



August 2024

Dear Community Members,

August is almost over and as September starts next week, I'm hopeful for some slightly lower temperatures to help relieve us from the summer heat. This month students got back to class, which means our roads have a little more traffic. It is vital that residents obey speed limits, stay extra alert for pedestrians and cyclists and stop for school buses, this time of year. Looking ahead, this weekend many municipalities will be hosting Labor Day celebrations. Please visit [Broward.org/Commission/District4](https://www.broward.org/Commission/District4) to find a list of all District 4 city websites and check out events near your area.

Broward County Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Budget

As you may know, every year the County Commission has the tremendous task of approving a large budget which, goes into effect on October 1st. The County Administrator's preliminary recommended budget for FY25 is approximately \$7.7 billion, this includes all tax-supported and non-tax supported funds. The General Fund portion of the budget, which supports all the county services are budgeted to be \$1.774 billion. **The proposed millage rate for FY25 is expected to remain the same as it has for the last 8 years at 5.6690**, this includes Operating (5.3260), Capital (0.3129) and Debt Service (0.0301).

Below are a couple of my priorities that have been included in this year's budget recommendation:

- Continuing support for affordable housing, \$20 million is proposed in additional funding for the Affordable Housing Trust Fund and funds to implement a pallet shelter project to assist with the growing homeless population in our community.
- Supplemental funding has been added for the newly created pilot microgrant program which kicked off in FY24 to assist eligible small businesses.
- Funding is provided for targeted areas in the Department of Human Services which include legal assistance services, mental health services, and housing assistance programs focusing on seniors and families.
- Funds from the Opioid settlements will be used to support the existing pilot full-time street outreach team on a permanent basis.

- **Public Safety:** the County Commission continues to support public safety efforts by increasing the Broward Sheriff’s budget by 7.23% for Regional Services. For the County’s contract with BSO \$6.5 million is being added in FY25 for 911 Regional Dispatch services.
- Additionally, the County’s proposed 5-year Capital Budget includes a myriad of projects for improvements at several of our Parks, Libraries and other county facilities that are in desperate need of enhancements.

The final budget will be approved by the County Commission in September at two public hearings. These hearings will be held September 5th and September 17th at 5pm in the Broward County Commission Chambers, 115 S Andrews Avenue in Fort Lauderdale. For more information on the County’s Budget process, please visit, Broward.org/Budget.

Fund Totals

Budget	FY24 Revised (\$million)	FY25 Recommended (\$million)	Difference (\$million)
Operating Budget	4,708.2	4,990.7	282.5
Capital Budget	3,178.0	1,985.6	-1,192.5
Debt Service Budget	810.2	777.3	-32.9
Total	8,696.4	7,753.6	-942.8

Millage Rate

Budget	FY24 Rate	FY25 Recommended Rate	Difference
General Fund	5.2904	5.3260	0.0356
General Capital Outlay	0.2588	0.3129	0.0541
General Obligation Debt	0.1198	0.0301	-0.0897
Total	5.6690	5.6690	0.0

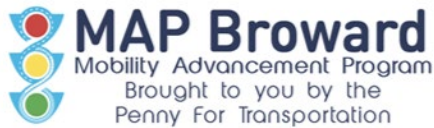
New Supervisor of Elections Headquarters

The new Supervisor of Elections facility has officially opened to the public and is ready for customer use for the 2024 election cycle. In collaboration with the Supervisor of Elections, Joe Scott, the County worked diligently to make sure the new facility was functional this year. Located at 4650 NW 21 Avenue in Fort Lauderdale, the new facility is a 155,000-square-foot renovation of an existing four-story office building and atrium, with the addition of a new 95,000-square-foot warehouse. Among its most unique features



are an atrium accessible to the public with a large video display to monitor election activities and a Transparency Corridor which encircles the entire operations area and has multiple viewing windows for direct visual observation of the entire ballot production and processing activities. Having this project come in on time and under budget is indicative of the great partnership between the County, the Supervisor of Elections and the developer team. We are excited to be able to provide voters a world class facility to vote, where they feel welcomed and secured enough to place their votes this November. For more news and information from our Supervisor of Elections, please visit, BrowardVotes.gov.

Broward Penny for Transportation Update



Broward County’s Surtax team has been hard at work to achieve major accomplishments for our roadways. The 30-year Mobility Advancement Plan is in full swing, using your dollars to help alleviate traffic congestion. Over the summer, the team continued work on many projects that are soon to be finalized or underway.

- Broward County Transit finalized the [Premium Mobility Plan \(PREMO\)](#), which includes more than 200 miles of Commuter Rail, Bus Rapid Transit, Light Rail Transit, and High-Frequency Bus Services.
- 500 County and municipal projects are underway to improve transit service, enhance multimodal options, relieve traffic congestion, and create connectivity.
- [Port Everglades Bypass Road Congestion Management](#) project is underway.
- Broadview Park Drainage project is underway.
- Progress continues on the [Multimodal Mobility Master Plan](#), a 24-month master planning initiative to help enhance walking, bicycling and personal conveyance device mobility for people of all ages and abilities.
- County is meeting and exceeding a 30% County Business Enterprise (CBE) goal on all County and Municipal projects for which a goal has been set. The 30% for 30 Years initiative helps ensure economic success and participation for Broward County businesses.

Residents are encouraged to visit Broward.org/PennyForTransportation and view the MAP Broward Dashboard to find projects in their specific area.

Reminders/Events:



The second **Disaster Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday** runs through Friday, September 6. We are at the peak of hurricane season, and this is a great opportunity to stock up on emergency items. Visit [Broward’s Hurricane](#) site to find a list of tax-free items.



The month of September is **Hunger Action Month**. Residents are encouraged to help raise awareness by wearing orange on September 5 and donate at any of our conveniently located donation boxes throughout the county. For more information and links to local BOGO and other food store deals, visit Broward.org/FoodDrive.



Visit Lauderdale’s Dine Out Lauderdale Restaurant Month runs through September 30. Participating restaurants offer three course dining options from fixe menus starting at \$35 (lunch), \$45, \$55 or a luxe option for \$75, and more. For more information, or to see a list of participating restaurants, please visit VisitLauderdale.com/DineOut.



The **39th Annual Coastal Cleanup** will be held on Saturday, September 21, from 9am to 12pm. Broward County participates in the annual International Coastal Cleanup, sponsored by the Ocean Conservancy. For more information and to find how to register, please visit the [Broward County Coastal Cleanup](http://Broward County Coastal Cleanup website) website.



The **Small Business Microgrant Pilot Program** is still open. Micro-Grants of \$2,500 will be available to small businesses and distributed evenly throughout all Commission districts on a first qualified, first served basis. Visit Broward.org/EconDev for more information and access to the application portal.

As always, I am truly thankful to serve you and Commission District 4. 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,

Lamar P. Fisher
Broward County Commissioner
District 4

Additional Resources:

- Libraries: Broward.org/Library
- Parks: Broward.org/Parks
- Business Assistance: Broward.org/EconDev
- Broward’s Official Hurricane Site: Broward.org/Hurricane
- Mosquito Control Services: Broward.org/Mosquito
- Fort Lauderdale International Airport: Broward.org/Airport
- Port Everglades: PortEverglades.net