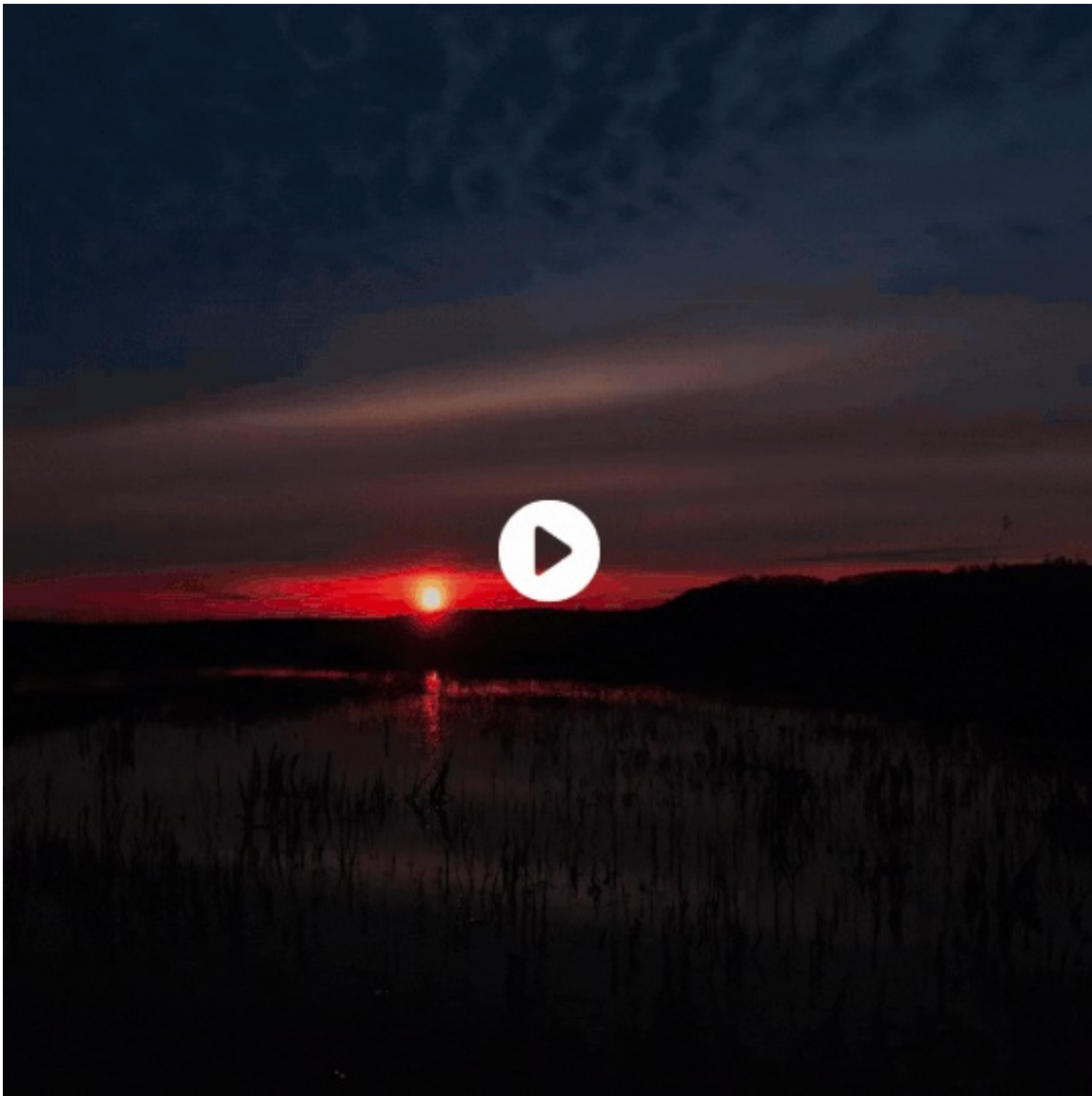


LORANNE AUSLEY
STATE SENATOR DISTRICT 3

THE AUSLEY UPDATE



THE WEEKLY RECAP VIDEO



[Watch The Video](#)

The annual Legislative Session began on Tuesday, and we have hit the ground running. Although Session can be hectic,

I really enjoy these two months when my fellow legislators and citizens are at the Capitol, working to make Floridians' lives better.




This Session is unique in that every ten years we are required to go through the process of redistricting our state's legislative and congressional districts based on the US census. While we are early in the process, it is clear that my large district will be even larger, mostly due to population loss across the Panhandle. This is a sad reflection of a reality that is playing out across our country as people move away from the warmth and beauty of our rural communities. For me, spending time in the 10 rural counties (out of 11) is a highlight of representing Senate District 3.

The other major issue, as it is each year, is the budget. The General Appropriations Act is constitutionally the only bill the Legislature is required to pass each year. The Governor has made his recommendations for the 2022-23 budget, and it's now time for the Legislature to take over this process. This week, in the two appropriations committees I serve on, we heard from agency staff about their priorities. I am encouraged that, for the first time in many years, we are starting Session with a discussion about a pay raise for state employees. To give credit where credit is due, I applaud the DeSantis Administration for valuing the dedication and hard work of our state employees, and I will work hard with my colleagues in the legislature to get a pay raise for ALL state employees across the finish line.

State Employee Pay Increases

\$225 million can support up to a 4% salary increase for career service employees, at the agencies' discretion to implement based on the individual needs of each agency.



Pay Plan	Number of Filled FTE	Average Base Salary Rate Prior to Compression	Average Base Salary Rate After Compression	Base Salary Rate Increase	Percentage Increase
Career Service	64,043	39,905	41,410	1,505	4%
Selected Exempt	15,320	61,035	63,200	2,165	4%
Senior Management	568	119,885	120,507	622	1%
Remaining Pay Plans	14,079	61,836	63,613	1,777	3%
All Pay Plans in State Personnel System	94,009	47,129	48,777	1,648	3%

FREEDOM FIRST BUDGET 2022-2023 | R. O.

With people back in the Capitol again, we love the opportunity to meet with constituents – and this week included those advocating for children's welfare, broadband access, telehealth, professional licensing, and assistance for small farms – to name just a few! Many of you are calling or emailing, asking me to vote one way or another on various bills. I very much appreciate that. I always want to

hear from you so I can better represent you, so keep it coming!

I continue to work very hard on my priority of getting broadband access to all Floridians and this week I attended (virtually) my first meeting of the FCC's Precision Agriculture Connectivity Task Force. The Task Force was created by the 2018 Farm Bill to provide advice and recommendations on rural broadband expansion focused mainly on agricultural lands to promote precision agriculture practices. I am truly honored to have been appointed by the FCC and look forward to bringing innovation, best practices, and resources to Senate District 3 and beyond.



Again, I am really enjoying the chance to meet face to face with my colleagues in the Senate. While we may not agree on every single issue, and we may approach problems from different backgrounds or philosophies, I find that if we work hard enough, we can find common ground and solve some of the many challenges that hard-working Floridians face these days.

Stay safe!

Lorraine Ausley
Senator, District 3

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