



Good Morning!

This past week I had the opportunity to join the Florida Shore and Beach Preservation Association (FSBPA) for their 62nd Annual Conference to discuss the importance of protecting Florida's treasured beaches and inlets.

During the 2019 Legislative Session Representative Chip LaMarca and I championed the [Coastal Management bill](#), which was signed into law by Governor Ron DeSantis on June 24th. This important legislation will help protect our valuable coastal resources and improve the beach restoration process.



I was also honored to receive the Association's Statesman Award. The award was presented "*in appreciation of outstanding leadership support to improving policies and ensuring adequate funding for the protection and preservation of Florida's beaches.*"

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!

First Week Committee Hearings

I returned to the Capitol for the first committee week of the 2020 Legislative Session. This was the first of six committee weeks where we have the opportunity to hear reports from state agencies, and prepare legislation and priorities for the upcoming session.

The Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, Environment and General Government met for presentations on Agricultural Water Policy from the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services; an update on the transfer of the State's information technology by the Department of Management Services; and invasive species impacts, prevention, and enforcement by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. There are at least 150 non-native invasive species, like lionfish and pythons, which are actively reproducing and having a negative impact on our native species and environment. More than 80% of these non-native invasive species came from the live animal pet trade.

Presentations to the **Appropriations Committee** included an overview of the long range financial outlook for the state of Florida. The report indicated the state will receive approximately \$867 million less in revenue over the next two years than was previously projected. You can read the full report from the Florida Legislature Office of Economic and Demographic Research [here](#).

Health Policy Committee members were introduced to the new State Health Officer and Surgeon General Dr. Scott Rivkees. Dr. Rivkees provided an update on the Hepatitis A Outbreak, where 3,009 cases have been reported in Florida and has resulted in 40 deaths. To protect yourself from contracting Hepatitis A, he encourages all individuals to practice good handwashing procedures and recommends vaccination for those at heightened risk.

Children, Families and Elder Affairs Committee met to hear a panel discussion on Suicide Prevention and Mental Health. Suicide is a major public health issue and a leading cause of death nationally. In 2017, 3,187 lives were lost to suicide in Florida. Veterans are at heightened risk of experiencing suicidal thoughts. Those struggling are encouraged to call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at (800) 273-8255.

This week I **sponsored** the following legislation:

[SB 306: State Funds](#) prohibits sweeps of the Sadowski State and Local Housing Trust Fund. In 1992, the Florida Legislature increased taxes on real estate transactions to fund the Sadowski Trust to help families and individuals find affordable housing, including the homeless and first-time homebuyers. The Sadowski Housing Trust Fund was fully funded in the 2019-2020 budget by the Legislature, with \$100 Million of the funds having been directed to housing assistance for Hurricane Michael Recovery efforts. This legislation would ensure that it is fully funded every year.

[SB 342: Transportation Facility Designations/A.B. Michael Bridges](#) provides for the proper name designation of the bridges between Wabasso and Wabasso Beach to be A.B. Michael Bridges.

I also **co-sponsored** [Senate Joint Resolution 142](#) which is a ballot initiative to abolish the Constitution Revision Commission. If approved by the Legislature, it will be on the 2020 ballot for voter consideration. Currently, the Constitution requires that a Constitution Revision Commission be convened once every 20 years to examine the Constitution and propose any amendments that they deem appropriate.

Florida Senate Committees will reconvene during the week of October 14, 2019. To view the published calendar please visit the [Florida Senate website](#).

Blue Green Algae Task Force

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) will be hosting the Blue-Green Algae Task Force meetings on September 24th and 25th in Naples to discuss public health and stormwater regulations.

[Blue-Green Algae Task Force Meeting](#)
September 24th and 25th beginning at 9:00 AM
Florida Gulf Coast University, Kapnick Center
4940 Bayshore Drive, Naples, FL 34112
Watch Live Online at [TheFloridaChannel.org](#)

The Task Force was established through an Executive Order by Governor DeSantis. 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.

District 17 Highlights

Coastal Cleanup at Sebastian Inlet State Park

In celebration of International Coastal Cleanup Day and National Public Lands Day, residents and visitors are invited to volunteer to help keep our beautiful beaches clean.

[Sebastian Inlet State Park Coastal Cleanup](#)

Saturday, September 28, 2019

8:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Sebastian Inlet State Park

9700 South A1A, Melbourne Beach, FL

There will be volunteer sign in booths located on both the Brevard and Indian River County sides of the park. Park entrance fees will be waived for all volunteers. For more information, please contact Terry OToole at (772) 388-2750 terry.otoole@dep.state.fl.us.

Legislative Delegation Meetings

This week, I am looking forward to joining my fellow members of the Brevard County and Indian River County Legislative Delegations to hear from residents about their ideas, concerns and legislative priorities. The Delegation meetings are important to ensure that we are being effective advocates for our communities in the Capitol.

Brevard County

Wednesday, September 25, 2019

2:00 PM to 6:00 PM

Canaveral Port Authority Commission Room

445 Challenger Road, Cape Canaveral

Indian River County

Tuesday, September 24, 2019

9:00 AM to Noon

Indian River County Commission Chambers

1801 27th Street, Building A in Vero Beach

Indian River Lagoon Straight Talk

The Brevard Indian River Lagoon Coalition will be hosting a forum on projects and plans to restore the Indian River Lagoon on Monday, **September 23rd** at 5:30 PM at the Cocoa Beach Courtyard by Marriott (3435 N Atlantic Ave, Cocoa Beach).

The forum will feature updates on the Save Our Lagoon Trust Fund projects, Cocoa Beach Wastewater Treatment Upgrades and funding solutions. Attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions from a panel of local leaders and scientists including the Chair of the Indian River Lagoon Coalition MJ Waters; Virginia Barker, Director of the Brevard County Natural Resources Department; Jim McKnight, Cocoa Beach City Manager; Dr. Duane DeFreese, National Estuary Program.

This forum is open to the public and free to attend. Pre-registration is required due to limited seating. You can sign up online at <https://tinyurl.com/LagoonStraightTalk>. For those that are not able to attend, you may watch the event live stream on the [Brevard Indian River Lagoon Coalition Facebook Page](#).

Follow me on Facebook and Twitter, and visit my [Senate website](#)



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