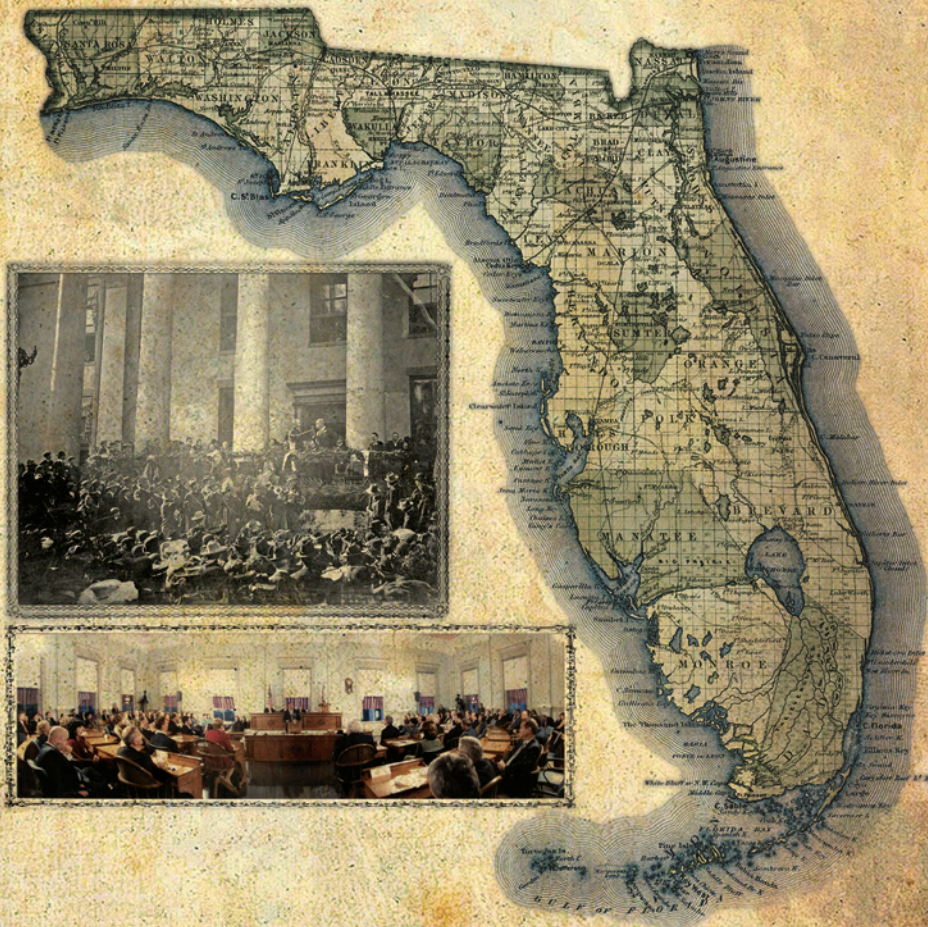


THE FLORIDA SENATE 2008-2010



JEFF ATWATER
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

The photographs used throughout this book were taken from the Senate collection and the State Archives.

An image on the cover was taken by dave decoteau - Downtown Photo/ Fort Lauderdale.

Also included in this handbook is a photographic tour of the Senate, showing the Senate at work.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



JEFF ATWATER
President of the Senate

Welcome to the Florida Senate – an institution rich in tradition, with a history of careful deliberation, and a deep sense of responsibility to serve the citizens of Florida. It is my desire that you will take the opportunity to visit the Senate chamber, the halls which display historical photographs, and the members who make up our Senate body.

The Florida Senate is comprised of forty individuals from every walk of life. From the Panhandle to the Florida Keys, our diverse body reflects our great state. While backgrounds and experiences vary, in keeping with Senate tradition, on the Senate floor we are equals. Each Senator has the opportunity to impact and shape public policy. We may be passionate in our debate, but in the end we work together toward the same goal – a brighter future for Florida.

I am honored and humbled to serve as the presiding officer of this body at this time in history. During the next two years we will face a budget deficit of historical proportions. It is our constitutional duty to maintain a balanced budget, and that will be our priority. However, we will also look at how we can stimulate Florida's economy and create an environment in which Florida's families, communities, and businesses can thrive. It is imperative that our economic foundation is conducive to new life sciences, energy, and technology expansion. We will also work diligently in the areas of education, growth management, and the environment to promote a seamless delivery of intellectual capital and balance the needs of economic vitality with the protection of our unique ecosystems.

While we are eager to tackle these issues, you are on the frontlines. It is important that we hear from you. It is my hope that you will contact your Senator with ideas and suggestions to improve Florida. Your participation in the legislative process is both welcomed and appreciated.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you and this great state,

Jeff Atwater

THE FLORIDA SENATE

When the first Senate was convened on January 7, 1839 — six years before Florida became a state — no business could be transacted because only seven of the sixteen Senators were present. There was no quorum of Senators for three of the first four days, and it was not until the fifth day of the first session that Territorial Governor Richard Keith Call addressed the Senate and the House of Representatives in joint session.



Since the beginning days, the Senate has evolved into a highly organized, smoothly functioning legislative body that meets annually to conduct the people's business. The year-round professional staff conducts vital research and prepares for the legislative sessions.

The Florida Senate today has 40 members, each elected from a single-member district and each representing approximately 450,000 Florida citizens. Each Senator is elected for a four-year staggered term. He or she may be elected for more than one term, but may not seek reelection if he or she has served for eight consecutive years (see Article VI, Section 4, State Constitution). The Constitution of the State of Florida specifies that Senators must be at least 21 years of age, must be registered voters, must be residents of the district from which they are elected, and must have resided in Florida for two years prior to their election.

While members of the other branches of government work full time in public service, the Legislature maintains its identity as the "citizen" branch. Many of the Senators work in a business or profession when they are not carrying out their legislative duties. Their occupations include law, medicine, banking, business, education, agriculture, and industry.

The 2008-2010 Senate membership includes 31 men and 9 women. There are 26 Republicans and 14 Democrats. The average Senator is about 53 years old, is married, and has children. Thirty-two Senators have college degrees and 31 held other public offices before they were elected to the Senate.



Thirty-four Senators served in the House of Representatives prior to their election to the Senate. The Senate is presided over by a President elected by the members of the Senate. Also elected is the President Pro Tempore. The President for the 2008-2010 term is Senator Jeff Atwater from North Palm Beach. The President Pro Tempore is Senator Mike Fasano from New Port Richey.

"Once a Senator, always a Senator" is a catchy phrase of good fellowship that conveys something of the philosophy of the Senate.

Additional information on these officers and the other members of the Senate is contained on the following pages of this handbook. The handbook also further outlines and describes the Senate, its operations, and its relationship to the House of Representatives and the other two branches of Florida government.



PRESIDENT OF THE FLORIDA SENATE

The Senate President is a constitutional officer who leads the Florida Senate for a two-year term. The President, who is elected by members of the Senate, manages the operations of the Senate and presides over its sessions. The President's many duties include: selecting a Majority Leader, appointing Senators to standing Senate committees, appointing committee chairs, and appointing citizens to a variety of boards and commissions.



JEFF ATWATER

Republican, District 25

Banking **BORN** April 8, 1958, in St. Louis, Missouri. Moved to Florida in 1962 **EDUCATION** University of Florida: B.A., Finance, 1981; M.B.A., 2002 **WIFE** Carole Funkhouser of Topeka, Kansas **CHILDREN** Amy Leigh, John, Amanda, Courtney **LEGISLATIVE SERVICE** elected to the Senate in 2002, reelected subsequently; House of Representatives: 2000-2002 **HISTORICAL** Napoleon B. Broward, great-grandfather: Governor of Florida, 1905-1909 **RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION** Catholic **RECREATION** reading, Florida history, baseball fan **ADDRESSES** (district) 824 US Highway 1, #210, North Palm Beach 33408; Oakland Park City Hall, 3650 NE 12th Avenue, Oakland Park 33334 (Tallahassee) 312 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100; 409 The Capitol, 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 **TELEPHONES** (district) 561/625-5101 or 954/847-3518 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5100, 850/487-5229.

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The role of the President Pro Tempore is defined by the President and the Senate Rules. Additionally, the President Pro Tempore may preside over sessions during the absence of the President.



MIKE FASANO

Republican, District 11

Associate Vice President for Investments, Morgan Stanley; Director of Community and Legal Affairs, Florida Hospital Zephyrhills **BORN** June 11, 1958, in Long Island, New York. Moved to Florida in 1971 **EDUCATION** attended St. Petersburg Junior College: 1987-1990 **LEGISLATIVE SERVICE** elected to the Senate in 2002, reelected subsequently, Majority Whip: 2006-2008; House of Representatives: 1994-2002, Majority Leader: 2000-2001, Majority Floor Leader: 1998-2000, Majority Whip: 1996-1998 **RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION** Catholic **RECREATION** golf, tennis **ADDRESSES** (district) 8217 Massachusetts Avenue, New Port Richey 34653-3111 (Tallahassee) 404 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 **TELEPHONES** Statewide: 1/800/948-5885 (district) 727/848-5885 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5062.



MEMBERS OF THE FLORIDA SENATE

JD ALEXANDER

Republican, District 17



Citrus Grower **BORN** July 16, 1959, in Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. Moved to Florida in 1961 **EDUCATION** University of Florida: B.S., Agriculture, 1981 **WIFE** Cindy Monroe of Augusta, Georgia **CHILDREN** Britton, Keaton **LEGISLATIVE SERVICE** elected to the Senate in 2002, reelected subsequently, Majority (Republican) Whip: 2004-2006; House of Representatives: 1998-2002 **HISTORICAL** Ben Hill Griffin, Jr., grandfather: Florida House of Representatives, 1956-1963, Senate 1965-1968 **RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION** Presbyterian **ADDRESSES** (district) 151 First Street South, Suite B, Winter Haven 33880; 2925 Kenilworth Blvd., Sebring 33870 (Tallahassee) 412 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 **TELEPHONES** Statewide: 1/800/444-9747 (district) 863/298-7677 or 863/386-6016 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5044.

THAD ALTMAN

Republican, District 24



Contractor/Consultant **BORN** September 8, 1955, in Macon, Georgia. Moved to Florida in 1957 **EDUCATION** attended University of Houston; Brevard Community College: A.A., 1975; Rollins College: B.S., 1987 **WIFE** Mary Pat Altman of Rockledge **CHILDREN** Hunter, McKenzie, Sullivan **LEGISLATIVE SERVICE** elected to the Senate in 2008; House of Representatives: March 25, 2003-2008 **RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION** Christian **RECREATION** biking, family activities, running **ADDRESSES** (district) 6767 North Wickham Road, Suite 211, Melbourne 32940 (Tallahassee) 324 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 **TELEPHONES** (district) 321/752-3138 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5053.

DAVE ARONBERG

Democrat, District 27



Attorney **BORN** May 4, 1971, in Miami **EDUCATION** Harvard University: B.A., 1993; J.D., 1996 **LEGISLATIVE SERVICE** elected to the Senate in 2002, reelected subsequently, Minority (Democratic) Whip: 2006-2008 **RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION** Jewish **RECREATION** golf, exercise, guitar, driving back and forth on State Road 80 **ADDRESSES** (district) 6415 Lake Worth Road, Suite 210, Greenacres 33463; 2120 Main Street, Suite 206, Fort Myers 33901 (Tallahassee) 405 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 **TELEPHONES** Districtwide: 1/877/435-7351 (district) 561/433-2627 or 239/338-2646 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5356.

CAREY BAKER

Republican, District 20



Owner, The A.W. Peterson Gun Shop **BORN** March 16, 1963, in Eustis **EDUCATION** Lake Sumter Community College: 1981-1982 **WIFE** Lori Matchett of Leesburg **CHILDREN** Leighton Lee, Caroline Leigh, Reagan Leigh **LEGISLATIVE SERVICE** elected to the Senate in 2004, reelected subsequently; House of Representatives: 2000-2004 **HISTORICAL** Leighton L. Baker, father: Florida House of Representatives, 1962-1964, was the first Republican elected to any office in Lake County since Reconstruction **MILITARY SERVICE** Florida Army National Guard, 1981-present, currently serving as a First Sergeant; Operation Iraqi Freedom veteran **RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION** Methodist **RECREATION** basketball, hunting, reading **ADDRESSES** (district) 301 West Ward Avenue, Eustis 32726-4024 (Tallahassee) 316 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 **TELEPHONES** (Outside Lake County) 1/888/567-5577 (district) 352/742-6490 (Lady Lake) 352/360-6739 or (DeLand) 386/736-5048 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5014.



MICHAEL S. "MIKE" BENNETT

Republican, District 21



Electrical Contractor **BORN** January 1, 1945, in Brainard, Minnesota. Moved to Florida in 1955 **EDUCATION** Drake University: B.A., 1975; M.B.A., 1976 **WIFE** Diane M. "Dee" of Des Moines, Iowa **LEGISLATIVE SERVICE** elected to the Senate in 2002, reelected subsequently; House of Representatives: 2000-2002 **MILITARY SERVICE** U.S. Navy, 1963-1967, 4 tours Vietnam **RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION** Baptist **RECREATION** fishing, golf **ADDRESSES** (district) Suite 90, 3653 Cortez Road West, Bradenton 34210 (Tallahassee) 306 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 **TELEPHONES** Statewide: 1/800/500-1239 (district) 941/727-6349 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5078.

LEE CONSTANTINE

Republican, District 22



Real Estate Consultant and Broker **BORN** November 6, 1952, in Wilmington, Delaware. Moved to Florida in 1958 **EDUCATION** University of Central Florida: B.A., Communications, with honors, 1974 **LEGISLATIVE SERVICE** elected to the Senate in 2000, reelected subsequently; House of Representatives: 1992-2000 **RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION** Catholic **RECREATION** beach volleyball, snow skiing, charitable activities **ADDRESSES** (district) 378 Centerpointe Circle, Suite 1268, Altamonte Springs 32701-3442 (Tallahassee) 418 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 **TELEPHONES** (district) 407/331-9675 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5050.

LARCENIA J. BULLARD

Democrat, District 39



Former Teacher and Administrator, Educational Consultant, Community Activist **BORN** July 21, 1947, in Allendale, South Carolina. Moved to Florida in 1980 **EDUCATION** Antioch University: B.A., 1973; Nova University: M.S., 1991 **HUSBAND** former State Representative Edward "Ed" Bullard of Nassau, Bahamas **CHILDREN** Vincent, Dwight, Edwina **LEGISLATIVE SERVICE** elected to the Senate in 2002, reelected subsequently; House of Representatives: 1992-2000 **HISTORICAL** first female to be elected in Florida House District 118; Dwight M. Bullard, son: Florida House of Representatives, 2008-present **RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION** baptized Baptist; presently practicing Episcopalian **RECREATION** reading, swimming, traveling, skating, pinochle, card playing, collecting butterfly-shaped objects **ADDRESSES** (district) 8603 S. Dixie Highway, Suite 304, Miami 33143 (Tallahassee) 218 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 **TELEPHONES** Statewide: 1/866/234-3734 (district) 305/668-7344 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5127.

VICTOR D. CRIST

Republican, District 12



President of Metropolitan Communications Inc. **BORN** June 21, 1957, in New Orleans, Louisiana. Moved to Florida in 1968 **EDUCATION** St. Petersburg Junior College: A.A., 1980; University of South Florida: B.A., Communications with Minor in Business Administration and graduate studies in Communication, 1980-1983 **WIFE** Angela of West Palm Beach **LEGISLATIVE SERVICE** elected to the Senate in 2000, reelected subsequently; House of Representatives: 1992-2000 **HISTORICAL** son of a retired U.S. Military Officer; descendant of U.S. President Zachary Taylor **RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION** Presbyterian **RECREATION** nonprofit organizations, performing arts, traveling, boating, water sports, bicycling, home projects, gardening, music **ADDRESSES** (district) 11961 N. Florida Avenue, Suite B, Tampa 33612 (Tallahassee) 208 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 **TELEPHONES** (district) 813/975-6658 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5068.



CHARLES S. "CHARLIE" DEAN, SR.

Republican, District 3

Majority (Republican) Whip



Sheriff (retired), Cattleman, Consultant **BORN** May 31, 1939, in Jacksonville **EDUCATION** Central Florida Community College: A.A., 1962; Florida State University: B.S., 1963; Rollins College: M.S., 1976 **WIFE** Judy Baxter of Columbia, Tennessee **CHILDREN** Shannon Wright; Charles S., Jr. **LEGISLATIVE SERVICE** elected to the Senate June 26, 2007, reelected subsequently; House of Representatives: 2002-2007 **HISTORICAL** Charles S. Dean, father: Citrus County Sheriff, 1928-1945; Rema Y. Dean, mother: City Clerk, Inverness, 1956-1974 **MILITARY SERVICE** U.S. Marine Corps Reserves, 5 ½ years **RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION** Baptist **RECREATION** collecting John Deere antique tractors, family farm, fishing, golf, hunting **ADDRESSES** (district) 415 Tompkins Street, Inverness 34450; 2511 SE 3rd Street, Ocala 34471 (Tallahassee) 311 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 **TELEPHONES** Statewide: 1/866/538-2831 (district) 352/860-5175 or 352/873-6513 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5017.

NANCY C. DETERT

Republican, District 23

Majority (Republican) Whip



Chapman and Associates, Inc., Marketing Representative **BORN** October 22, 1944, in Chicago, Illinois. Moved to Florida in 1978 **EDUCATION** attended Sienna Heights College **CHILDREN** Mark, Bryan, Jamie **LEGISLATIVE SERVICE** elected to the Senate in 2008; House of Representatives: 1998-2006 **HISTORICAL** related to Charles Carroll, signer of the Declaration of Independence **RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION** Catholic **RECREATION** golf, movies, reading, tennis **ADDRESSES** (district) 417 Commercial Court, Suite D, Venice 34292 (Tallahassee) 318 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 **TELEPHONES** (district) 941/480-3547 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5081.

TED DEUTCH

Democrat, District 30



Attorney **BORN** May 7, 1966, in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. Moved to Florida in 1998 **EDUCATION** University of Michigan: B.A., 1988; J.D., 1990 **WIFE** Jill Weinstock of Canton, Ohio **CHILDREN** Gabrielle, Serena, Cole **LEGISLATIVE SERVICE** elected to the Senate in 2006 **RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION** Jewish **RECREATION** piano, basketball, music **ADDRESSES** (district) 15340 Jog Road, Suite 201, Delray Beach 33446-2170 (Tallahassee) 216 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 **TELEPHONES** (district) 561/496-5939 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5091.

ALEX DIAZ DE LA PORTILLA

Republican, District 36

Majority (Republican) Leader



Political Consultant, Winning Strategies, Inc. **BORN** August 25, 1964, in Miami **EDUCATION** University of Miami **WIFE** Claudia Davant of Columbia, South Carolina **LEGISLATIVE SERVICE** elected to the Senate January 25, 2000, reelected subsequently, President Pro Tempore: 2002-2004; House of Representatives: 1994-2000 **HISTORICAL** Angel Pio de la Portilla, grandfather (deceased); mentor and inspiration for social and political involvement; paternal great-grandfather: served in Cuban Senate, while two of his sons served simultaneously in the Cuban House of Representatives; maternal great-grandfather: served as Cuban Minister of Justice (Attorney General); long family history of political and civic involvement in Cuba and the United States, including brothers Renier, former Florida State Representative, and Miguel, former Miami-Dade County Commissioner **RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION** Roman Catholic **RECREATION** reading, traveling, bicycling **ADDRESSES** (district) 1481 NW 22nd Street, Miami 33142-7741 (Tallahassee) 330 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 **TELEPHONES** (district) 305/643-7200 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5109.



PAULA DOCKERY

Republican, District 15



Citrus and Cattle **BORN** June 6, 1961, in Queens, New York. Moved to Florida in 1968 **EDUCATION** University of Florida: B.A., Political Science, 1983; M.A., Mass Communications, 1987 **HUSBAND** C.C. "Doc" of North Carolina **LEGISLATIVE SERVICE** elected to the Senate in 2002, reelected subsequently, Majority (Republican) Whip: 2006-2008, 2002-2004; House of Representatives: 1996-2002, appointed as Majority Whip for 1998-2000 legislative sessions **RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION** Catholic **RECREATION** biking, hiking, traveling, volleyball, fishing **ADDRESSES** (district) Post Office Box 2395, Lakeland 33806-2395 (Tallahassee) 302 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 **TELEPHONES** Statewide: 1/866/248-6487 (district) 863/413-2900 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5040.

RUDY GARCIA

Republican, District 40



Businessman **BORN** April 15, 1963, in Miami **EDUCATION** Miami-Dade Community College **LEGISLATIVE SERVICE** elected to the Senate in 2000, reelected subsequently; House of Representatives: 1984-1988, 1989-2000, Cuban-American Caucus Chair: 1991-1992 **HISTORICAL** youngest member elected to the Florida House of Representatives, 1984 **RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION** Catholic **RECREATION** fishing, sailing, diving, reading, cycling, motorcycling **ADDRESSES** (district) 7475 West Fourth Avenue, Hialeah 33014-4327 (Tallahassee) 414 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 **TELEPHONES** (district) 305/364-3191 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5106.

DON GAETZ

Republican, District 4



Co-founder and Vice Chairman (retired), VITAS Healthcare Corporation **BORN** January 22, 1948, in North Dakota. Moved to Florida in 1978 **EDUCATION** Concordia College: B.A., Religion and Political Science; Troy State University: M.P.A. **WIFE** Victoria Quertermous of Fort Walton Beach **CHILDREN** Matthew, Erin **LEGISLATIVE SERVICE** elected to the Senate in 2006 **RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION** Lutheran **RECREATION** upland game and waterfowl hunting, American history, real estate, antiques **ADDRESSES** (district) 217 Miracle Strip Parkway, Fort Walton Beach 32548-5819 (Tallahassee) 320 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 **TELEPHONES** Toll Free: 1/866/450-4366 (district) 850/897-5747 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5009.

ANDY GARDINER

Republican, District 9

Majority (Republican) Whip



Director of Community and Business Relations, Orlando Health **BORN** January 23, 1969, in Orlando **EDUCATION** Stetson University: B.S., Political Science and Psychology, 1992 **WIFE** Camille Gardiner of Brooklyn, New York **CHILDREN** Andrew, Jr.; Joanna Lynn **LEGISLATIVE SERVICE** elected to the Senate in 2008; House of Representatives: 2000-2008, Republican Leader, 2004-2006 **RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION** Methodist **RECREATION** baseball, fishing, reading **ADDRESSES** (district) 1013 East Michigan Street, Orlando 32806 (Tallahassee) 308 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 **TELEPHONES** (district) 407/428-5800 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5047.



DAN GELBER

Democrat, District 35



Counsel, Akerman Senterfitt Law Firm **BORN** November 26, 1960, in Miami Beach **EDUCATION** Tufts University: B.A., 1982, magna cum laude; University of Florida: J.D., 1985; Truman Scholar **WIFE** Joan Silverstein of Miami **CHILDREN** Sophie, Hannah, Max **LEGISLATIVE SERVICE** elected to the Senate in 2008; House of Representatives: 2000-2008, Democratic Leader: 2006-2008 **HISTORICAL** Joan Silverstein, wife: Federal Prosecutor; Seymour Gelber, father: Mayor of Miami Beach, Circuit Judge, Miami-Dade 1974, Chief Assistant State Attorney, Legislative Aide to State Senator Joe Eaton; John Barker, brother-in-law: United States I.C.E. Prosecutor; Edith, mother, and Judy, sister: Public School Teachers **RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION** Jewish **RECREATION** basketball, Wii (with kids) **ADDRESSES** (district) 1920 Meridian Avenue, 3rd Floor, Miami Beach 33139-1818 (Tallahassee) 226 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 **TELEPHONES** (district) 305/535-5485 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5121.

MIKE HARIDOPOLOS

Republican, District 26



College Professor, Author **BORN** March 15, 1970, in Huntington, New York. Moved to Florida in 1990 **EDUCATION** Stetson University: B.A., 1992; University of Arkansas: M.A., 1993 **WIFE** Stephanie Bressan, M.D., of Ft. Lauderdale **CHILDREN** Alexis, Hayden, Reagan **LEGISLATIVE SERVICE** elected to the Senate March 25, 2003, reelected subsequently, Majority (Republican) Whip: 2006-2008; House of Representatives: 2000-2003 **RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION** Baptist **RECREATION** golf, NASCAR **ADDRESSES** (district) 3270 Suntree Boulevard, Suite 122, Melbourne 32940 (Tallahassee) 322 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 **TELEPHONES** (district) 321/752-3131 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5056.

ANTHONY C. "TONY" HILL, SR.

Democrat, District 1



Service Employees International Union (SEIU) 1199, Florida Community Organizer **BORN** September 9, 1957, in Jacksonville **EDUCATION** Lincoln University: 1975-1977; Edward Waters College: 1995, Honorary Doctorate; National Labor College: B.A., 2001, Labor Studies **WIFE** Patricia **CHILDREN** Anthony C. Jr., Cicely, Tiffany, Eryn; grandchildren: Shawn Green, Darielle Pates, Justice Robinson, Raekwon Robinson **LEGISLATIVE SERVICE** elected to the Senate in 2002, reelected subsequently, Democratic Lead Whip: 2006-2008, 2004-2006, Democratic Floor Leader: 2002-2004; House of Representatives: 1992-2000 **MILITARY SERVICE** U.S. Army, 1977-1983, Baumholder, West Germany, two honorable discharges **RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION** Baptist **RECREATION** youth track coach, track **ADDRESSES** (district) 5600 New Kings Road, Suite #5, Jacksonville 32209; Daytona Beach Community College, 1200 W. International Speedway Blvd., Building 540, Room 214, Daytona Beach 32114 (Tallahassee) 213 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 **TELEPHONES** Statewide: 1/866/867-0289 (district) 904/924-1646 or 386/506-3306 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5024.

DENNIS L. JONES, D.C.

Republican, District 13



Vice President, Economic Development and Innovative Programs, St. Petersburg College **BORN** April 5, 1941, in Erie, Pennsylvania. Moved to Florida in 1950 **EDUCATION** St. Petersburg Junior College; Lincoln Chiropractic College: D.C., 1963 **WIFE** Susan Davis, Ph.D., of Brandon **CHILDREN** Rod, D.C., Jill (deceased); grandchildren: Jacob, Jaxon, Jarod **LEGISLATIVE SERVICE** elected to the Senate in 2002, reelected subsequently, Majority (Republican) Leader: 2002-2004; House of Representatives: 1978-2000, Speaker Pro Tempore: 1998-2000 **HISTORICAL** Aaron Arnold, great-great-grandfather: Circuit Judge of Kane County, Pennsylvania, 1840s **RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION** Methodist **RECREATION** boating, fishing, traveling **ADDRESSES** (district) 8940 Seminole Boulevard, Seminole 33772 (Tallahassee) 408 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 **TELEPHONES** (district) 727/549-6411 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5065.



ARTHENIA L. JOYNER

Democrat, District 18



Attorney; Public School Teacher, 1964-1965 **BORN** February 3, 1943, in Lakeland **EDUCATION** Florida A&M University: B.S., 1964; J.D., 1968 **LEGISLATIVE SERVICE** elected to the Senate in 2006, Minority (Democratic) Whip: 2006-2008; House of Representatives: 2000-2006, Democratic Policy Chair: 2004-2006, Democratic Floor Leader: 2002-2004, Minority (Democratic) Whip: 2000-2002 **RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION** African Methodist Episcopal **RECREATION** reading, traveling **ADDRESSES** (district) 508 W. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., Suite C, Tampa 33603-3415 (Tallahassee) 210 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 **TELEPHONES** (district) 813/233-4277 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5059.

JAMES E. "JIM" KING, JR.

Republican, District 8



Real Estate Management and Ownership **BORN** October 30, 1939, in Brooklyn, New York. Moved to Florida in 1945 **EDUCATION** St. Petersburg Junior College: A.A., 1959; Florida State University: B.S.B.A., 1961; M.B.A., 1962 **WIFE** Linda Braddock of Orange Park **CHILDREN** Monta Michele, Laurie Anne; grandchildren: Ashley, Carley, Jack **LEGISLATIVE SERVICE** elected to the Senate March 9, 1999, reelected subsequently, President: 2002-2004, Majority (Republican) Leader: 2000-2002; House of Representatives: 1986-1999, Majority Leader: 1996-1998, Minority Floor Whip: 1988-1990 **MILITARY SERVICE** U.S. Coast Guard, 1962-1968 **RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION** Episcopal **RECREATION** boating, traveling, and college football **ADDRESSES** (district) Suite 108, 9485 Regency Square Boulevard, Jacksonville 32225-8145 (Tallahassee) 420 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 **TELEPHONES** Districtwide: 1/888/861-9761 (district) 904/727-3600 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5030.

CHARLIE JUSTICE

Democrat, District 16

Minority (Democratic) Leader Pro Tempore



Academic Advisor, University of South Florida **BORN** July 23, 1968, in St. Petersburg **EDUCATION** St. Petersburg Junior College: A.A., 1988; University of South Florida: B.A., 1993 **WIFE** Kathleen of Long Island, New York **CHILDREN** Allison, Erin **LEGISLATIVE SERVICE** elected to the Senate in 2006; House of Representatives: 2000-2006, Minority (Democratic) Whip: 2004-2006 **RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION** Christian **RECREATION** college sports, Florida travel, politics, reading **ADDRESSES** (district) Gateway Executive Center, 8601 4th Street, N., Suite 100, St. Petersburg 33702 (Tallahassee) 222 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 **TELEPHONES** Statewide: 1/866/818-4190 (district) 727/217-7970 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5075.

ALFRED "AL" LAWSON, JR.

Democrat, District 6

Minority (Democratic) Leader

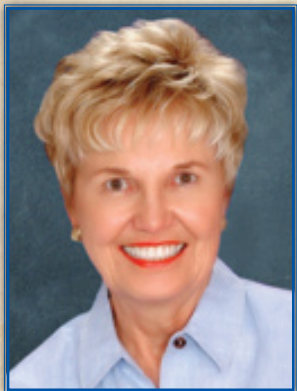


Insurance Agent, Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Co.; President, Lawson and Associates, Inc. (Marketing Firm) **BORN** September 21, 1948, in Tallahassee **EDUCATION** Florida A&M University: B.S., 1970, Student Government; Florida State University: M.S.P.A., 1973 **WIFE** Delores J. Brooks of Tallahassee **CHILDREN** Alfred J. III, Shani A.; grandchildren: Kobe, Sam Henry **LEGISLATIVE SERVICE** elected to the Senate in 2000, reelected subsequently; House of Representatives: 1982-2000 **RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION** Episcopal **RECREATION** basketball, reading, gardening **ADDRESSES** (district) 20 East Washington Street, Suite E, Quincy 32351 (Tallahassee) 228 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 **TELEPHONES** (district) 850/921-6620, 850/921-8446 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5004.



EVELYN J. LYNN

Republican, District 7



Legislator, Consultant **BORN** February 2 in Astoria, New York. Moved to Florida in 1960 **EDUCATION** Queens College: B.A.; Stetson University: M.A.; University of Florida: Ed.D. **CHILDREN** Karen Jans, Robert Grimm; grandchild: Sara Jans **LEGISLATIVE SERVICE** elected to the Senate in 2002, reelected subsequently; House of Representatives: 1994-2002 **RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION** Methodist **RECREATION** travel, watercolor, reading **ADDRESSES** (district) 536 North Halifax Avenue, Suite 101, Daytona Beach 32118; 151 SE Osceola Avenue 3rd Floor, City Hall, Ocala 34471-2148 (Tallahassee) 212 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 **TELEPHONES** Statewide: 1/866/831-2665 (district) 386/238-3180 or 352/694-0160 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5033.

DURELL PEADEN, JR.

Republican, District 2



Physician (retired) **BORN** August 24, 1945, in DeFuniak Springs **EDUCATION** Tulane University: B.A., 1968; Universidad Autonoma de Guadalajara, Mexico: M.D., 1973; Jones School of Law at Faulkner University: J.D., 1987 **WIFE** Nancy Green of DeFuniak Springs **CHILDREN** Durell III (Trey), Tyler, Taylen **LEGISLATIVE SERVICE** elected to the Senate in 2000, reelected subsequently; House of Representatives: 1994-2000 **HISTORICAL** John Wilkinson, cousin: Legislative Council House, Santa Rosa, 1844, House, Santa Rosa, 1848-1850, 1860; John Wilkinson, Jr., cousin: House, Santa Rosa, 1885, Senate, District 1, 1889; A.J. Peaden, cousin: House, Santa Rosa, 1905, 1907, 1909; R.W. Peaden, cousin: House, District 2, 1972-1976; John W. Kennedy, grandfather: Okaloosa County Commission Chair **RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION** Methodist **ADDRESSES** (district) 598 North Ferdon Boulevard, Crestview 32536-2753; 744 E. Burgess Road, Unit E-103, Pensacola 32504 (Tallahassee) 406 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 **TELEPHONES** (district) 850/689-0556 or 850/484-9898 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5000.

STEVE OELRICH

Republican, District 14



Sheriff (retired) **BORN** September 29, 1945, in Pensacola **EDUCATION** St. Petersburg Junior College: A.A., 1968; Florida State University: B.S., Criminology, 1970 **WIFE** Rose Mary Treadway of Pensacola **CHILDREN** Ivan, Kenneth, Nick (deceased) **LEGISLATIVE SERVICE** elected to the Senate in 2006 **RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION** Methodist **RECREATION** hunting, fishing, birding **ADDRESSES** (district) 4131 Northwest 28th Lane, Suite 4, Gainesville 32606 (Tallahassee) 314 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 **TELEPHONES** (district) 352/375-3555 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5020.

KEN PRUITT

Republican, District 28



WIFE Aileen Kelly **CHILDREN** Kenneth Jr. (deceased), Steven, Ashley, Michelle, Mark **LEGISLATIVE SERVICE** elected to the Senate in 2000, reelected subsequently, President: 2006-2008; House of Representatives: 1990-2000 **ADDRESSES** (district) 1850 SW Fountainview Boulevard, Suite 200, Port St. Lucie 34986-3443; 222 South U.S. Hwy. 1, Suite 211, Tequesta 33469 (Tallahassee) 416 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100; **TELEPHONES** (district) 772/344-1140 or 561/747-1166 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5088.



NAN H. RICH

Democrat, District 34



Legislator **BORN** 1942. Moved to Florida in 1951 **EDUCATION** attended University of Florida: 1959-1961 **HUSBAND** David **CHILDREN** Laurie Rich Levinson, Larry, Marcie, Jennifer; grandchildren: Daniel, Robert, Hannah **LEGISLATIVE SERVICE** elected to the Senate in 2004, reelected subsequently, Minority (Democratic) Policy Chair: 2006-2008; House of Representatives: 2000-2004 **RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION** Jewish **RECREATION** hiking, horseback riding, travel, cooking **ADDRESSES** (district) 777 Sawgrass Corporate Parkway, Sunrise 33325-6256 (Tallahassee) 214 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 **TELEPHONES** (district) 954/747-7933 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5103.

JEREMY RING

Democrat, District 32



Entrepreneur **BORN** August 10, 1970, in New Haven, Connecticut. Moved to Florida in 2001 **EDUCATION** attended Syracuse University: 1992 **WIFE** Sharon **CHILDREN** Elijah, Levi, Eliana, Galit **LEGISLATIVE SERVICE** elected to the Senate in 2006 **RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION** Jewish **RECREATION** spending time with family, boating, tennis, 19th Century American History **ADDRESSES** (district) 5790 Margate Boulevard, Margate 33063 (Tallahassee) 326 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 **TELEPHONES** (district) 954/917-1392 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5094.

GARRETT S. RICHTER

Republican, District 37



Banker **BORN** August 1, 1950, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Moved to Florida in 1987 **EDUCATION** University of Pittsburgh: B.S., 1981; Graduate School of Banking, Madison: 1985 **WIFE** Diana Richter **CHILDREN** Melissa, Elizabeth, Robert; grandchild: Ian Davis Psota **LEGISLATIVE SERVICE** elected to the Senate in 2008; House of Representatives: 2006-2008 **HISTORICAL** F. Garrett Richter, father: Pennsylvania General Assembly, 1948 and 1952 **MILITARY SERVICE** U.S. Army, 1969-1971, Vietnam Bronze Star, Combat Infantry Badge; U.S. Air Force Reserves, 1979-1981 **RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION** Presbyterian **RECREATION** golf **ADDRESSES** (district) Building F, Suite 203, 3301 E. Tamiami Trail, Naples 34112-4961; 1039 S.E. 9th Place, Room 310, Cape Coral 33990 (Tallahassee) 310 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 **TELEPHONES** (district) 239/417-6205 or 239/338-2777 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5124.

GARY SIPLIN

Democrat, District 19



Attorney **BORN** October 21, 1954, in Orlando **EDUCATION** Johnson C. Smith University: B.A., Political Science; University of Pittsburgh: M.A., Public & International Affairs; Duquesne University: J.D. **WIFE** Victoria Pierre **CHILDREN** Gary Jr., Angelika, Joshua, Jacobe **LEGISLATIVE SERVICE** elected to the Senate in 2002, reelected subsequently; House of Representatives: 2000-2002 **RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION** Baptist **RECREATION** sports, dancing **ADDRESSES** (district) 1436 North Pine Hills Road, Orlando 32808 (Tallahassee) 205 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 **TELEPHONES** (district) 407/297-2071 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5190.



CHRISTOPHER L. "CHRIS" SMITH

Democrat, District 29



Attorney **BORN** March 15, 1970, in Fort Lauderdale **EDUCATION** Johnson C. Smith University: B.S., Political Science, 1992; Florida State University: J.D., 1995 **WIFE** Desorae Giles-Smith **CHILDREN** Christopher Leveorn, Christian Nicholas **LEGISLATIVE SERVICE** elected to the Senate in 2008; House of Representatives: 1998-2006, Democratic Leader: 2004-2006 **RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION** Baptist **RECREATION** all sports **ADDRESSES** (district) 1977 North Tamarind Avenue, West Palm Beach 33407; 1101 N.E. 40th Court, Suite 1, Oakland Park 33334 (Tallahassee) 220 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 **TELEPHONES** (district) 561/650-6801 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5112.

RONDA STORMS

Republican, District 10



Teacher, Attorney, Businesswoman **BORN** Des Moines, Iowa. Moved to Florida in 1982 **EDUCATION** University of South Florida: B.A., 1988; Stetson University College of Law: J.D., 1995 **HUSBAND** David of Valrico **CHILDREN** daughter, son **LEGISLATIVE SERVICE** elected to the Senate in 2006 **RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION** Baptist **RECREATION** collecting local art, gardening, reading **ADDRESSES** (district) 313 E. Robertson Street, Brandon 33511 (Tallahassee) 413 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 **TELEPHONES** (district) 813/651-2189 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5072.

ELEANOR SOBEL

Democrat, District 31



President, Emrelle Skin Care Ltd.; Civic Activist; Educator **BORN** February 11, 1946, in Brooklyn, New York. Moved to Florida in 1976 **EDUCATION** Brooklyn College: B.A., History, 1967; City University of New York: M.A., 1968; Columbia University: M.A., 1975 **HUSBAND** Stuart A. Sobel, M.D. of Brooklyn, New York **CHILDREN** Emily, Rachel; grandchild: Josie **LEGISLATIVE SERVICE** elected to the Senate in 2008; House of Representatives: 1998-2006, Democratic Rules and Calendar Council Lead: 2004-2006 **HISTORICAL** Barry Finegold, nephew: the youngest State Representative in Massachusetts, 2006 **RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION** Jewish **RECREATION** attending cultural events, walking the dog, traveling, working out **ADDRESSES** (district) 400 South Federal Highway, Suite 204, Hallandale Beach 33009 (Tallahassee) 224 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 **TELEPHONES** (district) 954/893-5089 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5097.

J. ALEX VILLALOBOS

Republican, District 38



Attorney **BORN** November 2, 1963, in Miami **EDUCATION** University of Miami: B.A., 1985; Florida State University: J.D., 1988 **WIFE** Barbara **CHILD** Katharine **LEGISLATIVE SERVICE** elected to the Senate in 2000, reelected subsequently, Majority (Republican) Leader: 2004-May 1, 2006, Majority (Republican) Whip: 2001-2002; House of Representatives: 1992-2000, Cuban-American Caucus Chair: 1995-1996, Vice Chair: 1993-1994 **RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION** Catholic **RECREATION** taekwon do, fishing, hunting, skiing **ADDRESSES** (district) 9766 S.W. 24th Street, Suite 18, Miami 33165 (Tallahassee) 400 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 **TELEPHONES** (district) 305/222-4160 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5130.



FREDERICA S. WILSON

Democrat, District 33



Founder of the 5000 Role Models of Excellence Project **BORN** Miami **EDUCATION** Fisk University: B.S., 1963; University of Miami: Master's Degree; Florida Memorial University: Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters **CHILDREN** Nicole Wilson-St. Hilaire, Lakesha Wilson-Rochelle, Paul Wilson, Jr.; grandchildren: Triston Paul Wilson, Shane Wilson Rochelle **LEGISLATIVE SERVICE** elected to the Senate in 2002, reelected subsequently, Minority (Democratic) Leader Pro Tempore: 2006-2008, Minority (Democratic) Whip: 2004-2006, 2002-2004; House of Representatives: 1998-2002, Democratic Whip: 1998-2002 **RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION** Episcopal **ADDRESSES** (district) 18425 N.W. 2nd Avenue, Suite 310, Miami Gardens 33169 (Tallahassee) 202 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 **TELEPHONES** (district) 305/654-7150 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5116.

STEPHEN R. WISE

Republican, District 5



Consultant, Retired Educator **BORN** December 11, 1941, in Canton, Ohio. Moved to Florida in 1959 **EDUCATION** Florida Southern College: B.S., 1963; Middle Tennessee State University: M.Ed., 1968; University of Alabama: Ed.D., 1970 **WIFE** Kathryn "Kathy" Beeman of Melbourne **CHILDREN** Kelly Anne Legg, Tara Elizabeth Thompson **LEGISLATIVE SERVICE** elected to the Senate September 25, 2001, reelected subsequently; House of Representatives: 1988-2000 **RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION** Baptist **RECREATION** swimming, tennis **ADDRESSES** (district) 1460 Cassat Avenue, Suite B, Jacksonville 32205 (Tallahassee) 410 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 **TELEPHONES** (district) 904/381-6000 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5027.

SECRETARY OF THE SENATE

At its organization session every two years, the Senate elects a Secretary of the Senate pursuant to the Constitution of the State of Florida. This non-member constitutional officer publishes the journal and the calendar, keeps all Senate records, and authenticates each act and resolution passed by the Senate.

Other operations within the Secretary's Office include: bill and amendment filing, duplication and distribution of documents, recording of actions taken by the Senate, and the performance of support services for the Senate. Special chamber computer programs, such as the vote system and the Chamber and Committee Automation System, are designed and operated by the Secretary's Office.

Working with the Office of Legislative Information Technology Services and the Senate Information Technology Director, the Secretary's Office coordinates the development and maintenance of computer applications used by Senate professional staff. The Secretary's Office maintains Senate information included on the Florida Senate's official website and on the Legislature's Online Sunshine website.

The Secretary speaks to various visiting civic and student groups during the year. The Secretary's Office hosts numerous mock sessions throughout each year. Staff and facilities are provided for the YMCA Youth Legislature, Boys State, Girls State, Florida 4-H, and others.

R. PHILIP TWOGOOD

Secretary of the Senate



BORN July 9, 1954, in Lexington, Massachusetts. Moved to Florida in 1986 **EDUCATION** New College: B.A., 1975; University of Virginia: M.A.P.A., 1979; Ph.D., 1983 **WIFE** Vicki **CHILD** Sean **LEGISLATIVE SERVICE** elected Secretary of the Senate: November 2008-present, Staff Director: Senate Committee on Rules, 2004-2008, Office of the Senate President: 2002-2004, Deputy Chief of Staff: 2001-2002, Senior Staff Director: House Committee on Rules, 2000-2001, House Council Director: 1996-2000, House and Senate Staff: 1991-1996; NCSL: National Executive Committee, 2000-2003; Staff Vice Chair, Assembly on State Issues, 1999-2000; Legislative Staff Management Institute, 2000 **RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION** Christian Science **RECREATION** travel, following hockey and baseball, photography **ADDRESS** 405 The Capitol, 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 **TELEPHONE** 850/487-5270.



SERGEANT AT ARMS

The President appoints a Sergeant at Arms who attends the Senate during its sessions; maintains order under the direction of the President; executes the commands of and serves Senate process as directed by the President of the Senate and by the Senate; has charge of all property of the Senate to the extent as is delegated to the Sergeant at Arms by the President; has general charge of the security of the Chamber, committee rooms, and gallery of the Senate and maintains order therein in cooperation with the Division of Capitol Police; and has general supervision of the doorkeepers and professional maintenance staff.

DONALD SEVERANCE

Senate Sergeant at Arms



BORN September 24, 1954, in Live Oak **EDUCATION** Suwanee High School; Tallahassee Community College; Lively Law Enforcement Academy; U.S. Marshal's State and Local Court; Non-commissioned Officer's School/Florida National Guard **WIFE** Sherry Gregg of Tallahassee **CHILD** Chelsey **LEGISLATIVE SERVICE** Senate Sergeant at Arms: 1999-present, Deputy Sergeant at Arms: 1998-1999; National Legislative Services and Security Association: 1994-present, NLSSA 1st Trustee: 1995-present, NLSSA Chairman: Region 4, 1997-1999 **MILITARY SERVICE** Florida National Guard, 1972-1994 **RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION** Baptist **RECREATION** hunting, fishing, softball **ADDRESS** 403 The Capitol, 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 **TELEPHONE** 850/487-5224.

SENATE ORGANIZATION

SENATE COMMITTEES GROUPED BY POLICY AND STEERING COMMITTEES

Policy and Steering Committee on Commerce and Industry:

- Banking and Insurance
- Commerce
- Regulated Industries
- Transportation

Policy and Steering Committee on Energy, Environment, and Land Use:

- Agriculture
- Communications, Energy, and Public Utilities
- Community Affairs
- Environmental Preservation and Conservation

Policy and Steering Committee on Governmental Operations:

- Ethics and Elections
- Governmental Oversight and Accountability
- Military Affairs and Domestic Security
- Reapportionment

Policy and Steering Committee on Social Responsibility:

- Children, Families, and Elder Affairs
- Criminal Justice
- Education Pre-K - 12
- Health Regulation
- Higher Education
- Judiciary

Policy and Steering Committee on Ways and Means:

- Criminal and Civil Justice Appropriations
- Education Pre-K - 12 Appropriations
- Finance and Tax
- General Government Appropriations
- Health and Human Services Appropriations
- Higher Education Appropriations
- Transportation and Economic Development Appropriations

Committee on Rules

Select Committee

- Select Committee on Florida's Economy



THE FLORIDA SENATE 2008-2010

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE



Jeff Atwater

THE SECRETARY'S
DESK



PEADEN (R)
DISTRICT 2
CRESTVIEW



FASANO (R)
DISTRICT 11
NEW PORT RICHEY
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE



VILLALOBOS (R)
DISTRICT 38
MIAMI
RULES CHAIR



HILL (D)
DISTRICT 1
JACKSONVILLE



DEAN (R)
DISTRICT 3
INVERNESS



WISE (R)
DISTRICT 5
JACKSONVILLE



ATWATER (R)
DISTRICT 25
NORTH PALM BEACH
PRESIDENT



CRIST (R)
DISTRICT 12
TAMPA



LAWSON (D)
DISTRICT 6
TALLAHASSEE
MINORITY LEADER



DIAZ DE LA PORTILLA (R)
DISTRICT 36
MIAMI
MAJORITY LEADER



LYNN (R)
DISTRICT 7
ORMOND BEACH



GARDINER (R)
DISTRICT 9
ORLANDO



JONES (R)
DISTRICT 13
SEMINOLE



DOCKERY (R)
DISTRICT 15
LAKELAND



CONSTANTINE (R)
DISTRICT 22
ALTAMONTE
SPRINGS



BAKER (R)
DISTRICT 20
EUSTIS



ALEXANDER (R)
DISTRICT 17
LAKE WALES



SIPLIN (D)
DISTRICT 19
ORLANDO



BENNETT (R)
DISTRICT 21
BRADENTON



DETERT (R)
DISTRICT 23
VENICE



ARONBERG (D)
DISTRICT 27
GREENACRES



RICH (D)
DISTRICT 34
WESTON



GARCIA (R)
DISTRICT 40
HIALEAH



SMITH (D)
DISTRICT 29
FORT LAUDERDALE



SOBEL (D)
DISTRICT 31
HOLLYWOOD



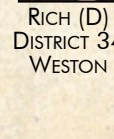
WILSON (D)
DISTRICT 33
MIAMI



GELBER (D)
DISTRICT 35
MIAMI BEACH



RICHTER (R)
DISTRICT 37
NAPLES



RING (D)
DISTRICT 32
MARGATE



SECRETARY OF THE SENATE

Philip Twogood



SERGEANT AT ARMS

Donald Severance

CONTACTING YOUR SENATOR

Your Senator is interested in hearing your opinions concerning the issues on which he or she will vote. This section will provide you with guidelines on how to approach legislators and how best to express your ideas so that they will be read, or listened to, and understood.

Most people communicate with their Senator by letter (increasingly by email), but you can also try to speak directly with him or her by telephone or even in person. No matter which method you choose, the same guidelines apply:



- Know your subject matter well, and have data to back up your point of view.
- Inform yourself about the full name and address of your Senator and about the positions he or she has taken on the issues that concern you.
- Do not use form letters; instead, if you are working from a form letter, rewrite the essential points in your own words.
- If you represent others from your community, formally or even informally, indicate that to the Senator.
- Be brief and to-the-point in your presentation. Attach supporting data or documents and refer to them in your cover letter.
- Be courteous.
- Be completely fair in your presentation of the facts.
- If you are interested in a specific bill, refer to that bill by its number. You can find out this information by accessing the Senate's homepage at www.flsenate.gov or by calling the Division of Legislative Information Services at 1/800/342-1827. Note that Senate Bills are even numbered and House Bills are odd numbered.
- Always provide your address (street and/or email) and your telephone number so that your Senator or his or her staff assistants can contact you for further data or discussion.
- If you are going to meet personally with your Senator, prepare carefully for the meeting and be on time. If he or she asks you for more information than you have brought with you, be prompt in responding to the request.

You can build an effective relationship with your Senator on a series of issues and make considerable contributions to the process of creating public policy. Your Senator will be grateful for your participation.

COMMITTEE TESTIMONY

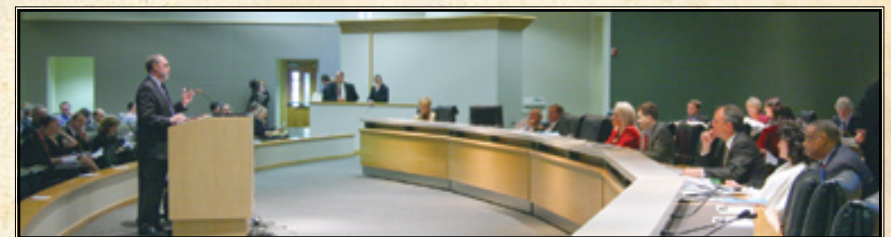
You may want to keep track of your bills as they proceed through the legislative process. To find out which committees your bills have been assigned to, access the Florida Senate's homepage (www.flsenate.gov), contact your Senator's office, or call the Division of Legislative Information Services (1/800/342-1827).



You may have an opportunity to appear before a committee that is hearing the bill by contacting the committee as soon as the bill has been referred to the committee. The committee's chair controls his or her committee's agenda and schedules the bills.

If your bill is scheduled for a public hearing, keep these guidelines in mind:

- When signing up to testify on a bill, the committee may require you to present written testimony for distribution to committee members and professional staff. Written testimony should be submitted to the appropriate office at least 24 hours prior to the scheduled committee hearing. At the meeting, fill out a committee appearance card.
- Generally, each committee chair follows the order of the bills listed on the agenda.
- Prepare your oral testimony in advance and be brief unless asked to elaborate.
- Be specific and to-the-point regarding the bill you are testifying on.
- Be prepared to answer questions from committee members on your testimony or on the position you have taken on each bill. If you do not know the answer to a question, just say so.



THE SENATE CHAMBER



The Senate Chamber, also known as the “floor,” is the room on the fourth floor of the Capitol where Senators debate the merits of proposed legislation. The current chamber is the fourth used since the first session of the Senate was called to order in 1839. The first session held in this chamber occurred in 1978.

On the floor above the chamber is the gallery. Citizens may sit in the gallery to observe the Senate in session. From the gallery, attention is drawn to the rostrum where the President is presiding. Above the rostrum is the Senate seal, which was adopted in 1972.

The President occupies the “chair,” pacing the flow of legislation, deciding who will speak, and ruling on parliamentary disputes. The President may call on other Senators to preside while he or she works out the details of legislative proposals.

The portraits hanging below the gallery commemorate past Presidents of the Senate. After each President’s term, a portrait is painted and hung in this area. The portraits are arranged in chronological order with the most recent one on the presiding officer’s right. Each time the newest one is added, the oldest one is taken down and moved to the Historic Capitol, keeping 100 years of past Presidents on display in the “new” chamber.

In front of the President’s rostrum is the Secretary’s desk, which is staffed by the Secretary of the Senate. Legislative business is not properly before the Senate until it is “on the desk.” Clerks at this desk read the bills and amendments and record Senate actions. These actions are published in the Journal, the official record of Senate proceedings. A Senator who wishes to “approach the well” to make a speech speaks from one of the reading podiums at the Secretary’s desk. The Chamber and Committee Automation System, designed to display amendments and information on bills, allows Senators the flexibility of accessing legislative information from their Tallahassee offices and in the Senate Chamber on their laptop computers.



Voting boards on each side of the chamber record a member’s green “yea” or red “nay” vote. The amber lights you see next to some names indicate that the Senator wants a “page” to deliver a message or retrieve a file from his or her office. The voting boards also display the number of the bill or amend-

ment being debated and other information related to the proceedings. Electronic voting was first used in the Senate in 1966, and now nearly all votes are recorded electronically.

The seating arrangement in the chamber is determined by the President. With the exception of the desks of Senators serving in leadership positions, chamber desks are arranged numerically. Senators from odd-numbered districts sit on the President’s left, and those representing even-numbered districts sit on the right. Telephones at each chamber desk provide direct communication with the Senator’s professional district staff. Only members of the Senate and designated professional staff are allowed in the chamber while the Senate is in session. Certain present and past state officials and guests invited by the President may also enter the chamber during a session.

Senators are addressed by their district number when they are recognized to speak. Custom decrees that a Senator may not be addressed as a “gentleman” or “lady.” He or she is “the Senator from the fifth,” for example, but never “the gentleman or lady from the fifth.” During debate, the members are always formally addressed as “Senator,” not by their given names.

Just above the main entrance is the press gallery, where members of Florida’s press corps report Senate actions. The remainder of the gallery is open to the public at all sessions, except that a portion of the gallery is usually reserved for the Senators’ families and other sections are often temporarily reserved for visiting students.

Robotic cameras from the Florida Channel are positioned in the chamber to provide live, televised coverage of all Senate sessions. Each weekday evening during the session, The Florida Channel and Florida’s public television affiliates broadcast “Capitol Update,” a live half-hour news program explaining and analyzing each day’s most significant legislative developments. The broadcasts are funded by the Legislature, but all editorial content is determined by the group of professional journalists who produce the programs. Florida’s legislative telecasts were used as a model for a similar system installed in 1979 in the U.S. House of Representatives. In addition, live and unedited feeds of some legislative events can be found at www.flsenate.gov and www.wfsu.org.



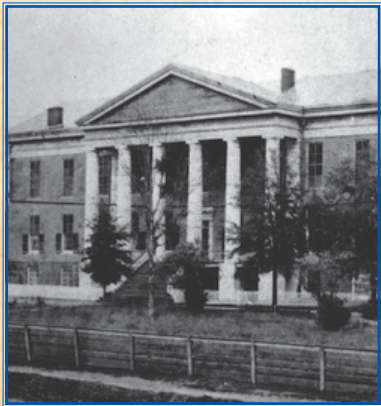
PRESIDENTS OF THE SENATE



1824 Capitol



1839 Capitol



1845 Capitol

SESSION PRESIDENT

STATEHOOD

1845	JAMES A. BERTHELOT
1846	DENNITT H. MAYS
1847	DANIEL G. MCLEAN
1848-1849	ERASMUS D. TRACY
1850-1853	ROBERT J. FLOYD
1854-1855	HAMLIN V. SNELL
1856	PHILIP DELL
1858-1859	JOHN FINLAYSON
1860-1861	THOMAS JEFFERSON EPPES
1862-1863	ENOCH J. VANN
1864	ABRAHAM K. ALLISON

From 1865 through 1887, the Lt. Governor served as President.

1865-1868	WILLIAM W. J. KELLY
1868-1870	WILLIAM H. GLEASON
1870	EDMUND C. WEEKS
1871-1873	SAMUEL T. DAY
1873-1874	MARCELLUS L. STEARNS
1874-1877	A.L. MCCASKILL* (PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE)
1877-1879	NOBLE A. HULL
1881-1885	L.W. BETHEL
1885-1887	MILTON MABRY

* Presided over the Senate in the absence of Lt. Governor Stearns who became Governor on March 18, 1874, upon the death of Governor O.B. Hart



1891 Capitol



1910 Capitol



1924 Capitol

SESSION PRESIDENT

1889**	PATRICK HOUSTOUN
1889	JOSEPH B. WALL
1891	JEFFERSON B. BROWNE
1893	WILLIAM H. REYNOLDS
1895	FREDERICK T. MYERS
1897	CHARLES J. PERRENOT
1899	FRANK ADAMS
1901	THOMAS PALMER
1903	FRANK ADAMS
1905	PARK M. TRAMMELL
1907	W. HUNT HARRIS
1909	FREDERICK M. HUDSON
1911-1912	FREDERICK P. CONE
1913	HERBERT J. DRANE
1915	CHARLES E. DAVIS
1917-1918	JOHN B. JOHNSON
1919	JAMES E. CALKINS
1921	WILLIAM A. MACWILLIAMS
1923	THEO. T. TURNBULL

** Extraordinary Session



1936 Capitol



1950 Capitol



1978 Capitol

SESSION PRESIDENT

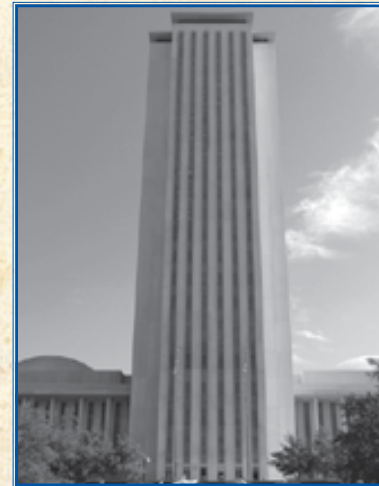
1925	JOHN S. TAYLOR
1927	SAMUEL W. ANDERSON
1929	JESSE J. PARRISH
1931	PATRICK C. WHITAKER
1933	TRUMAN G. FUTCH
1935	WILLIAM C. HODGES
1937	D. STUART GILLIS
1939	J. TURNER BUTLER
1941	JOHN R. BEACHAM
1943	PHILIP D. BEALL
1945	WALTER W. ROSE
1947-1948	SCOTT DILWORTH CLARKE
1949	NEWMAN C. BRACKIN
1951	WALLACE E. STURGIS
1953	CHARLEY E. JOHNS
1955-1956	W. TURNER DAVIS
1957	WILLIAM A. SHANDS
1959	DEWEY M. JOHNSON
1961-1962	W. RANDOLPH HODGES
1962-1963	F. WILSON CARRAWAY
1965	JAMES E. CONNOR
1967	VERLE A. POPE
1968-1970	JOHN E. MATHEWS, JR.



1989 Capitol



2008 Historic Capitol



2008 Capitol

SESSION PRESIDENT

1970-1972	JERRY THOMAS
1972-1974	MALLORY E. HORNE
1974	LOUIS DE LA PARTE***
1974-1976	DEMPSEY J. BARRON
1976-1978	LEW BRANTLEY
1978-1980	PHILIP D. LEWIS
1980-1982	W.D. CHILDERS
1982-1984	N. CURTIS PETERSON, JR.
1984-1986	HARRY A. JOHNSTON II
1986-1988	JOHN W. VOGT
1988-1990	BOB CRAWFORD
1990-1992	GWEN MARGOLIS
1992-1993	ANDER CRENSHAW
1993-1994	PAT THOMAS
1994-1996	JAMES A. SCOTT
1996-1998	TONI JENNINGS
1998-2000	TONI JENNINGS
2000-2002	JOHN M. MCKAY
2002-2004	JAMES E. "JIM" KING, JR.
2004-2006	TOM LEE
2006-2008	KEN PRUITT
2008-2010	JEFF ATWATER

*** As President Pro Tempore, served as Acting President from July 1, 1974 when President Home resigned until November 6, 1974

Capitol photos from 1824-1989 courtesy of the Florida State Archives

SENATE PAGE PROGRAM

Be a part of history! The Senate Page Program gives Florida students the rare opportunity to observe and participate in the legislative process.

During regular sessions of the Legislature, participating students come to Tallahassee for one week to work in the Senate Chamber, distribute materials, and deliver messages to Senators and professional staff. Each Senator may sponsor up to four pages (ages 15-18). Senators may also submit applications for alternate pages, who serve on an as-needed basis.



Sponsoring Senators give an application to the students they wish to sponsor. Senators submit completed applications by January of each year. The Office of the Senate President schedules each page for one week of service during the upcoming session. Professional dress is required.

Pages receive a minimum-wage stipend for participating in the program. Students are expected to provide their own transportation, housing, and meals while in Tallahassee.

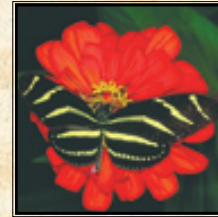
During each week of session, pages discuss the legislative process and participate in a "mock session." Students act as Senators, debating and voting on bills. Other educational opportunities and Capitol tours are planned during session.



OFFICIAL STATE DESIGNATIONS

This is just a sample of the numerous official designations for our state. Other designations range from the state motto and state anthem, to the state pie and state horse. A longer list may be found in the Capitol Rotunda between the legislative chambers. A complete listing of the state designations can be found in Chapter 15, Florida Statutes.

Butterfly:
Zebra Longwing



Bird:
Mockingbird



Shell:
Horse conch



Wildflower:
Coreopsis



Animal:
Florida panther



Beverage:
Citrus sinensis
(orange juice)



Saltwater mammal:
Porpoise



Marine mammal:
Manatee



Reptile:
American Alligator

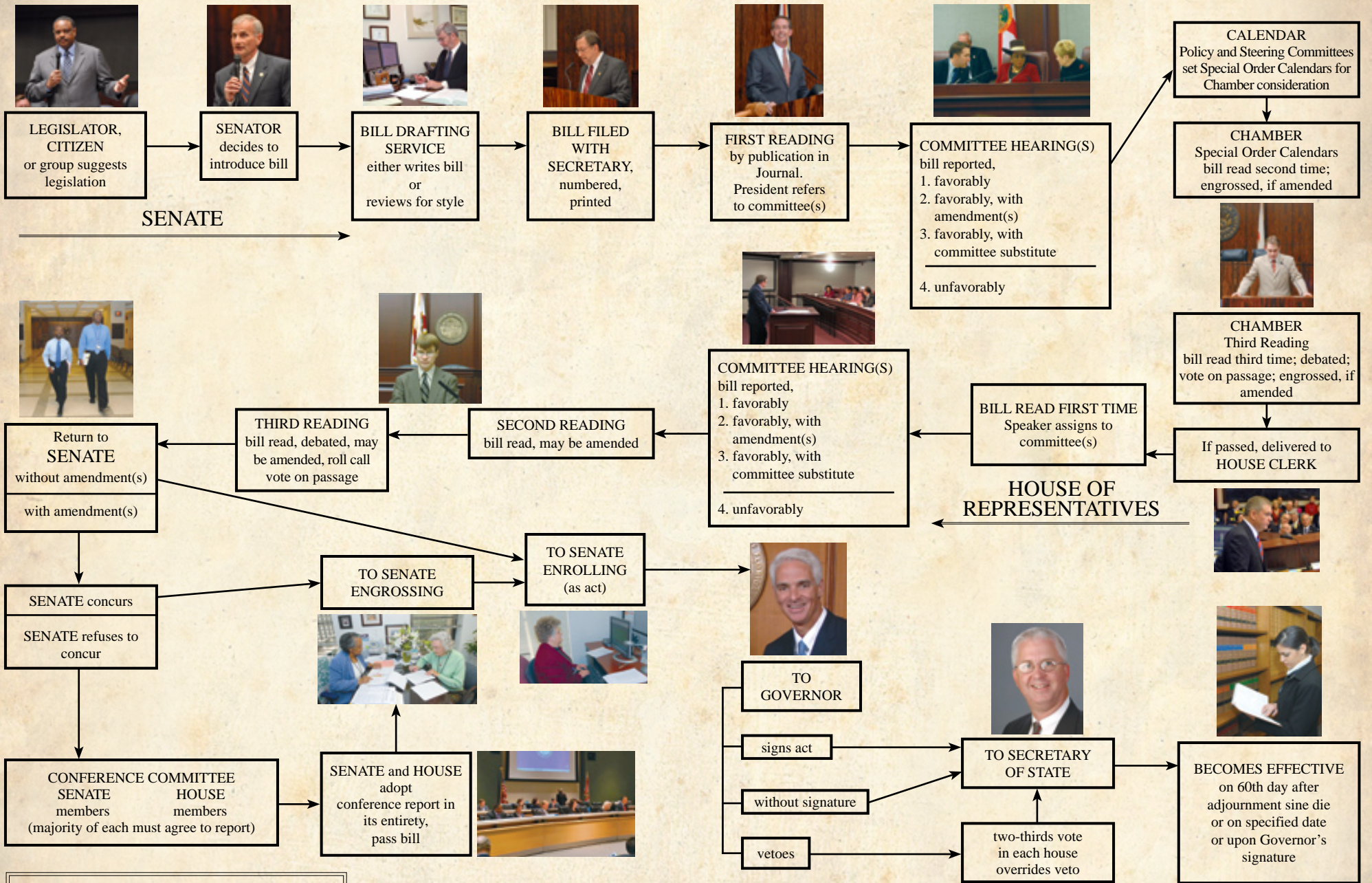


Tree:
Sabal Palmetto palm



THE FLORIDA SENATE

- HOW AN IDEA BECOMES A LAW



A simplified chart showing the route many bills take through the Florida Legislature. Bills may originate in either house. This bill originated in the Senate.

Prepared by the Office of the Secretary of the Senate

THREE BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT



Florida's Constitution, in the traditional American pattern of "separation of powers," divides state government into three separate and independent branches. This division of powers creates a system of "checks and balances" ensuring that all three branches properly perform their constitutional duties in the administration of state affairs. Tallahassee is the seat of Florida's state government.

THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH



The Governor and the Cabinet: Chief Financial Officer Alex Sink, Commissioner of Agriculture Charles H. Bronson, Governor Charlie Crist, and Attorney General Bill McCollum

The Florida Constitution vests the supreme executive power of the state in the Governor and provides that he or she shall ensure that the laws are faithfully executed. It provides for a Lieutenant Governor to be elected in a joint candidacy with the Governor. The Lieutenant Governor works with the Governor and performs such duties pertaining to the office of the Governor as assigned by the Governor, or as otherwise provided by law. The Constitution also provides that the Governor shall be assisted by an elected Cabinet consisting of an Attorney General, Chief Financial Officer, and a Commissioner of Agriculture.

The Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and members of the Cabinet are elected to four-year terms. They take office on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in January following their election in November of non-presidential election years. The Governor may succeed himself or herself in office unless he or she has served more than six years in two consecutive terms. Cabinet members may not seek reelection if, by the end of their current term, they will have served in that office for eight consecutive years.

THE JUDICIAL BRANCH



The Florida Supreme Court

The Judicial Branch interprets the law and applies the Constitution. Florida's court system consists of a series of circuit and county courts, district courts of appeal, and the state Supreme Court.

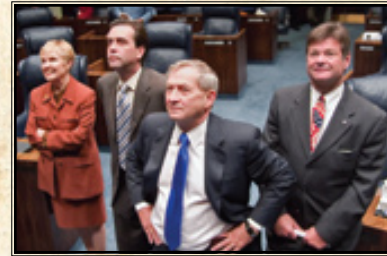
County courts preside over criminal trials of misdemeanors and some civil cases. They also have the power to issue warrants of arrest. There is one county court located in each of Florida's 67 counties. The number of judges in each county court varies with the population and caseload of the county. County judges are elected to four-year terms.

Circuit courts are located in each of Florida's 20 judicial circuits. Some circuits contain only one county, but most are multi-county. The circuit courts are at the top of the trial system, and they also hear limited appeals from county courts. Circuit judges are elected by the voters of the circuits to serve six-year terms.

The District Courts of Appeal are intermediate appellate courts that receive most of the appeals from trial courts. There are five judicial districts in Florida, with courts located in Tallahassee, Lakeland, Daytona Beach, West Palm Beach, and Miami. Appointed by the Governor to serve in each district court, these judges must be reconfirmed by the voters every six years.

The Supreme Court is at the top of Florida's court system and is the final state court of appeal. The Supreme Court determines the constitutionality of statutes, has the authority to issue advisory opinions to the Governor, and has administrative responsibilities over all lower courts. There are seven Supreme Court justices, each appointed by the Governor and retained by a popular vote every six years. Current justices include: Chief Justice Peggy A. Quince, Justice Charles T. Wells (retiring March 4, 2009), Justice Barbara J. Pariente, Justice R. Fred Lewis, Justice Charles T. Canady, Justice Ricky Polston, and Justice Jorge Labarga

THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH



The Legislative Branch has exclusive lawmaking power and determines the general policies by which the problems of society are to be met. It may delegate limited rulemaking power to some executive agencies.

Composition and Organization. The Constitution of the State of Florida requires that members of the Legislature be elected at the general election in November of even-numbered years. Florida's Legislature is composed of two houses, the Senate and the House of Representatives. Each house is the sole judge of the qualifications and elections of its members and has the power to choose its own officers and establish its own rules of procedure. All legislative sessions are open to the public, except when appointments or suspensions of public officials are considered in executive session. Either house of the Legislature may initiate legislation on any subject.

The State Constitution provides that the Legislature shall be apportioned into 30 to 40 senatorial districts, and 80 to 120 representative districts. The 1972 Legislature established 40 Senate districts and 120 House districts. Senators serve four-year terms and representatives serve two-year terms. While a legislator may be elected for more than one term, he or she may not seek reelection if at the end of his or her current term he or she has served for eight consecutive years.

Reapportionment and Redistricting. During the 2002 Regular Session, the Florida Legislature realigned districts to account for Florida's two new seats in the United States Congress and for uneven population growth during the past decade among Florida Senate and House of Representatives districts.



Legislative Sessions. Two weeks after each general election, the Legislature convenes for the exclusive purpose of organization and election of officers. No legislation is considered during the organization session.



Regular sessions of the Legislature begin on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in March in odd-numbered years and continue for 60 consecutive days, which may be extended by a three-fifths vote of each house. The Legislature may change its convening date in even-numbered years, but generally the date remains the same as in odd-numbered years, except once every 10 years when the Constitution

requires the Legislature to reapportion the state's voting districts. Special sessions may be called by the Governor, or may be convened by joint proclamation of the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. Special sessions may not exceed 20 days, unless extended by a three-fifths vote of each house. Each "call" for a special session outlines the business to be considered. The Senate may resolve itself into executive session to consider appointment to or removal from public office, even when the House of Representatives is not meeting.

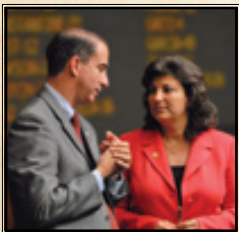
Rules. During the organization session, each house adopts its rules of procedure to be followed for the next two years. The rules provide for orderly proceedings and determine how each house will conduct its business.



Committees. A committee functions to study, research, and plan solutions to issues facing Floridians. The Senate and House rules provide for certain policy and steering committees, standing committees, special or select committees, and subcommittees. The presiding officers name the chairs and members of all committees.



Bills are assigned to one or more committees for study. Committees may hold public hearings where committee members hear sponsoring legislators and others who are interested in the bill. The committee may vote to recommend the bill favorably; favorably with a committee substitute; unfavorably; or favorably with amendments to be considered when the bill is debated on the floor by the respective house.



When the Senate and House are unable to agree on the final content of a bill, it goes to a conference committee. This committee, composed of members of both houses, tries to resolve the differences between the Senate and House versions of a bill.



Other committees commonly used are joint committees, which are composed of members from each house, and select committees, which are usually appointed to make recommendations on special or unique problems.

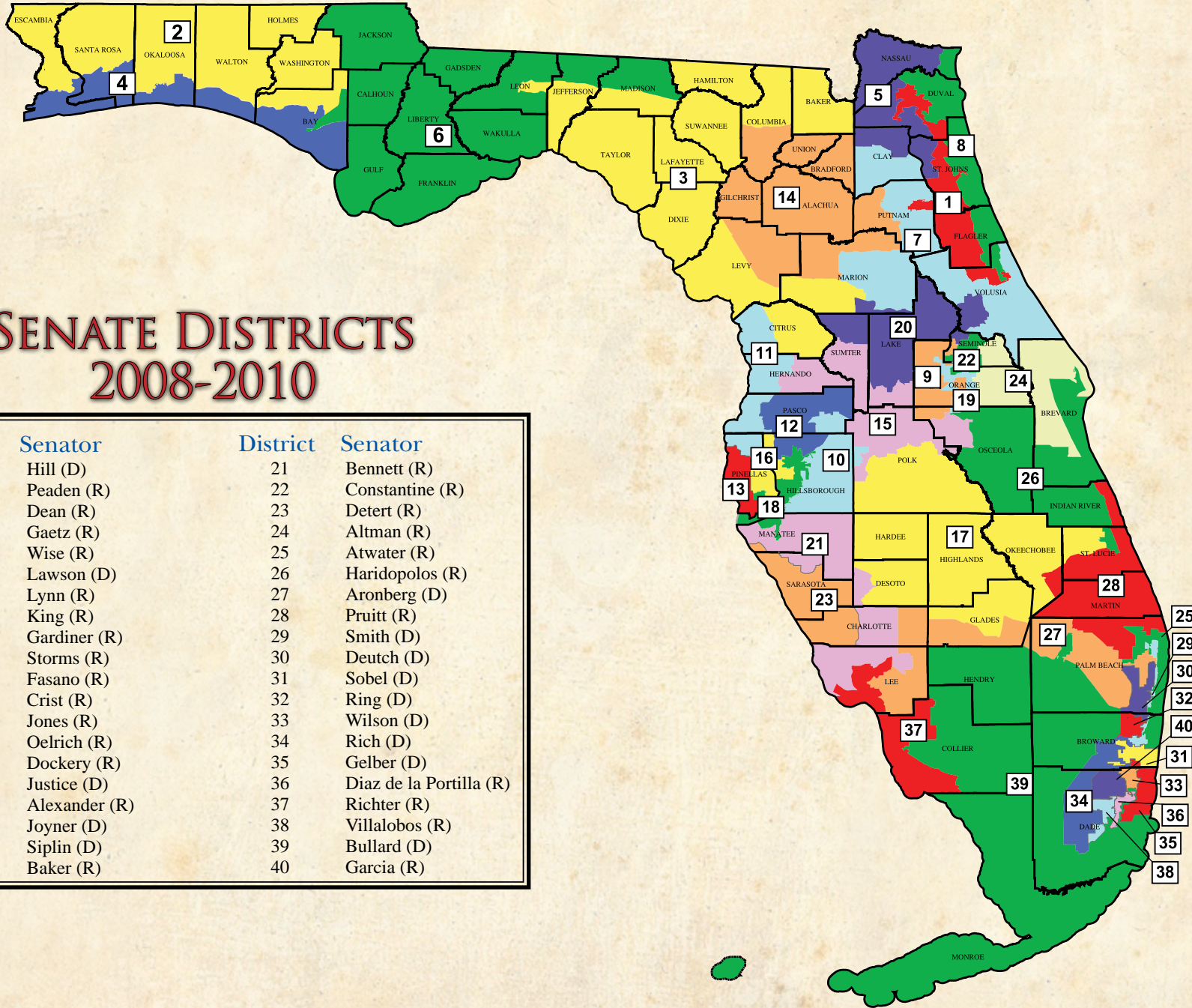
Lobbying. A lobbyist is someone who tries to influence decisions made by government. Unless exempted by law or rule, any person who seeks to affect legislation must register with the Division of Legislative Information Services before he or she can begin lobbying. Each lobbyist must also state any direct business association or partnership with any current member of the Legislature. Lobbyist firms must make periodic reports on compensation.

Journals and Calendars. The Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House each publish daily journals and calendars during the legislative session. Each journal details the proceedings on the floor, committee reports, and related actions of the previous day. Calendars serve as official notification of legislative activities, such as sessions, committee meetings, bills to be considered, schedules, deadlines, and other significant information.



Forms of Legislation. Legislative proposals may be in the form of bills, resolutions, concurrent resolutions, joint resolutions, or memorials. A bill is a proposed law, and it may be either a general bill or a local bill. A general bill would have a general impact within the state; a local bill would affect only a particular county, city, or town named in the bill. A majority vote is required to pass a bill, unless otherwise provided in the Constitution. Companion bills are often used as a time-saving device. These are identical bills introduced in both houses, which allow simultaneous committee study in each body. The appropriations bill is one of the most important bills considered by the Legislature. This bill is the state's budget and it specifies the amount of money available to various state agencies during the next year. The appropriations bill follows the same course as other general bills, but because it is difficult to get both houses to agree on all items in the bill, a conference committee is usually appointed to resolve the differences.





GLOSSARY OF LEGISLATIVE TERMS

Act – A bill passed by the legislature.

Adjourn – To end a legislative session or a committee meeting.

Adopt – To vote to accept.

Amendment – A proposal to change the original terms of a bill.

Bicameral – Consisting of two houses. All states have bicameral legislatures except Nebraska, which has only one house (unicameral).

Bill – A draft of a proposed law.

Budget – A bill that states how much money will be spent on government programs and services.

Calendar – A publication containing legislative activities or a list of bills awaiting action.

Chair – A legislator who presides over a committee meeting or a session.

Chamber – Also known as the “floor,” it is the room in which the Senate or the House of Representatives meets.

Clerk of the House of Representatives – The person appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives to assist the members of the House in the detailed processes of enacting laws and to record that history.

Committee – A group of Senators or Representatives appointed by the presiding officer to consider important issues and to report its recommendations for action by the body that originated it.

Constitution – The written instrument, embodying the fundamental principles of the state, that establishes power and duties of the government and guarantees certain rights to the people.

Constituent – A citizen who resides in the district of a legislator.

Convene – To meet in formal legislative session.

Debate – To argue the merits of a bill, for and against.

Decorum – Appropriate behavior and conduct.

District – That area of the state represented by a legislator, determined on the basis of population.

Gallery – The seating area for visitors located above the chambers (on the fifth floor of the Capitol).

Governor – The chief executive of the State.

Journal – The official record of the proceedings of the Senate or the House of Representatives.

Law – The final product of the legislative process. It is the end result of the introduction of a bill, its passage by both houses, its approval by the Governor (or the overriding of his veto by the legislature), and its recording by the Secretary of State.

Majority party – The political party having more than half of the seats in a house.

Minority party – The political party having fewer than a majority of seats in a house.

Motion – A proposal, usually oral, made to the presiding officer and relating to procedure or action before a legislative body.

Oath of Office – An oath or vow taken by a public official prior to taking up his or her official duties.

Order of Business – The defined routine of procedure in the legislative body each day. It can be deviated from only by waiver of the rules.

Passage – Favorable action on a measure before the legislature.

President of the Senate – The presiding officer of the Senate. He or she is designated as President by the majority party in caucus and then elected by the full membership of the Senate for a term of two years.

President Pro Tempore of the Senate – Literally, president “for a time.” He or she performs specified duties as prescribed by the Senate Rules or the Senate President.

Quorum – The number of members required for the conduct of business.

Repeal – The removal of a provision from the law.

Roll call – To determine a vote on a question by the taking of names in favor of and opposed to.

Rules – Provisions for the procedure, organization, officers, and committees of each house of the legislature.

Secretary of the Senate – The person elected by the Senate to assist Senate officers, members, and professional staff in the detailed processes of enacting laws and to record that history.

Sergeant at Arms – The person in each house who is responsible for the security of the legislative house and the maintenance of that house’s property.

Session – The period during which the legislature meets.

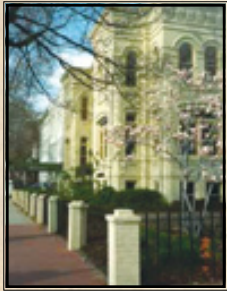
Sine die – Refers to final adjournment of a legislative session. The term is sometimes used to denote the ceremony involving the dropping of white handkerchiefs, which symbolizes the end of a regular session.

Speaker of the House of Representatives – The presiding officer of the House of Representatives. He or she is designated as Speaker by the majority party in caucus and then elected by the full membership of the House for a term of two years.

Veto – Return by the Governor to the legislature of a bill without his or her signature; the veto message from the Governor usually explains why he or she thinks the bill should not become a law.

Vote – A decision on a question, either affirmative or negative.

FLORIDA IN THE 111TH CONGRESS



Sidewalk view of the Florida House

Washington, D.C. is the seat of the nation's government. The names and addresses of Florida's representatives in the legislative branch may be found on a separate page in many Florida telephone directories.

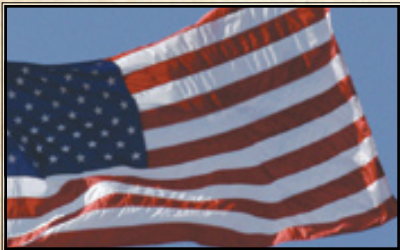
Further information on each Member of Congress may be found at the official websites for The United States Senate (www.senate.gov) and The United States House of Representatives (www.house.gov).

UNITED STATES SENATE



View of the Capitol

The Senate is composed of 100 Members, two from each state, elected by the people pursuant to the 17th Amendment to the United States Constitution. A Senator must be at least 30 years of age, have been a citizen of the United States for nine years, and, when elected, be a resident of the state from which the Senator is chosen. The term of office is six years, and one-third of the total membership of the Senate is elected every second year. The terms of both Senators from a particular state are so arranged that they do not terminate at the same time. Of the two Senators from a state serving at the same time, the one who was elected first (or if both were elected at the same time, the one elected for a full term) is referred to as the "senior" Senator from that state. The other is referred to as the "junior" Senator. Senators Bill Nelson and Mel Martinez represent Florida in Washington.



UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



The House of Representatives is composed of 435 Members elected every two years from among the 50 states, apportioned according to their total populations. Today there is one representative for approximately every 646,952 residents, a much larger figure than the 30,000 residents the Constitution of the United States originally required for a Congressional district.

A Representative must be at least 25 years of age, have been a citizen of the United States for seven years, and, when elected, be a resident of the state in which the Representative is chosen.

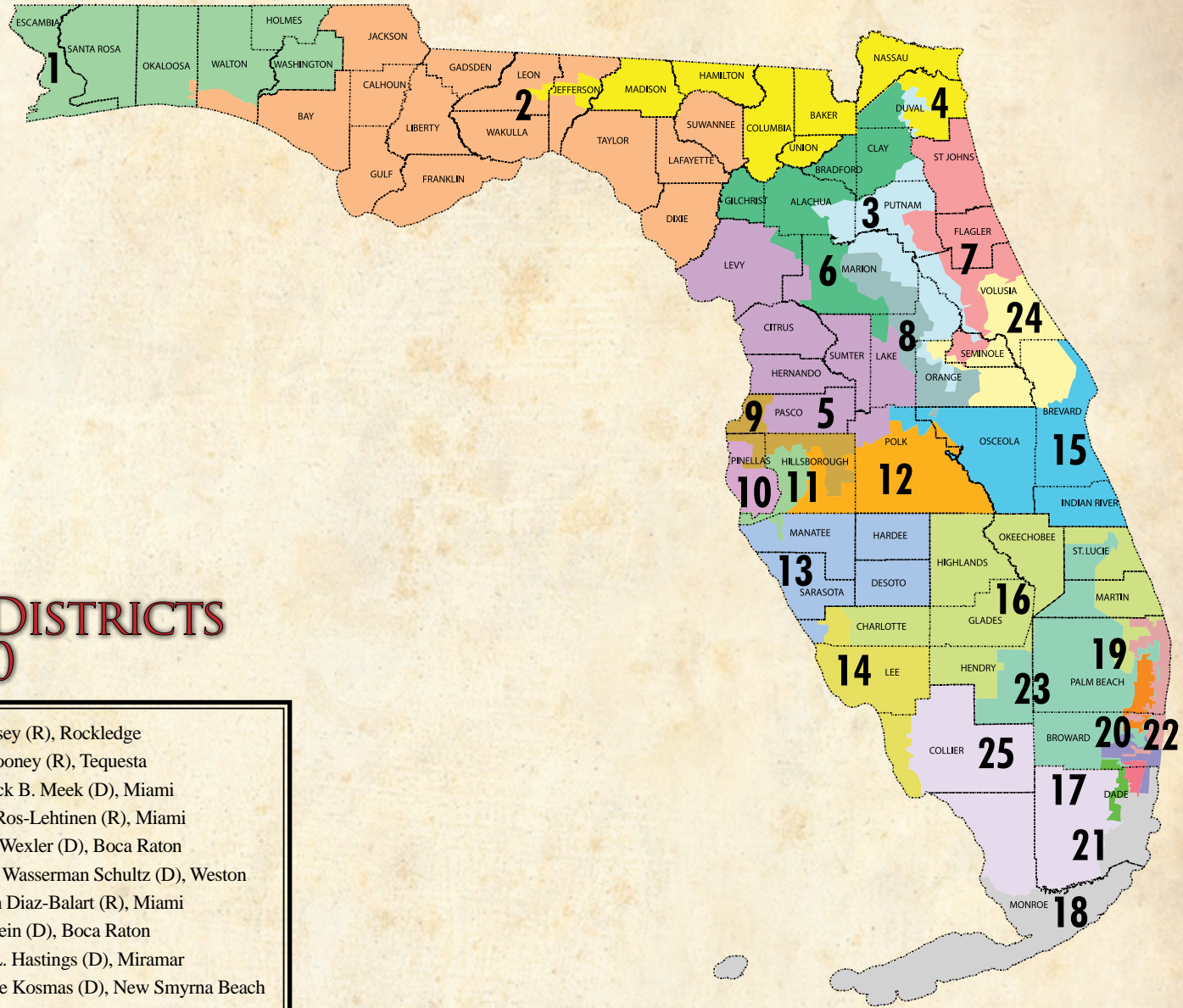
In addition to the Representatives from each of the states, there is a Resident Commissioner from the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and Delegates from the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, and the Virgin Islands. The Resident Commissioner and the Delegates have most of the prerogatives of Representatives, with the important exception of the right to vote on matters before the House.

Under the provisions of Section 2 of the 20th Amendment to the United States Constitution, Congress must assemble at least once every year, at noon on the third day of January, unless by law it appoints a different day. A Congress lasts for two years, commencing in January of the year following the biennial election of Members, and is divided into two sessions.

Unlike some other parliamentary bodies, both the Senate and the House of Representatives have equal legislative functions and powers (except that only the House of Representatives may initiate revenue bills), and the designation of one as the "upper" House and the other as the "lower" House is not appropriate.

The United States Constitution authorizes each House to determine the rules of its proceedings. Pursuant to that authority, the House of Representatives adopts its rules on the opening day of each Congress. The Senate, which considers itself a continuing body, operates under standing rules that it amends from time to time.

The chief function of Congress is the making of laws. In addition, the Senate has the function of advising and consenting to treaties and to certain nominations by the President. In the matter of impeachments, the House of Representatives presents the charges – a function similar to that of a grand jury – and the Senate sits as a court to try the impeachment. Following a presidential election, both houses meet in joint session on the sixth day of January, unless by law they appoint a different day, to count the electoral votes.



CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS 2008-2010

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| 1 Jeff Miller (R), Chumuckla | 15 Bill Posey (R), Rockledge |
| 2 Allen Boyd (D), Monticello | 16 Tom Rooney (R), Tequesta |
| 3 Corrine Brown (D), Jacksonville | 17 Kendrick B. Meek (D), Miami |
| 4 Ander Crenshaw (R), Jacksonville | 18 Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R), Miami |
| 5 Ginny Brown-Waite (R), Brooksville | 19 Robert Wexler (D), Boca Raton |
| 6 Cliff Stearns (R), Ocala | 20 Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D), Weston |
| 7 John L. Mica (R), Winter Park | 21 Lincoln Diaz-Balart (R), Miami |
| 8 Alan Grayson (D), Orlando | 22 Ron Klein (D), Boca Raton |
| 9 Gus M. Bilirakis (R), Palm Harbor | 23 Alcee L. Hastings (D), Miramar |
| 10 C.W. Bill Young (R), Indian Shores | 24 Suzanne Kosmas (D), New Smyrna Beach |
| 11 Kathy Castor (D), Tampa | 25 Mario Diaz-Balart (R), Miami |
| 12 Adam H. Putnam (R), Bartow | |
| 13 Vern Buchanan (R), Sarasota | |
| 14 Connie Mack (R), Fort Myers | |

DID YOU KNOW...



- Florida has had six Constitutions since it became a state. The first Constitution was drafted in Saint Joseph, now known as Port St. Joe. Presently, Florida is governed by the Constitution of 1968, as subsequently amended.

- Florida's first Legislative Council, which was supposed to meet in Pensacola on June 10, 1822, did not meet until 44 days later due to hazardous and time-consuming travel.
- Tallahassee was named the state capital in 1824 by Florida's first territorial governor, William P. DuVal.
- The total land area of Florida is 54,252 square miles. The total water area is 4,308 square miles.
- In 1824, three log cabins were erected in Tallahassee to accommodate the Legislative Council. This was Florida's first Capitol.
- In the 1890s, several efforts were made to move the state capital from Tallahassee. Choices included Jacksonville, Ocala, and St. Augustine.
- Florida's fourth and present Capitol was officially opened on March 31, 1978, by Governor Reubin Askew.
- Construction of Florida's present Capitol required 3,700 tons of structural steel and 2,800 tons of reinforcing steel. The Capitol contains 25,000 cubic feet of concrete, the equivalent of 16 football fields, each one foot thick.



- Florida has been home to such famed writers as Ernest Hemingway, Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings, and Tennessee Williams.
- In 1990, Senator Gwen Margolis of Miami became the first woman in Florida's history to be elected to serve as President of the Senate.
- Toni Jennings was the first Senator in Florida to be elected President of the Senate for two consecutive terms, presiding from 1996-2000. In 2003, she was chosen by Governor Jeb Bush to become Florida's first female Lieutenant Governor following the resignation of Frank Brogan.



- The first reusable spacecraft, the space shuttle Columbia, was launched on its maiden voyage on April 12, 1981.
- The word "Tallahassee" is of Creek derivation and is frequently translated as "old town" or "old fields." The name may have been taken from the Seminole Indians who occupied the area.
- Juan Ponce de Leon came ashore on the northeast coast of Florida sometime between April 2 and April 8, 1513. He called the area *la Florida*, in honor of Pascua florida (feast of the flowers), a popular celebration held in Spain around Easter.
- A prior Constitution in 1868 provided that the Seminole Tribe was entitled to a member in the House and the Senate.
- Saint Augustine is the oldest continuously inhabited European settlement in North America.



Photo of Seminole Woman Tommy Jumper "Squirrel" courtesy of the Florida State Archives

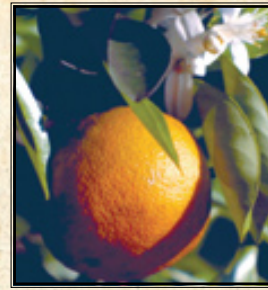
- Snow fell in Dade County on January 20, 1977.
- Dr. John Gorrie of Apalachicola patented the process of making ice artificially in 1851.



- The St. John's River is one of the few rivers that flows north instead of south, and at 273 miles in length, it is Florida's longest river.
- The Buckman Act of 1905 consolidated the state's institutions of higher learning into three: the University of Florida at Gainesville, the Florida State College for Women, and the Florida Agricultural and Mechanical College for Negroes at Tallahassee.
- Founded in 1973 by Rhea Chiles as Florida's "embassy" in our nation's capital, Florida House is owned by the people of the State of Florida. Florida is the only state to have such a facility. It enjoys approximately 10,000 visitors a year. Florida House serves as "home base" for tourists as well as the business community. (www.floridaembassy.com)



- Florida has more than 11,000 miles of rivers, streams, and waterways.
- In 1937, Amelia Earhart took off from Miami for an around-the-world flight and was never seen again.
- The first commercial airline service between two U.S. cities was established between St. Petersburg and Tampa in 1914.
- Seven student athletes from Florida universities have won the Heisman Trophy between 1966 and 2008.



- The unified government of Florida was established March 30, 1822, when President Monroe signed into law the act which provided for a Governor and a Legislative Council of 13 citizens. Florida was the 27th state to be admitted to the United States (March 3, 1845).
- DeFuniak Springs is home to one of the two naturally round lakes in the world.

- Ft. Lauderdale is known as the Venice of America because it has 185 miles of local waterways.
- In anticipation of statehood, 56 commissioners elected from Florida's 20 counties gathered at Saint Joseph (Port St. Joe) to draft a constitution. The convention lasted from December 3, 1838, until January 11, 1839.



- Florida's highest natural point is 345 feet, located near Lakewood in Walton County.
- "Stormsong," the 50-foot long pod of leaping dolphins in front of the Capitol, is made of stainless steel and recycled aluminum and weighs 8,000 pounds (four tons).
- The Florida quarter was released by the U.S. Mint as part of its 50 State Quarters Program in 2004.



Some items were taken from The Florida Handbook, 1997-1998 by Allen Morris, published by The Peninsular Publishing Company, Tallahassee, FL.

Photo of the orange is courtesy of the Florida State Archives

Hey Kids, visit us on the web!

We have games, puzzles, fun facts,
and more about our state.

www.flsenate.gov



This Internet site introduces younger Floridians to the Florida Senate. Designed to be educational, it appeals to children of all ages. This site is easily accessed (interface is not browser specific) and low-resolution graphics allow for ease of use. Senate Kids is always under construction. Keep checking for new features.



About This Handbook

This Florida Senate Handbook is published by the Secretary of the Senate. It is distributed free of charge to Capitol visitors and other interested Floridians to enhance their knowledge and understanding of Florida's government, and particularly, the Florida Senate.

R. Philip Twogood
Secretary of the Senate

Visit the Florida Senate's homepage:
<http://www.flsenate.gov>

