MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

TONI JENNINGS
President of the Senate

Welcome to the Florida Senate — an institution with a deep tradition of debating issues and building consensus for the benefit of all Floridians.

The Florida Senate and senators who make up this legislative body are here to serve all Floridians. Legislation passed in the Senate affects every citizen — making it important for all Floridians to take an active role in government to ensure their voices are heard.

During the 1999 and 2000 sessions, the Florida Senate will focus its efforts on ensuring children are ready to learn when they enter school and that Florida’s schools and teachers are prepared to lead our children. We will also work to improve government services, drive down illegal drug use and protect our natural resources.

The senators you read about in this book are part of a 40-member team of leaders working to shape the future. We will help lead Florida into the next century. While we are eager to get to work serving the people of Florida, it is important that citizens stay in touch with us. Let us hear from you. We welcome your ideas and thoughts.

Together, we can make a better Florida!
The Florida Senate

When the first Senate was convened on January 7, 1839 — six years before Florida became a state — no business could be transacted because only seven of the sixteen Senators were present. There was no quorum of Senators for three of the first four days, and it was not until the fifth day of the first session that Territorial Governor Richard Keith Call addressed the Senate and the House of Representatives in joint session.

Since the beginning days, the Senate has evolved into a highly organized, smoothly functioning legislative body that meets annually to conduct the people's business. The year-round staff conducts vital research and prepares for the legislative sessions.

"Once a Senator, always a Senator" is a catchy phrase of good fellowship that conveys something of the philosophy of the Senate.

The Florida Senate today has 40 members, each elected from a single district and each representing more than 323,448 Florida citizens. Each Senator is elected for a four-year staggered term. He or she may be elected for more than one term, but may not serve for more than 8 consecutive years (see Article VI, section 4, State Constitution). The Constitution of the State of Florida specifies that Senators must be at least twenty-one years of age, must be registered voters, must be residents of the district from which they are elected, and must have resided in Florida for two years prior to their election.

While members of the other branches of government work full time in public service, the Legislature maintains its identity as the "citizen" branch. Almost all of the Senators are occupied in a business or profession when they are not carrying out their legislative duties.

The 1998-2000 Senate membership includes 33 men and 7 women. There are 25 Republicans and 15 Democrats whose professions or occupations include law, medicine, banking, business, agriculture, and industry. The average Senator is about 51 years old, is married, and has children. Thirty-seven of the Senators have college degrees and 37 have held other public offices before they were elected to the Senate. Twenty Senators served in the House of Representatives prior to their election to the Senate. Others have served in local governments. The Senate is presided over by a President elected by the members of the Senate. Also elected is the President Pro Tempore. The President for the 1998-2000 term is Senator Toni Jennings from Orlando, an 18-year Senate veteran. The President Pro Tempore is Senator William G. "Doc" Myers from Hobe Sound, who has served in the Senate since 1982.

Additional information on these officers and the other members of the Senate is contained on the following pages of this handbook. The handbook also further outlines and describes the Senate, its operations, and its relationship to the House of Representatives and the other two branches of Florida government.
Toni Jennings
Republican, District 9
President


http://www.leg.state.fl.us/senate/members/s09

William G. "Doc" Myers
Republican, District 27
President Pro Tempore


http://www.leg.state.fl.us/senate/members/s27
MEMBERS OF THE SENATE

Charles H. “Charlie” Bronson, Jr.
Republican, District 18
Rancher born September 15, 1949 in Kissimmee
education University of Georgia, B.S.A., 1973
wife Regina Bolden of Macon, Georgia children
Michelle and Melanie legislative service elected to the Senate in 1994, reelected subsequently
religious affiliation Methodist recreation hunting and fishing addresses (district) 1813 South Patrick
Drive, Indian Harbour Beach 32937; 1322 10th
Street, St. Cloud 34769 (Tallahassee) 322 Senate
Office Building 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-
1100 telephones (district) 407/726-2880 or
http://www.leg.state.fl.us senate/members/s18

Locke Burt
Republican, District 16
Insurance Executive; President, Ormond Re Group,
Inc. born February 19, 1948 in Des Moines, Iowa.
Moved to Florida in 1959 education Northwestern
University, B.S.B.A., 1969; M.B.A., 1970; Loyola
University, J.D., 1974 wife Ann E. Snyder of
Milwaukee, Wisconsin children Melissa and
Thomas legislative service elected to the Senate,
July 30, 1991; reelected subsequently; Senate
Majority Whip, 1996, Republican Leader, 1996-
1998 religious affiliation Episcopal recreation
sailing and golf addresses (district) 140 S. Atlantic
Avenue, Suite 201, Ormond Beach 32176; 838 E. New York Avenue, Suite B,
DeLand 32724 (Tallahassee) 410 Senate Office Building 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 telephones (district) 904/673-7299 or 904/738-9002
(Tallahassee) 850/487-5033.
http://www.leg.state.fl.us senate/members/s16

Ginny Brown-Waite
Republican, District 10
Legislator born October 5, 1943 in Albany, New
York. Moved to Florida in 1986 education State
University of New York, B.S., 1976; Russell Sage
College, M.S., 1984; Cornell University, Certificate
Program, 1980 husband Harvey Waite of Albany,
New York children Jeannine Bradford, Danene
Mitchell, and Lorie Sue Busiere legislative service elected to the Senate in 1992; reelected subsequently religious affiliation Catholic recreation reading and computer work addresses (district) Hernando Government Complex, 20
North Main Street, Room 200, Brooksville 34601 (Tallahassee) 314 Senate
Office Building 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 telephones (district) 352/544-2344 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5040.
http://www.leg.state.fl.us senate/members/s10

Walter G. “Skip” Campbell, Jr.
Democrat, District 33
Attorney born November 12, 1948 in Rockaway
Beach, New York. Moved to Florida in 1961
education St. John Vianney Seminary, A.A., 1968;
Lynn Satin of Miami Beach children Christina and
Daniel legislative service elected to the Senate in 1996; Minority Whip, 1998 religious affiliation Catholic recreation golf and flying addresses (district) 10094 McNab Road, Tamarama 33321
(Tallahassee) 308 Senate Office Building 404
South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 telephones (district) 954/346-2813 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5094.
http://www.leg.state.fl.us senate/members/s33
Lisa Carlton
Republican, District 24
http://www.leg.state.fl.us/senate/members/s24

Roberto Casas
Republican, District 39
http://www.leg.state.fl.us/senate/members/s39

W.D. Childers
Republican, District 1
Dean of the Senate
Businessman born November 25, 1933 in Okaloosa County education Florida State University, B.S., 1955 wife Ruth A. Johnson of Wakeeney, Kansas children Gail, Jeanna, Karen and Marvel; grandchildren: Mandy, Jamie, Max, Hailey, Brandon, and Hannah; great grandchild: Sidney legislative service elected to the Senate in 1970, reelected subsequently: President 1980-1982; Dean of the Senate religious affiliation Baptist recreation fishing, hunting, and camping addresses (district) 2889 Michigan Avenue, Pensacola 32526 (Tallahassee) 404 Senate Office Building 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 telephones (district) 850/944-3900 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5000.
http://www.leg.state.fl.us/senate/members/s01

Charles W. “Charlie” Clary III
Republican, District 7
Architect born June 24, 1950 in Crestview education Auburn University; B.A., Architecture, Environmental Design, 1977 wife Beth Graham of Ft. Walton Beach children Joanna and Laura legislative service elected to the Senate in 1996 military service U.S. Navy: Submarine service, 4 years active and 2 years inactive religious affiliation Baptist recreation fishing, pen and ink sketching, and photography addresses (district) 1241 Airport Road, Suite A, Destin 32541 (Tallahassee) 205 Senate Office Building 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 telephones (district) 850/833-9159 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5009.
http://www.leg.state.fl.us/senate/members/s07
Anna P. Cowin  
Republican, District 11


http://www.leg.state.fl.us/senate/members/s11

M. Mandy Dawson-White  
Democrat, District 30


http://www.leg.state.fl.us/senate/members/s30

Mario Diaz-Balart  
Republican, District 37


http://www.leg.state.fl.us/senate/members/s37

John H. “Buddy” Dyer, Jr.  
Democrat, District 14  
Democratic Leader

Attorney born August 7, 1958 in Orlando education Brown University, Sc.B. Civil Engineering, 1980; University of Florida College of Law, J.D., 1987 wife Karen Caudill of Palm Beach Gardens children John Hugh III (Trey) and Andrew (Drew) Warren legislative service elected to the Senate in 1992; reelected subsequently; Democratic Leader, 1998 religious affiliation Presbyterian recreation fishing, reading, and golf addresses (district) P.O. Box 1031, Orlando 32802-1031 (Tallahassee) 200 Senate Office Building 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 telephones (district) 407/245-0882 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5190.

http://www.leg.state.fl.us/senate/members/s14
Howard C. Forman
Democrat, District 32
Democratic Whip

Market Consultant born January 6, 1946 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Moved to Florida in 1955 education Miami-Dade Community College; University of Miami; New York Institute of Finance wife Susan Schwartzman of Charleston, South Carolina children Iris and Rosette Forman; stepchildren: Todd and Michelle Stone legislative service elected to the Senate in 1988, reelected subsequently; Chairman, Broward County Delegation, 1990 religious affiliation Jewish recreation reading, bicycling, and swimming addresses (district) 10400 Griffin Road, Suite 104, Cooper City 33328 (Tallahassee) 208 Senate Office Building 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 telephones (district) 954/680-5632 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5103.

http://www.leg.state.fl.us/senate/members/s32

John A. Grant, Jr.
Republican, District 13


http://www.leg.state.fl.us/senate/members/s13

Steven A. Geller
Democrat, District 29


http://www.leg.state.fl.us/senate/members/s29

Alberto "Al" Gutman
Republican, District 34


http://www.leg.state.fl.us/senate/members/s34
James T. “Jim” Hargrett, Jr.
Democrat, District 21


http://www.leg.state.fl.us/senate/members/s21

Jim Horne
Republican, District 6

Certified Public Accountant born January 20, 1959 in Orange Park education Florida State University, B.S., Accounting, 1980 (graduated with business degree in 3 years) wife Lori McArdle of Niagara Falls, New York children Ashley, Laura, John David, and Katherine legislative service elected to the Senate in 1994; reelected subsequently religious affiliation Baptist recreation running, golf addresses (district) 2301 Park Avenue, Suite 403, Orange Park 32073 (Tallahassee) 214 Senate Office Building 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 telephones (district) 904/573-4900 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5027.

http://www.leg.state.fl.us/senate/members/s06

Betty S. Holzendorf
Democrat, District 2

Democratic Leader Pro Tempore


http://www.leg.state.fl.us/senate/members/s02

Daryl L. Jones
Democrat, District 40


http://www.leg.state.fl.us/senate/members/s40
James E. “Jim” King, Jr.
Republican, District 8

Ron Klein
Democrat, District 28

George Grier Kirkpatrick, Jr.
Republican, District 5

Patsy Ann Kurth
Democrat, District 15
Real Estate Broker born February 2, 1941 in Washington, Missouri. Moved to Florida in 1960 education Southwest Missouri State Teachers College; Brevard Community College husband Alan “Al” Kurth of New Jersey children Dawn (deceased), Wendy, Martha, and Sara legislative service elected to the Senate in 1990, reelected subsequently religious affiliation Methodist recreation fishing, walking, quilting, and antique collecting addresses (district) 2174 Harris Avenue, N.E., Suite 1B, Palm Bay 32905 (Tallahassee) 412 Senate Office Building 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 telephones (district) 407/984-4951 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5053.
Jack Latvala
Republican, District 19
Majority (Republican) Leader

http://www.leg.state.fl.us/senate/members/s19

Tom Lee
Republican, District 23

John M. McKay
Republican, District 26

John F. Laurent
Republican, District 17

http://www.leg.state.fl.us/senate/members/s17
Kendrick B. Meek
Democrat, District 36


Richard Mitchell
Democrat, District 4

Executive Director, Comprehensive Community Services, Inc. born May 23, 1956 in Jasper education Florida State University, B.S., English and Speech Communications, 1979 wife Debra Rogers of Hahira, Georgia children Savannah, Kylie, and Jessica legislative service elected to the Senate in 1998 military service Officer, Jet Pilot, U.S. Navy; Commander, U.S. Naval Reserves religious affiliation Baptist recreation fishing, hunting, and jogging addresses (district) Virgie Cone Center, 406 10th Avenue NW, Jasper 32052 (Tallahassee) 212 Senate Office Building 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 telephones (district) 904/719-2733, 888/329-6784 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5017.

Tom Rossin
Democrat, District 35

Attorney, Banking Consultant born August 29, 1933 in New York, New York. Moved to Florida in 1958 education Columbia University, B.S., 1957; University of Miami, J.D., 1965 wife Joyce Thornton of Coliquitt, Georgia children Thomas, Jr., Allen, and Michael Rossin; stepchildren: Robert Jr., Sam, Andrew, and Sandi Bouchlas legislative service elected to the Senate in 1994; reelected subsequently religious affiliation Protestant recreation tennis and skiing addresses (district) 1241 Okeeboobee Road, Building A, Suite 4, West Palm Beach 33401-6953; Lee County Courthouse, 2120 Main Street, #206, Ft. Myers 33901 (Tallahassee) 210 Senate Office Building 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 telephones (district) 561/837-5400 or 941/338-2646 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5356.

Burt L. Saunders
Republican, District 25

James A. “Jim” Scott
Republican, District 31

http://www.leg.state.fl.us/senate/members/s31

Ronald A. Silver
Democrat, District 38

http://www.leg.state.fl.us/senate/members/s38

James A. “Jim” Sebesta
Republican, District 20

http://www.leg.state.fl.us/senate/members/s20

Donald C. “Don” Sullivan, M.D.
Republican, District 22

http://www.leg.state.fl.us/senate/members/s22
Pat Thomas
Democrat, District 3


http://www.leg.state.fl.us/senate/members/s03

Daniel Webster
Republican, District 12


http://www.leg.state.fl.us/senate/members/s12

Secretary of the Senate

At its organization session every two years, the Senate designates a Secretary of the Senate pursuant to the Constitution of the State of Florida. This non-member officer keeps all Senate records and authenticates each act and resolution passed by the Senate. She also publishes the journal and the calendar and supervises Legal Research and Drafting, which drafts proposed legislation.

Other operations within the Secretary’s Office include: bill and amendment preparation, duplication and distribution of documents, recording of actions taken by the Senate, and the performance of support services for the Senate. Special programs, such as the vote system and the Chamber Automation System, are coordinated by the Secretary’s Office.

As liaison to the Office of Legislative Information Technology Services, the Secretary serves as the Senate coordinator for the development and maintenance of computer applications used by Senate staff as well as for investment in and allocation of hardware and software resources. Senate information included in the Legislature’s Online Sunshine homepage is coordinated by the Secretary’s Office.

The Secretary speaks to various visiting civic and student groups during the year. The Office of the Senate Secretary hosts numerous mock sessions throughout each year. Staff and facilities are provided for the YMCA Youth Legislature, Boys State, Girls State, the Silver-Haired Legislature, and others.

Faye W. Blanton
Secretary of the Senate

The President employs a Sergeant at Arms who maintains order in the chamber, in the gallery, and in committee rooms. He is responsible for the maintenance of all Senate property.

Wayne W. Todd, Jr.
Sergeant at Arms


Participants in the 1999 Senate-led Statewide Drug Control Summit view a presentation on the Senate's Chamber Video Display System.
# Presidents of the Senate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>President</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>President</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1839-1840</td>
<td>John Warren</td>
<td>1927</td>
<td>Samuel W. Anderson</td>
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<td>1841</td>
<td>William P. Duval</td>
<td>1929</td>
<td>Jesse J. Parrish</td>
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<td>1842</td>
<td>William H. Brockenbrough</td>
<td>1931</td>
<td>Patrick C. Whitaker</td>
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<td>1843-1844</td>
<td>George Walker</td>
<td>1933</td>
<td>Truman G. Futch</td>
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<td>1845</td>
<td>James A. Berthelot</td>
<td>1935</td>
<td>William C. Hodges</td>
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<td>1846</td>
<td>Dennett H. Mays</td>
<td>1937</td>
<td>D. Stuart Gillis</td>
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<td>1847</td>
<td>Daniel G. McLean</td>
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<td>J. Turner Butler</td>
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<td>1848</td>
<td>Erasmus D. Tracy</td>
<td>1941</td>
<td>John R. Beacham</td>
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<td>1850-1852</td>
<td>Robert J. Floyd</td>
<td>1943</td>
<td>Philip D. Beall</td>
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<td>1854-1855</td>
<td>Hamlin V. Snell</td>
<td>1945</td>
<td>Walter W. Rose</td>
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<td>1856</td>
<td>Philip Dell</td>
<td>1947-1948</td>
<td>S. Dilworth Clarke</td>
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<td>1858-1859</td>
<td>John Finlayson</td>
<td>1949</td>
<td>Newman C. Brackin</td>
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<td>1860-1861</td>
<td>Thomas Jefferson Eppes</td>
<td>1951</td>
<td>Wallace E. Sturgis</td>
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<td>1862-1863</td>
<td>Enoch J. Vann</td>
<td>1953</td>
<td>Charley E. Johns</td>
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<tr>
<td>1864</td>
<td>Abraham K. Allison</td>
<td>1955-1956</td>
<td>W. Turner Davis</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>From 1865 through 1887 the Lt. Governor served as President.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1889**</td>
<td>Patrick Houstoun</td>
<td>1955</td>
<td>William A. Shands</td>
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<td>1889</td>
<td>Joseph B. Wall</td>
<td>1957</td>
<td>Dewey M. Johnson</td>
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<td>1891</td>
<td>Jefferson B. Browne</td>
<td>1959</td>
<td>W. Randolph Hodges</td>
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<td>1893</td>
<td>William H. Reynolds</td>
<td>1961</td>
<td>F. Wilson Carraway</td>
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<td>1897**</td>
<td>Charles J. Perrenot</td>
<td>1962-1963</td>
<td>James E. Connor</td>
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<td>1899</td>
<td>Frank Adams</td>
<td>1965</td>
<td>Verle A. Pope</td>
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<td>1901</td>
<td>Thomas Palmer</td>
<td>1967</td>
<td>John E. Mathews, Jr.</td>
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<td>1903</td>
<td>Frank Adams</td>
<td>1968-1970</td>
<td>Jerry Thomas</td>
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<td>1907</td>
<td>William H. Harris</td>
<td>1972-1974</td>
<td>Frederick T. Myers</td>
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<td>1909</td>
<td>Frederick M. Hudson</td>
<td>1974</td>
<td>Mallory E. Horne</td>
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<td>1911-1912</td>
<td>Frederick P. Cone</td>
<td>1974**</td>
<td>Louis de la Parte</td>
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<td>1913</td>
<td>Herbert J. Drane</td>
<td>1975</td>
<td>Dempsey J. Barron</td>
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<td>1915</td>
<td>Charles E. Davis</td>
<td>1976-1978</td>
<td>Lew Brantley</td>
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<td>1919</td>
<td>James E. Calkins</td>
<td>1980-1982</td>
<td>W. D. Childers</td>
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<td>1921</td>
<td>William A. MacWilliams</td>
<td>1982-1984</td>
<td>Curtis Peterson</td>
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<td>1923</td>
<td>Theo T. Turnbull</td>
<td>1984-1986</td>
<td>Harry A. Johnston II</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>1990-1992</td>
<td>Bob Crawford</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>1992-1993</td>
<td>Ander Crenshaw</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>1993-1994</td>
<td>Pat Thomas</td>
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<td>1994-1996</td>
<td>James A. Scott</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>1996-1998</td>
<td>Theo Jennings</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>1998-2000</td>
<td>Toni Jennings</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Extraordinary Session

**Served as Acting President from July 1, 1974 when President Horne resigned until November 6, 1974

# Contacting Your Senator

Your Senator is interested in hearing your opinions concerning the issues on which he or she will vote. This section will provide you with guidelines on how to approach legislators and how best to express your ideas so that they will be read, or listened to, and understood.

Most people communicate with their Senator by letter (increasingly by email), but you can also try to speak directly with him or her by telephone or even in person. No matter which method you choose, the same guidelines apply:

- Know your subject matter well, and have data to back up your point of view.
- Inform yourself about the full name and address of your Senator and about the positions he or she has taken on the issues that concern you.
- Do not use form letters; instead, if you are working from a form letter, rewrite the essential points in your own words.
- If you represent others from your community, formally or even informally, indicate that to the Senator.
- Be brief and to-the-point in your presentation. Attach supporting data or documents and refer to them in your cover letter.
- Be courteous.
- Be completely fair in your presentation of the facts.
- If you are interested in a specific bill, refer to that bill by its number. You can find out this information from the Division of Legislative Information at 1-800-342-1827. Note that Senate Bills use even numbers and House Bills use odd numbers.
- Always provide your address (street and/or email) and your telephone number so that your Senator or his or her staff assistants can contact you for further data or discussion.
- If you are going to meet personally with your Senator, prepare carefully for the meeting and be on time. If he or she asks you for more information than you have brought with you, be prompt in responding to the request.

You can build an effective relationship with your Senator on a series of issues
and make considerable contributions to the process of creating public policy. Your Senator will be grateful for your participation.

COMMITTEE TESTIMONY

You may want to keep track of your bills as they proceed through the legislative process. To find out which committees your bills have been assigned to, access Online Sunshine, contact your Senator’s office, or call the Division of Legislative Information (1-800-342-1827).

You may have an opportunity to appear before a committee that is hearing the bill by contacting the committee as soon as the bill has been referred to the committee. The committee’s chairman controls his or her committee’s agenda and schedules the bills.

If your bill is scheduled for a public hearing, keep these guidelines in mind:

• When signing up to testify on a bill, the committee may require you to present written testimony for distribution to committee members and staff. Written testimony should be submitted to the appropriate office at least 24 hours prior to the scheduled committee hearing.

• Generally, each committee chairman follows the order of the bills listed on the agenda.

• As a courtesy to departmental officials who must testify before a number of committees each day, most committee chairmen allow departmental representatives to present their testimony before the general public presents its testimony.

• Prepare your oral testimony in advance and be brief unless asked to elaborate.

• Be specific and to the point regarding the bill you are testifying on.

• Be prepared to answer questions from committee members on your testimony or on the position you have taken on each bill. If you do not know the answer to a question, just say so.

• Be aware of the number of bills scheduled and the other people signed up to testify. If you are asked to summarize your oral testimony, comply with the committee chairman’s request.

• Be polite, not adversarial.

SENATE PAGE PROGRAM

You can be a part of history! The Senate Page Program gives Florida students the rare opportunity to observe and participate in the legislative process.

During regular sessions of the Legislature, participating students come to Tallahassee for one week to work in the Senate Chamber, distribute materials, and deliver messages to Senators and staff. Each Senator may sponsor four pages (ages 15-18). Senators may also submit applications for alternate pages, who serve on an as-needed basis.

Sponsoring Senators give an application to the students they wish to sponsor. Senators submit completed applications by February 1 of each year. The Office of Administration and Staff Development schedules each page for one week of service during the upcoming session.

Pages receive a minimum-wage stipend for participating in the program. Students are expected to provide their own transportation, housing, and meals while in Tallahassee.

Each week of session, pages discuss the legislative process and participate in a “mock session.” Students act as Senators, debating and voting on bills. Other educational opportunities and Capitol tours are planned during session.

President Jennings and the students who served as Senate Pages the first week of the 1999 Session.
THE SENATE CHAMBER

The Senate Chamber, also known as the “floor,” is the room on the fourth floor of the Capitol where Senators debate the merits of proposed legislation. The current room is the fourth used since the first session of the Senate was called to order in 1839. The first session held in this chamber occurred in 1978.

On the floor above the chamber is the gallery. Citizens may sit in the gallery to observe the Senate in session. From the gallery, attention is drawn to the rostrum where the President is presiding.

The President occupies the “chair,” pacing the flow of legislation, deciding who will speak, and ruling on parliamentary disputes. The President frequently calls on other Senators to preside while she works out the details of legislative proposals.

In front of the President’s rostrum is the Secretary’s “desk,” which is staffed by the Secretary of the Senate. Legislative business is not properly before the Senate until it is “on the desk.” Clerks at this desk read the bills and amendments before the body and record Senate actions. These actions are published in the journal, the official record of Senate proceedings. A Senator who wishes to “approach the well” to make a speech speaks from one of the reading podiums at the Secretary’s desk.

Voting boards on each side of the chamber record a member’s green “yea” or red “nay” vote. (The white lights you see next to some names indicate that the Senator wants a “page” to deliver a message or retrieve a file from his or her office.) The voting boards also display the number of the bill or amendment being debated and other information related to the proceedings. Electronic voting was first used in the Senate in 1966, and now nearly all votes are recorded electronically.

The seating arrangement in the chamber is determined by the President. At one time, the chamber desk was a member’s only desk. Members’ secretaries sat beside them in the chamber, even during sessions. Now adequate office space is provided for the Senators and their staff; telephones at each chamber desk provide direct communication with the staff. Today, only members of the Senate and designated staff members are allowed in the chamber while the Senate is in session. Certain present and past state officials and guests invited by the President may also enter the chamber during a session. All men in the chamber must wear coats and ties.

Senators are addressed by their district number when they are recognized to speak. Custom decrees that a Senator may not be addressed as a gentleman or lady. He or she is “the Senator from the fifth,” for example, but never “the gentleman or lady from the fifth.” During debate, the members are always formally addressed as “Senator,” not by their given names.

The portraits hanging below the gallery commemorate past Presidents of the Senate. After each President’s term, a portrait is painted and hung in this area. The portraits are arranged in chronological order with the most recent one on the presiding officer’s right. Each time the newest one is added, the oldest one is taken down and moved to the Historic Capitol, keeping 100 years of past Presidents on display in the “new” chamber. The chamber automation system, designed to display amendments and information on bills, allows Senators the flexibility of accessing legislative information from their Tallahassee offices and in the Senate chamber on their laptop computers.

Just over the main entrance is the press gallery, where members of Florida’s press corps record history. The remainder of the gallery is open to the public at all sessions, except that a portion of the gallery is usually reserved for the Senators’ families and other sections are often reserved for visiting students.

Television cameras from the Florida Channel are positioned at the front and rear of the gallery to provide live, televised coverage of all Senate sessions. Each weekday evening during the session, the Sunshine Network, The Florida Channel, and Florida’s public television affiliates broadcast “Capitol Update,” a live half-hour news program explaining and analyzing each day’s most significant legislative developments. The broadcasts are funded by the Legislature, but all editorial content is determined by the group of professional journalists who produce the programs. Florida’s legislative telecasts were used as a model for a similar system installed in 1979 in the U.S. House of Representatives.
President Jennings and Senator Clary discussing legislative matters.

Committee staff examining issues concerning regulated industries.

Staff of the Committee on Agriculture and Consumer Services working on an interim report.

President Jennings and Senator Casas viewing an amendment on the Chamber Automation System.

Secretary Blanton assisting Senator Meek with accessing the Chamber Automation System.

Senator Bronson conferring with his legislative aide.

Verifiers in the Secretary's office working on an engrossed bill.

Top national and statewide drug control officials attending the 1999 Senate-led Statewide Drug Control Summit.

The President's assistant organizing the day's agenda.
A simplified chart showing the route a bill takes through the Florida Legislature. Bills may originate in either house. This bill originated in the Senate.
THREE BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT

Florida's Constitution, in the traditional American pattern of "separation of powers," divides state government into three separate and independent branches. This division of powers creates a system of "checks and balances" ensuring that all three branches properly perform their constitutional duties in the administration of state affairs. Tallahassee is the seat of Florida's state government.

Executive Branch

The Florida Constitution vests the supreme power of the state in the Governor and provides that he or she shall ensure that the laws are faithfully executed. It provides for a Lieutenant Governor to be elected in a joint candidacy with the Governor. The Lieutenant Governor works with the Governor and performs such duties pertaining to the office of the Governor as assigned by the Governor, or as otherwise provided by law. The Constitution also provides that the Governor shall be assisted by an elected Cabinet consisting of a Secretary of State, Attorney General, Comptroller, Treasurer, Commissioner of Agriculture, and a Commissioner of Education.

The Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and members of the Cabinet are elected to four-year terms. They take office on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in January following their election in November of non-presidential election years. The Governor may succeed himself or herself in office unless he or she has served more than 6 years in 2 consecutive terms. Cabinet members are not limited in the number of terms they may seek.

Judicial Branch

The Judicial Branch interprets the law and applies the Constitution. Florida's court system consists of a series of circuit and county courts, district courts of appeal, and the state Supreme Court.

County courts preside over criminal trials of misdemeanors and some civil cases. They also have the power to issue warrants of arrest. There is one county court located in each of Florida's 67 counties. The number of judges in each county court varies with the population and caseload of the county. County judges are elected to four-year terms.

Circuit courts are located in each of Florida's twenty judicial circuits. Some circuits contain only one county, but most are multi-county. The circuit courts are at the top of the trial system, and they also hear limited appeals from county courts. Circuit judges are elected by the voters of the circuits to serve six-year terms.

The District Courts of Appeal are intermediate appellate courts that receive most of the appeals from trial courts. There are five judicial districts in Florida, with courts located in Tallahassee, Lakeland, Daytona Beach, West Palm Beach, and Miami. Appointed by the Governor to serve in each district court, these judges must be reconfirmed by the voters every six years.

The Supreme Court is at the top of Florida's court system and is the final state court of appeal. The Supreme Court determines the constitutionality of statutes, has the authority to issue advisory opinions to the Governor, and has administrative responsibilities over all lower courts. There are seven Supreme Court justices, each appointed by the Governor and retained by a popular vote every six years.
The Legislative Branch

The Legislative Branch has exclusive law-making power and determines the general policies by which the problems of society are to be met. It may delegate limited rulemaking power to some executive agencies.

**Composition and organization**

The Constitution of the State of Florida requires that members of the Legislature be elected at the general election in November of even-numbered years. Florida’s Legislature is composed of two houses, the Senate and the House of Representatives. Each house is the sole judge of the qualifications and elections of its members and has the power to choose its own officers and establish its own rules of procedure. All legislative sessions are open to the public, except executive sessions of the Senate when appointments or suspensions of public officials are considered. Either house of the Legislature may initiate legislation on any subject.

The State Constitution provides that the Legislature shall be apportioned into 30 to 40 senatorial districts, and 80 to 120 representative districts. The 1972 Legislature established 40 Senate districts and 120 House districts. Senators serve four-year terms and representatives serve two-year terms. While a legislator may be elected for more than one term, he may not seek reelection if at the end of his current term he has served for eight consecutive years.

**Legislative sessions**

Two weeks after each general election, the Legislature convenes for the exclusive purpose of organization and election of officers. No legislation is considered during the organization session.

Regular sessions of the Legislature begin on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in March in odd-numbered years and continue for 60 consecutive days. The Legislature may change its convening date in even-numbered years, but generally the date remains the same as in odd-numbered years, except once every 10 years when the Constitution requires the Legislature to reapportion the state’s voting districts. Special sessions may be called by the Governor, or may be convened by joint proclamation of the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. Special sessions may not exceed 20 days, unless extended by a three-fifths vote of each house. Each “call” for a special session outlines the business to be considered. The Senate may resolve itself into executive session to consider appointment to or removal from public office, even when the House of Representatives is not meeting.

**Rules**

During the organization session, each house adopts its rules of procedure to be followed for the next two years. The rules provide for orderly proceedings and determine how each house will conduct its business.

**Committees**

A committee functions to study, research, and plan solutions to “people problems.” The Senate and House rules provide for certain standing committees, special or select committees, and subcommittees. The presiding officers name the chairmen and members of all committees.

Bills are assigned to one or more committees for study. Committees may hold public hearings where committee members hear sponsoring legislators and others who are interested in the bill. The committee may vote to recommend the bill favorably; favorably, with a committee substitute; unfavorably; or favorably with amendments to be considered when the bill is debated on the floor by the respective house.

When the Senate and House are unable to agree on the final content of a bill, it goes to a conference committee. This committee, composed of members of both houses, tries to resolve the differences between the Senate and House versions of a bill.

Other committees commonly used are joint committees, which are composed of members from each house, and select committees, which are usually appointed to make recommendations on special or unique problems.

**Lobbying**

A lobbyist is anyone who tries to influence legislation. Unless exempt, all persons who seek to influence legislation must register with the Division of Legislative Information before they begin lobbying. Every lobbyist must also state any direct business association or partnership with any current member of the Legislature and make periodic reports on moneys spent lobbying.

**Journals and Calendars**

The Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House each publish daily journals and calendars during the legislative session. Each journal details the proceedings on the floor, committee reports, and related actions of the previous day. The calendar is a schedule of business to be taken up that day and the next two days, including committee meetings and bills to be considered.

**Forms of legislation**

Legislative proposals may be in the form of bills, resolutions, concurrent resolutions, joint resolutions, or memorials. A bill is a proposed law, and it may be either a general bill or a local bill. A general bill would have a general impact within the state; a local bill would affect only a particular county, city, or town named in the bill. A majority vote is required to pass a bill. Companion bills are often used as a timesaving device. These are identical bills introduced in both houses, which allow simultaneous committee study in each body. The appropriations bill is one of the most important bills considered by the Legislature. This bill is the state’s budget and it specifies the amount of money available to various state agencies during the next 2 years. The appropriations bill follows the same course as other general bills, but because it is difficult to get both houses to agree on all items in the bill, a conference committee is usually appointed to resolve the differences.
GLOSSARY OF LEGISLATIVE TERMS

Act. A bill passed by the legislature.

Adjoin. To end a legislative session, a day’s session, or a committee meeting.

Adopt. To vote to accept.

Amendment. A proposal to change the original terms of a bill.

Bicameral. Consisting of two houses. All states have bicameral legislatures except Nebraska, which has only one house (unicameral).

Bill. A draft of a proposed law.

Budget. A bill that states how much money will be spent on government programs and services.

Calendar. List of bills awaiting action.

Chair. A legislator who presides over a committee meeting or a session.

Chamber. Also known as the “floor,” it is the room in which the Senate or the House of Representatives meets.

Clerk of the House of Representatives. The person designated by the House of Representatives to assist the members of the House in the detailed processes of enacting laws and to record that history.

Committee. A group of Senators or Representatives appointed by the presiding officer to consider an issue or question and to submit a report on its recommendations for action by the body that created it.

Constitution. The written instrument embodying the fundamental principles of the state that establishes powers and duties of the government and guarantees certain rights to the people.

Constituent. A citizen who resides in the district of a legislator.

Convene. To meet in formal legislative session.

Debate. To argue the merits of a bill, for and against.

Decorum. Appropriate behavior and conduct.

District. That area of the state represented by a legislator, determined on the basis of population.

Gallery. The seating area for visitors located above the chambers (on the fifth floor of the Capitol).

Governor. The highest ranking state official.

Journal. The official record of the proceedings of the Senate or the House of Representatives.

Law. The final product of the legislative process. It is the end result of the introduction of a bill, its passage by both houses, its approval by the Governor (or the overriding of his veto by the legislature), and its recording by the Secretary of State.

Majority party. The political party having greater than a majority of seats in a house.

Minority party. The political party having fewer than a majority of seats in a house.

Motion. A proposal, usually oral, made to the presiding officer and relating to procedure or action before a legislative body.

Oath of Office. An oath or vow taken by a public official prior to assuming his or her official duties.

Order of Business. The defined routine of procedure in the legislative body each day. It can be deviated from only by waiver of the rules.

Passage. Favorable action on a measure before the legislature.

President of the Senate. The presiding officer of the Senate. He or she is designated as President by the majority party in caucus and then elected by the full membership of the Senate for a term of two years.

President Pro Tempore of the Senate. Literally, president “for a time.” He or she performs specified duties as prescribed by the Senate Rules or the Senate President.

Quorum. The number of members required for the conduct of business.

Repeal. The removal of a provision from the law.

Roll call. To determine a vote on a question by the taking of names in favor and opposed.

Rules. Provisions for the procedure, organization, officers, and committees of each house of the legislature.

Secretary of the Senate. The person designated by the Senate to assist Senate officers, members, and staff in the detailed processes of enacting laws and to record that history.

Sergeant at Arms. The person in each house who is responsible for the security of the legislative house and the maintenance of that house’s property.

Session. The period during which the legislature meets.

Sine die. Refers to final adjournment of a legislative session. The term is sometimes used to denote the ceremony involving the dropping of white handkerchiefs which symbolizes the end of a regular session.

Speaker of the House of Representatives. The presiding officer of the House of Representatives. He or she is designated as Speaker by the majority party in caucus and then elected by the full membership of the House for a term of two years.

Veto. Return by the Governor to the legislature of a bill without his or her signature; the veto message from the Governor usually explains why he or she thinks the bill should not become a law.

Vote. A decision on a question, either affirmative or negative.
FLORIDA IN THE 106TH CONGRESS

Washington, D.C., is the seat of the nation’s government. The names and addresses of Florida’s representatives in the legislative branch may be found on a separate page in many Florida telephone directories.

Further information on each Member of Congress may be found at the official websites for The United States Senate (www.senate.gov) and The United States House of Representatives (www.house.gov).

United States Senate

The Senate is composed of 100 Members, two from each state, elected by the people pursuant to the 17th Amendment to the Constitution. A Senator must be at least 30 years of age, have been a citizen of the United States for nine years, and, when elected, be a resident of the state from which the Senator is chosen. The term of office is six years, and one-third of the total membership of the Senate is elected every second year. The terms of both Senators from a particular state are so arranged that they do not terminate at the same time. Of the two Senators from a state serving at the same time, the one who was elected first (or if both were elected at the same time, the one elected for a full term) is referred to as the “senior” Senator from that state. The other is referred to as the “junior” Senator. Senators Bob Graham and Connie Mack represent Florida in Washington.

United States House of Representatives

The House of Representatives is composed of 435 Members elected every two years from among the 50 states, apportioned according to their total populations. The Constitution of the United States limits the number of Representatives to not more than one for every 30,000 people.

A Representative must be at least 25 years of age, have been a citizen of the United States for seven years, and, when elected, be a resident of the state in which the Representative is chosen.

In addition to the Representatives from each of the states, there is a Resident Commissioner from the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and Delegates from the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, and the Virgin Islands. The Resident Commissioner and the Delegates have most of the prerogatives of Representatives, with the important exception of the right to vote on matters before the House.

Under the provisions of Section 2 of the 20th Amendment to the Constitution, Congress must assemble at least once every year, at noon on the third day of January, unless by law it appoints a different day. A Congress lasts for two years, commencing in January of the year following the biennial election of Members, and is divided into two sessions.

Unlike some other parliamentary bodies, both the Senate and the House of Representatives have equal legislative functions and powers (except that only the House of Representatives may initiate revenue bills), and the designation of one as the “upper” House and the other as the “lower” House is not appropriate.

The Constitution authorizes each House to determine the rules of its proceedings. Pursuant to that authority, the House of Representatives adopts its rules on the opening day of each Congress. The Senate, which considers itself a continuing body, operates under standing rules that it amends from time to time.

The chief function of Congress is the making of laws. In addition, the House has the function of advising and consenting to treaties and to certain nominations by the President. In the matter of impeachments, the House of Representatives presents the charges—a function similar to that of a grand jury—and the Senate sits as a court to try the impeachment. Both Houses meet in joint session on the sixth day of January, unless by law they appoint a different day, following a presidential election, to count the electoral votes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Home Town</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Joe Scarborough</td>
<td>Pensacola</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Allen Boyd</td>
<td>Monticello</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Corrine Brown</td>
<td>Jacksonville</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Tillie K. Fowler</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Karen L. Thurman</td>
<td>Dunnellon</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Cliff Stearns</td>
<td>Ocala</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>John L. Mica</td>
<td>Winter Park</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Bill McCollum</td>
<td>Longwood</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Michael Bilirakis</td>
<td>Palm Harbor</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>C. W. Bill Young</td>
<td>Indian Rocks Beach</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Jim Davis</td>
<td>Tampa</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Charles T. Canady</td>
<td>Lakeland</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Dan Miller</td>
<td>Bradenton</td>
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<td>Porter J. Goss</td>
<td>Sanibel</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Dave Weldon</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Mark Foley</td>
<td>West Palm Beach</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>Carrie P. Meek</td>
<td>Miami</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>Ileana Ros-Lehtinen</td>
<td>Miami</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>Robert Wexler</td>
<td>Boca Raton</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>Peter Deutsch</td>
<td>Ft. Lauderdale</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>Lincoln Diaz-Balart</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>E. Clay Shaw, Jr</td>
<td>Ft. Lauderdale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Alcee L. Hastings</td>
<td>Miramar</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
We’re on the Web . . .

**Online Sunshine**

The Official Guide to the State of Florida Legislature

(www.leg.state.fl.us)

A variety of legislative data can be accessed on this Internet site. Senate information includes:

- **BILLS**: Find complete listing of current session bills including bill text, bill history, amendments, bill analysis, and votes on a specific bill. Bills are also available starting with the 1995 session.

- **CALENDARS**: Get up-to-the-minute scheduling on interim and daily activities of the Senate including committee meetings, day’s order of business, special order and other calendars, and additional legislative business.

- **JOURNALS – DAILY AND BOUND VOLUME**: Obtain the daily record of legislative proceedings during session. The official corrected bound volume journals are available starting with the 1997 session.

- **DIRECTORY**: Access information about each Senator and various legislative offices such as committees, staff directors, addresses, and telephone numbers.

- **SENATE HANDBOOK**: Read a message from the Senate President, find information on each Senator, an explanation of how a bill becomes a law, and other legislative data.

- **SENATOR INFORMATION**: Locate specific information on all Senators, including photos, highlights, personal messages, districts, mailing addresses, committee appointments, bills sponsored, and email addresses.

- **CITIZEN'S GUIDE**: Find useful tips on locating your legislators, getting your voice heard, general information about the House and Senate, how committees work, and how a bill becomes a law.

- **KIDS' PAGE**: Introduce younger Floridians to the Florida Legislature.

If you have any questions regarding Senate information on this site, please email the Secretary of the Senate at sensecretary.notify@leg.state.fl.us or call the Secretary at (850) 487-5270.

We’re on the Web for kids, too!

This Internet site introduces younger Floridians to the Florida Legislature. Designed to be educational, it appeals to children of all ages. This site is easily accessed (interface is not browser specific) and low-resolution graphics allow for ease of use. A viable website, Online Sunshine for Kids is always under construction. Keep checking for new pages.

President Toni Jennings previews the Legislature’s new website for kids in February 1999.
How many of these Florida license plates have you seen?

Regular License Plate

Environmental License Plates

- Agriculture
- Conserve Wildlife
- Everglades River of Grass
- Indian River Lagoon
- Largemouth Bass
- Manatee
- Panther
- Sea Turtles
- Wild Dolphins

Miscellaneous License Plates

- Boy Scouts of America
- Challenger
- Florida Arts
- Florida Educational
- Florida Salutes Veterans
- Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches
- Florida Special Olympics
- Girl Scouts
- Invest In Children
- Keep Kids Drug Free
- Police Athletic League
- U.S. Olympic

Professional Sports Teams License Plates

- Florida Marlins (Baseball)
- Florida Panthers (Hockey)
- Jacksonville Jaguars (Football)
- Miami Dolphins (Football)
- Miami Heat (Basketball)
- Orlando Magic (Basketball)
- Orlando Predators (Arena Football)
- Tampa Bay Buccaneers (Football)
- Tampa Bay Devil Rays (Baseball)
- Tampa Bay Lightning (Hockey)
- Tampa Bay Storm (Arena Football)

Collegiate License Plates

- Barry University
- Bethune-Cookman College
- Florida A&M University
- Florida Atlantic University
- Florida Gulf Coast University
- Florida International University
- Florida State University
- University of Central Florida
- University of Florida
- University of Miami
- University of North Florida
- University of South Florida
- University of West Florida
OFFICIAL STATE DESIGNATIONS

Air fair: Central Florida Air Fair
Animal: Florida panther
Beverage: Citrus sinensis (orange juice)
Bird: mockingbird
Butterfly: Zebra Longwing
Freshwater fish: Florida largemouth bass
Gem: moonstone
Marine mammal: manatee
Pageant: "Indian River"
Play: "Cross and Sword"
Reptile: American alligator
Rodeo: Silver Spurs Rodeo
Saltwater fish: Atlantic sailfish
Saltwater mammal: porpoise
Shell: horse conch
Stone: agatized coral
Tree: sabal palmetto palm
Wildflower: Coreopsis

About This Handbook

This Florida Senate Handbook is published by the Secretary of the Senate. It is distributed free of charge to Capitol visitors and other interested Floridians to enhance their knowledge and understanding of Florida's government, and particularly, the Florida Senate.

Included in the Handbook are photographs provided by James Gaines and Eric Tourney (Department of Management Services), Donn Dughi (House Clerk's Office), and Paulette Grimaldi and Jim Griner (Senate Secretary's Office). Grateful appreciation is extended to Bob Webb, from the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, for providing the license plate images.

While many individuals of the Secretary's staff contributed in myriad ways to publishing this Handbook, special acknowledgment is made to Courtney Christian and Mike Thurmond for the material from Online Sunshine for Kids, to Jhonne Gillispie for compiling and editing the content, and to Shirley Joyce for the computer entry of graphics and text. A special thanks is also extended to Pam Stevens, Jim Higdon, and Claudia Vaccaro with the Office of Legislative Information Technology Services.

Visit the Florida Legislature's home page, Online Sunshine:
http://www.leg.state.fl.us