



Good Morning!

This past week I had the opportunity to meet with constituents from Building Homes for Heroes, Treasure Coast and Space Coast Children's Home Society, Brevard Achievement Center, Everglades Coalition, Treasure Coast Alliance for Retired Americans, and the Treasure Coast and Space Coast League of Cities on their legislative priorities. Wyatt Falardeau also traveled from Vero Beach High School to serve as a Senate Page.

The Florida Senate unanimously approved the [General Appropriations Bill](#) this past week. The Senate's budget for the 2020-2021 fiscal year invests in protecting the environment by allocating \$646 million for water quality restoration. This includes \$322 million for Everglades Restoration, \$50 million for Springs Restoration, \$125 million for Florida Forever, and \$200 million for water quality improvements (including \$25 million for the Indian River Lagoon and funding for septic to sewer and wastewater programs).



The Senate's budget continues to invest in elevating our neighborhood public schools and ensuring our teachers are taken care of by dedicating \$500 million in a new Teacher Salary Increase Allocation, along with \$325 million in increased flexible funding through the Base Student Allocation, which districts can invest in teachers and school district personnel.

It also prioritizes critical areas such as hurricane recovery, tax relief for Floridians, protection for our most vulnerable populations, health and human services, transportation, and elections security. The Sadowski Housing Trust Fund was fully funded. The Senate's budget stipulates \$387 Million in total funding for affordable housing programs. Finally, the state's reserves will be replenished to more than \$3.5 Billion, which can be used in future times of need and ensures Florida's AAA bond rating.

The Florida House of Representatives also approved their proposed budget of \$91 Billion.

Now that the House and Senate have both approved their budgets, the difference between the two will be resolved in a joint conference committee. The report of this conference committee will become the General Appropriations Act and is signed by the Senate President and Speaker of the House, respectively, before it is presented to the Governor. The Governor has the authority to reject the budget, as well as line item veto authority which can be used to delete any specific budget item within the Appropriations Act. Once the Governor has completed his review, he then signs the General Appropriations Act into law, establishing the statewide budget for the next fiscal year.

I will continue to keep you updated on the budget process on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and the Mayfield Minute.

I consider it a great honor to represent District 17. Please share [this link](#) with your friends and family so that they too can sign up for the [Mayfield Minute](#).

If you or someone you know needs my assistance, please don't hesitate to contact my office. My staff and I are here to serve you!

Legislation Update

This past week I **presented** the following legislation:

[SB 646: Student Athlete Achievement Act](#) allow student athletes the right to benefit from their own name, image or likeness, just like every other student on their college campus. This legislation was unanimously approved by the Senate Education Committee this past week, and I will be presenting SB 646 on Monday to the Senate Innovation, Industry and Technology Committee for their consideration. I look forward to working with my colleagues to pass this bill in support of Florida's 11,000 student athletes in their efforts to participate in the free market.

[SB 666: FDFC](#) was approved by the Senate Governmental Oversight and Accountability Committee this week. This legislation redesigns the board of directors, adds additional annual reporting requirements, and sets a sunset provision for the Florida Development Finance Corporation (FDFC). This legislation will now go to the Senate Rules Committee for consideration.

[SB 630: Smoking in Public Parks](#) was favorably approved by the Senate Rules Committee. This legislation allows municipalities and counties the ability to restrict smoking within the boundaries of any of their own public parks. The bill will now go to the Senate Floor for consideration.

[SB 1414: Fish and Wildlife Activities](#) increases the number of free fishing days from 4 to 6 days, to allow more anglers to get out and experience our state's natural resources. This legislation also expands the list of Conditional Nonnative species that are prohibited from being bred or sold, except for educational, research or eradication purposes, to include the Green Iguana and Black & White Tegu. This bill was unanimously approved by the Senate Agriculture Committee, and will now go to the Senate Rules Committee for consideration.

[Senate Bill \(SB\) 716: County Boundaries](#) has passed the Senate Rules Committee. This bill provides for a boundary line change to property that is located partially in Indian River County and partially in St. Lucie County. This legislation alters the boundary lines, which has the support of the property owners and both Counties involved. The bill will now go to the Senate Floor for consideration.

[SB 1742: Home Medical Equipment Providers](#) was approved by the Senate Health and Human Services Appropriations Committee. This bill exempts licensed physicians and chiropractic physicians who sell or rent electrosimulation medical equipment supplies to their patients, from the requirement of an additional sales license. This legislation will now go to the Senate Appropriations Committee for consideration.

The following legislation **passed on the Senate Floor**:

[HB 115: Keep Our Graduates Working Act](#) removes the state authority to suspend or revoke the license of a healthcare practitioner solely because of a student loan default.

[SB 124: Custody of Minor Children by Extended Family](#) authorizes a court to include in its order granting "temporary" or "concurrent" custody to a child's extended family member any provision requested by the petitioner which is in the best interest of the child. This legislation will also provide a transition plan for reuniting children with their parents following the removal of the child from the home.

Rebuild Florida Funds Infrastructure Improvements

The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity's (DEO) Rebuild Florida Infrastructure Repair Program recently awarded more than \$84 million to 21 communities impacted by Hurricane Irma. The program helps communities that have been impacted by disasters fund infrastructure restoration and improvement projects.

Both the City of Fellsmere and the City of West Melbourne were among those Hurricane Irma-impacted communities DEO funded through the Rebuild Florida Infrastructure Program:

- Fellsmere will receive \$825,000 to repair a culvert drainage system in order to lessen the impacts of future flooding.
- West Melbourne will receive \$2,266,191 to improve and replace damaged curbs, culverts and driveway aprons in the Melbourne Estates neighborhood.

DEO is the Governor-designated state authority responsible for administering all U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) long-term recovery funds awarded to the state. Launched in September 2018, Rebuild Florida uses federal funding for Florida's long-term recovery efforts from the devastating impacts of Hurricane Irma. For more information, visit RebuildFlorida.gov.

District 17 Highlights

Presidential Primary Voter Registration Deadline

The deadline to register to vote in the March 17, 2020 Florida Presidential Primary is **Tuesday, February 18th** for Brevard and Indian River County residents.

For voters that need to update their voter registration record, or to obtain a sample ballot please contact:

- Brevard County (321) 290-8683 or visit VoteBrevard.com
- Indian River County (772) 226-3440 or visit VoteIndianRiver.com

Florida is a closed primary state, meaning only you can only vote for candidates of your same party affiliation. Only registered Democrats or Republicans are eligible to vote for their respective party's presidential candidates. Voters who are registered with no party affiliation, or with a minor party, are not eligible to vote in the Presidential Primary.

Early voting for the 2020 Presidential Primary will be conducted from March 2nd through March 14th at 10 locations in Brevard, and from March 7th through March 14th at 3 locations in Indian River County.

Brevard Achievement Center

This past week I had the pleasure of visiting with representatives from the Brevard Achievement Center (BAC) in the Capitol. This included BAC's CEO, Amar Patel and Terrence, who now helps support BAC's Adult Day Training program.

BAC works to provide persons with disabilities innovative services and opportunities to achieve personal success. While visiting, they shared some inspiring stories from their program participants, including Michelle.



Michelle is an independent spirit with down syndrome who wants to make a difference in her community. She is active in the Special Olympics, and Special Gatherings of Indian River, a ministry dedicated to serving the special needs community. She also received the RESPECT of Florida Award as BAC's Rookie of the Year for 2019 for her outstanding work and dedication. *"What I have learned about BAC is that we are all family here. We take care of each other, we help each other, and learn from each other,"* said Michelle. *"Whether we are working in the bays or learning in our classrooms, we work hard every day as a team."*

BAC has two upcoming events where you can support and learn more about the organization:

BACs Color in Motion Arts Festival
February 25th through 27th
Brevard Zoo
8225 N Wickham Rd, Melbourne

Performing Arts Showcase
May 6, 2020
King Center for Performing Arts
3865 N Wickham Rd, Melbourne

To learn more about how you can get involved, please visit BACBrevard.com or call (321) 537-4243.

Livable Indian River County

The Senior Collaborative of Indian River County is launching Livable Indian River County. A program that works to expand livability for people of all ages and create a community that is safe and secure, with supportive community services.

Livable Indian River County
Wednesday, February 19th from 1:00-2:00 PM
IRC Intergenerational Recreation Center
1590 9th Street SW, Vero Beach

At the launch you can learn more about how you can get involved and ways we can bring the community together to create a community where residents can thrive at every age of life. Visit their website to register to attend, or email information@livableir.org.

Space Coast TPO Pedestrian Safety Forum

The Space Coast Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) will be hosting a community discussion on bicycle and pedestrian safety for families with elementary-aged children.

[Community Chat: Bicycle & Pedestrian Safety](#)

February 22, 2020 at 2:00 PM

Satellite Beach Library

751 Jamaica Blvd, Satellite Beach

Attendees will hear from Space Coast TPO Safety & Education Coordinator, Kim Smith, about road markings, traffic laws, and road user behavior. This event is open to the public and free to attend. To learn more please visit their [Facebook Page](#) for more information.

Follow me on Facebook and Twitter, and visit my [Senate website](#)



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