

The Florida Senate
COMMITTEE MEETING EXPANDED AGENDA

ETHICS AND ELECTIONS
Senator Gaetz, Chair
Senator Bernard, Vice Chair

MEETING DATE: Wednesday, October 15, 2025

TIME: 3:30—5:00 p.m.

PLACE: Mallory Horne Committee Room, 37 Senate Building

MEMBERS: Senator Gaetz, Chair; Senator Bernard, Vice Chair; Senators Avila, Bradley, Garcia, Grall, Polsky, and Rouson

TAB	BILL NO. and INTRODUCER	BILL DESCRIPTION and SENATE COMMITTEE ACTIONS	COMMITTEE ACTION
-----	-------------------------	--	------------------

1	Presentation by the Commission on Ethics: 2026 Legislative Recommendations		Presented
---	--	--	-----------

2	Presentation by the Department of State, Division of Elections: Election Administration Preparations for the 2026 midterm elections and 2026 Legislative Recommendations		Presented
---	--	--	-----------

TAB	OFFICE and APPOINTMENT (HOME CITY)	FOR TERM ENDING	COMMITTEE ACTION
-----	------------------------------------	-----------------	------------------

Senate Confirmation Hearing: A public hearing will be held for consideration of the below-named executive appointments to the offices indicated.

Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

3	Kellam, Joshua () (If Received)	08/01/2027	Recommend Confirm Yeas 5 Nays 0
---	---------------------------------	------------	------------------------------------

Governing Board of the St. Johns River Water Management District

4	Burnett, Douglas (St. Augustine) (If Received)	03/01/2029	Recommend Confirm Yeas 5 Nays 0
---	--	------------	------------------------------------

	Ghyabi-White, Maryam (Ormond Beach) (If Received)	03/01/2029	Recommend Confirm Yeas 5 Nays 0
--	---	------------	------------------------------------

Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District

5	Hurley, Thomas W. (North Palm Beach) (If Received)	03/01/2029	Recommend Confirm Yeas 5 Nays 0
---	--	------------	------------------------------------

	Spottswood, Robert A., Jr. (Key West) (If Received)	03/01/2026	Recommend Confirm Yeas 5 Nays 0
--	---	------------	------------------------------------

Big Cypress Basin Board of the South Florida Water Management District

6	Lenhard, Michele (Naples) (If Received)	03/01/2026	Recommend Confirm Yeas 5 Nays 0
---	---	------------	------------------------------------

Governing Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District

7	Turner, James "Jim" (Sarasota) (If Received)	03/01/2027	Recommend Confirm Yeas 5 Nays 0
---	--	------------	------------------------------------

COMMITTEE MEETING EXPANDED AGENDA

Ethics and Elections
Wednesday, October 15, 2025, 3:30—5:00 p.m.

TAB	OFFICE and APPOINTMENT (HOME CITY)	FOR TERM ENDING	COMMITTEE ACTION
	Watkins, Nancy Hemmingway (Tampa) (If Received)	03/01/2029	Recommend Confirm Yeas 5 Nays 0

TAB	BILL NO. and INTRODUCER	BILL DESCRIPTION and SENATE COMMITTEE ACTIONS	COMMITTEE ACTION
-----	-------------------------	--	------------------

Other Related Meeting Documents

The Florida Senate
COMMITTEE MEETING PACKET TAB

1

Comment

Ethics and Elections

MEETING DATE: Wednesday, October 15, 2025

TIME: 3:30—5:00 p.m.

PLACE: Mallory Horne Committee Room, 37 Senate Building

Jon M. Philipson
Chair
Dr. James Bush, III
Vice Chair
Paul D. Bain
Luis M. Fusté
Michael H. Hellman
Laird A. Lile
Ashley Lukis
Jeremy M. Rodgers
Linda Stewart



State of Florida
COMMISSION ON ETHICS
P.O. Drawer 15709
Tallahassee, Florida 32317-5709
325 John Knox Road
Building E, Suite 200
Tallahassee, Florida 32303

Kerrie J. Stillman
Executive Director

Steven J. Zuilkowski
*Deputy Executive Director/
General Counsel*

(850) 488-7864 Phone
(850) 488-3077 (FAX)
www.ethics.state.fl.us

"A Public Office is a Public Trust"

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Interested Persons
FROM: Kerrie Stillman, Executive Director
SUBJECT: Legislative Recommendations for 2026
DATE: September 18, 2025

Whistle Blower-like Protection for Ethics Complainants

The Commission believes that the threat of adverse employment or personnel actions in retaliation for a person's filing of an ethics complaint discourages the filing of valid complaints. Thus, the Commission seeks the enactment of protections or remedies, akin to those in the "Whistle-blower's Act," Sections 112.3187-112.31895, Florida Statutes, for the benefit of ethics complainants.

Include "current and former foster parents and foster children" in the definition of relative in Section 112.312(21), F.S.

In the Code of Ethics, Section 112.313(21), F.S. defines relative for purposes of Florida's gift law. Although the statutory definition of relative is broad and includes persons sharing the same legal residence, as well as those who are engaged to be married, the term "relative" as currently defined does not include the current and former foster children and foster parents of a Reporting Individual or Procurement Employee (RIPE). Individuals subject to the prohibitions and reporting requirements found in Section 112.3148, F.S. may accept any gift in any amount from a "relative" and there are no reporting requirements for gifts from relatives. However, a RIPE, subject to the gifts law, would be required to report any gifts valued at more than \$100 that they receive from a current or former foster parent or foster child that does not have the same legal residence as the RIPE. Foster parents do not necessarily adopt the children they foster, but these foster parents and foster children may maintain a familial relationship throughout their lives, even after their legal

relationship ends. The Commission recommends the Legislature amend the statute to include current and former foster parents and foster children in the definition of relative.

First-Time Fine Waiver for Financial Disclosure

Pursuant to Section 112.3215(5)(d)4., Florida Statutes, a fine is not assessed against a lobbying firm *the first time* it fails to file a timely compensation report. We believe a similar provision regarding fines for those who have failed to timely file their financial disclosure forms should be introduced, with the caveat that this first-time fine waiver is only applicable if the reporting individual filed his or her form prior to accruing the maximum \$1,500 fine. This would increase efficiency by reducing the number of fine appeals Commission staff have to process. It would also comport with the Commission's ultimate goal of achieving a filing by the filer at issue.

Public Records Exemptions for Members and Staff of the Commission

The Commission and its staff process ethics complaints that can result in harsh penalties for Respondents, up to and including removal from their public positions, and fines of up to \$20,000. Aside from this, Commission staff often receive hostile communications from members of the public, as well as ethics Complainants who are upset about the outcome of complaints they have filed. Because of this, we believe Commission Members, as well as Commission staff, should receive a public records exemption for information such as their home addresses and phone numbers, similar to other public records exemptions available to other public officers and employees.

October 15, 2025

Meeting Date

Senate Ethics & Elections

Committee

The Florida Senate

APPEARANCE RECORD

Deliver both copies of this form to
Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

Bill Number or Topic

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name **Kerrie Stillman, Executive Director**

Phone **850-488-7864**

Address **Post Office Drawer 15709**

Email **stillman.kerrie@leg.state.fl.us**

Street

Tallahassee

FL

32317-5709

City

State

Zip

Speaking: ☐ For ☐ Against ☒ Information

OR

Waive Speaking: ☐ In Support ☐ Against

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

☐ I am appearing without
compensation or sponsorship.

☒ I am a registered lobbyist,
representing:

☐ I am not a lobbyist, but received
something of value for my appearance
(travel, meals, lodging, etc.),
sponsored by:

Florida Commission on Ethics

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. [2020-2022 Joint Rules.pdf \(flsenate.gov\)](#)

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

S-001 (08/10/2021)

October 15, 2025

Meeting Date

Senate Ethics & Elections

Committee

The Florida Senate

APPEARANCE RECORD

Deliver both copies of this form to
Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

Bill Number or Topic

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Steven Zuilkowski, Deputy Executive Director & General Counsel Phone 850-488-7864

Address Post Office Drawer 15709 Email zuilkowski.steven@leg.state.fl.us

Street

Tallahassee

City

FL

State

32317-5709

Zip

Speaking: ☐ For ☐ Against ☒ Information **OR** Waive Speaking: ☐ In Support ☐ Against

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

☐ I am appearing without
compensation or sponsorship.

☒ I am a registered lobbyist,
representing:

☐ I am not a lobbyist, but received
something of value for my appearance
(travel, meals, lodging, etc.),
sponsored by:

Florida Commission on Ethics

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. [2020-2022 Joint Rules.pdf \(flsenate.gov\)](#)

COMMITTEE MEETING PACKET TAB

Ethics and Elections

2

Comment

MEETING DATE: Wednesday, October 15, 2025

TIME: 3:30—5:00 p.m.

PLACE: Mallory Horne Committee Room, 37 Senate Building

October 15, 2025

Meeting Date

Senate Ethics & Elections

Committee

The Florida Senate

APPEARANCE RECORD

Deliver both copies of this form to
Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

Bill Number or Topic

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Jon M. Philipson, Chair

Phone 850-488-7864

Address Post Office Drawer 15709
Street

Email commissionerphilipson@gmail.com

Tallahassee

City

FL

State

32317-5709

Zip

Speaking: ☐ For ☐ Against ☒ Information **OR** Waive Speaking: ☐ In Support ☐ Against

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

☐ I am appearing without
compensation or sponsorship.

☐ I am a registered lobbyist,
representing:

☒ I am not a lobbyist, but received
something of value for my appearance
(travel, meals, lodging, etc.),
sponsored by:

Florida Commission on Ethics

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. [2020-2022 Joint Rules.pdf \(flsenate.gov\)](#)

The Florida Senate
COMMITTEE MEETING PACKET TAB

Ethics and Elections

MEETING DATE: Wednesday, October 15, 2025

TIME: 3:30—5:00 p.m.

PLACE: Mallory Horne Committee Room, 37 Senate Building

Recommendation for Senate Confirmation of Executive Appointment

Appointee: Kellam, Joshua
 Term: 02/03/2018 – 01/05/2019
 City/County: Palm Beach Gardens/Palm Beach
 Office: Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Member
 Authority: 20.331(2) & 379.102(1), F.S.
 Reference(s): Committee on Environmental Preservation and Conservation-Recommend Confirm-02/20/2018
 Committee on Ethics and Elections-Recommend Confirm-02/26/2018

Executive Appointment Questionnaire	Yes	No	Notes
1. Questionnaire completed	X		
2. Questionnaire notarized	X		
3. US Citizen (sworn statement)	X		
4. Florida Resident (sworn statement)	X		
5. Registered Voter in Florida	X		
6. Honorable Discharge (sworn statement)			Not Applicable
7. Financial Disclosure Filed	X		Form 1 filed as of 2/8/18
8. Meets Requirements of Law	X		
9. Conviction Record		X	
10. Adverse Auditor General Report			Not Applicable
11. Adverse Ethics Commission Action		X	As of 2/8/18
12. Previously Suspended from Office		X	
13. Previously Refused Bond (sworn statement)		X	
14. Licenses or Certification Revoked/Suspended		X	
15. Contracts with State/Local Governments (sworn statement)		X	
16. Contracts with Pending Office		X	
17. Holds Another Public Office (sworn statement)	X		See Below
18. Previously a Public Officer (sworn statement)	X		See Below
19. Present or Past Government Employee		X	
20. Currently a Registered Lobbyist		X	

Occupation: President of ESG Enterprises, (investment/development/agriculture)

Compensation: Reimbursed for per diem and travel expenses pursuant to s. 112.061, F.S.

Requirements: The commission consists of seven members appointed by the Governor and subject to Senate confirmation.

Additional Requirements: Members shall be appointed for staggered 5-year terms.
 Required to file Form 1 with the Commission on Ethics.

Notes: Number 17 - Mr. Kellam is serving on the Water Resource Advisory Commission, South Florida Water Management District, since 2013.
Number 18 - Mr. Kellam served on the Public Service Commission Nominating Council.

THE FLORIDA SENATE

COMMITTEE WITNESS OATH

CHAIR:

Please raise your right hand and be sworn in as a witness.

Do you swear or affirm that the evidence you are about to give will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?

WITNESS'S NAME: Robyn Blevin

ANSWER: "I do."

Pursuant to §90.605(1), *Florida Statutes*: "The witness's answer shall be noted in the record."

COMMITTEE NAME: Ethics and Elections

DATE: 10/15/2025

The Florida Senate
COMMITTEE MEETING PACKET TAB

Ethics and Elections

MEETING DATE: Wednesday, October 15, 2025

TIME: 3:30—5:00 p.m.

PLACE: Mallory Horne Committee Room, 37 Senate Building

Recommendation for Senate Confirmation of Executive Appointment

Appointee: Burnett, Douglas

Appointed: 08/22/2025

Term: 08/22/2025 – 03/01/2029

Prior Term: 05/14/2021 - 03/01/2025

City/County: St. Augustine/St. Johns

Office: Governing Board of the St. Johns River Water Management District, Member

Authority: 373.073 & 373.073(2)(c), F.S.

Reference(s): Committee on Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, Environment, and General Government-
Recommend Confirm-10/08/2025
Committee on Ethics and Elections

Executive Appointment Questionnaire	Yes	No	Notes
1. Questionnaire completed	X		
2. Questionnaire notarized	X		
3. US Citizen (sworn statement)	X		
4. Florida Resident (sworn statement)	X		
5. Registered Voter in Florida	X		
6. Honorable Discharge (sworn statement)	X		See Below
7. Financial Disclosure Filed	X		Form 1 filed as of 6/28/25
8. Meets Requirements of Law	X		See Below
9. Conviction Record		X	
10. Adverse Auditor General Report			Not Applicable
11. Adverse Ethics Commission Action		X	As of 9/22/25
12. Previously Suspended from Office		X	
13. Previously Refused Bond (sworn statement)		X	
14. Licenses or Certification Revoked/Suspended		X	
15. Contracts with State/Local Governments (sworn statement)		X	
16. Contracts with Pending Office		X	
17. Holds Another Public Office (sworn statement)	X		See Below
18. Previously a Public Officer (sworn statement)	X		See Below
19. Present or Past Government Employee	X		See Below
20. Currently a Registered Lobbyist		X	

Occupation: Self-employed/President of Doug Burnett & Associates, LLC (Consulting)

Compensation: Reimbursed for actual travel expenses, subsistence, lodging, and other expenses while on official business, not to exceed the statutory amount allowed under s. 112.061, F.S.

Payment for the use of private or charter aircraft may be no greater than that allowed for commercial air travel for equivalent distances.

- Requirements:** The nine-member board consists of:
- One member who resides in the "St. Mary River Basin-Coastal area between St. Marys and St. Johns Rivers" hydrologic units;
 - One member who resides in the "St. Johns River Basin below Oklawaha River-Coastal area between the St. Johns River and Ponce de Leon Inlet" hydrologic units;
 - One member who resides in the "Oklawaha River Basin" hydrologic unit;
 - One member who resides in the "St. Johns River Basin above the Oklawaha River" hydrologic unit;
 - One member who resides in the "Coastal area between Ponce de Leon Inlet and Sebastian Inlet-Coastal area Sebastian Inlet to St. Lucie River" hydrologic units; and
 - Four at large members, provided that no county shall have more than two members on the governing board.

Membership on governing boards shall be selected from candidates who have significant experience in one or more of the following areas, including, but not limited to: agriculture, the development industry, local government, government-owned or privately owned water utilities, law, civil engineering, environmental science, hydrology, accounting or financial business.

Additional Requirements: Terms are for four years.

Terms begin March 2 of the year in which the appointment is made and terminates March 1 of the fourth calendar year of the term or may continue until a successor is appointed, but not more than 180 days.

Terms of office of governing board members shall be staggered to help maintain consistency and continuity in the exercise of governing board duties and to minimize disruption in district operations.

Required to file Form 1 with SOE's office.

Notes: Number 6 - Major General Burnett served in the United States Air Force - Florida Air National Guard 1963-2010.
Number 8 - Member at Large - St. Johns County
Number 17 - Major General Burnett has served on the Governing Board of the St. Johns River Water Management District, since 2017.
Number 18 - Major General Burnett served on the Board of Trustees, University of North Florida 2015-2020. Major General Burnett served on the Board of Trustees of the Florida State College at Jacksonville 2011-2012. Major General Burnett served as the Adjutant General of Florida National Guard 2001-2010. Major General Burnett served as the Assistant Adjutant General of Florida National Guard 1996-2001.
Number 19 - Major General Burnett was the Assistant Adjutant General of the Florida National Guard, Department of Military Affairs 1996-2001. Major General Burnett was the Adjutant General for the Department of Military Affairs 2001-2010.
Education Verified

Recommendation for Senate Confirmation of Executive Appointment

Appointee: Ghyabi-White, Maryam

Appointed: 08/22/2025

Term: 08/22/2025 – 03/01/2029

Prior Term: 08/27/2021 - 03/01/2025

City/County: Ormond Beach/Volusia

Office: Governing Board of the St. Johns River Water Management District, Member

Authority: 373.073 & 373.073(2)(c), F.S.

Reference(s): Committee on Ethics and Elections

Committee on Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, Environment, and General Government-
Recommend Confirm-10/08/2025

Executive Appointment Questionnaire	Yes	No	Notes
1. Questionnaire completed	X		
2. Questionnaire notarized	X		
3. US Citizen (sworn statement)	X		
4. Florida Resident (sworn statement)	X		
5. Registered Voter in Florida	X		
6. Honorable Discharge (sworn statement)			Not Applicable
7. Financial Disclosure Filed	X		Form 1 filed as of 6/5/25
8. Meets Requirements of Law	X		See Below
9. Conviction Record		X	
10. Adverse Auditor General Report			Not Applicable
11. Adverse Ethics Commission Action		X	As of 9/22/25
12. Previously Suspended from Office		X	
13. Previously Refused Bond (sworn statement)		X	
14. Licenses or Certification Revoked/Suspended		X	
15. Contracts with State/Local Governments (sworn statement)	X		See Below
16. Contracts with Pending Office		X	
17. Holds Another Public Office (sworn statement)		X	
18. Previously a Public Officer (sworn statement)	X		See Below
19. Present or Past Government Employee	X		See Below
20. Currently a Registered Lobbyist		X	

Occupation: CEO of Ghyabi Consulting & Management

Compensation: Reimbursed for actual travel expenses, subsistence, lodging, and other expenses while on official business, not to exceed the statutory amount allowed under s. 112.061, F.S.

Payment for the use of private or charter aircraft may be no greater than that allowed for commercial air travel for equivalent distances.

- Requirements:** The nine-member board consists of:
- One member who resides in the "St. Mary River Basin-Coastal area between St. Marys and St. Johns Rivers" hydrologic units;
 - One member who resides in the "St. Johns River Basin below Oklawaha River-Coastal area between the St. Johns River and Ponce de Leon Inlet" hydrologic units;
 - One member who resides in the "Oklawaha River Basin" hydrologic unit;
 - One member who resides in the "St. Johns River Basin above the Oklawaha River" hydrologic unit;
 - One member who resides in the "Coastal area between Ponce de Leon Inlet and Sebastian Inlet-Coastal area Sebastian Inlet to St. Lucie River" hydrologic units; and
 - Four at large members, provided that no county shall have more than two members on the governing board.

Membership on governing boards shall be selected from candidates who have significant experience in one or more of the following areas, including, but not limited to: agriculture, the development industry, local government, government-owned or privately owned water utilities, law, civil engineering, environmental science, hydrology, accounting or financial business.

Additional Requirements: Terms are for four years.

Terms begin March 2 of the year in which the appointment is made and terminates March 1 of the fourth calendar year of the term or may continue until a successor is appointed, but not more than 180 days.

Terms of office of governing board members shall be staggered to help maintain consistency and continuity in the exercise of governing board duties and to minimize disruption in district operations.

Required to file Form 1 with SOE's office.

Notes: Number 8 - St. Johns River Basin above the Oklawaha River hydrologic unit
Number 15 - Mrs. Ghyabi White disclosed that her consulting firm has contractual dealings with state/local agencies.
Number 18 - Mrs. Ghyabi White served on the Board of Trustees of the St. Johns River Water Management District 2009-2017. Mrs. Ghyabi White served on the East Central Regional Planning Council, Region 6, 2004-2008. Mrs. Ghyabi White served on the Transportation Outreach Program Advisory Board 2000-2002.
Number 19 - Mrs. Ghyabi White was the Volusia County Chief Transportation Planner 1992-1995. Ms. Ghyabi White worked for the Florida Department of Transportation as a civil engineer 1990-1991.
Education Verified

The Florida Senate
COMMITTEE MEETING PACKET TAB

Ethics and Elections

MEETING DATE: Wednesday, October 15, 2025

TIME: 3:30—5:00 p.m.

PLACE: Mallory Horne Committee Room, 37 Senate Building

Recommendation for Senate Confirmation of Executive Appointment

Appointee: Hurley, Thomas W.

Appointed: 04/09/2025

Term: 04/09/2025 – 03/01/2029

Prior Term:

City/County: North Palm Beach/Palm Beach

Office: Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District, Member

Authority: 373.073 & 373.073(2)(d), F.S.

Reference(s): Committee on Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, Environment, and General Government-
Recommend Confirm-10/08/2025
Committee on Ethics and Elections

Executive Appointment Questionnaire	Yes	No	Notes
1. Questionnaire completed	X		
2. Questionnaire notarized	X		
3. US Citizen (sworn statement)	X		
4. Florida Resident (sworn statement)	X		
5. Registered Voter in Florida	X		
6. Honorable Discharge (sworn statement)			Not Applicable
7. Financial Disclosure Filed	X		Form 1 filed as of 5/7/25
8. Meets Requirements of Law	X		See Below
9. Conviction Record		X	
10. Adverse Auditor General Report			Not Applicable
11. Adverse Ethics Commission Action		X	As of 9/18/25
12. Previously Suspended from Office			Not Applicable
13. Previously Refused Bond (sworn statement)		X	
14. Licenses or Certification Revoked/Suspended		X	
15. Contracts with State/Local Governments (sworn statement)		X	
16. Contracts with Pending Office		X	
17. Holds Another Public Office (sworn statement)		X	
18. Previously a Public Officer (sworn statement)		X	
19. Present or Past Government Employee		X	
20. Currently a Registered Lobbyist		X	

Occupation:

Compensation: Reimbursed for actual travel expenses, subsistence, lodging, and other expenses while on official business, not to exceed the statutory amount allowed under s. 112.061, F.S.

Payment for the use of private or charter aircraft may be no greater than that allowed for commercial air travel for equivalent distances.

- Requirements:** The nine-member board consists of:
- Two members who reside in Miami-Dade County;
 - One member who resides in Broward County;
 - One member who resides in Palm Beach County;
 - One member who resides in Collier, Lee, Hendry, or Charlotte Counties;
 - One member who resides in Glades, Okeechobee, Highlands, Polk, Orange, or Osceola Counties;
 - Two at large members who reside in an area consisting of St. Lucie, Martin, Palm Beach, Broward, Miami-Dade, and Monroe Counties;
 - One at large member who resides in an area consisting of Collier, Lee, Charlotte, Hendry, Glades, Osceola, Okeechobee, Polk, Highlands, and Orange Counties; and
 - No county shall have more than three members on the governing board.

Membership on governing boards shall be selected from candidates who have significant experience in one or more of the following areas, including, but not limited to: agriculture, the development industry, local government, government-owned or privately owned water utilities, law, civil engineering, environmental science, hydrology, accounting or financial business.

Additional Requirements: Terms are for four years.

Terms begin March 2 of the year in which the appointment is made and terminates March 1 of the fourth calendar year of the term or may continue until a successor is appointed, but not more than 180 days.

Terms of office of governing board members shall be staggered to help maintain consistency and continuity in the exercise of governing board duties and to minimize disruption in district operations.

Required to file Form 1 with SOE's office.

Notes: Number 8 - At Large Member - St. Lucie, Martin, Palm Beach, Broward, etc.

Recommendation for Senate Confirmation of Executive Appointment

Appointee: Spottswood, Robert A., Jr.

Appointed: 04/09/2025

Term: 04/09/2025 – 03/01/2026

Prior Term:

City/County: Key West/Monroe

Office: Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District, Member

Authority: 373.073 & 373.073(2)(d), F.S.

Reference(s): Committee on Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, Environment, and General Government-
Recommend Confirm-10/08/2025
Committee on Ethics and Elections

Executive Appointment Questionnaire	Yes	No	Notes
1. Questionnaire completed	X		
2. Questionnaire notarized	X		
3. US Citizen (sworn statement)	X		
4. Florida Resident (sworn statement)	X		
5. Registered Voter in Florida	X		
6. Honorable Discharge (sworn statement)			Not Applicable
7. Financial Disclosure Filed	X		Form 1 filed as of 6/16/25
8. Meets Requirements of Law	X		See Below
9. Conviction Record		X	
10. Adverse Auditor General Report			Not Applicable
11. Adverse Ethics Commission Action		X	As of 9/18/25
12. Previously Suspended from Office		X	
13. Previously Refused Bond (sworn statement)		X	
14. Licenses or Certification Revoked/Suspended		X	
15. Contracts with State/Local Governments (sworn statement)		X	
16. Contracts with Pending Office		X	
17. Holds Another Public Office (sworn statement)	X		See Below
18. Previously a Public Officer (sworn statement)		X	
19. Present or Past Government Employee		X	
20. Currently a Registered Lobbyist		X	

Occupation: President of Spottswood Management

Compensation: Reimbursed for actual travel expenses, subsistence, lodging, and other expenses while on official business, not to exceed the statutory amount allowed under s. 112.061, F.S.

Payment for the use of private or charter aircraft may be no greater than that allowed for commercial air travel for equivalent distances.

- Requirements:** The nine-member board consists of:
- Two members who reside in Miami-Dade County;
 - One member who resides in Broward County;
 - One member who resides in Palm Beach County;
 - One member who resides in Collier, Lee, Hendry, or Charlotte Counties;
 - One member who resides in Glades, Okeechobee, Highlands, Polk, Orange, or Osceola Counties;
 - Two at large members who reside in an area consisting of St. Lucie, Martin, Palm Beach, Broward, Miami-Dade, and Monroe Counties;
 - One at large member who resides in an area consisting of Collier, Lee, Charlotte, Hendry, Glades, Osceola, Okeechobee, Polk, Highlands, and Orange Counties; and
 - No county shall have more than three members on the governing board.

Membership on governing boards shall be selected from candidates who have significant experience in one or more of the following areas, including, but not limited to: agriculture, the development industry, local government, government-owned or privately owned water utilities, law, civil engineering, environmental science, hydrology, accounting or financial business.

Additional Requirements: Terms are for four years.

Terms begin March 2 of the year in which the appointment is made and terminates March 1 of the fourth calendar year of the term or may continue until a successor is appointed, but not more than 180 days.

Terms of office of governing board members shall be staggered to help maintain consistency and continuity in the exercise of governing board duties and to minimize disruption in district operations.

Required to file Form 1 with SOE's office.

Notes: Number 8 - At-large from St. Lucie, Martin, Palm Beach, Broward, Miami-Dade and Monroe
Number 17 - Mr. Spottswood is serving on the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council 2023-2026.
Mr. Spottswood is serving on the Pubic Service Commission Nominating Council 2024-2027.

The Florida Senate
COMMITTEE MEETING PACKET TAB

6

A2450L

Ethics and Elections

MEETING DATE: Wednesday, October 15, 2025

TIME: 3:30—5:00 p.m.

PLACE: Mallory Horne Committee Room, 37 Senate Building

Recommendation for Senate Confirmation of Executive Appointment

Appointee: Lenhard, Michele

Appointed: 08/22/2025

Term: 08/22/2025 – 03/01/2026

Prior Term:

City/County: Naples/Collier

Office: Big Cypress Basin Board of the South Florida Water Management District, Member

Authority: 373.0693(9), F.S.

Reference(s): Committee on Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, Environment, and General Government-
Recommend Confirm-10/08/2025
Committee on Ethics and Elections

Executive Appointment Questionnaire	Yes	No	Notes
1. Questionnaire completed	X		
2. Questionnaire notarized	X		
3. US Citizen (sworn statement)	X		
4. Florida Resident (sworn statement)	X		
5. Registered Voter in Florida	X		
6. Honorable Discharge (sworn statement)			Not Applicable
7. Financial Disclosure Filed	X		Form 1 filed as of 8/31/25
8. Meets Requirements of Law	X		See Below
9. Conviction Record		X	
10. Adverse Auditor General Report			Not Applicable
11. Adverse Ethics Commission Action		X	As of 9/22/25
12. Previously Suspended from Office		X	
13. Previously Refused Bond (sworn statement)		X	
14. Licenses or Certification Revoked/Suspended		X	
15. Contracts with State/Local Governments (sworn statement)		X	
16. Contracts with Pending Office		X	
17. Holds Another Public Office (sworn statement)	X		See Below
18. Previously a Public Officer (sworn statement)		X	
19. Present or Past Government Employee		X	
20. Currently a Registered Lobbyist		X	

Occupation: Manager at Eagle Business Archives

Compensation: Reimbursed for actual travel expenses, subsistence, lodging and other expenses, while on official business, pursuant to s. 112.061, F.S.

Requirements: The Governor shall appoint not fewer than five persons residing in:

- Collier County; and
- mainland Monroe County.

Basin boards shall consist of not less than three members, but shall include one representative from each of the counties included in the basin.

Additional Terms are for three years.

Requirements: Not required to file a financial disclosure.

Notes: Number 8 - Collier County Resident
Number 17 - Ms. Lenhard serves on the Conservation Collier Land Acquisition Advisory Committee, since 2019.

The Florida Senate
COMMITTEE MEETING PACKET TAB

Ethics and Elections

7

A2460T

MEETING DATE: Wednesday, October 15, 2025

TIME: 3:30—5:00 p.m.

PLACE: Mallory Horne Committee Room, 37 Senate Building

Recommendation for Senate Confirmation of Executive Appointment

Appointee: Turner, James "Jim"

Appointed: 08/22/2025

Term: 08/22/2025 – 03/01/2027

Prior Term:

City/County: Sarasota/Sarasota

Office: Governing Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District, Member

Authority: 373.073 & 373.073(2)(c), F.S.

Reference(s): Committee on Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, Environment, and General Government-
Recommend Confirm-10/08/2025
Committee on Ethics and Elections

Executive Appointment Questionnaire	Yes	No	Notes
1. Questionnaire completed	X		
2. Questionnaire notarized	X		
3. US Citizen (sworn statement)	X		
4. Florida Resident (sworn statement)	X		
5. Registered Voter in Florida	X		
6. Honorable Discharge (sworn statement)			Not Applicable
7. Financial Disclosure Filed	X		Form 1 filed as of 10/9/25
8. Meets Requirements of Law	X		See Below
9. Conviction Record		X	
10. Adverse Auditor General Report			Not Applicable
11. Adverse Ethics Commission Action		X	As of 9/22/25
12. Previously Suspended from Office		X	
13. Previously Refused Bond (sworn statement)			Not Applicable
14. Licenses or Certification Revoked/Suspended		X	
15. Contracts with State/Local Governments (sworn statement)	X		See Below
16. Contracts with Pending Office		X	
17. Holds Another Public Office (sworn statement)		X	
18. Previously a Public Officer (sworn statement)	X		See Below
19. Present or Past Government Employee		X	
20. Currently a Registered Lobbyist		X	

Occupation: Senior Counsel at Williams Parker Law Firm

Compensation: Reimbursed for actual travel expenses, subsistence, lodging, and other expenses while on official business, not to exceed the statutory amount allowed under s. 112.061, F.S.

Payment for the use of private or charter aircraft may be no greater than that allowed for commercial air travel for equivalent distances.

- Requirements:** The thirteen member board consists of:
- Two members who reside in Hillsborough County;
 - One member who resides in the Hillsborough and Pinellas Counties area;
 - Two members who reside in Pinellas County;
 - One member who resides in Manatee County;
 - Two members who reside in Polk County;
 - One member who resides in Pasco County;
 - One at large member from the Levy, Citrus, Sumter, and Lake Counties;
 - One at large member from Hardee, DeSoto, and Highlands Counties;
 - One at large member from Marion and Hernando Counties; and
 - One at large member from Sarasota and Charlotte Counties.

Membership on governing boards shall be selected from candidates who have significant experience in one or more of the following areas, including, but not limited to: agriculture, the development industry, local government, government-owned or privately owned water utilities, law, civil engineering, environmental science, hydrology, accounting or financial business.

Additional Requirements: Terms are for four years.

Terms begin March 2 of the year in which the appointment is made and terminate March 1 of the fourth calendar year of the term.

Terms of office of governing board members shall be staggered to help maintain consistency and continuity in the exercise of governing board duties and to minimize disruption in district operations.

Required to file Form 1 with SOE's office.

Notes: Number 8 - Member at Large - Sarasota and Charlotte Counties
Number 15 - Mr. Turner disclosed that he is a minority owner of two ranching businesses, Hi Hat Ranch and LT Ranch which have water use permits.
Number 18 - Mr. Turner served on the LT Ranch Community Development District, 2018-2022. Mr. Turner served on the Sarasota County Soil Conservation District. Mr. Turner served on the Governor's Tax Reform Commission 1970-1972. Mr. Turner served on the Myakka River Coordinating Council. Mr. Turner served on the Southwest Florida Water Management District 1976-1978. Mr. Turner Served on the Manasota Basin Board, 1977-1978. Mr. Turner served on the Governor's Property Rights Committee, the Charlotte Harbor Commission and the Governor's Special State Land Acquisition and Eminent Domain Task Force.
Education Verified

Recommendation for Senate Confirmation of Executive Appointment

Appointee: Watkins, Nancy Hemmingway

Appointed: 08/22/2025

Term: 08/22/2025 – 03/01/2029

Prior Term: 08/04/2023 - 03/01/2025

City/County: Tampa/Hillsborough

Office: Governing Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District, Member

Authority: 373.073 & 373.073(2)(c), F.S.

Reference(s): Committee on Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, Environment, and General Government-
Recommend Confirm-10/08/2025
Committee on Ethics and Elections

Executive Appointment Questionnaire	Yes	No	Notes
1. Questionnaire completed	X		
2. Questionnaire notarized	X		
3. US Citizen (sworn statement)	X		
4. Florida Resident (sworn statement)	X		
5. Registered Voter in Florida	X		
6. Honorable Discharge (sworn statement)			Not Applicable
7. Financial Disclosure Filed	X		Form 1 filed as of 6/10/25
8. Meets Requirements of Law	X		See Below
9. Conviction Record		X	
10. Adverse Auditor General Report			Not Applicable
11. Adverse Ethics Commission Action		X	As of 9/22/25
12. Previously Suspended from Office		X	
13. Previously Refused Bond (sworn statement)		X	
14. Licenses or Certification Revoked/Suspended		X	
15. Contracts with State/Local Governments (sworn statement)		X	
16. Contracts with Pending Office		X	
17. Holds Another Public Office (sworn statement)	X		See Below
18. Previously a Public Officer (sworn statement)	X		See Below
19. Present or Past Government Employee		X	
20. Currently a Registered Lobbyist		X	

Occupation: Certified Public Accountant/Robert Watkins & Co., PA

Compensation: Reimbursed for actual travel expenses, subsistence, lodging, and other expenses while on official business, not to exceed the statutory amount allowed under s. 112.061, F.S.

Payment for the use of private or charter aircraft may be no greater than that allowed for commercial air travel for equivalent distances.

- Requirements:** The thirteen member board consists of:
- Two members who reside in Hillsborough County;
 - One member who resides in the Hillsborough and Pinellas Counties area;
 - Two members who reside in Pinellas County;
 - One member who resides in Manatee County;
 - Two members who reside in Polk County;
 - One member who resides in Pasco County;
 - One at large member from the Levy, Citrus, Sumter, and Lake Counties;
 - One at large member from Hardee, DeSoto, and Highlands Counties;
 - One at large member from Marion and Hernando Counties; and
 - One at large member from Sarasota and Charlotte Counties.

Membership on governing boards shall be selected from candidates who have significant experience in one or more of the following areas, including, but not limited to: agriculture, the development industry, local government, government-owned or privately owned water utilities, law, civil engineering, environmental science, hydrology, accounting or financial business.

Additional Requirements: Terms are for four years.

Terms begin March 2 of the year in which the appointment is made and terminate March 1 of the fourth calendar year of the term.

Terms of office of governing board members shall be staggered to help maintain consistency and continuity in the exercise of governing board duties and to minimize disruption in district operations.

Required to file Form 1 with SOE's office.

Notes: Number 8 - Hillsborough County Resident
Number 17 - Ms. Watkins is serving on the Hillsborough Community College Board of Trustees, since 1999.
Number 18 - Mrs. Watkins served on the University of South Florida Board of Trustees 2013-2021.
Education Verified



THE FLORIDA SENATE

Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100

COMMITTEES:

Finance and Tax, *Chair*
Transportation, *Chair*
Appropriations Committee on Transportation,
Tourism, and Economic Development
Environment and Natural Resources
Ethics and Elections
Fiscal Policy
Rules

SENATOR BRYAN AVILA

39th District

September 22, 2025

On Behalf of Senator Bryan Avila:

The Honorable President Ben Albritton
The Florida Senate
409, The Capital 404 S. Monroe
Street Tallahassee, FL 32399

REF: Absence Excuse Request

Honorable President Albritton:

Please excuse my absence from Committee Week two which is scheduled from Monday, October 13th, 2025, to Friday, October 17th, 2025. I have been activated to serve in the Florida Army National Guard during that time. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bryan Avila".

Bryan Avila

CC: Andrew Mackintosh, Chief of Staff – Office of the President
Ronnie Whitaker, Majority Office Staff Director
Tracy Cantella, Secretary of the Senate
Azhar Khan, Staff Director-Finance and Tax
Rob Vickers, Staff Director-Transportation

REPLY TO:

- ☐ 10001 NW 87th Avenue, Hialeah Gardens, Florida 33016 (305) 364-3073
- ☐ 309 Senate Building, 404 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100 (850) 487-5039

Senate's Website: www.flsenate.gov

BEN ALBRITTON
President of the Senate

JASON BRODEUR
President Pro Tempore



THE FLORIDA SENATE

Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100

COMMITTEES:

Appropriations, *Vice Chair*
Agriculture
Appropriations Committee on Health and
Human Services
Children, Families, and Elder Affairs
Ethics and Elections
Finance and Tax
Rules

JOINT COMMITTEE:

Joint Legislative Budget Commission

SENATOR DARRYL ERVIN ROUSON

16th District

October 13, 2025

The Honorable Don Gaetz

Chairman, Committee on Ethics and Elections
420 Knott Building
404 S Monroe St
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Chairman Gaetz,

I am writing to respectfully request an excused absence from the October 15th, 2025, meeting of the Committee on Ethics and Elections.

I appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

Senator Darryl E. Rouson

A handwritten signature in green ink that reads "Darryl E. Rouson".

Florida Senate
District 16

REPLY TO:

- ☐ 535 Central Avenue, Suite 302, St. Petersburg, Florida 33701 (727) 822-6828
- ☐ 212 Senate Building, 404 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100 (850) 487-5016

Senate's Website: www.flsenate.gov

BEN ALBRITTON
President of the Senate

JASON BRODEUR
President Pro Tempore



THE FLORIDA SENATE
SENATOR ERIN GRALL
District 29

Ben Albritton
President of the Senate

Jason Brodeur
President Pro Tempore

October 14, 2025

Dear Chair Gaetz,

I respectfully request an excused absence from the Committee on Ethics and Elections on October 15, 2025, at 3:30pm.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Erin K. Grall".

Senator Erin Grall
Florida Senate, District 29

Proudly Serving Glades, Highlands, Indian River, Okeechobee, and St. Lucie Counties
Children, Families, and Elder Affairs, Chair ~ Agriculture, Vice Chair ~ Appropriations ~
Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, Environment, and General Government ~
Appropriations Committee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development ~ Ethics
and Elections ~ Governmental Oversight and Accountability ~ Joint Administrative Procedures
Committee, Alternating Chair ~ Joint Select Committee on Collective Bargaining

CourtSmart Tag Report

Room: SB 37
Caption: Senate Committee on Ethics and Elections

Case No.:

Type:
Judge:

Started: 10/15/2025 3:31:32 PM

Ends: 10/15/2025 4:28:46 PM

Length: 00:57:14

3:31:32 PM	Meeting called to order
3:31:34 PM	Roll Call
3:31:52 PM	Quorum
3:31:55 PM	Chair Gaetz opening remarks
3:32:35 PM	Tab 1: 2026 Legislative Recommendations by Commission on Ethics
3:33:17 PM	Jon Philipson
3:39:45 PM	Chair Gaetz
3:40:05 PM	Jon Philipson
3:40:26 PM	Kerrie Stillman
3:49:42 PM	Steven Zuilkowski
3:53:26 PM	Chair Gaetz
3:54:23 PM	Steven Zuilkowski
3:54:31 PM	Chair Gaetz
3:55:07 PM	Tab 2: 2026 Midterm Elections and 2026 Legislative Recommendations
3:55:20 PM	Cord Byrd
4:03:53 PM	Questions
4:03:58 PM	Senator Polsky
4:04:18 PM	Cord Byrd
4:04:28 PM	Senator Polsky
4:04:37 PM	Cord Byrd
4:04:52 PM	Senator Polsky
4:05:27 PM	Cord Byrd
4:06:31 PM	Senator Polsky
4:06:49 PM	Cord Byrd
4:07:49 PM	Senator Bernard
4:08:22 PM	Cord Byrd
4:09:04 PM	Senator Bernard
4:09:19 PM	Cord Byrd
4:09:25 PM	Senator Bernard
4:09:47 PM	Cord Byrd
4:11:24 PM	Senator Bernard
4:11:40 PM	Cord Byrd
4:12:36 PM	Senator Bernard
4:12:42 PM	Cord Byrd
4:13:30 PM	Senator Bernard
4:13:57 PM	Chair Gaetz
4:14:17 PM	Cord Byrd
4:14:33 PM	Chair Gaetz
4:14:35 PM	Cord Byrd
4:14:46 PM	Chair Gaetz
4:14:55 PM	Cord Byrd
4:15:01 PM	Chair Gaetz
4:15:04 PM	Cord Byrd
4:15:06 PM	Chair Gaetz
4:15:29 PM	Cord Byrd
4:15:57 PM	Chair Gaetz
4:16:01 PM	Cord Byrd
4:16:02 PM	Chair Gaetz
4:16:23 PM	Cord Byrd
4:17:00 PM	Chair Gaetz
4:17:12 PM	Cord Byrd
4:17:36 PM	Senator Polsky

4:17:48 PM	Cord Byrd
4:17:52 PM	Senator Polsky
4:18:01 PM	Cord Byrd
4:18:52 PM	Chair Gaetz
4:20:10 PM	Tab 3: Joshua Kellam - Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
4:20:51 PM	Tab 4-7: Senate Confirmation Hearings
4:20:57 PM	Senator Bernard moves to confirm appointees
4:21:02 PM	Senator Bradley seconds the motion
4:21:07 PM	Roll Call
4:21:34 PM	Tab 3: Joshua Kellam - Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
4:21:57 PM	Public testimony
4:22:15 PM	Robyn Blevins
4:27:55 PM	Senator Bradley moves to confirm appointee
4:27:59 PM	Senator Bernard seconds the motion
4:28:02 PM	Roll call
4:28:36 PM	Senator Bernard moves to adjourn
4:28:39 PM	Meeting adjourned