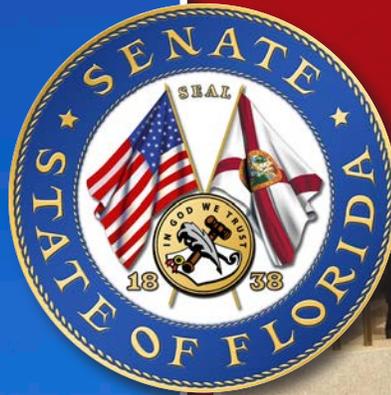


Florida Senate Page Program 2016-2018



Joe Negron
Senate President

Florida Senate Page Program 2016 - 2018

Table of Contents

Your Florida Legislature	1-2	Fun Senate Facts.....	17-18
Legislative Leaders	3	Florida Geographic Facts.....	18
Non-Member Officers	4	The State Seal.....	19
Sergeants at Arms.....	4	Senate Emblems.....	20
Getting Involved	5	Matching.....	21
Contacting Your Legislators	5	Scramble	22
Our State Capitol.....	6	Crossword Puzzle	23
The Right to Vote.....	7	About Our Government	24
Glossary of Legislative Terms	8-11	Solutions to Puzzles	25-26
Symbols of Florida.....	12-16	Contact Information	27



Your Florida Legislature

Have you ever wondered who decides how long a school day can be, or when a student can drive without an adult in the car, or how many math credits a student needs before graduation? The responsibility to answer all these questions rests with the Legislature of the State of Florida.

The Florida Legislature, which is divided into two houses, the Senate and the House of Representatives, makes laws that govern our state. Members of the legislature, senators and representatives, are chosen by the citizens of Florida to represent them and the area where they live. These areas are called districts. Senators and representatives are responsible for making sure the people who elected them have a voice in all matters concerning the state.

Senators are elected to serve four-year terms. Representatives are elected to serve two-year terms. Currently, 40 senators and 120 members of the House of Representatives serve the people of Florida. Members of the Senate and House must be at least 21 years old and a resident of the district where they have been elected and must have lived in Florida for two years before running for election.

Each year, the Senate and House meet in legislative session to resolve issues important to the people of our state. Issues like driving regulations, recycling, and education are debated. In odd-numbered years, the session begins on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in March and lasts for 60 days. While this convening date is fixed in the state constitution for sessions in odd-numbered years, the constitution allows for statutory flexibility in even-numbered years. Given this flexibility, the convening date for session in even-numbered years is usually determined two years prior to that particular session through legislation. The session typically ends in sine die adjournment, with the ceremonial dropping of white handkerchiefs by each chamber's Sergeant at Arms.



Your Florida Legislature

During session, legislators work on making new laws or changing existing laws. Each member also serves on several committees where the effects of laws on the people in our state are studied. Any member of either house can make suggestions for new laws. These suggestions, called bills, are studied in committees. The committee can change the bill, accept the bill, or reject the bill. If the bill is changed or accepted by the committee, it can then be considered by the full Senate or the full House of Representatives, which in turn votes to accept the bill as it is, change the bill, or reject the bill. Passage of a bill occurs when the bill is accepted, in most instances, by a majority of the members of one house. The passed bill goes to the other house of the Florida Legislature for review; that means a bill passed in the Senate goes to the House of Representatives for review. The bill goes through the same process in the second house as it did in the first house. The only bill that is required to be passed every year is the state's budget.

When a bill is passed by both houses, it is sent to the Governor for action. The Governor may sign the bill, allow it to become a law without his signature, or veto it. All the laws are compiled to form the Florida Statutes.



The Senate has various software applications designed specifically for Senate legislative processes. The core application provides for a variety of functions, including drafting legislation and amendments, bill filing, messaging the House of Representatives, and enrolling bills for the Governor's signature. Overall, these applications

ensure that every task involved with legislation, from taking an idea and turning it into a bill to enrolling the bill once it becomes law, can be processed electronically.

Senators invite selected students (ages 15-18) to come to Tallahassee for one week to work as pages during the regular session. Pages distribute materials and deliver messages to senators and staff. They also participate in a mock session and have scheduled visits to offices in other branches of government. House members also invite pages (ages 12-14) and messengers (ages 15-18) to work during the regular session.

Florida's government is divided into three branches: the executive, the legislative, and the judicial. The executive branch implements the laws. The judges and justices of the judicial branch examine the facts, interpret the law, and make rulings in cases brought to court.

This guide to the legislative process was created to help students become familiar with the Florida Legislature. Your participation in the legislative process is essential to the preservation of democracy. You can make a difference!

Legislative Leaders



Joe Negron
Senate President



Richard Corcoran
House Speaker

The President of the Senate presides over the Senate, and the Speaker of the House presides over the House of Representatives. The President and Speaker have many other responsibilities in addition to presiding over the chamber during session, including:

- appointing members to committees.
- appointing chairs of committees.
- choosing which committees will hear bills.
- ruling on procedural matters during sessions.



Anitere Flores
**Senate President
Pro Tempore**



Jeanette Nuñez
**House Speaker
Pro Tempore**

The roles of the President Pro Tempore and Speaker Pro Tempore are defined by the President or Speaker and the Senate or House Rules. Although these officers may preside in the chamber during the absence of the President or Speaker, a different senator or representative could also be chosen by the President or Speaker to preside.

Non-Member Officers



Debbie Brown
Secretary of the Senate



Portia Palmer
Clerk of the House

The Senate elects a Secretary of the Senate and the Speaker of the House appoints a Clerk of the House. These non-member constitutional officers have various responsibilities, including:

- recording events of the session.
- keeping the records of their respective houses.
- authenticating each bill passed by the legislature.
- publishing the journals and calendars of their respective houses.

When the legislature is in session, each day's official actions are recorded and published in a journal.

Sergeants at Arms



Tim Hay
**Senate Sergeant
at Arms**



Russell Hosford
**House Sergeant
at Arms**

Each chamber has a Sergeant at Arms who is in charge of keeping order in the chamber, gallery, and committee rooms. Each sergeant also maintains that house's property.

Getting Involved



Even though you cannot vote until you are 18 years old, you play an important role in the shaping of Florida laws. You have a responsibility to learn all you can about the legislative process so you can become an informed voter. Become knowledgeable about the issues affecting the lives of the people of our state and how those issues affect us even on the national level. Start by involving

yourself in statewide mock government programs such as YMCA Youth in Government, Girls or Boys State, and other such organizations. Involvement in student government programs at your school is also a good way to learn how the legislative process works.

Contacting Your Legislators

Legislators enjoy hearing from their younger constituents. You can determine who your legislators are by visiting the Senate's website at www.flsenate.gov. You may also e-mail your legislators using the e-mail address provided on each legislator's web page.

If you wish to meet with your senator or representative during the legislative session, you should call ahead to make an appointment. Groups wishing to make special arrangements to visit on a day when the legislature is in session should contact their legislators as far in advance of their proposed visit as possible. Your legislator can assist you in making sure your visit to the Florida Legislature is properly scheduled.



We also encourage you to visit the State Capitol in Tallahassee. The Welcome Center provides educational and fun tours for your family or class all year round. You will get to see such sights as the Great Seal of the State of Florida in the Capitol Rotunda and a panoramic view of Tallahassee and its surrounding area from the twenty-second floor. You may schedule a tour of the Capitol by calling (850) 488-6167.

Our State Capitol



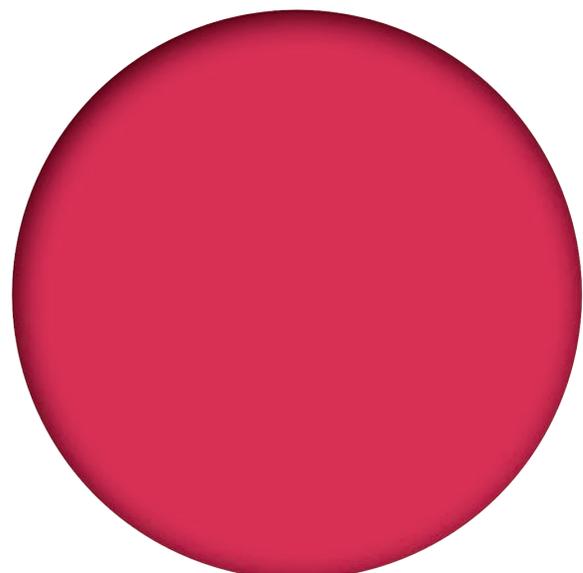
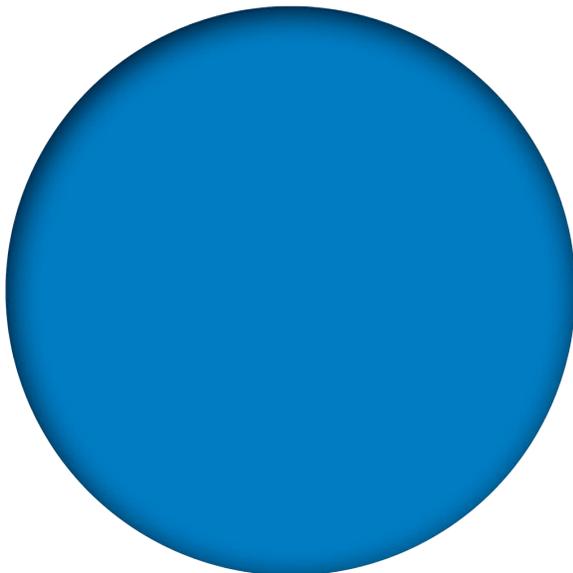
The “new” State Capitol officially opened in March 1978, and has a tower that is 22 stories tall. The Senate is housed in the south wing and the House of Representatives is housed in the north wing. The Historic Capitol Museum, or “old” Capitol building, has been preserved to the 1902 version and houses many exhibits relating to state and legislative history. It also hosts numerous events throughout the year. For more information regarding the museum and its activities, please visit www.flhistoriccaptol.gov.

The Right to Vote



The right to vote is the most important right granted to citizens. Each Florida citizen votes to elect one state senator and one state representative for his or her district. Voters must be at least 18 years old, registered, and a resident of our state.

Below you'll find examples of campaign buttons used during elections. Have fun making your own campaign buttons. Hold a mock election in your classroom to experience the voting process.



Glossary of Legislative Terms



Act A bill passed by the legislature.

Adjourn To end a committee meeting or a day's legislative sitting.

Adjourn Sine Die To finally end a legislative session.

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 proposed law.

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

Calendar A list of bills awaiting legislative action.

Caucus A meeting of members of a political party where party leaders may be elected and plans are made concerning issues and agendas.

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 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives to assist the members of the House in the detailed processes of enacting laws and recording that history.

Committee A group of senators or representatives appointed by the presiding officer to consider important issues and to report recommendations for action by the body that originated it.



Glossary of Legislative Terms



- Constituent** A citizen who resides in the district of a legislator.
- Constitution** The written instrument embodying the fundamental principles of the state which establishes power and duties of the government and guarantees certain rights to the people.
- Convene** To meet in formal legislative session.
- Debate** To argue the merits of an issue, 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 chief executive of the State.
- Journal** The official record of the proceedings of the Senate or the House of Representatives.
- Law** The final product of the legislative process. An act becomes a law when the Governor either approves it or fails to sign or veto it within the period specified in the State Constitution. An act can also become a law when a subsequent legislature overrides a veto by the Governor.
- Legislator** A member of the legislature.
- Lobbyist** A person who, voluntarily or for a fee, represents himself or herself or an individual, organization, or entity before the legislature. The term derives from the fact that lobbyists usually stay in the areas (lobbies) next to the chambers of the Senate and the House of Representatives, either to meet legislators as they walk to and from the chambers or await legislative action which might affect their interest.

Glossary of Legislative Terms



- Majority party** The political party having the most seats in a house.
- Minority party** The political party having the fewest 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.

Override To pass a bill after the Governor has vetoed it. This requires a two-thirds vote of each house.

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 to conduct business.

Readings The constitution requires that a bill be read three separate times on three separate days before it can be passed.

Repeal To delete a previously passed law.

Roll call An electronic vote or the calling of the roll of names to determine the outcome of a vote on a legislative matter.



Glossary of Legislative Terms



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

Secretary of the Senate The person elected by the Senate to assist Senate officers, members, and staff in the detailed processes of enacting laws and recording 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 A Latin phrase meaning "without day." The term is often 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 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.

Sponsor or Introducer A legislator who introduces a bill.

Statutes The compilation of individual laws which are the official laws of Florida.

Term of office The period of time for which a person is elected to serve in an office.

Veto The 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.

Symbols of Florida



STATE SEAL. The State Seal was created by joint resolution of the 1865 Legislature. The resolution mandated: "A Seal of the size of the American silver dollar, having in the center thereof a view of the sun's rays over a high land in the distance, a cocoa tree, a steamboat on water, and an Indian female scattering flowers in the foreground, encircled by the words, 'Great Seal of the State of Florida: In God We Trust.'" In 1985, a revised Great Seal (pictured here) of the State of Florida was presented to the Governor and Cabinet.



STATE FLAG. The 1899 Legislature adopted a joint resolution that led to the design of our current flag: "The State Flag shall conform with standard commercial sizes and be of the following proportions and descriptions: The seal of the state, in diameter one-half of the hoist, shall occupy the center of a white background. Red bars, in width one-fifth the hoist, shall extend from each corner towards the center, to the outer rim of the seal."

STATE BEVERAGE. Orange juice was named the state beverage of Florida by the 1967 Legislature. The production of orange juice became a multi-million dollar industry in Florida during the Second World War.



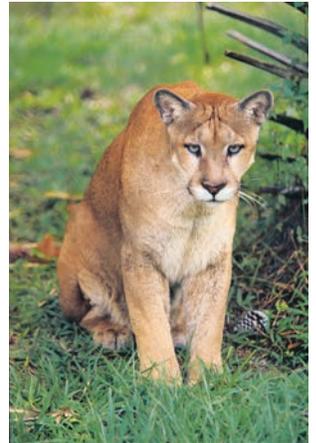
STATE FLOWER. The orange blossom became the state flower through a concurrent resolution passed by the 1909 Legislature. This fragrant flower is found in central and south Florida.

Symbols of Florida



STATE BIRD. Designated by the 1927 Legislature, the mockingbird is Florida's state bird. It lives in Florida year-round and is known for its singing voice and mimicry skills. Its Latin name means "mimic of many tongues."

STATE ANIMAL. Students throughout the state of Florida voted the panther as our state animal in 1982. Panthers are pale brown and black in color and play a large part in our wildlife ecosystem. They have been on the federal endangered species list since 1967 and on the state endangered list since 1973. Panthers have been protected from legal hunting in Florida since 1958. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is responsible for the management and preservation of the panther.



STATE BUTTERFLY. The zebra longwing became the state butterfly in 1996. It is common in south Florida, especially in the Everglades National Park. However, the longwing is not common in north Florida. This black and yellow butterfly is known for dining on the sweet nectar of passion flowers.

STATE WILDFLOWER. The 1991 Legislature named the *coreopsis* Florida's official wildflower. These colorful flowers are used extensively in Florida's roadside plantings and highway beautification programs. The *coreopsis* is found in a variety of colors, ranging from golden yellow to pink. The flower is a food source for seed-eating birds.



Symbols of Florida



STATE REPTILE. In 1987, the American alligator (*alligator mississippiensis*) was designated the official state reptile. It has long been an unofficial symbol of the state as the alligator originally symbolized Florida's untamed lands. Alligators are found throughout Florida and in parts of other southeastern states. They like lakes, swamps, canals, and other wetland habitats. They eat fish, turtles, and many other animals. Alligators should not be fed because this causes them to lose their fear of humans. Feeding alligators is also against Florida law. Alligators are now under controlled management by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. This commission works to preserve the species and the wetland habitats that they and other Florida wildlife inhabit.

STATE SALTWATER MAMMAL. The 1975 Legislature designated the “porpoise, also commonly known as the dolphin,” our saltwater mammal. The porpoise belongs to the mammalian order *cetacea*. It is gray or black with a slightly lighter underside. A system of echos—much like sonar—directs them in their travels. Porpoises have no sense of smell, but they make up for this loss with sharp eyesight and extraordinary hearing. Historically, sailors took the presence of porpoises near their boats as a sign of good luck.



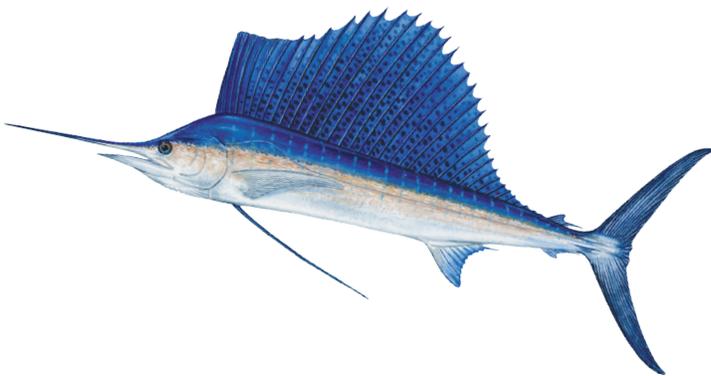
STATE SHELL. In 1969, the Legislature named the horse conch, also known as the giant band shell, the state shell. It is native to the marine waters around Florida and grows up to a length of 24 inches. Young shells have orange color; adult shells have orange openings. The shell is the external skeleton of a soft-bodied animal that inhabits it.

Symbols of Florida

STATE MARINE MAMMAL. The manatee became the state marine mammal in 1975. The manatee, which is also known as the sea cow, big beaver, mermaid, or “furnished with hands,” is a gray, water-plant-eating marine mammal that can often weigh a ton or more. The manatee is on the endangered species list, but chances for its survival are good if we, as citizens of this state, take steps to ensure its safety.



STATE SALTWATER FISH. The 1975 Legislature named the sailfish as Florida’s state saltwater fish. A sailfish is dark blue on top and brown-blue on the sides with a silvery white underbelly and many black spots. Its upper jaw is elongated in the form of a spear and the first dorsal fin is in the shape of a large sail. The sailfish is a rapidly growing species, reaching up to 7 feet long and 116 pounds. Sailfish are found offshore in south Florida near the gulfstream and off the panhandle. They feed on smaller fishes and squid at the surface or at mid-depths.



STATE FRESHWATER FISH. In 1975, the Legislature named the Florida largemouth bass, the largest member of the sunfish family, as the official state freshwater fish. It usually has light green to brown sides with a dark line down the side. The upper jaw of the largemouth bass extends beyond the rear edge of the eye. It prefers clear, nonflowing water and aquatic vegetation that provides food and cover. Largemouth bass are found in rivers, lakes, reservoirs, ponds, and estuaries, usually at depths of 20 feet or less. The largemouth bass is Florida’s most popular freshwater game fish.



Symbols of Florida



STATE GEM. United States astronauts Neil Armstrong and Edwin “Buzz” Aldrin landed on the moon on July 20, 1969, aboard the Apollo 11 spacecraft. Since this and all other astronaut-controlled spaceflights had been launched from the Kennedy Space Center in Brevard County, the Florida Legislature sought to memorialize this “giant step” for humankind. In 1970, lawmakers adopted the moonstone as the official state gem.

STATE TREE. The 1953 Legislature designated the sabal palm our state tree. The sabal palm grows in any kind of soil and is found throughout the state. There are many uses of the sabal palm, including medicine, food, and landscaping. In 1970, the Legislature mandated that the sabal palm should replace the cocoa palm on the state seal.



STATE PIE. The 2006 Legislature designated key lime pie as the official state pie. The key limes (*Citrus aurantifolia* Swingle) used to make this dessert are named after the Florida Keys where the key limes originated in the United States. The first key lime pie was created in the 1850s in south Florida. Made using key limes and sweetened condensed milk, the recipe became popular in early Florida because it did not require refrigeration.

STATE STONE. In 1979, agatized coral was designated the official state stone. Agatized coral occurs when silica in the ocean water hardens, replacing the limy corals with a form of quartz known as chalcedony. This long process (20-30 million years) results in the formation of a “pseudomorph,” meaning that one mineral has replaced another without having lost its original shape. Agatized coral is found in three main Florida locations: Tampa Bay, the Econfina River, and the Withlacoochee/Suwannee River beds.



Fun Senate Facts

1st African-American Senator since Reconstruction:

Arnett E. Girardeau, District 7, Jacksonville, Democrat, 1982-1992

1st African-American Woman Senator:

Carrie P. Meek, District 36, Miami, Democrat, 1982-1992

1st African-American Woman to Serve as Minority (Democratic) Leader:

Arthenia L. Joyner, District 19, Tampa, Democrat, 2014-2016

Number of African-American Senators during Reconstruction (1868-1887):

18

1st Woman Senator:

Beth Johnson, District 19, Orlando, Democrat, 1962-1967

1st Woman Senate President:

Gwen Margolis, District 37, North Miami Beach, Democrat, 1990-1992

1st Hispanic Senator:

Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, District 34, Dade County, Republican, 1986-1989

Youngest known Senate President:

John L. Doggett (1827) age 29

Park M. Trammell (1905) age 29

Oldest known Senate President:

William A. Shands (1957) age 68

Senator with Highest Number of Years Served:

Scott Dilworth Clarke 1931-1966; Total: 36 years, 34 sessions

Youngest Senator Elected (modern records):

Dennis J. Patrick O'Grady, Republican, elected in 1967, 23 years old

Senators Elected as Governor of Florida since the Constitution was Revised in 1968:

1971-1979 Reubin O'Donovan Askew - Democrat

1979-1987 Daniel Robert Graham - Democrat

1991-1998 Lawton M. Chiles - Democrat

2007-2011 Charlie Crist - Republican

1st Cuban-American Senate President Pro Tempore:

Senator Roberto Casas, District 39, Hialeah, Republican, 1996-1998

Fun Senate Facts

- Senator Toni Jennings, the second woman to serve as Senate President, was the first senator to serve two consecutive terms as President (1996-1998; 1998-2000), and later became the first female Lieutenant Governor of the State of Florida (2003-2006).
- Senator Garrett Richter is the first President Pro Tempore to serve two consecutive terms (2012-2014; 2014-2016).
- During the 1992-1994 legislative term, Senators Ander Crenshaw (Republican) and Pat Thomas (Democrat) split the Senate Presidency. Each senator served one year as President. This was due to an even split in the number of Republicans and Democrats for that term.
- Instances of family members serving together within the Legislature include: Senator Don Gaetz (2006-2016) and his son, Congressman Matt Gaetz (former representative 2010-2016); Senator Larcenia Bullard (2002-2012; former representative 1992-2000), her husband, Representative Edward B. Bullard (2000-2008), and their son, Senator Dwight M. Bullard (2012-2016; former representative 2008-2012); Senator Jack Latvala (1994-2002, 2010-present) and his son, Representative Chris Latvala (2014-present); Senator Aaron Bean (2012-present; former representative 2000-2008) and his brother-in-law, Senator Rob Bradley (2012-present); and Senator Victor M. Torres, Jr. (2016-present; former representative 2012-2016) and his daughter, Representative Amy Mercado (2016-present).
- For five months in 1967, there were two senators named Beth Johnson serving together in the Senate.

Florida Geographic Facts

- Total area - 65,757.7 square miles
- Total land area - 53,624.76 square miles
- Total water area - 12,132.94 square miles
- Length north and south (St. Marys River to Key West) - 447 miles
- Width east and west (Atlantic Ocean to Perdido River) - 361 miles
- Highest natural point - Britton Hill at 345 feet, near Lakewood in Walton County
- Geographic center - 12 miles west of north of Brooksville in Citrus County
- General coastline - 1,350 statute miles
- General tidal shoreline - 2,276 statute miles
- Number of islands or “keys” 10 acres or larger - 4,510
- Longest river - St. Johns, approximately 273 miles
- Largest lake - Lake Okeechobee, 700 square miles
- Largest county (land area) - Collier, 1,998.32 square miles
- Largest county (land and water area) - Miami-Dade, 2,431.18 square miles
- Smallest county (land and water area) - Union, 249.75 square miles
- Number of natural freshwater lakes 10 square miles or more - 20
- Number of first-magnitude springs - 33

Information obtained from: Allen Morris et al., The Florida Handbook (34th ed. 2014), available at <http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/contentViewer.aspx?Category=PublicGuide&File=FloridaHandbook.html>

The State Seal

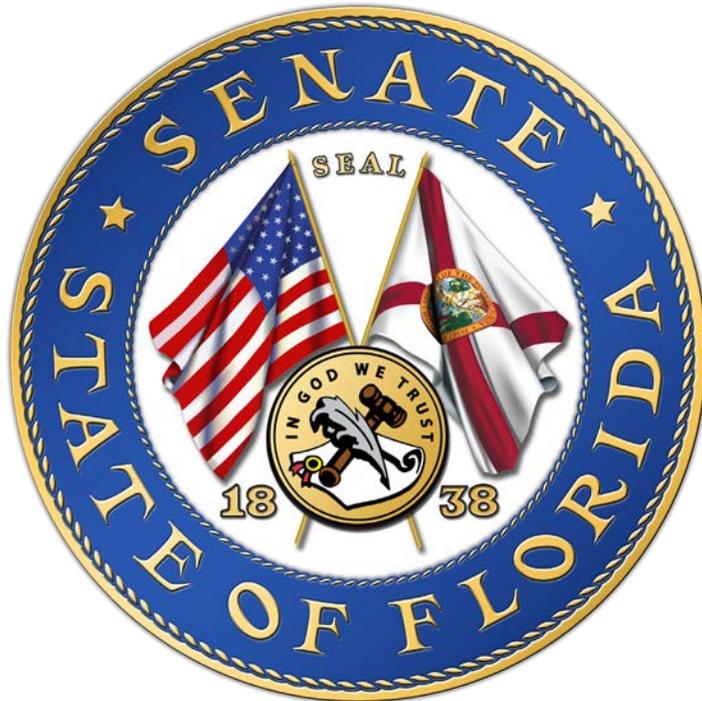


In 1985, a revised Great Seal of the State of Florida was presented to the Governor and Cabinet. The previous version of the state seal had several historical errors, which were corrected in the 1985 seal. The current seal features a Seminole woman rather than a western Plains Indian, as was depicted on earlier seals. The image of a steamboat has been made more accurate, and the seal now includes a sabal palm, our state tree, instead of a cocoa palm.

Through the years, the appearance of the state seal has changed considerably. The steamboat, for instance, has been depicted in a variety of ways. Also, the earliest official state seal pictured a mountainous background, which was later removed because it did not represent Florida's flat terrain. The Indian woman has worn various types of clothing, some of them more historically accurate than others. In one version of the seal, for example, the woman wore a feather headdress of a style worn only by Indian men. Despite the changes in the appearance of the seal, the basic elements of the Great Seal of the State of Florida have remained the same.

Senate Emblems

THE SENATE SEAL. The Senate seal was officially adopted in 1972 and revised in 2015 and 2016. Previously, there were no records in the Senate journals or rules of any official Senate seal. It seems that before 1972, an unofficial seal or the state



seal was used when necessary. The perimeter of the seal contains the words "Senate" and "State of Florida." The center contains the Florida state flag and the United States flag above a disc containing the words, "In God We Trust," arched above a gavel, quill, and scroll—symbols of the Legislature. The quill depicts the writing of laws, the gavel depicts control or authority in the presiding officer, and the scroll depicts the parchment on which laws are permanently written. It is this body of written law upon which rests the very foundation of this nation's "rule of law," as opposed to "rule of men."

THE SENATE COAT OF ARMS. The Senate Coat of Arms was officially adopted in 1972 and revised in 2015 and 2016. However, variations of the coat of arms as we know it today have made appearances before the coat was officially adopted. The current coat of arms contains the Florida state flag and the United States flag above the Great Seal of Florida.



At the base are the words: "The Florida Senate." The seal used in the Senate Coat of Arms is not the official seal of the State of Florida because it does not include the words "Great Seal of the State of Florida: In God We Trust," as outlined in section 15.03, Florida Statutes.

Matching

Match the following legislative terms on the left with the definitions on the right. The answers are on page 25.

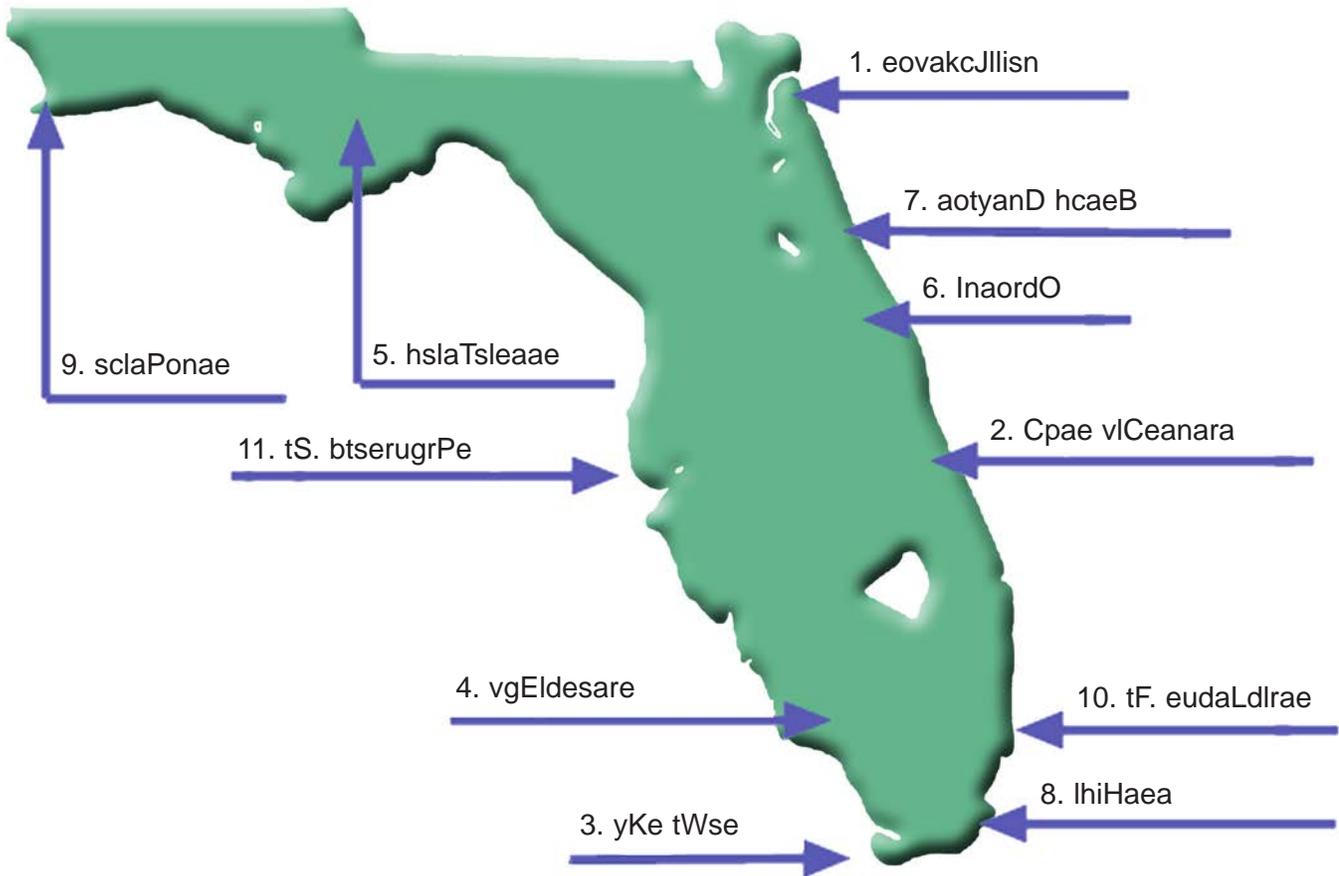
- | | | |
|---------------------|-----|--|
| A. Union | [] | First European settlement in Florida |
| B. Near Brooksville | [] | Florida's Capital |
| C. St. Augustine | [] | Florida acquired as a U.S. territory |
| D. Miami-Dade | [] | Smallest county in Florida (land and water area) |
| E. Tallahassee | [] | Florida admitted as a state |
| F. 1821 | [] | Largest county in Florida (land and water area) |
| G. 1845 | [] | Largest lake in Florida |
| H. Okeechobee | [] | Geographic center of Florida |
| I. St. Johns | [] | Longest river in Florida |



Scramble

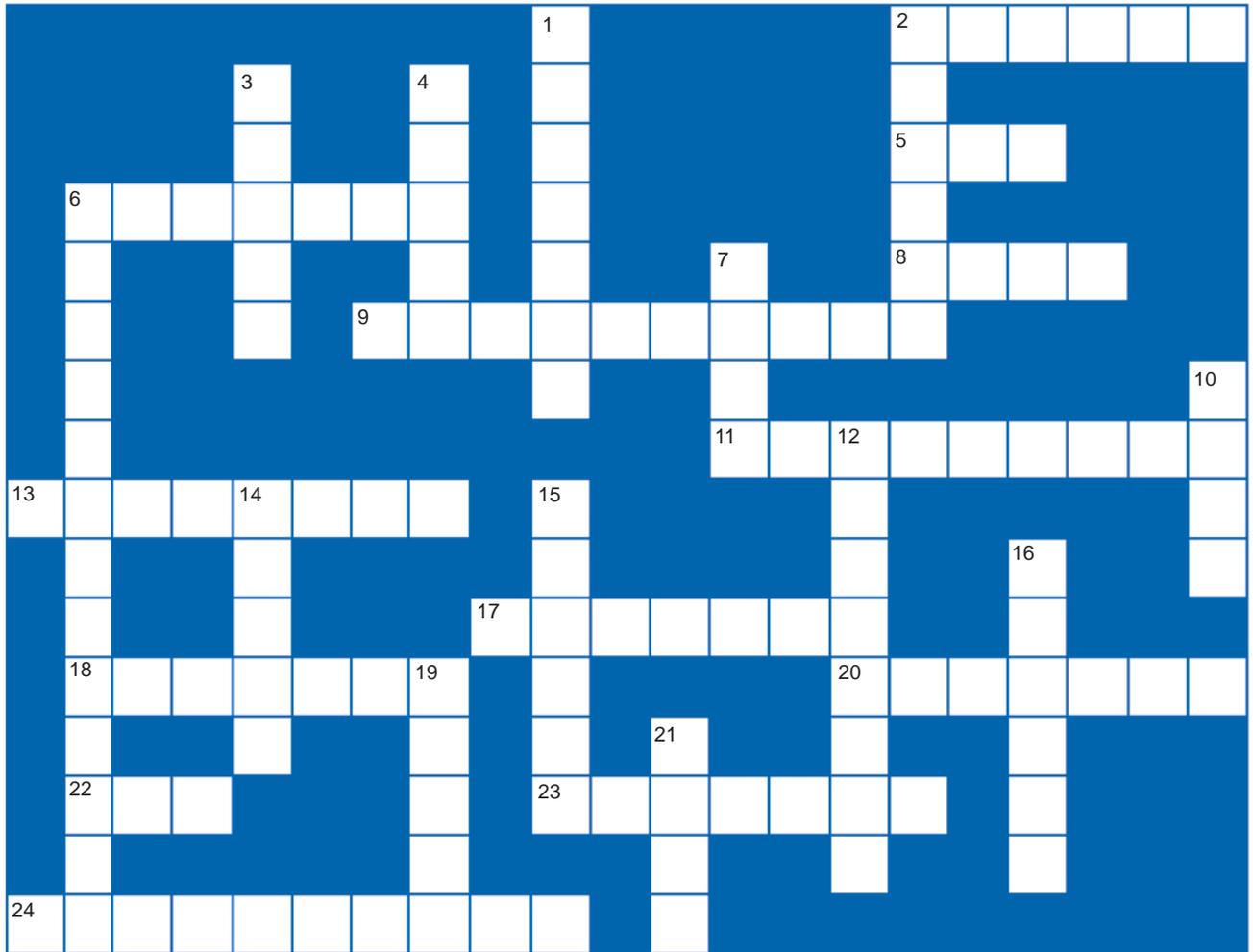
Unscramble these Florida cities using the clues below. Find the solution on page 25.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Home of the Jaguar Football Team.
eovakcJllisn _____ | 7. Named after its founder, Mathias Day,
one of Florida's most pristine beaches.
oatyanD hcaeB _____ |
| 2. Home of NASA.
Cpae vICeanara _____ | 8. "Haiyakpo" and "hili," Muskogee Indian
words describe this city as a "pretty
prairie."
lhiHaea _____ |
| 3. Southern-most point of Florida and
home of author Ernest Hemingway.
yKe tWse _____ | 9. City known as the birthplace of naval
aviation.
sclaPonae _____ |
| 4. National Park.
vgEldesare _____ | 10. City named after Major William
Lauderdale.
tF. eudaLdrae _____ |
| 5. Name of our State Capital which comes
from a Muskogee Indian word meaning
"old town."
hslaTsleaae _____ | 11. City named after a great city in Russia
and known as the "Sunshine City."
tS. btesrugrPe _____ |
| 6. Home of Mickey and Minnie Mouse.
InaordO _____ | |



Crossword Puzzle

Take the crossword puzzle challenge. See how many of these legislative terms you can figure out. Have fun! When you are done, the solution may be found on page 26.



Across

- 2) Discussion on a bill
- 5) What a passed bill becomes after the Governor approves it
- 6) Legislator who serves a 4-year term
- 8) _____ of Office
- 9) Party's symbol is an elephant
- 11) Create legislation
- 13) Area represented by legislators
- 17) To meet for regular session
- 18) End of session
- 20) Consideration of a bill
- 22) A passed bill
- 23) Introducer of an amendment
- 24) Party's symbol is a donkey

Down

- 1) Appropriate behavior
- 2) Explorer who named Florida
- 3) Legislator who presides over a committee
- 4) Number of branches of government
- 6) State nickname
- 7) Name of proposed law
- 10) A state symbol
- 12) Highest ranking state official
- 14) Set of guidelines for the legislature
- 15) Passes a resolution
- 16) State operating dollars
- 19) To pass a bill
- 21) Action taken on a bill (for passage)

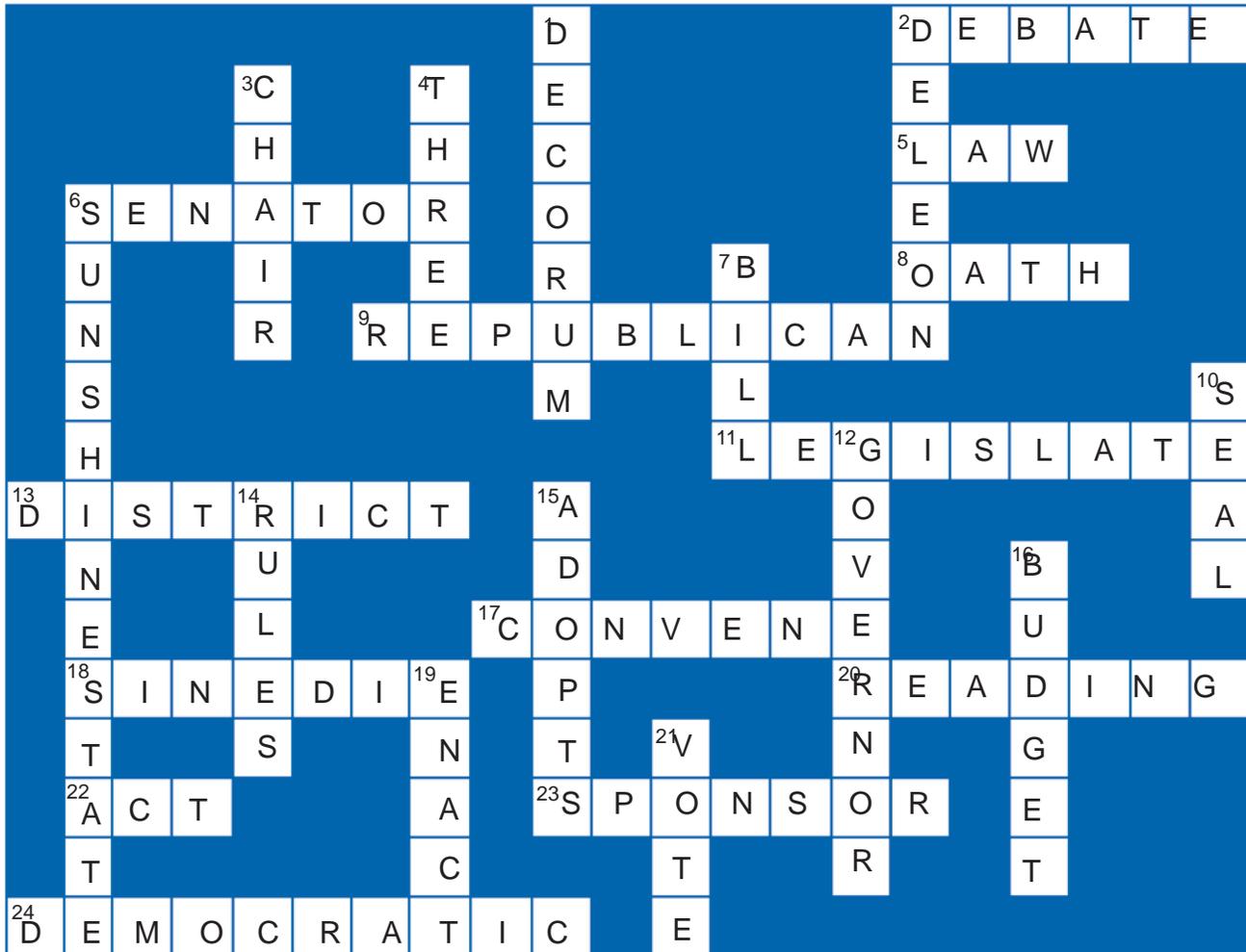
S o l u t i o n t o M a t c h i n g

- [C] First European settlement in Florida
- [E] Florida's Capital
- [F] Florida acquired as a US territory
- [A] Smallest county in Florida (land and water area)
- [G] Florida admitted as a state
- [D] Largest county in Florida (land and water area)
- [H] Largest lake in Florida
- [B] Geographic center of Florida
- [I] Longest river in Florida

S o l u t i o n t o S c r a m b l e

1. Jacksonville
2. Cape Canaveral
3. Key West
4. Everglades
5. Tallahassee
6. Orlando
7. Daytona Beach
8. Hialeah
9. Pensacola
10. Ft. Lauderdale
11. St. Petersburg

Solution to Crossword Puzzle



Solution to About Our Government

Florida is the only state in the nation whose CONSTITUTION is reviewed every 20 years. This set of rules determines the State's government and our laws. Our government has three branches. They are the LEGISLATIVE, the EXECUTIVE, and the JUDICIAL branches. The legislature passes LAWS, which are carried out by the executive branch. The head of this branch is the GOVERNOR. The judicial branch has a system of COURTS. Judges and justices in this branch determine facts, interpret the law, and make rulings on legal cases. The legislature meets ANNUALLY to discuss laws, change the law, or make new laws. The two bodies of the legislature are the HOUSE and the SENATE. Together these houses work to better the lives of the people of Florida.



We hope you enjoyed learning about
the Florida Senate and the Florida Legislature.

For more information,
Visit us at: www.flsenate.gov

S e e y o u t h e r e !

Prepared by the:

Office of the Secretary of the Senate
Suite 405, The Capitol
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100
(850) 487-5270

Revised: January 2017