



Senator

Alan Hays

District 11

Town Hall Meeting: 2014 Legislative Update

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

This year's legislative session has come to a close, and I am delighted to be back home in the district. Representative Nelson and I will be co-hosting a town hall meeting Tuesday, June 17th at 7:00 PM in the Eustis City Hall (10 N. Grove St., Eustis, FL 32727). This will be an opportunity for you to ask questions of your Legislators and to hear an update on the 2014 Legislative Session.

This past session was a busy one and I am proud of the accomplishments we made. I feel we have a responsible budget that properly funds the many needs in the district and throughout the state. Many of our water and wastewater systems are aging and in need of repair. Governor Scott recently signed the budget, and many projects within our area will be able to get underway to help improve these systems.

This year we were also able to provide some tax relief for our Florida families as they renew their car tags, shop for school supplies, purchase supplies for hardening their homes in preparation of the hurricane season, and buy energy efficient appliances. Governor Scott signed HB 5601 into law, which provides meaningful tax relief for our friends and neighbors through these tax breaks. For more information on tax holidays, visit: <http://www.flsenate.gov/Committees/BillSummaries/2014/html/803>.

One of our primary objectives is to make sure Floridians have a well trained workforce. We want all of our students to have the education, training, and skills they need to find meaningful employment. It is imperative that our employers have a well-qualified pool of prospective employees from which to choose to fill open positions. The budget devotes \$22.6 billion toward education! That represents 29.3% of the entire state budget. I am happy to say that our district was fortunate enough to secure funding for Lake Sumter State College and Lake Tech. LSSC will use the funding for a new science lab, and Lake Tech for a Center of Advanced Manufacturing.

On another personal note, I was especially pleased to pass SB 864. Governor Scott has already signed it into law. This gives much more opportunity for local input at the school board. This new law requires every school board to devise a process for concerned parents and citizens to appeal the adoption of specific instructional materials such as text books and other materials.

I am a firm believer that our court systems should use Florida and US laws when deciding disputes. I am pleased to announce Governor Scott signed into law SB 386, which is intended to prevent the use of any foreign law in Florida courts if the use of that law goes against good public policy of the State. This will prevent the recurrence of some tragic circumstances that have been tried in our family courts dealing with child custody and divorce proceedings. This bill takes effect October 1, 2014.

Finally, you have read in previous publications that SM 476 calling for a Convention of States was one of my priorities for this legislative session. I am happy to report this memorial is on its way to Congress and it will count as one of the 34 states needed to call the Convention. I recently returned from the Mt. Vernon Assembly in Indianapolis, Indiana, where I was appointed as a delegate. This Assembly will begin to establish the rules under which the Convention will operate when it is convened. If you are curious about the Article V Convention, please visit the websites, www.theassemblyofstatelegislatures.org and www.conventionofstates.com.

In case you aren't able to make it to the town hall meeting, I wanted to be able to share some of the highlights from this past session. Thank you for allowing me to serve, and I look forward to seeing you Tuesday.

Alan Hays

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