

# LORANNE AUSLEY

## STATE SENATOR DISTRICT 3



### *The Ausley Update* — Legislative Update —

## Senate Offices

### **-Tallahassee-**

202 Senate Building  
404 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100  
(850) 487-5003

### **-Quincy-**

20 East Washington Street  
Suite D  
Quincy, FL 32351  
(850) 627-0474

## Dear Constituent and Friend,

We are now one week away from the end of the 2021 Legislative Session. With only 70 bills that have passed both the Senate and House, and a budget that is still not resolved we have a lot of work to do. Budget negotiations began late last week, continued through last weekend and are still in process. Session is scheduled to end next Friday, April 30<sup>th</sup> but the only way we can end on time is if the budget is finalized, published and available to Legislators and the public by Tuesday. The Constitution requires a 72 hour “cooling off” period from the time the budget is provided to Members before a final vote – so the Tuesday deadline is important to a timely finish.



A key sticking point is how Florida will use funding from the American Rescue Plan, as the Senate and House currently have very different priorities. These one-time dollars coming into our state and our local governments present a once in a lifetime opportunity to invest in transformational projects, both in terms of infrastructure and for the benefit of our citizens. We must take advantage of this truly unique opportunity for our fiscally constrained counties to leverage available dollars to meet longstanding critical needs.

My broadband bill passed its final committee this week, taking another step towards expanding



broadband availability. This past year has been incredibly challenging and has certainly demonstrated the need for high speed internet for school, work and health care. Far too many Floridians do not have access because of pricing, speed, or a complete lack of connectivity. I am hopeful with the added emphasis and potential funding from the federal government we

will actually pass legislation that will open the door for high speed internet for all!

With committee work complete in the Senate, we have spent much of the week on the floor discussing, debating and voting on legislation. With one week to go, I hope you will continue to share your opinions on the legislation before us by emailing me at [ausley.loranne.web@flsenate.gov](mailto:ausley.loranne.web@flsenate.gov).

**FOLLOW ME TO STAY UP TO DATE**



### **2021 SESSION DATES**

April 30, 2021: 60th day – last day of Regular Session

## ***AUSLEY's HIGHLIGHTS***

We took a break from meetings on Friday which provided the opportunity to visit additional correctional institutions in Senate District 3. I've now visited most of these institutions, talking with wardens, correctional officers and staff and appreciate the work they do each and every day under, at times, very difficult and dangerous circumstances.

I'm working hard to make sure my colleagues understand the devastating impact a prison closure would have, especially on our rural and fiscally constrained communities. We are making progress and I'll have more to report next week.

(Below: Hamilton, Taylor, Jefferson and Madison County Correctional Institutions)





*It is an honor and pleasure to serve you in the Florida Senate!*

Sincerely,

*Lorraine Ausley*

Lorraine Ausley  
Senator District 3

**Sign up to stay connected!**