

## News You Can Use from State Senator Audrey Gibson



**2019 Legislative  
Session in Review  
Week 5  
April 1-5, 2019**



**101 E. Union Street, Suite 104 Jacksonville, FL 32202  
(904) 359-2553**

### ***Dear Constituent and Friend,***

Amazingly, we have officially crossed over the halfway point of the 2019 legislative session! With the Senate unanimously passing our budget plan of \$90.3 billion for next fiscal year and the House passing its version of \$89.9 billion, we are set for negotiations to begin on a final joint balanced budget. I continue my fight for much needed funding for public education, environmental issues, senior care, and our community priorities.

#### **My bills in committee this week:**

**SB 450: Public Records and Public Meetings/Local Government Utility**, in light of past and ongoing cyber attacks on Florida's municipal utilities it was important that I sponsor SB 450. The bill exempts public meetings, or portions of a meeting, where a local government utility discusses cyber security or related topics. With public right to know, the exempt portion of the meeting will be recorded and transcribed and available as required by public records law.

#### **On the Floor:**

I am excited to announce **SB 96: Officer Lance Christian Whitaker Highway**, memorial marker legislation passed the Senate and now awaits House approval before heading to the Governor to be signed into law.

Officer Whitaker lost his life while on duty, responding to a call to help others. The marker will honor his memory.

#### **Other bills of interest this week:**

**SB 292: Education by Senator Lee - Hillsborough County**: Protects the right of public school students to wear their uniform of the Armed Forces of the United States or the state to his or her graduation ceremony. Some of our students enroll in military reserves before they graduate high school and should not be denied an opportunity to demonstrate their military service.

**SB 96: Police, Fire, Search and Rescue Dogs and Police Horses by Senator Bean – Nassau County**: In an effort to deter intentional harm to law enforcement and rescue canines and horses, the bill will increase the penalty for intentionally and knowingly, causing bodily harm and/or death to a police, fire, search and rescue canine, or police horse. It is important that we protect our "partners" in law enforcement who protect us as well. I was happy to support this legislation.

**SB 7096: Constitutional Amendments by the Judiciary Committee**: Would revise regulations on how citizens collect petitions to amend the Florida constitution. The onerous process creates road blocks by among other things requiring a "petition gatherer" to register with the Secretary of State, attesting that he or she has been a Florida resident for at least 29 days, disallows "petition gatherers" to be paid per petition and mandates payment by hour and adds a financial impact statement on both state and local economies which is very difficult to secure.

Unfortunately, I could not support this legislation which creates barriers to citizens to access their constitution and inhibits the potential income of a person employed to gather petitions.

If you have questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

***As always, it is an Honor and a Pleasure to serve you in the Florida Senate!***

***Sincerely,***

**Audrey Gibson  
State Senator  
District 6**

### **Week 5 in the Senate!**



**Duval County School Board Members  
Darryl Willie, Charlotte Joyce  
& Elizabeth Anderson**



**Duval County 4-H Youth  
Development Program Participants**



**Duval County Legislative  
Tallahassee Meeting**



**Muslim Day at the Capitol**



**Jacksonville & NE Florida  
members of Florida  
Dental Hygienists' Association**



**Nora with Florida Coalition for  
Spoken Language Options**

### **25th Anniversary Delta Days at the State Capitol -2019-**



Also tune into these stations between 6 am-6 pm Mon to Fri to watch legislative action:  
[www.flsenate.gov/offices/minority](http://www.flsenate.gov/offices/minority) or WJCT-TV-Comcast channel 212, or WJCT-DT 7.4 or  
WUFT-TV-Comcast channel 210, Digital Channel 5.2 or Cox 13.