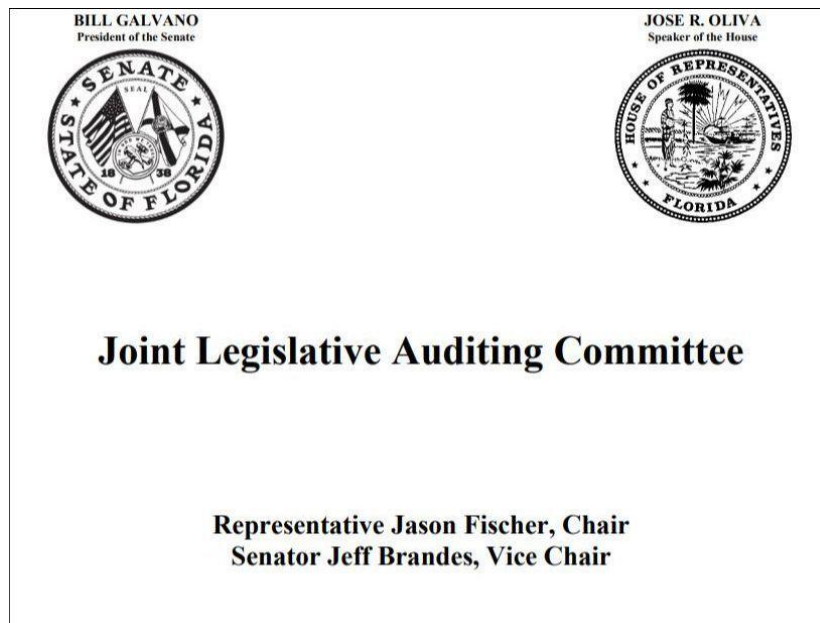




I'm incredibly humbled by the high-level of engagement from our folks in District 8, which has played a huge role in all that we've accomplished in Tallahassee so far! There is only one committee week remaining ahead the 2020 Legislative Session, and I'm excited to continue working with you on behalf of District 8.

Here's a look at what's been happening in Tallahassee and throughout our community:

State to Audit City of Gainesville



You voiced your concerns, and we took action.

In response to multiple Gainesville residents concerned with the City of Gainesville's financial health, Representative Chuck Clemons and I formally requested the Joint Legislative Audit Committee to direct the State Auditor General to take a look into the city's operational and managerial practices.

The JLAC committee members voted unanimously to proceed with a comprehensive audit by the state. This is about restoring public trust and confidence in our community, and I appreciate the willingness of Gainesville officials to cooperate with the process. More information [here](#).

Unanimous Support for Meaningful Legislation



[Early Childhood Music Education Incentive Program](#): This program is one of my top priorities, and I believe that adopting music education into K-2 is the most transformative, cost-effective way to positively impact early childhood education. Studies have already shown that exposure to fine arts increases tests scores and fosters lifelong creativity, and this pilot program will allow the University of Florida to study just how much music classes impact learning gains, social development, and teamwork. Happy to have recieved unanimous support from the Education Committee members!

[Peer-to-Peer Support for First Responders](#): It is estimated that nationwide, 84 percent of first responders have experienced a traumatic event on the job, and for the past few years, we have lost more law enforcement officials to suicide than in the line of duty. Our bill allows confidentiality to first responders who confide in their fellow first responders about the personal and professional tolls of the job. This week, this bill unanimously passed its second committee stop!

[Back to School Tax Holiday](#): We are one step closer to saving Florida families money as they prepare their children for the 2020 school year! From July 31 through August 9, 2020, tax-exempt items would include clothing and bags under \$60, school supplies under \$15, and computers and related accessories under \$1,000. During this year's holiday, Floridians save more than \$36 million.

Ocala's historic fire bell was returned to its original location, at the corner of SE Broadway Street and SE Osceola Avenue, where the original fire house once stood. The 130 year-old bell arrived in 1889, and sounded the end of two world wars.



Ocala Mayor Kent Guinn officially opened the Osceola Trak, connecting Tuscowilla Art Park to the Downtown Market! This multi-use park system welcomes walkers, bicyclists, and more to explore the city.



The Marion County CTE Showcase demonstrated how impressive the course offerings are at Vanguard High School and North Marion High School! The state-of-the-art labs and industry-current equipment are providing our students with the tools they need to be leaders in our future workforce.



The Early Learning Coalition of Marion County does tremendous work on behalf of our youngest and most influential students. They have done so much in the last 20 years, and I am excited for the coalition to revisit the successes in this time capsule in 2049!



Alachua County Leads State in Recycling!



November 11-15 was "Florida Recycles Week," and Alachua County was recognized for being a statewide leader in recycling!

Florida Department of Environmental Protection Secretary Noah Valenstein celebrated Alachua County as one of three counties to reach the state's 70% recycling goal. Great job, Alachua County!

With your support, I'm excited to again champion [SB 326](#) to decrease recycling contamination. Here are some easy ways we can keep up the good work, and reduce recycling contamination:

- Confused about what to recycle? Paper, cardboard, bottles and cans only. When in doubt, throw it out.
- It's easier to recycle aluminum than to spell it. Recycle clean, dry, empty cans.
- On average, Americans drink one beverage from an aluminum can every day! In Florida, we recycle less than 20% of the cans we use. Cans are 100% recyclable.
- The cardboard box can be recycled, BUT the package CANNOT be recycled at the curb. Reuse the packing materials when you send your next holiday gift.

Legislative Session

As we approach the next legislative session, you can stay up-to-date with my bills and committee meetings by visiting my [senate web page](#). You can also watch all Florida Senate and House committee meetings live on [The Florida Channel](#).



I'm looking forward to serving another year on the following senate committees:

- Criminal Justice, Chair
- Infrastructure & Security, Vice Chair
- Banking & Insurance
- Education
- Appropriations Subcommittee on Criminal and Civil Justice
- Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development

www.FLSenate.gov

It's an honor to represent you in the Florida Senate. Thank you for your continued support, input and patience as we work together to make lasting impacts in our community. I'm eager to advocate for District 8 during the upcoming Legislative Session!

Sincerely,



Senator Keith Perry



Tallahassee Office

316 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399
(850) 487-5008

Gainesville Office

2610 NW 43rd Street, Suite 2B
Gainesville, FL 32606
(352) 264-4040

Palatka Office

Putnam County Government Complex
2509 Crill Avenue
Palatka, FL 32177

Ocala Office

Marion County Board of Commissioners
115 SE 25th Avenue
Ocala, FL 34471
(352) 732-1249

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

