



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

June 16, 2025

## **FLORIDA SENATE DEMOCRATS RESPOND TO THE 2025-2026 FLORIDA BUDGET**

*“Cutting taxes on NASCAR doesn’t help single moms pay the rent,” says Leader Lori Berman*

**TALLAHASSEE, FL** — Tonight, the Florida Legislature passed the General Appropriations Act and adjourned the 2025 Legislative Session sine die. On behalf of the Florida Senate Democratic Caucus, **Senate Democratic Leader Lori Berman** has issued the following statement:

“This budget doesn’t do nearly enough to address Florida’s affordability crisis. Republicans will point to their billion-dollar tax relief program as enough, but very little of that tax relief is going to the average Floridian — instead, we’re giving handouts to huge corporations and special interests. Cutting taxes on NASCAR doesn’t help single moms pay the rent.

“The development of that budget largely took place behind closed doors, depriving Floridians of government in the sunshine and allowing major substantive policy to slip through without being properly vetted. Republicans used that cover to repeal dedicated environmental funding, attack our local governments, and force groups receiving state funds to abandon diversity programs.

“We did make some positive strides this session. After years of bullying by the executive branch, we returned to an independent deliberative process between the House and the Senate. We didn’t let culture war bills take up all the oxygen in the room. Most importantly, we passed a number of bills that help make Florida a better place, like protections for our state parks and an expansion of mental health diversion programs in our criminal justice system.

“Though our work in this session is done, Senate Democrats are looking forward to 2026, where we will continue to fight for a more affordable Florida for everyone.”

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