



Good Morning!

This past week I was honored to receive the **State Senator of the Year Award** from the National Multiple Sclerosis Society for my legislative efforts to "*Breakthrough MS*." I am proud to champion legislation that protects MS patients and improves transparency, such as [Senate Bill 696: Prescription Drug Coverage](#).

I also had the opportunity to meet with constituents from the Treasure Coast Builders Association, Treasure Coast Community Health, Brevard Public Schools Adult Education Program, Brevard Association of Insurance Agents and the Surfrider Foundation on their legislative priorities.



The Senate Appropriations Committee favorably approved the General Appropriations Bill this past week. The proposed budget for the 2020-2021 fiscal year invests in protecting the environment by allocating \$643 million for water quality restoration. This includes \$322 million for Everglades Restoration, \$50 million for Springs Restoration, \$125 million for Florida Forever and \$192 million for water quality improvements, including septic to sewer and wastewater programs.

The proposed Senate 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 proposed budget maintains \$3.5 billion total in reserves, which can be used in future times of need and ensures Florida's AAA bond rating.

This General Appropriation's Bill will now go to the Senate floor. Once the House of Representatives and Senate have both approved their budgets, any differences 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 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 306: State Funds](#) was unanimously approved by the Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee. This legislation prohibits sweeps of the Sadowski State and Local Housing Trust Fund to ensure that the funds are used as intended. In 1992, the Florida Legislature increased taxes on real estate transactions to fund the Sadowski Trust to help families and individuals find affordable housing, including the homeless and first-time homebuyers. The bill will now go to the Senate Transportation, Tourism and Economic Development Appropriations Committee for consideration.

[SB 630: Smoking in Public Parks](#) was favorably approved by the Senate Innovation, Industry and Technology 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 Rules Committee for consideration.

[SB 1414: Fish and Wildlife Activities](#) increases the number of authorized license-free fishing days to allow more anglers to get out and experience our state's natural resources. This legislation also expands the list of invasive species that are prohibited from being kept or sold to include the Green Iguana and Black & White Tegu. This bill was unanimously approved by the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee, and will now go to the Agriculture Committee for consideration.

[Senate Bill \(SB\) 716: County Boundaries](#) has passed the Senate Community Affairs 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 Governmental Oversight and Accountability Committee for consideration.

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

[SB 400: Elder Abuse Fatality Review Teams](#) authorizes a state attorney in each judicial circuit to initiate the establishment of an elder abuse fatality review team. The teams would review closed cases of fatal incidents of elder abuse or neglect and make policy and other recommendations to help prevent future incidents of elder abuse-related fatalities.

[SB 404: Parental Consent for Abortion](#) which prohibits a physician from performing an abortion on a minor unless the physician has been presented with consent from the minor's mother, father, or legal guardian. This requirement does not apply if the abortion is performed during a medical emergency where there was insufficient time to obtain consent. Additionally, this legislation provides that a minor may petition the circuit court in the area where the minor resides to allow the abortion to proceed without obtaining consent.

Florida Forever Acquisitions

Governor Ron DeSantis and the Florida Cabinet recently approved two Florida Forever land acquisitions and agreed to acquire a conservation easement that will protect Florida's fragile natural environments in Manatee, Sarasota and Columbia counties.

The first approved parcel of land is 5,777 acres within the Myakka Ranchlands Florida Forever project in Sarasota County. This the largest undeveloped parcel remaining in the area and is critical for the overall protection of the area's drinking water supply, as it enhances



the sustainability of the water resource by restricting development, preserving the natural systems, promoting water retention and storage, filtration, and aquifer recharge.

The second approved parcel of land is approximately 17-acres within the Strategic Managed Area Lands List (SMALL) Florida Forever project and will become an addition to River Rise Preserve State Park. Columbia Spring, located on the subject parcel, is where a portion of the Santa Fe River emerges from underground. Acquisition of this parcel will protect the prominent hydrological features of the Santa Fe River system, Columbia Spring, and its spring-run stream.

A conservation easement on approximately 559 acres in Manatee County was also approved for purchase this past week. The parcel is located within the Myakka Ranchlands Florida Forever project. It is adjacent to Flatford Swamp, owned by the Southwest Florida Water Management District, which is an important aquifer recharge area and surface water feature for the headwaters of the Myakka River corridor.

Florida Forever is the state's conservation and recreation lands acquisition program, a blueprint for conserving our natural resources and renewing our commitment to conserve our natural and cultural heritage. The Florida Senate has proposed \$125 million for the Florida Forever Program in the 2020-2021 budget.

District 17 Highlights

FDOT Public Meeting: US 1 Corridor Planning Study

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) will be hosting a public meeting to discuss the Corridor Planning Study for US 1.

[FDOT Public Meeting: US 1 Corridor Planning Study](#)

Wednesday, February 12th from 5:30 - 7:00 PM

City of Rockledge Council Chambers

1600 Huntington Lane, Rockledge

The Corridor Planning Study focuses on US 1 from Pineda Causeway (State Road 404) to Park Avenue, a distance of about 9 miles. The Study is evaluating both the short- and long-term transportation needs of U.S. 1, including intersection improvements, roadway widening, safety, and the addition of bicyclist and pedestrian features.

The meeting will be an informal open house format, during which attendees may hear study results, speak with FDOT team members to learn more about the project and provide input. Information about this project is also available online on the [FDOT District 5 website](#). If you have additional questions, please contact FDOT at (407) 971-8850 or email at jblouin@inwoodinc.com.

Indian River Habitat for Humanity

This past week I had the opportunity to meet with representatives from Habitat for Humanity to discuss state funding for affordable housing through the Sadowski Housing Trust Fund. This session I am championing legislation, [SB 306: State Funds](#), to prohibit the legislature from sweeping Sadowski Housing Trust dollars into General Revenue so that the funds may be used as intended - to support affordable housing for Floridians.

SB 306 received unanimous approval in its first Committee stop this week, and I appreciate the support from our local chapter, Indian River Habitat for Humanity.

Indian River Habitat for Humanity, located in Vero Beach, works to eliminate sub-standard housing by building safe and affordable homes for low-income, hardworking families who cannot qualify for a conventional mortgage. With the help of their dedicated volunteers the organization recently raised the walls on their 400th home.

Indian River Habitat for Humanity has many volunteer opportunities available for every age and ability. For more information on Habitat programs and volunteer opportunities, visit www.ircHabitat.org or call (772) 562-9860.

Brevard Public Schools ABC Awards

This week Brevard Public Schools celebrated the contributions of those who help strengthen the quality of public education in their schools at the 9th Annual ABC (Applaud Brevard's Champions) Awards.

- Teacher of the Year: Kathy Hamilton-Brown, Endeavour Elementary
- Employee of the Year: Maria Morales, Palm Bay Elementary
- Volunteers of the Year: Ishaan Jathal, Arden Monroe-Obermeit and Ronald Patchell
- Principal of the Year: Heather Price, Brevard Virtual School
- Assistant Principal of the Year: Sarah Robinson, Viera High School

We are so blessed to have such wonderful teachers and staff that strive every day to make learning fun and exciting for the students in their schools.

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



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