



Palm Beach County Priorities

On March 5-6th I will travel to Tallahassee with other Palm Beach County (PBC) elected officials, business leaders and advocacy groups for [Palm Beach County Day](#) 2019. Timed to the start of the state legislative session, the focus of the annual coordinated lobbying push is the many planned meetings with lawmakers and other state officials. Holding PBC Day at the beginning of the legislative session is an excellent opportunity to keep our county's legislative priorities in front of lawmakers all session long.

County commissioners, school officials, union representatives, city leaders, local business advocates and civic organizations are among the attendees who make the trip. PBC saw another increase in attendance last year, continuing a pattern of growth. This trend indicates the importance of meeting with legislators and working with them to solve some of the important issues facing PBC. It brings a powerful message to the state capitol when so many groups and individuals come to meet with legislators, letting them know that the attendees care about our residents and want to do what we can to bring home state funding for our most important projects and priorities.

The theme this year is [Pathways and Waterways!](#) Our 2019 state legislative priorities include Affordable Housing and Homelessness, the Opioid Epidemic, Sober Homes and Mental Health and Transportation and Infrastructure. Specific environmental priorities include Beach and Inlet Management and Lake Okeechobee Restoration. I look forward to reporting to you how our priorities fared at the conclusion of session.

PBC Day again comes on the heels of the annual [NACo Legislative Conference](#) (NACo) in Washington, D.C. where I will also be visiting legislators in the 116th Congress to fight for PBC's federal priorities. Waiting for me is a robust schedule of meetings for the many NACo committees I have the honor to sit on: Large Urban County Caucus, Arts & Culture Commission, International Economic Development Task Force, Environment, Energy and Land Use Steering Committee, and the NACo Steering Committee.

This NACo conference brings together nearly 2,000 elected and appointed county officials to focus on federal policy issues that impact counties and our residents. This conference gives PBC and all counties a unique opportunity to elevate the county voice at the national level. Our office of [Legislative Affairs](#) recently presented our 2019 federal priorities at our January workshop, some of which mirror or are closely related to the issues we will lobby at the state level but also include tackling Drone Rules, Deobligation of FEMA Funds, National Flood Insurance, Presidential Travel Reimbursement, and Herbert Hoover Dike Funding.

While I enjoy the trips, I want you to know that when we travel for these conferences we do so to **work hard**, visiting congress people and various agencies. Frankly, it is exhausting, but so important and an opportunity I take seriously to represent you.

As always, I invite your comments on any issue of interest to you. As your Commissioner, I am here to help you. You may write me at 301 N. Olive Ave., West Palm Beach, 33401 or at MBerger@pbcgov.org. You can call me or my staff at 276-1310 or toll free at 877-930-2205. Please visit me on the Web at www.pbcgov.com/d5.

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