



## Good Morning!

This past week, the House and Senate reached an agreement on the 2019-2020 budget for our state. A final vote to pass the \$91.1 billion budget, and officially end the 2019 Legislative Session, took place yesterday.

A few of the budget highlights include our investment in protecting the environment by allocating \$682.6 million for water quality restoration, including \$149 million for water quality improvements like septic to sewer and wastewater improvement programs.

The budget also increases funding for the Florida Education Finance Program by \$783 million, including \$363.9 million in flexible funding that school districts can use for teacher pay increases, and \$285 million for merit-based bonuses.

Affordable housing program appropriations totaled \$200.6 million, including \$115 million for Hurricane Michael housing relief.

Finally, the state's reserves will be replenished to more than \$3.4 billion, which can be used in future times of need and to ensure Florida's AAA bond rating.

The budget, also known as the [2019-2020 General Appropriations Act](#), has been signed by Senate President Bill Galvano and Speaker of the House Jose Oliva. It will now be presented to Governor Ron DeSantis for his consideration.

The Governor has the authority to reject the budget, as well as line item veto authority which can be used to delete any specific budget item within the Appropriations Act. Once the Governor has completed his review, he then signs the General Appropriations Act into law, establishing the statewide budget for the next fiscal year. If you have any concerns about items included in the Legislature's budget, please [Contact Governor DeSantis's Office](#).

I consider it a great honor to represent all of the citizens and visitors of District 17. Please share [this link](#) with your friends and family so that they too can sign up for the [Mayfield Minute](#).

If you or someone you know needs my assistance, please don't hesitate to contact my office. My staff and I are here to serve you!

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## Local Project Funded in 2019-2020 State Budget

[Brevard County](#)

**Brevard County Septic to Sewer Conversion - \$500,000**

This will support septic to sewer conversions for 1,019 homes in Brevard County, removing an estimated 33,500 lbs of nitrogen pollution from entering the Indian River Lagoon each year.

**Palm Bay Turkey Creek Muck Removal Feasibility Study - \$160,000**

The feasibility study, environmental assessment and engineering alternative analysis will be conducted to establish the best avenue to restoring Turkey Creek to its pre-1950 condition.

**Florida Institute of Technology's Restore Inflow Research - \$800,000**

Researchers with the Florida Tech Indian River Lagoon Institute will continue their work to find solutions for improving water quality in the Indian River Lagoon (IRL). The Restore Inflow study is investigating the impacts of restoring historical ocean inflows to the IRL via a weir spillway.

**National Veterans Homeless Support - \$150,000**

With the goal of eliminating veteran homelessness in Brevard County, the National Veterans Homeless Support program will utilize this funding to support a search and rescue program; provide emergency, transitional and permanent housing; and supportive services.

**Brevard County Re-entry Portal - \$500,000**

The Re-entry Portal is a collaboration of My Community Cares, the Brevard Reentry Task Force, Brevard Homeless Coalition and the Florida Dept of Corrections to facilitate the successful reintegration of ex-offenders returning to Brevard County.

**Circles of Care - Harbour Pines and Cedar Village - \$500,000**

Funds will be utilized to purchase Baker Act Crisis Stabilization Unit beds and Mental Health treatment beds for Brevard County for the indigent population that represent an imminent danger to themselves and others.

**Circles of Care - Brevard - \$750,000**

Funding will provide Geropsychiatric Baker Act beds for stabilized patients.

**Nurse Family Partnership (NFP)- \$750,000**

The NFP is a community health program for first-time, high-risk pregnant women and girls who are living in poverty. Mothers are partnered with a nurse in early pregnancy with ongoing visits through the child's 2nd birthday.

**Space Coast Economic Development Council Talent Asset Pipeline - \$350,000**

Funding will support the Space Coast EDC's Manufacturing Talent Asset Pipeline program, which supports the development of a strong workforce through standardized training and increased awareness of high-wage career paths.

**Astronaut High School's New Welding Technology Program - \$500,000**

Brevard Public Schools will be adding a Welding Technology Program to Astronaut High School in Titusville to support the demand for certified welders in Brevard and surrounding counties. Funding will be used for lab renovations and to purchase necessary equipment to meet program standards.

**Cocoa High School's New Construction Program - \$100,000**

Brevard Schools will be adding a Construction Program to Cocoa High School in response to industry demand for entry-level carpenters, masons, journeymen, electricians, roofers and HVAC mechanics. Funding will be used to purchase equipment, supplies, professional development, student assessments and instructional materials.

**Brevard Achievement Center - \$199,714**

The Brevard Achievement Center provides persons with disabilities innovative services and opportunities to achieve personal growth and success.

**Brevard Emergency Operations Center- \$513, 500**

Funds will support the construction of a new Emergency Operations Center which will provide better emergency communication, preparedness, training, response, recovery and mitigation for Brevard County citizens and visitors.

**Easterseals of Brevard County - \$75,000**

Easterseals Florida Life Skills and Employment-Readiness Program will expand services to Brevard County. The program provides education and training to individuals with disabilities and special needs.

**Canaveral Port Authority Enhanced Fireboat - \$1,500,000**

With the arrival of LNG fueled cruise ships at Port Canaveral expected in September 2020, this funding will be used to purchase a special Marine Firefighting Rescue Vessel with the required conventional and dry-chemical firefighting apparatus.

**Indian River County**

**Indian River County North Sebastian Septic to Sewer Phase II - \$500,000**

Funding will be used to support 150 conversions from septic to sewer for residential and businesses still operating on poorly maintained and failing septic systems.

**Indian River County North Relief Canal Aquatic Plant Project - \$650,000**

This project is a regional pollution control systems designed to protect the Indian River Lagoon from excessive nutrient discharges from Indian River Farms Water Control District's North Relief Canal. Pilot data indicates that this project should remove 7,045 lbs of nitrogen and 1,083 lbs of phosphorus per year from going into the Lagoon.

**Treasure Coast Food Bank Food Production Plant - \$700,000**

The Treasure Coast Food Bank will purchase property and renovate its existing structure for the expansion of their food production plant programs, which include job training, farm to School contract work, produce production and processing, disaster relief and congregate feeding programs.

**Indian River State College - \$4,195,338**

Funding will be used to expand strategic initiatives to recruit, train and place graduates in the areas of nursing, health-care, manufacturing, automotive technology, HVAC and manufacturing trades struggling to fill high-wage jobs. Investments will also be made in technology and equipment modernization for workforce education programs.

**University of Florida Health Center for Psychiatry & Addiction - \$300,000**

The Vero Beach UF Health Center for Psychiatry and Addiction provides mental health services to patients in Indian River County at reduced or no cost.

**Big Brothers Big Sisters - School to Work Program - \$250,000**

The School to Work Program helps at risk students graduate and transition into the work place through partnerships with local businesses and organizations.

I will provide more detailed information on the budget, including additional grant funding, in next week's Mayfield Minute.

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## Highlights from the 2019 Legislative Session

### Environment and Natural Resources

It was an honor to serve as the Chair of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Environment, Natural Resources and General Government during the 2019 Legislative Session. This year the Florida Legislature funded a number of critical environmental priorities, including \$367.2 million for Everglades Restoration which will reduce harmful discharges into the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie Estuaries; \$50 million for beach restoration; \$25 million to research and combat harmful algal blooms and red tide; and \$100 million for Springs Restoration. The Legislature is committed to continuing to invest in protecting Florida's unique environment and water resources.

[HB 325: Coastal Management](#) was substituted for my identical Senate version of the bill, SB 446. The bill revises the criteria used by the DEP to prioritize coastal restoration projects based on need and importance. Criteria for ranking beach and inlet sand management projects will be refined to better capture the economic importance of healthy beaches to tourism, storm damage reduction and resource protection to ensure the projects of greatest need rise to the top annually. This legislation will also increase transparency and accountability from DEP by requiring project updates be provided to the Legislature for review. If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 2019. Vote: Senate 38-0; House 113-0

[SB 1552: Florida Red Tide Mitigation and Technology Development Initiative](#) provides a \$3 million annual appropriation for the next 6 years dedicated to red tide research and mitigation. This bill establishes the Florida Red Tide Mitigation and Technology Development Initiative as a partnership between the FWC's Fish and Wildlife Research Institute and Mote Marine Laboratory. The purpose of the initiative is to develop technologies and approaches needed to address the control and mitigation of red tide and its impacts. If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 2019. Vote: Senate 37-0; House 112-1

### Education

The Legislature has responded to the needs of our state and expanded educational opportunities for Floridians. This session we advanced a series of policy enhancements and budget investments to improve educational choice, while supporting our neighborhood public schools.

[HB 7071: Workforce Education](#) promotes apprenticeships, enhances talent development and increases career opportunity for Floridians. This bill creates the Florida Apprenticeship Grant Program to provide funding for schools, as well as state colleges and universities, to add new apprenticeship programs and expand existing programs. The Last Mile Scholarship Program is established to annually award the cost of in-state tuition and required fees for resident students who are in good standing at state universities and who are within 12 credit hours of completing their first associate or bachelor's degree. The bill also requires school districts to offer debt education and financial literacy courses as electives. If approved by the Governor, these provisions will take effect on July 1, 2019. Senate: 40-0; House 113-0

[SB 7070: K-12 Education](#) expands educational choice and opportunity for families, and elevates public schools. The bill creates the Family Empowerment Scholarship program to serve low income families and reduce the Florida Tax Scholarship wait list. This legislation also restructures the current Best and Brightest Teacher's Program by eliminating SAT/ACT requirements, and instead focuses this financial incentive program on recruitment, retention, and recognition of Florida's top teachers and principals. Other components of the bill include expanding options for teacher certification exams,

enhancing support for the Center for Community Schools program to support neighborhood public schools with unique community needs; providing school districts with greater flexibility when it comes to locally funded facility construction; and expanding and providing increased flexibility for Schools of Hope. Vote: Senate: 23-17; House 76-39

### **Military and Veteran Affairs**

We have a responsibility to our men and women in uniform to make Florida the most Military and Veteran friendly state in the nation. I am proud to announce that this year, the Florida Legislature worked to ensure our Veterans receive the recognition and benefits they deserve. This year, we fought to expand opportunities for military members, Veterans, and their dependents.

[SB 212: Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children](#) In collaboration with other states in our nation, the compact addresses educational transition issues for children of military families. This bill extends the sunset provision for the Compact. If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect upon becoming law. Vote: Senate 38-0; House 112-0

[SB 292: Education](#) allows a student who is graduating from a public educational institution to wear a dress military uniform to their graduation ceremony. If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect upon becoming law. Vote: Senate 39-0; House 115-0

[HB 427: Honor and Remember Flag](#) establishes the "Honor and Remember" flag as the state's emblem of the service and sacrifice of the brave men and women of the US Armed Forces who have given their lives in the line of duty. If approved by the Governor, this will take effect January 1, 2020. Vote: Senate 40-0; House 113-0

[SB 620: Military-friendly Initiatives](#) requires public school districts to accept a 'permanent change of station' order as proof of residency for all public school programs. In accepting the order as proof of residency, the district must provide preferential treatment to the student throughout the open enrollment process. The bill also enables an active duty member, or family member residing in the state, to qualify for in-state tuition at the time of acceptance for admission at a public post-secondary institution, even if the active duty member is subsequently transferred. If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 2019. Vote: Senate 39-0; House 113-0

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## **From the Desk of Governor Ron DeSantis**

Governor DeSantis, First Lady Casey DeSantis and Attorney General Ashley Moody visited Brevard County this week to congratulate Sheriff Wayne Ivey, and State Attorney Phil Archer, on the biggest drug bust in the county's history. The investigation led to the issuance of nearly 100 arrest warrants and the confiscation of large amounts of fentanyl, methamphetamine, heroin, pills and firearms.

With 17 deaths per day in Florida, and 172 overdose deaths having been reported in Brevard County over the past two years, we cannot allow these drugs to continue to poison our communities. The Legislature has appropriated nearly \$100 million to address the opioid epidemic and prevent opioid abuse among our youth. Additionally, Governor DeSantis has re-established the Office of Drug Control within his Executive Office and announced the creation of a statewide Task Force on Opioid Abuse.

This week Governor DeSantis also announced the appointments of expert researchers and scientists to the newly established **Blue-Green Algae Task Force**. This includes Dr.

James Sullivan, Executive Director of Florida Atlantic University's Harbor Branch and an expert on marine ecosystem health.

The focus of the Blue-Green Algae Task Force is to support key funding and restoration initiatives, and make recommendations to expedite nutrient reductions in Lake Okeechobee and the downstream estuaries. The Task Force will identify opportunities to fund priority projects that build upon DEP's Basin Management Action Plans. The Task Force will also review and prioritize projects that will provide the largest and most meaningful pollutant reductions in key waterways.

The Governor also **signed the following bills into law** this week:

[SB 96: Police, Fire, and Search and Rescue Dogs and Police Horses](#) increases the penalty from a third-degree felony to a second-degree felony for intentionally and knowingly causing great bodily harm, permanent disability, or death to police canines or horses, fire canines or search and rescue canines.

[SB 426: Firefighters Cancer Coverage](#) offers insurance and death benefits for firefighters diagnosed with cancer. I am proud to have co-sponsored this bill which ensures our firefighters and their families will have the support they need.

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## District Highlights

### DEP Awards Grants to Restore Indian River Lagoon

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection has awarded Brevard and Indian River counties grant money to fund the following coastal access and water quality improvement projects:

- **Indian River County** has been awarded \$50,000 to create a salt marsh and enhance habitats at the Jones Pier Conservation Area. The proposed project will improve water quality in the Indian River Lagoon by restoring and creating approximately 4.8 acres of saltmarsh wetlands and hydric hammock. Water from the lagoon will be pumped into the site to circulate through a diverse saltmarsh system, removing nutrients, suspended solids and other pollutants prior to discharge back into the lagoon. Additionally, the project includes creating native uplands to improve resilience and buffering of natural areas.
- **Brevard County** has been awarded nearly \$20,000 for the design and installation of a living shoreline along North Indian River Drive in Cocoa. The installation of native salt marsh vegetation and an oyster breakwater will help stabilize the shoreline and provide increased protection from erosion, enhance and restore estuary habitat, and improve water quality in the Indian River Lagoon. Additionally, educational signage will be installed at the site to educate site visitors about the benefits of using green infrastructure to prevent erosion.

These grants are part of DEP's [Coastal Partnership Initiative Grant Program](#) which promotes the protection and effective management of Florida's coastal resources at the local level. Projects like these are essential ensuring that Florida's coastal resources are not only protected, but also accessible for all visitors to enjoy.

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## Vietnam Memorial Wall & Florida Veterans Reunion

This week, May 5th- May 12th, the Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall will be on display at Wickham Park for Florida's 32nd Annual Vietnam and All Veterans Reunion.

The wall is a 3/5 scale of the Vietnam Memorial in Washington DC, standing six feet tall at the center and extending almost 300 feet from end to end. The Traveling Memorial stands as a reminder of the great sacrifices made during the Vietnam War. The exhibit also provides people that might not be able to make the trip to our nation's capitol the opportunity to visit the wall and honor their loved ones.

The Florida Veterans Reunion is one of the largest and longest running veteran reunions in the country. A variety of events have been planned throughout the week to reconnect old friends and honor those that made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. For a full list of events please visit [FloridaVeteransReunion.com](http://FloridaVeteransReunion.com).

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Dorothy Walsh [dwalshusa@gmail.com](mailto:dwalshusa@gmail.com).

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