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ARRINGTON**
Florida Senate District 25

Senator

KRISTEN ARRINGTON



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The Arrington Articles

Legislative Session Week 9

Hello <<First Name>>,

The final week of the Legislative Session has come to a close, but our work is not finished. Leadership in both chambers have not reached an agreement on the state budget, meaning lawmakers will need to return to Tallahassee to fulfill our constitutional responsibility to pass a balanced budget.

What does this mean for our community?

With the budget for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 unfinished, we do not yet know which funding priorities or community-focused appropriations projects will ultimately be included. A budget must be passed by

June 30th to avoid a state government shut down. Our office will continue to monitor and provide updates on the situation.

At the same time, there is positive progress to report. **Four** of our bills have successfully passed the Legislature and are now awaiting the Governor's signature. This is an important step forward as we continue working to deliver meaningful results for our community!

PARA ESPAÑOL

Weekly Question

Have you ever contacted a legislator about an issue important to you?

Yes

No

In the Headlines

Florida Politics - *“Legislature passes bill for recall process following Concorde Estates fiasco”*

Fox 13 Tampa Bay - *“Bill addressing animal cruelty involving children, expanding on Dexter's Law moves forward”*

Bill Updates



Four of our bills have passed both the House and Senate floor and will be awaiting the Governor's signature to become law! Here is a look at those good bills:

CS/HB 559: Animal Welfare

This bill strengthens protections for both animals and children by increasing criminal penalties and expanding accountability measures related to animal cruelty offenses. Key provisions include:

- Creating criminal penalties when an adult commits animal cruelty in the presence of a minor or forces a minor to participate in the act.
- Requiring court-ordered psychological evaluation and treatment for juveniles who commit animal cruelty
- Expanding the statewide public database of animal abusers to include additional identifying information such as date of birth, county of conviction, and an arrest photo.
- Strengthening enforcement related to animal fighting and baiting activities

- Increases the maximum civil penalty for violations of animal control ordinances from \$500 to up to \$1,000 per violation, allowing local governments to impose stronger financial consequences on individuals who commit acts related to animal cruelty or fail to comply with animal control requirements.

CS/SB 1180: Community Development Districts

This bill provides accountability for Community Development Districts (CDDs) by creating a formal process for residents to remove certain elected board members. Key provisions include:

- Establishing a recall election process allowing qualified electors within a CDD to vote to remove governing board members.
- Requiring recall petitions to include specific information, be organized through a recall committee, and gather signatures from a required percentage of district voters.
- Limiting grounds for recall to defined reasons such as malfeasance, neglect of duty, incompetence,

felony conviction, or inability to perform official responsibilities.

- Providing procedures for verification and elections, including timelines for collecting signatures and filling vacancies if a member is successfully recalled.

CS/HB 91: Candidate Qualification

This bill reinforces Florida's existing requirement that candidates be registered with a political party, or with no party affiliation, for 365 consecutive days before qualifying. The bill adds a clear enforcement process allowing certain challenges to a candidate's eligibility to be filed in circuit court.

CS/SB 110: Homestead Exemptions

This bill revises Florida law to clarify when a person is considered to have legal or beneficial ownership of property for homestead exemption eligibility.

It specifically recognizes certain long-term leaseholders, such as those with extended residential or

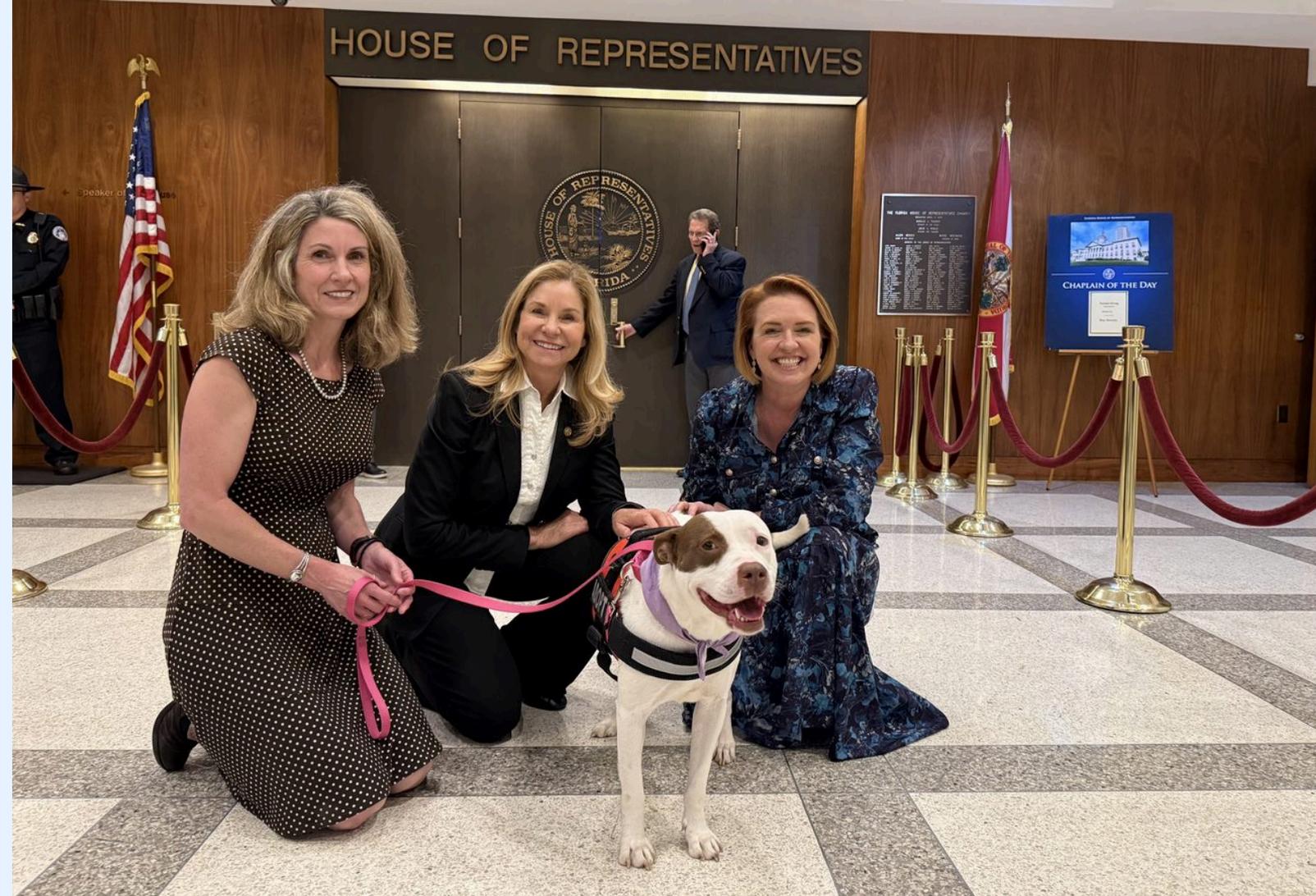
condominium leasehold interests, as eligible for the exemption.

In Other Legislative News:

Besides passing key legislation this session, I also pushed through an audit request in the Joint Legislative Auditing Committee (JLAC) to investigate concerns raised by residents in the Concorde Estates Community Development District (CDD). This action helps strengthen accountability, ensure proper oversight of local governance and financial practices, and work toward restoring trust for residents.

Read about Concorde Estates: [HERE](#)

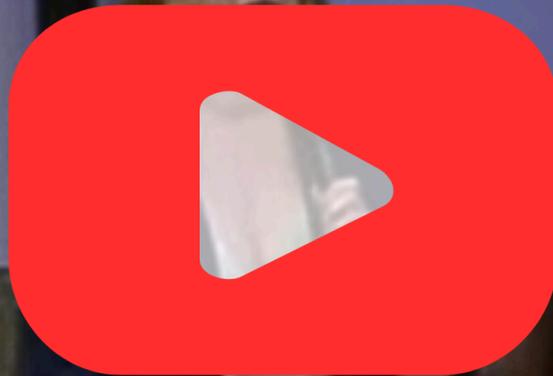
Visitor Spotlight



I was proud to join my House sponsor, Representative Linda Chaney, in welcoming a very special guest to the Capitol, Miracle, a sweet shelter pup.

Miracle helped us celebrate the passage of [CS/HB 559, Animal Welfare](#). This important step helps protect both our animals and our youth.

Floor Updates



CS/CS/HB 991, 1st Eng. (CS/CS/SB 1334)

Unfortunately, this Legislative Session also saw the passage of several concerning bills, including **CS/CS/HB 991**, an elections package that could make it harder for some of our most vulnerable voters, including seniors and students, to participate in the democratic process.

While protecting election integrity is important, it is equally critical to ensure that eligible voters are not faced with new barriers that limit access to the ballot. Provisions in this legislation raise serious concerns about how changes to voting processes could

disproportionately impact communities that already face challenges in casting their vote.

District Updates



Join us at our upcoming Remote Office Hours! Our team looks forward to connecting with community members and hearing directly from constituents. Stop by to ask questions, share concerns, or receive assistance with state and local resources!

Thursday March 26

- **From:** 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM
- **At:** South Creek Library
 - 1702 Deerfield Blvd
Orlando, FL 32837

This event is held in partnership with Representative Rita Harris. We look forward to seeing you there!

Helpful Links

Visit www.flsenate.gov to “find your Senator” and to sign up for alerts on specific legislation, committees, senators, or keywords

To view our Legislative page which includes our office contact information, sponsored legislation, along with the committees I serve on: <https://bit.ly/Arrington25>

Don't forget to sign up for our email updates: [Here](#)

Follow on all social channels [@Arrington4fl](#)

Watch committees or legislative session live or afterwards at www.TheFloridaChannel.org



It is an honor to serve as your voice in Tallahassee and represent Central Florida. Thank you for the trust you place in me. If you have any questions or need assistance, our office is always here to help.

K. Arrington

Senator Kristen Arrington



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