



SENATOR PAULA DOCKERY
15th District

January 19, 2012

Dear Friends,

Florida's law makers gathered in Tallahassee last week to begin the year's 60-day legislative session. This year is special because we'll be drawing maps for new legislative and congressional districts, and because it is my last year representing Senate District 15. As a term-limited senator, my goal in the redistricting process is to have fair districts drawn for my constituents. If you'd like to know more about the redistricting process and why I voted against the maps that were approved by the Senate on Tuesday, you can read my latest [Florida Voices](#) column, [Florida Redistricting: More Transparent Than Fair](#).

Some other articles regarding redistricting:

[One Crazy Redistricting Plan](#)
[Polk A Loser in Redistricting Plans Approved By Senate](#)
[New Congressional District Lines Could Hurt Rep. Ross](#)

2012 Legislation

In addition to redistricting, the legislature will also vote on hundreds of bills that will affect Floridians. My goal in this year's session is to pass bills that increase government transparency and accountability. Below are highlights from legislation I have proposed:

Ethical Practices Act of 2012, Senate Bill 552 – Prohibits legislators from voting upon, participating in or attempting to influence the passage of any legislation that would result in a special private gain for themselves or their relatives. Currently, state senators can vote on any matter in which they, a family member, or business holds an interest, even if they would derive a benefit from the legislation being signed into law.

Citizens' Veto, Senate Joint Resolution 1490 – Proposes a Constitutional Amendment that would give voters the right to veto bills passed by the legislature. In this political climate, the bulk of the power is held by wealthy special interests. This joint resolution would place that power where it rightly belongs: into the hands of the citizens.

Inspectors General, Senate Bill 270 – This bill was drafted upon the recommendations of a grand jury report on public corruption to reform of state’s inspectors general in charge of auditing and investigating government agencies. The legislation would require the inspector general to report to the full Cabinet, instead of solely to the governor.

School Choice, Senate Bill 1664 – Will provide Florida parents and students with greater school choice, by allowing students who have completed kindergarten at a private school to end first grade at a public school regardless of age. Currently, students who have completed kindergarten at in-state private schools must be at least 6-years old to enter the first grade.

If you would like further info on legislation, please contact my Tallahassee staff at 850.487.5040.

Upcoming District Events

16th Annual Lakeland Pig Fest – January 27th & 28th
Tiger Town Sports Complex

Ground Breaking for the Poinciana Medical Center - February 7th (11:00 a.m.)
Corner of Cypress Parkway and Solivita Boulevard, Kissimmee, 34759

Lakeland Kiwanis Annual Pancake Festival – February 11th
Tiger Town Hanger

As always, please feel free to share your thoughts, concerns and opinions with me and my staff.

Warmest Regards,

Paula