

August 2023 Newsletter

Dear Community Members,

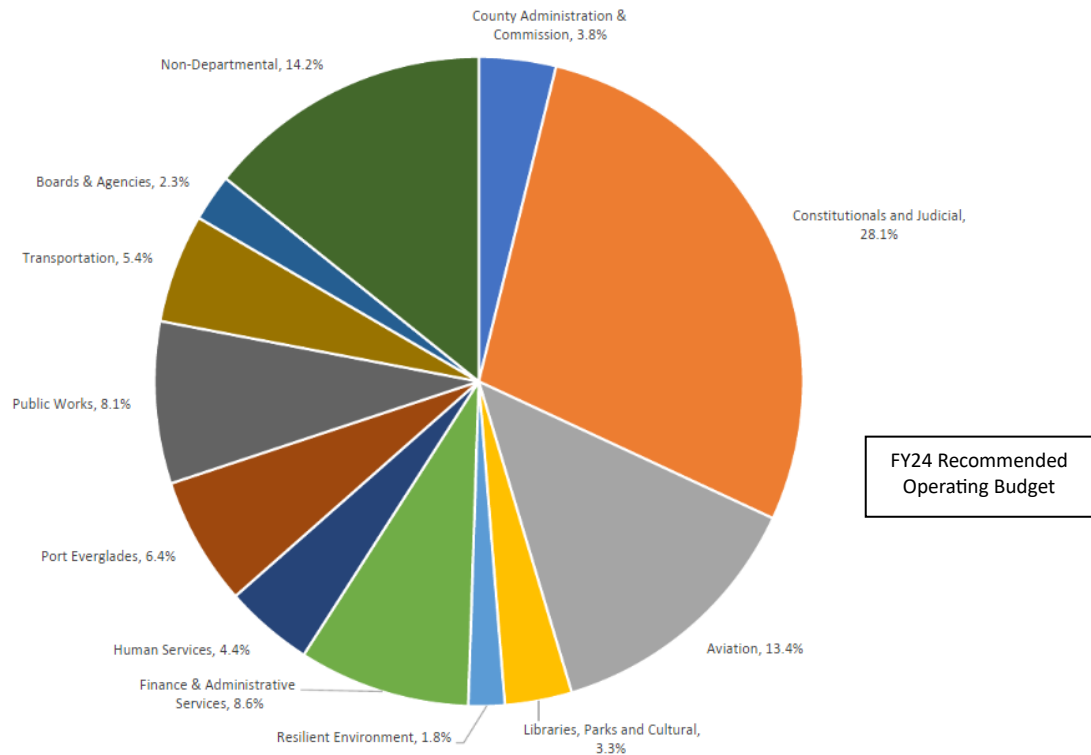
As our children head back to school, I would like to remind everyone that our roads will become a little busier with school buses and students walking and riding bikes. Please stay alert while on our roads and adhere to the school zone safety measures. Additionally, storm activity in our oceans have quickly ramped up recently. Although there is no direct threat now, this is a good time to assess your home. National Preparedness Month takes place in September. Go over your emergency plan and take advantage of the second Hurricane Sales Tax Holiday runs through September 8. Let's be ready!

Broward County's Recommended 2024 Budget

Over the summer, the Board received the County Administrator's recommended Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24) budget of \$8.6069 billion. This gives us a chance to review and prepare for Budget Workshops (August 17 & August 29) and final public hearings in September. For FY24, the Board is considering keeping the millage rate at 5.6690. Below are some key highlights of this recommended budget:

- To address housing cost pressures, \$20 million of funding is included for affordable housing, together with \$1.3 million for 30 to 40 new permanent supportive housing units and \$300,000 to plan for a Pallet Shelter Family Village for ten families.
- The Capital Budget includes significant funding for the PREMO Plan projects, together with Airport and Seaport capital projects that all further the goal of improving connections among and between the County's major economic engines.
- The Strategic Job Creation Incentive program that focuses on high-wage job creation, is funded for \$1 million in FY24.
- To promote film production in Broward County, \$2 million is added to attract projects by a high-level production studio.
- With the opening of the new Nancy J. Cotterman Center later in 2023, additional funding is added to the budget to ensure the successful launch of the new facility.
- One million dollars is added to increase mental health jail diversion services.
- The County's participation in discussions regarding solid waste are continued with a \$500,000 appropriation for the County's share of costs of the Master Plan and the County's share of three years of anticipated start-up costs at \$25,000 per year.

- This budget includes a significant increase for BSO, including \$25 million for agency personnel cost increases, and \$3.4 million for 30 new positions across the agency, with focus on priorities identified by the Sheriff and shared by the Commission.



These are just a few of the priorities that have been shared by the Board and brought forward by County Administration. The last Budget Workshops concluded on August 29. The Board will hold two public hearings, set for September 7 & 19, both at 5:01pm, to finalize the budget. For more information on the recommended budget visit Broward.org/Budget. For more information on the upcoming Commission meetings/public hearings, visit County Commission Meetings.



September Suicide Prevention Awareness Month

It's important to know the facts. In 2022, more than half of the 45,000 suicides in the U.S. were by firearm. Florida's firearm suicide rate has been consistently higher than the overall United States rate. An unlocked gun in the home triples the risk of a suicide. These deaths are preventable by interrupting gun access. The Lock is Up Program promotes gun safety through education and distribution of free gun locks. To request one mailed to your home, email Gloria.Lewis@VA.gov. If you are a loved one are experiencing suicidal thoughts or depression, call, or text 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline, available 24 hours.

Recent County Commission Action

- On August 17, the Board held a Budget Workshop to discuss the County's enterprise funds, which include Port Everglades, Aviation, Public Works: Water & Wastewater Services and Solid Waste & Recycling.
- On August 22, the Board approved two items that help fund stormwater improvements near and around our airport. These projects will better prepare the airport for the impacts of major rain events and projected sea level rise. These include:
 - Funding for improvements to the existing Stormwater Management System which will interconnect to the Northern System within the North Airfield at our Fort Lauderdale International Airport (FLL).
 - Funding for a project that will improve the Stormwater Management System within Edgewood Park just north of FLL.
- An Interlocal Agreement with the City of Fort Lauderdale for the design and construction of a 60-inch redundant effluent force main from the George T. Lohmeyer Wastewater Treatment Plant running near Port Everglades was approved. The timing of this item is vital to the continued construction in the area with the Convention Center and the By-Pass Road Project all happening at the same time.
- On August 29, the Board held its final Budget Workshop and heard from County Administration and staff on the General Fund wrap-up, Surtax, Tourist Development Taxes, General Capital, and Transportation Capital budgets.



Our next County Commission Meeting is on September 7, 2023.

To read, watch or join in our County Commission Meetings please visit the [Government Meetings and Agendas website](#).

38th Annual Coastal Cleanup

As part of the Ocean Conservancy's 38th Annual International Coastal Cleanup, Broward County's Natural Resources Division is organizing a beach cleanup on September 16, 2023, at 12 different locations in the community. The event takes place in many countries around the world on the same day. Last year, more than 2,000 volunteers removed more than 42,000 pieces of trash in Broward County alone. Visit Broward's Coastal Cleanup [website](#) for more details.



Reminders:



Hurricane Season (June 1- Nov. 30):

As storms begin to increase out in our oceans, please stay vigilant. Visit Broward.org/Hurricane to sign up for alerts, get helpful preparedness tips, learn about evacuation zones and more. The second **Hurricane Sales Tax runs through September 8.**



Broward County's Natural Resources Division, in collaboration with the Broward Water Partnership, has increased the **Conservation Pays toilet rebate program** from \$100 to \$125. For more information visit ConservationPays.com.



2023 Freedom Summer Tax runs now through September 4. Consumers can purchase qualifying recreation, outdoor items and admissions to entertainment and cultural events tax free. Visit FloridaRevenue.com/FreedomSummer for more information.



Dine Out Lauderdale has been officially extended through September 30. Enjoy another month of specially priced menus at restaurants around Broward County. Checkout VisitLauderdale.com/dineout for more information.

As always, I am truly thankful to serve you, Commission District 4, and everyone in Broward County as your Mayor. If I can ever be of assistance, please contact me at 954-357-7004 or LFisher@broward.org. Also, follow me ([@LamarPFisher](https://twitter.com/LamarPFisher)) on X (Twitter) and on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/LamarPFisher).

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink.

Lamar P. Fisher
Broward County Mayor
Commission District 4

Additional Resources:

- Business Resources: Broward.org/EconDev
- Broward County Libraries: Broward.org/Library
- Broward County Parks: Broward.org/Parks
- Mosquito Control Services: Broward.org/Mosquito