

LORANNE AUSLEY

STATE SENATOR DISTRICT 3

THE AUSLEY UPDATE



THE WEEKLY RECAP VIDEO

SENATOR AUSLEY



THE WEEKLY RECAP

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FAMU DAY

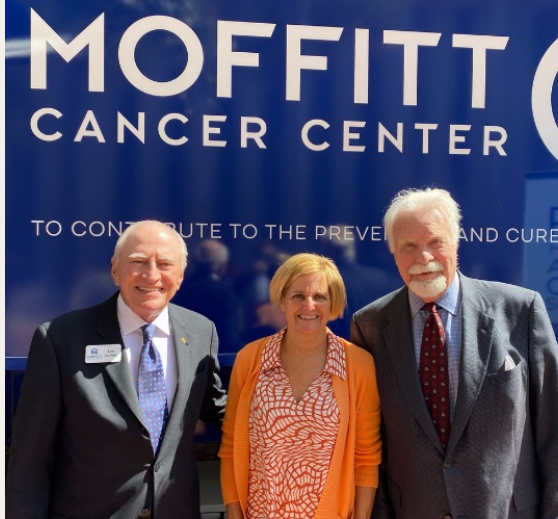
The highlight of this week was, without a doubt, FAMU DAY! There are so many reasons to celebrate our hometown university – rated the highest-ranked public HBCU for the third consecutive year in the 2022 US News and World Report. The University was founded in 1887 to give educational opportunities to Black Americans who were shut out of other higher learning institutions. These days, FAMU is the leading provider of degrees to

African-American graduates in several disciplines at the baccalaureate, professional, and graduate levels. From agricultural research and training, to film and journalism, to championship level athletics, FAMU keeps Tallahassee and our region in the national spotlight. Go Rattlers!



CURE ON WHEELS

The Capital Courtyard has been really busy this week with hundreds of citizen activists demonstrating on issues ranging from reproductive rights to voting rights to criminal justice reform. I have a great vantage point from my 2nd floor office where we can see and hear everything. Seems like every week something attracts my attention, and this week it was a huge group of cyclists riding from Monroe Street right into the center of the courtyard! Of course I stopped what I was doing and headed downstairs where I met several members of the “Cure on Wheels” team. This year they rode all the way from Tampa (325 miles) to support the Moffitt Cancer Center – maybe I can join next year?



BILLS PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

On the legislative front, **two of my bills passed unanimously out of committee** – both dealing with environmental issues. The Brownfields to Brightfields Act (SB1562) calls for a study to determine if brownfields and landfills could be repurposed as solar farms. SB 864 sets up a cost-sharing program that could help family farmers stay in business by recognizing the environmental benefits of land preservation, aquaculture and precision agriculture. I was also happy to support SB 7034 which helps foster parents pay for child care. This long overdue measure passed out of the full Senate and will help ensure that the kids who need it the most can access quality child-care.

SB 1562

THE BROWNFIELDS TO BRIGHTFIELDS ACT



SENATOR AUSLEY

SB 864 PROTECTING FLORIDA'S NATURAL RESOURCES ACT



BROADBAND

Finally, on broadband, the Appropriations Committee on Transportation and Economic Development had a lively discussion about our state's broadband strategy surrounding the passage of SB 1800. **The important point to make is that Florida will receive a significant amount of federal dollars specifically for broadband as part of the bi-partisan federal Infrastructure Bill.** Florida's Office of Broadband is working hard to make sure all stakeholders will be ready to spring into action as soon as the federal dollars become available –which will likely be in late spring. Once the federal dollars are available, the Legislative Budget Commission can provide budget authority for the Office to distribute these funds. We will continue to work closely with the Office of Broadband, providers, and local governments toward our collective goal of ensuring that every Floridian has access to high-speed internet.

HIGHLIGHTS

Other Capitol highlights this week included 4-H Day, Suits for Session and Northwest Florida Days.

SUITS FOR SESSION

The Seventh Annual “Suits for Session” is a terrific Volunteer Florida project that collects new or gently-worn business attire to help prepare job-seekers in need.



4-H DAY

4-H Day fills the Capitol with young people from across the state. These youth leaders represent the best of rural North Florida, and through 4-H they gain many important life skills such as public speaking, decision making, and self-confidence. I had the opportunity to meet with several groups from across SD3 -- it is always great to get to know our next generation of leaders.



NORTHWEST FLORIDA DAYS

I also had the opportunity to speak at Northwest Florida Days about this region that I dearly love to others who love it just as much.



19TH ANNUAL AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY FESTIVAL

I started the week in Apalachicola with my H'Cola friends at the 19th Annual

African American History Festival. The Hillside Coalition of Laborers for Apalachicola puts on a great weekend of events. I loved participating in the community parade along MLK Avenue through the Hill community along with kids and youth who make up the Hillside Royal Court, and I can't wait for the 20th anniversary next year. This weekend I am looking forward to a Black History month parade in Gadsden County -- featuring the FAMU Marching 100! I am humbled by the pride and strength of these communities, and truly honored to be able to be a part of these important celebrations.



With two full weeks remaining, next week will be a busy one as we begin budget conference. I also expect the Senate to start deliberating on some of the more controversial bills that are coming out of the House, so stay tuned and please stay in touch!

Sincerely,

Loranne Ausley

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