforce Development Training	\$239,045
TOTAL:	\$1,423,560,117

PRIVATE COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES	
*Palm Beach Atlantic University Center for Financial	

Literacy	\$2,000,000
TOTAL:	\$2,000,000

OTHER EDUCATION	
School Readiness Services	\$53,080,481
Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten Program	\$31,208,884
Riviera Beach School Readiness Outreach Program	\$218,000
Aerospace & Innovation Academy Aerospace Technical Certification for At-Risk Youth	\$350,000
*Best Foot Forward Grounded for Life: Empowering At-Risk Foster Care Students	\$203,189
Holocaust Education	\$2,050,000
*Florida Caregiving Youth At Risk Student Services	\$318,600
*Busch Wildlife Sanctuary Environmental Education Center	\$500,000
TOTAL:	\$87,929,154

Palm Beach County Appropriations: Health & Human Services

Those projects marked with * indicate that it was a PBC delegation member-sponsored project. Projects in red have been vetoed.

CHILD & FAMILY WELFARE	
*ChildNet – Parent Engagement Program	\$250,000
Children’s Healing Institute Exchange Parent Aide	\$259,257
* EJS Project Teen Center	\$250,000
*Place of Hope Child Welfare Services	\$1,000,000
*City of Greenacres Youth Programs	\$950,000
TOTAL:	\$2,709,257

HEALTH	
Habilitation Center for the Handicapped Programs in Education, Art & Recreation	\$175,000
Florida Community Health Centers Obstetrical Services Viability for the Underserved	\$1,249,467
*Promise Fund of Florida	\$250,000

Palm Beach County Rape Crisis Center (Butterfly House)	\$282,039
TOTAL:	\$1,956,506

ELDER AFFAIRS	
Alzheimer's Community Care Association	\$1,500,000
*Alzheimer's Community Care Critical Support Initiative	\$750,000
Boca Raton Jewish Federation Holocaust Survivors Assistance Program	\$92,946
TOTAL:	\$2,342,946

SUBSTANCE ABUSE & MENTAL HEALTH	
*211 Palm Beach & Treasure Coast Building	\$1,000,000
*Alpert Jewish Family Service Mental Health Services for Persons with Disabilities	\$487,987
Alpert Jewish Family Service Mental Health First Aid	\$1,911,233
*Alpert Jewish Family Service Community Access Life Line Service	\$250,000
*Center for Child Counseling Children's Mental Health Services Expansion	\$300,000
Faulk Center for Counseling – Mental Health Services Expansion	\$250,000
*Henderson Behavioral Health Affordable Housing for People with Mental Health Issues	\$2,400,000
*Jewish Family Services Affordable Behavioral Health Collaboration	\$1,200,000
*Jewish Family Services Affordable Psychiatry Access	\$750,000
*The Hanley Foundation Community Recovery Center	\$1,500,000
*Statewide Study of Community Residence Zoning	\$110,000
*Florida Veterans Suicide Prevention	\$528,508
TOTAL:	\$10,687,728

FACILITIES	
Field for Dreams – West Jupiter Community Group	\$80,000
*YMCA of the Palm Beaches Community Center	\$1,250,000
*YMCA Volunteer Campus Safety Initiative	\$65,000
*Arc of Palm Beach County – Hurricane Hardening at the South Campus	\$555,000
*Specialized Autism Recreation Complex & Hurricane Shelter	\$1,000,000

*THE LAB: YMCA Leadership Academy Renovation	\$447,900
*Palm Beach County Food Bank Produce Processing Facility	\$650,000
TOTAL:	\$4,047,900

WORKFORCE/VOCATIONAL	
Palm Beach Habilitation Center	\$225,000
*HabCenter Supported Employment Program	\$200,000
*JARC Community Works	\$425,000
TOTAL	\$850,000

Palm Beach County Appropriations: Criminal Justice & Public Safety

Those projects marked with * indicate that it was a PBC delegation member-sponsored project. Projects in red have been vetoed.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE	
*Oak Street Home II – Female Teen Delinquency Prevention Program	\$630,000
*Balanced Community Justice Project	\$183,710
Sago Palm Facility	\$142,900
South Bay Correctional Facility	\$275,560
*Palm Beach County RESTORE Re-entry Program	\$500,000
TOTAL	\$1,732,170

PUBLIC SAFETY	
*Palm Springs EOC/Police Department Expansion & Hardening	\$1,000,000
Palm Beach Historic North Fire Station Resilience, Hardening, & Renovation	\$437,500
*Boynton Beach Fire Rescue Fire Alerting System Upgrades	\$800,000
*Palm Beach County Sheriff Unmanned Aerial Response Team	\$500,000
Town of Jupiter Town Hall Cybersecurity Infrastructure	\$102,250
*Riviera Beach Mobile Command Center	\$600,000
*Wandering Rescue and Prevention Project	\$200,000
*West Palm Beach Incident Command Vehicle	\$498,943

TOTAL	\$4,138,693

Palm Beach County Appropriations: Transportation, Tourism & Economic Development

Those projects marked with * indicate that it was a PBC delegation member-sponsored project. Projects in red have been vetoed.

LOCAL TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS	
*36th Street Bridge Rehabilitation Project	\$375,000
*Central Palm Beach County Infrastructure Improvements	\$1,000,000
*City of Belle Glade Pedestrian Bridge Replacement	\$252,505
*City of Belle Glade Roadway Project	\$1,185,000
*City of Boca Raton NW/SW 4th Ave Widening	\$1,000,000
*Lighthouse Drive Bridge Replacement	\$270,000
*Palm Beach County Transportation Disadvantaged Discounted Bus Passes	\$1,000,000
*Royal Palm Beach La Mancha Subdivision Roadway Underdrain	\$500,000
South Bay SW 11th Ave Improvements	\$250,000
*Town of Mangonia Park Road Re-Paving	\$750,000
TOTAL	\$6,582,505

TRANSPORTATION WORK PROGRAM	
Arterial Highway Construction	\$20,413,930
Aviation Development Grants	\$13,000,000
Bridge Construction	\$13,326,731
Construction Inspection Consultants	\$34,066,427
Highway Maintenance Contracts	\$14,456,381
Highway Safety Construction Grants	\$4,933,158
Intrastate Highway Construction	\$329,952,268
Preliminary Engineering Consultants	\$34,156,790
Public Transit Development Grants	\$8,022,250
Resurfacing	\$53,982,492
Right-of-Way Land Acquisition	\$22,013,081
Right-of-Way Support	\$3,958,120
Seaport Grants	\$2,265,083

Toll Operation Contracts	\$59,143,554
Traffic Engineering Contracts	\$4,991,205
Transportation Planning Grants	\$4,557,071
Turnpike System Equipment and Development	\$3,000,000
TOTAL	\$626,238,541

TOURISM & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	
*Peanut Island Historic Restoration	\$750,000
*Port of Palm Beach Land Acquisition for Cargo Capacity	\$500,000
WXEL – TV Replacement of Aging HVAC, Building Automation & Infrastructure	\$600,000
TOTAL	\$1,850,000

FLORIDA RECREATION DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (FRDAP)	
Airport Park Renovations & Improvements	\$200,000
Bicentennial Park	\$200,000
Bryant Park Playground Improvements Phase I	\$50,000
Citrus Grove Park	\$50,000
Frost Lake Park	\$50,000
Greenbrier Park	\$50,000
Kidscape Park	\$50,000
Maddock Park	\$112,500
Paseos Nature Area	\$50,000
Patch Reef Park	\$200,000
Remembrance Park	\$200,000
South Palm Park Playground Improvements	\$50,000
Tennis Courts Phase II	\$50,000
Town Center Phase II	\$200,000
TOTAL	\$1,512,500

LOCAL PARKS	
*Delray Beach Lakeview Park Playground Improvements	\$100,000
North Palm Beach Lakeside Park Bulkhead Replacement	\$500,000
*Pahokee King Memorial Park Improvements Phase 2	\$550,000
*Town of Mangonia Park Addie Greene Park Improvements	\$250,000
TOTAL	\$1,400,000

CULTURAL & MUSEUM GRANTS

Adolph & Rose Levis Jewish Community Center	\$76,663
Aequalis	\$27,693
Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens	\$71,108
Ballet Palm Beach	\$27,155
Benzaiten Center for Creative Arts	\$42,990
Boca Ballet Theatre Company	\$74,835
Boca Raton Historical Society	\$61,749
Boca Raton Museum of Art	\$99,022
Boca Raton Philharmonic Symphonia	\$52,695
Boynton Cultural Centre	\$49,456
Busch Wildlife Sanctuary	\$101,903
Center for Creative Education	\$98,906
Centre for the Arts at Mizner Park	\$17,741
City of Boynton Beach	\$16,659
City of Lake Worth Beach	\$30,680
City of Riviera Beach	\$96,181
Cox Science Center and Aquarium	\$97,652
Creative City Collaborative of Delray Beach	\$101,903
Cultural Council of Palm Beach County	\$98,742
Friends of Mounts Botanical Garden	\$79,763
Historical Society of Palm Beach County	\$78,441
Lake Worth Cultural Renaissance Foundation	\$7,157
Lighthouse Art Center	\$67,814
Loxahatchee River Historical Society	\$100,050
Lynn Conservatory of Music	\$93,184
Maltz Jupiter Theatre	\$106,626
Memory Trees Corporation	\$15,395
Norton Museum of Art	\$100,424
Palm Beach Dramaworks	\$103,356
Palm Beach Opera	\$107,080
Palm Beach Shakespeare Festival	\$15,712
Raymond F. Kravis Center for the Performing Arts	\$104,264
Resource Depot	\$16,590
School of the Arts Foundation	\$100,498
Society for Preservation & Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing	\$7,811
*Spady Cultural Heritage Museum	\$42,138
Sunfest of Palm Beach County	\$96,817
The Armory Art Center	\$103,901

The Chamber of Music Society of Palm Beach	\$46,792
The Henry Morrison Flagler Museum	\$103,102
The Lake Worth Playhouse	\$56,309
The Morikami	\$95,691
The Palm Beach Symphony Society	\$105,990
The Zoological Society of the Palm Beaches	\$93,365
Village of Wellington	\$87,190
Young Singers of the Palm Beaches	\$63,169
TOTAL	\$3,242,362

CULTURAL FACILITIES	
Busch Wildlife Sanctuary Living Museum	\$296,741
*Cox Science Center & Aquarium	\$500,000,000
*The Center for Arts & Innovation	\$750,000
Village of Wellington – Stoneman Douglas Nature, Arts, & Cultural Center	\$500,000
TOTAL	\$2,046,741

CULTURE BUILDS FLORIDA	
Fiesta De Pueblo Multicultural Arts Program	\$25,000
For the Children Multicultural Arts Program	\$25,000
Natural Movers Dance Festival	\$25,000
Shakespeare Troupe – Performing Shakespeare in Schools	\$25,000
St. Andrews Protestant Episcopal Church Arts at St. Andrews	\$13,000
Veterans Memorial & Multicultural Histories Believe and Achieve Project	\$25,000
TOTAL	\$138,000

HISTORIC PRESERVATION GRANTS & HISTORIC PROPERTIES RESTORATION	
Delray Beach Municipal Cemetery Historic Resource Survey	\$31,750
The Preservation Foundation of Palm Beach – Resilient Little Red Schoolhouse	\$442,195
TOTAL	\$473,945

Palm Beach County Appropriations: Agricultural & Natural Resources

Those projects marked with * indicate that it was a PBC delegation member-sponsored project. Projects in red have been vetoed.

BEACH PROJECTS	
Juno Beach Nourishment Project (Segment 3)	\$175,000
Jupiter-Carlin Shore Protection Project (Segment 1)	\$125,000
Mid-Town Beach Nourishment Project	\$694,695
North Boca Raton Shore Protection Project (3)	\$63,675
Phipps Ocean Park Beach Nourishment Project	\$559,120
South Jupiter Beach Restoration Project (Segment 2)	\$190,097
TOTAL	\$1,807,587

INLET MANAGEMENT	
Boca Raton IMP Implementation	\$117,100
Jupiter IMP Implementation	\$1,151,625
Lake Worth IMP Implementation	\$698,500
South Lake Worth IMP Implementation	\$138,147
TOTAL	\$2,105,372

WATER PROJECTS	
*Boca Raton Drinking Water Transmission & Distribution Improvements	\$1,400,000
*Boca Raton NW 35th St Drainage Improvement Project	\$300,000
C-51 Reservoir	\$70,000,000
*Delray Beach Historical Campus Drainage Improvements	\$100,000
*Delray Beach Public Seawall Improvement	\$1,000,000
*Greenacres Swain Boulevard Sewer Extension Phase I	\$600,000
*Highland Beach Climate Vulnerability and Clean Water Project Lift Stations Rehab	\$250,000
*Indian Trail Improvement District M-o Canal Outfall	\$500,000
Juno Beach Universe Boulevard Drainage Improvements	\$1,000,000
*Lake Park Septic to Sewer Conversion Project	\$1,000,000
*Lantana Water Main Replacement	\$1,200,000
*Loxahatchee Groves Stormwater System Rehabilitation	\$750,000
*PBC Glades Region Infrastructure Improvements	\$1,500,000
*PBC Green Cay Phase II	\$3,000,000

PBC Lake Worth Lagoon Initiative (LWLI)	\$2,361,804
*PBC LWLI Bonefish Cove Environmental Enhancement Project	\$500,000
PBC Loxahatchee River Preservation Initiative	\$985,255
Palm Beach Shores Lake Worth Inlet, Singer Island Channel Dredging Project	\$1,000,000
*Riviera Beach Utility Special District Three Critical Lift Station Replacement	\$1,000,000
*Royal Palm Beach Canal System Rehabilitation Phase II	\$500,000
*South Bay Stormwater Flood Control and Waterway Management Phase III	\$150,000
TOTAL:	\$89,097,059

OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS	
*Loggerhead Marineline Center – Improving Water Quality and Coastline Cleanliness	\$250,000
*Loggerhead Marineline Center –Water Treatment System for Sick or Injured Sea Turtles	\$250,000
TOTAL	\$500,000

2023 Palm Beach County Local Bills

HB 943 - Acme Improvement District/Pine Tree Water Control District

(Rep. Waldron): Transfers land commonly known as Wellington Preserve from Pine Tree Water Control District to ACME Water Control District. *Bill status: Signed into law by Governor DeSantis on June 23rd.*

HB 945 - Jupiter Inlet District (Rep. Snyder): Codifies charter of the Jupiter

Inlet District, defines powers of the District, reduces the maximum millage rate that may be levied from 3 to 1.5 mills, increases compensation of board members, clarifies District role in permitting certain improvements. *Bill Status: Signed into law by Governor DeSantis on June 23rd.*

HB 1049 - Boca Raton Airport Authority (Rep. Gossett-Seidman): Updates

charter of the BRAA by providing boundaries, revising frequency of board meetings, increasing compensation of board members, clarifying the process for termination of an executive director, and transferring land from State to the BRAA. *Bill Status: Signed into law by Governor DeSantis on June 23rd.*



Member Priority Legislation

Each Member provided us with their top 3 priority bills from the 2022 Legislative Session. You can visit Myfloridahouse.gov or Flsenate.gov to view a complete list of bills.

Senator Gayle Harrell:

1. **SB 210 – Substance Abuse Services:** This bill revises the application requirements for licensure as a substance abuse service provider. It also requires the Department of Children and Families to establish a mechanism for imposing and collecting fines for certain violations of the law by a specified date. Additionally, it revises the credentialing requirements for recovery residences. Furthermore, it prohibits service providers from referring patients to, or accepting referrals from, specified recovery residences, among other provisions. This bill was passed and signed into law by the governor.
2. **SB 452 – Home Health Aides for Medically Fragile Children:** This bill proposes that home health agencies must ensure any delegation of tasks to home health aides for medically fragile children meets specified requirements. Additionally, it establishes the home health aides for medically fragile children program for specific purposes. The Agency for Health Care Administration, in consultation with the Board of Nursing, must approve training programs for these home health aides. Finally, the document authorizes home health aides for medically fragile children to administer certain medications under certain circumstances. The total appropriation for this program is \$472,317. This bill was passed and signed into law by the governor.
3. **SB 230 – Health Care Practitioner Titles:** This bill revises the grounds for disciplinary action against practitioners who use specified titles or designations in connection with their name for certain purposes, which may constitute the practice of medicine or osteopathic medicine. These titles or designations may be used in identifying oneself to patients or in advertisements for healthcare services. Additionally, certain healthcare practitioners are required to prominently display copies of their license in a conspicuous area of their practice. This bill passed, but was vetoed by the governor.

Senator Tina Polsky:

1. **SB 164 – Controlled Substance Testing:** This bill has passed in the legislature and would decriminalize the use of fentanyl testing strips. We are experiencing a record number of deaths due to fentanyl-laced drugs and aim to prioritize harm-reduction measures to prevent further deaths. Recently released CDC data shows that opioids cause nine out of 10 teen deaths, and fentanyl is the most common opioid involved. More than 30 other states have already adopted similar laws to legalize testing strips and we would be joining them in making this effort to save lives.
2. **SB 1102 – Solutions for Mental Health Professional Shortages:** This

bill would address a shortage of mental health professionals in the state by establishing a mental health profession scholarship and loan forgiveness program within the Department of Health. Currently, Florida ranks very low at 42nd out of all 50 states regarding mental health worker-to-patient ratio. Therefore, it is important to address this critical shortage of mental health professionals as the need for care in our state keeps increasing.

3. **SB 208 – Safe Gun Storage**: This bill would strengthen efforts to enhance responsible gun ownership. It will ensure that guns remain safely stored when not in use, so they do not end up in the hands of a child. In incidents of gunfire on school grounds, up to 80 percent of shooters under the age of 18 got the gun from their home or the homes of friends or relatives.

Senator Bobby Powell, Jr.:

1. **SB 678 – Disposal of Property**: This legislation amends Florida Statute 337.25 relating to disposal of property by the Department of Transportation. SB678 provides that the use of public property for affordable housing qualifies as use for a public purpose in the context of the authorization of DOT to convey property without consideration to a governmental entity. This bill passed.
2. **SB 430 – Abandoned and Historic Cemeteries**: This bill requires the Historic Cemeteries Program to research, identify, and record abandoned cemeteries, with an emphasis on abandoned African-American cemeteries.
When abandoned cemeteries are located, provide notification and guidance to relevant persons and assist with efforts to identify relatives and descendants, funeral directors, religious organizations, qualified nonprofit organizations, and property owners. Assist constituents, descendant communities, state and federal agencies, local governments, and other stakeholders with inquiries relating to abandoned cemeteries. This bill passed.
3. **SB 1606 – Florida Museum of Black History**: The bill creates the Florida Museum of Black History Task Force for the purpose of providing recommendations to the Department of State for the construction, operation, and administration of a Florida Museum of Black History. The museum will be a multipurpose facility capable of generating self-sustaining revenues, with archival research and storage facilities, meeting rooms, full service banquet facilities, and a performing arts theatre. The bill requires the Task Force to develop various plans of operation for the Black History Museum and to submit a report of its findings to the Governor and Legislature before July 1, 2024. This bill passed.

Senator Lori Berman:

1. **SB 130 – "Greyson's Law"**: Greyson's Law amends two statutes relating to the descriptions of what constitutes evidence or risks of domestic violence for use in child custody determinations and in domestic violence injunction proceedings. This includes whether a parent believes that their child is or has been in imminent danger of becoming a victim of domestic violence, sexual violence, neglect, or abandonment by the other parent. Further protecting both the parent and child, this legislation ensures the courts consider any pattern of abuse, whether threatening, intimidating or controlling behavior, however short when determining detriment to the child. This bill has been signed into law.
2. **SB 144 – Lactation Spaces**: This legislation requires each county courthouse to provide one dedicated lactation space, available to women for pumping or breastfeeding by January 1, 2024. The bill authorizes but does not require the district courts of appeal to use either state-appropriated funds or private funds to provide a lactation space. SB 144 is a win for mothers who have for too long breastfed and pumped in unsanitary bathrooms and closets. This bill ensures women will be able to do so in sanitary, private, and dignified locations. This bill was signed into law.
3. **SB 172 – "Safe Waterways Act"**: This bill would require, rather than authorize, the Department of Health to adopt and enforce rules to protect the health, safety, and welfare of persons using beach waters and public bathing places, require DOH to issue health advisories when a water body fails to meet water quality standards, require the closure of waterbodies that fail to meet standards if DOH deems it necessary, prescribe conspicuous signage requirements for health advisories, specifically inform the municipalities directly affected by the contaminated waterways, and establish a public statewide interagency database for the reporting of fecal indicator bacteria data. This bill failed, but Senator Berman plans to refile next session.

Representative John Snyder:

1. **HB 85 – Causes of Action Based on Improvements to Real Property**: Frivolous litigation impacts costs for all Floridians – including housing prices. Clarifying when a lawsuit may arise due to a defect in the construction or improvement of real property will rein in litigation costs and ensure good claims move forward. This bill sponsored by Representative Snyder modifies the construction defect claims process by reducing the statute of repose for construction defect claims from 10 years to 7 years. It also sets clear guidelines for what events trigger the statute of repose, as well as the statute of limitations for patent defect claims. This bill passed as SB 360.
2. **HB 221 – Sales of Firearms and Ammunition**: In the Free State of Florida we value and protect Second Amendment Rights. SB 214 prohibits

credit card companies from using firearm-specific Merchant Category Codes to track purchases in firearms and ammunition retailers and institutes a fine (\$10,000 for each violation) for violations of Florida's consumer protections against gun owner registries.

3. **HB 1 – Universal School Choice:** This important bill unlocks school choice for every student, regardless of race, income, background, or zip code and prioritizes low income, then middle income students. Empowering parents and students with customizable learning options will not only boost educational outcomes for individual students, but will create competition that raises the bar for school across the state.

Representative Mike Caruso:

1. **HB 269 – Public Nuisances:** This bill expands penalties for crimes in Florida Statutes. If someone commits one of these crimes with religious or ethnic intimidation or intent to harm, it will be classified as a hate crime. The crimes include littering, harassment, threats, intimidation, and disrupting religious services, school, or funeral. The bill also makes projecting an image onto a building or structure without owner's written consent a first-degree misdemeanor. If the image projects religious or ethnic animus, it will be classified as a hate crime. Finally, trespassing with the intent to threaten or intimidate someone on a state university or college campus is a new crime. If the individual ignores warnings and refuses to leave, it is a first-degree misdemeanor. If the individual shows religious or ethnic animus, including anti-Semitic acts, it is a third-degree felony and considered a hate crime.
2. **HB 295 – Substance Abuse Service Providers:** This bill requires applicants for substance abuse licensure to prove that their premises prohibit the use of alcohol, marijuana, illegal drugs, and prescription drugs by anyone other than the prescribed individual. The bill establishes a mechanism for imposing and establishing fines and adds safeguards to prevent trespass in a recovery residence. The bill also provides restrictions on referrals made by licensed substance abuse service providers. Lastly, this bill revises the definition of marijuana and adds it to the list of banned substances in a sober home.
3. **HB 783 – Opioid Abatement:** This bill contains several provisions aimed at addressing the opioid crisis. Firstly, it establishes a State-Wide Drug Policy Advisory Council in the Department of Children and Families. The Council will review how settlement funds are being used to address the crisis. Secondly, the bill expands the scope of individuals who may receive and dispense emergency opioid antagonists. Lastly, it expands protections for pharmacies, pharmacists, and pharmacy technicians when storing and dispensing an emergency opioid antagonist.

Representative Jervonte Edmonds:

1. **HB 783 – Opioid Abatement:** (bill by Rep. Caruso, co-sponsored by Rep. Edmonds, et al.) This bill contains several provisions aimed at addressing the opioid crisis. Firstly, it establishes a State-Wide Drug Policy Advisory Council in the Department of Children and Families. The Council will review how settlement funds are being used to address the crisis. Secondly, the bill expands the scope of individuals who may receive and dispense emergency opioid antagonists. Lastly, it expands protections for pharmacies, pharmacists, and pharmacy technicians when storing and dispensing an emergency opioid antagonist.
2. **HB 763 – Disposal of Department of Transportation Property:** This bill specifies that the use of property as affordable housing qualifies as a use for public purpose in the context of authorizing the Department of Transportation (DOT) to transfer property without consideration to a governmental entity.
3. **HB 271 – Minimum Base Salary for Full-time Classroom Teachers:** Increases minimum base salary for full-time classroom teachers. This bill died in Pre K-12 Appropriations Subcommittee on 5/5/23.

Representative David Silvers:

1. **HB 117 – Genetic Counselors Using Telehealth:** Revises the definition of the term telehealth provider to include persons licensed as genetic counselors. This change would mean families, who are juggling work and kids in school, especially those who live in rural areas, will have an easier time accessing recommended counseling from competent professionals- saving them time and money and, most importantly, getting them the services they need when they need it to ensure their family is healthy and thriving.
2. **HB 537 – Custody and Supervision of Specified Offenders:** Excludes certain offenders from eligibility to receive basic gain-time and incentive gain-time and prohibits a reduction in the supervision term for specified probationers or offenders in community control.
3. **HB 829 – Operation and Administration of the Baker Act:** Requires the Department of Children and Families to provide specified information to certain individuals and organizations and to maintain an information handbook and a repository of answers to frequently asked questions.

Representative Joe Casello:

1. **HB 953 – Growing Teachers From Within Pilot Program:** his bill would have created a pilot program within the Department of Education

aimed at alleviating the growing teacher shortage in Florida by assisting school district employees who work in public schools but are not employed as instructional personnel in obtaining a teaching certificate. This bill did not pass.

2. **HB 195 – Upgrades to Education Facilities as Emergency Shelters:** Upgrades to Education Facilities as Emergency Shelters would have exempted schools from the per student cap up to 2 million dollars to invest in solar infrastructure and storage capacity on their campuses strengthening infrastructure and preparedness in emergency management perspective. This bill did not pass.
3. **HB 239 – Florida Retirement System:** This bill is a complete overhaul of Florida’s FRS system, massively upping benefits to help our often-struggling state employees. For our Special Risk Class members such as police and fire, this legislation will reduce the retirement age to the pre-2011 standard as well as increase allocations for member disability coverage and line of duty death benefits. HB 239 also will provide generous increase in benefits to all FRS members such as increasing the monthly retiree health insurance subsidy, reforming the DROP system to give employees more flexibility and more time to accrue benefits and increasing the monthly interest applied to a member’s DROP account.

Representative Peggy Gossett-Seidman:

1. **HB 1123 – Commercial Service Airport Transparency and Accountability:** This bill raises the spending thresholds for the 20 largest commercial service airports in the state before they must appear before County Commissions for budget approvals. This will improve passenger comfort and safety at boarding, baggage, and all locations and worker and vendor schedules because it cuts red tape. It provides more efficient airport upgrades, maintenance, and repair schedules. Prior to this bill, airport staff time was consumed by attending long Commission meetings to approve budgets. This bill raises spending limits from \$250,000 to \$1.5 million for large airports, \$1 million for medium airports, and \$500,000 for small airports. House Bill 1123 passed unanimously by the Legislature and was signed into law by the Governor on 06/02/2023.
2. **HB 1597 – Florida Virtual School:** This bill benefits the children of military families who are transferred to bases located out of state. The bill allows all students, generally 1,000 or more per year, to test for their required Florida standardized assessments while still living out of state. They will test at a secure location with a test proctor in attendance within their military base. Prior to this bill, students had three less desirable options: fly back to Florida to test, take a waiver and subsequent grade of 59 percent, or be assigned a grade of Zero/fail. House Bill 1597 was passed unanimously by the

entire Legislature and signed into law by the Governor on 05/11/2023.

3. **HB 205– Tax Exemption for Charges for Private Investigations:**

This bill was passed as a part of this year's tax package. This bill ensures families do not have to pay sales taxes on means to protect their loved ones via small business private investigators. Investigators in this field are an asset and backup support for police throughout our State and have provided crucial help when it comes to sex trafficking cases.

Representative Kelly Skidmore:

1. **HB389 – Menstrual Products in Public Schools:** Allows school districts to make menstrual hygiene products available to students at no cost and encourages school districts to partner with nonprofit organizations, nongovernmental organizations, businesses, and other organizations to assist in maintaining the supply of menstrual hygiene products.
2. **HB527 – Office of the Blue Economy:** Creates the Office of the Blue Economy to connect the state's ocean and costal resources to economic development strategies with the overarching goal of steering Florida's blue economic growth. The blue economy broadly refers to the sustainable use of water resources for economic growth, improved livelihoods and jobs, and water ecosystem health in areas such as renewable energy, fisheries, maritime industries, recreation, and tourism. The Office of the Blue Economy will serve to promote innovation by surveying the academic research of Florida's colleges and universities to encourage collaboration and establish a pipeline to public/private funding for blue economy related issues. It will further promote job creation and economic growth by publishing reports on the number, growth, and average wages in industry related jobs, and by performing a biennial evaluation of Florida's blue economy that includes data on the contributions within industries, economic comparisons to other states, and identifies new or emerging industries that fit within the blue economy.
3. **HB59 – Human Trafficking and Prostitution:** Addresses several gaps in current law by raising the crimes of maintaining a house of prostitution from a misdemeanor to a second-degree felony, establishes direct criminal penalties for traffickers, and expands the scope of coercion to include alcohol.

Representative Katherine Waldron:

1. **SB 264 – Interests of Foreign Countries:** Prohibits governmental entities from knowingly entering into contracts & taking specified actions relating to contracts that give access to personal identifying information; requires government entities to require affidavit from applicants before

- providing any economic incentive; prohibits foreign principals from purchasing agricultural land & certain real property in state; prohibits People's Republic of China, Chinese Communist Party, any other political party or member of political party in People's Republic of China, & certain persons & entities from purchasing or acquiring real property in state; requires information held by health care providers utilizing certified electronic health record technology to be maintained in specified locations.
2. **HB 381 – Cosmetic Animal Testing:** Prohibits manufacturer from manufacturing, importing for profit, selling, or offering for sale cosmetics developed or manufactured using cosmetic animal testing conducted or contracted by certain persons or from conducting or contracting for cosmetic animal testing; provides labeling requirements for specified cosmetics.
 3. **HB 1443 – Disqualification from Licensing, Permitting, or Certification Based on Criminal Conviction:** Provides that application for license, permit, or certification may only be denied based on applicant's criminal record under certain circumstances; requires state agency to consider certain factors in determining whether applicant for license, permit, or certification has been rehabilitated; revises & provides requirements for state agencies relating to denying certain applications & petitions, advising applicant how to remedy disqualifications, new petitions, & fees; revises state agency reporting requirements.

Representative Rick Roth:

1. **HB 399 – Food Recovery:** This food recovery program has been my top priority for 3 years. The bill was a one-year pilot program. Instead I was able to get a \$5 million appropriation for the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) to implement the one-year pilot program, as defined in the bill. FDACS will spend the appropriation as follows: \$2.5 million -- Feeding Florida, \$2.25 million – Farm Share, and \$250,000 – Palm Beach County Food Bank. FDACS reimburses these three food recovery programs (FRE), when they purchase FRESH Fruits and Vegetables at a discount from Florida Ag companies, on FRE terms, as per Ag Company invoice, including distribution fees. The fresh food products must be shipped within 7 days of harvest, with some flexibility by the FRE for food with a longer shelf life.
2. **HJR 129 – Requiring Broader Public Support for Constitutional Amendments or Revisions:** This House Joint Resolution has been a priority, beginning in 2017. HJR 129 passed on the House Floor, but failed in the Senate. When passed by 60% of each Body, the proposed amendment to the Florida Constitution goes on the ballot in the next general election. It will ask voters yes or no, to increase the percentage of electors required to amend the Florida Constitution from 60% to 66.67%, beginning in the next general

election.

3. **HB 1529 – Agricultural Property:** This bill authorizes property to be classified agriculture by the Property Appraiser at time of purchase, when certain conditions are met. It requires property to finally obtain classification within 5 years and local government to make certain notifications to purchasers online. It revises the definition of ‘agricultural purposes’ to include equipment integral to the agricultural operation.



Palm Beach County Legislative Delegation

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Vice Chair: Senator Gayle Harrell

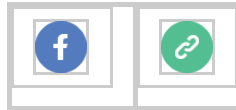
Senators

Bobby Powell, Jr., District 24

Lori Berman, District 26
Tina Polsky, District 30
Gayle Harrell, District 31

Representatives

John Snyder, District 86
Mike Caruso, District 87
Jervonte Edmonds, District 88
David Silvers, District 89
Joe Casello, District 90
Peggy Gossett-Seidman, District 91
Kelly Skidmore, District 92
Katherine Waldron, District 93
Rick Roth, District 94



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