



Good Morning!

Tuesday, January 14th marked the opening day of the 2020 Legislative Session. Opening Day included remarks from Senate President Bill Galvano, House Speaker Jose Oliva, as well as a joint session of the Legislature to receive Governor Ron DeSantis's State of the State address.



President Bill Galvano encouraged collaboration and civility among members saying, *"As we go into this session let us continue to show our constituents that we can exchange and debate ideas while maintaining civility and decorum. That we can problem solve together. That we can put aside personalities and politics for good policy. And, that we are not a microcosm of Washington, D.C., but instead will continue to be an example for Washington, D.C."* He concluded with a quote from St. Mother Theresa, *"Yesterday is gone. Tomorrow has not yet come. We have only today. Let us begin."*

Speaker Jose Oliva's opening remarks highlighted health care as a key issue that will be addressed throughout session, *"We did not choose health care as our priority, challenging its many facets has been daunting. No, it chose us, it chose us through the sheer audacity of the defenders of the status quo."* Speaker Oliva also praised the legislature for passing cost-saving legislation during the 2019 Session to allow Florida to import prescription drugs from abroad, and called last year's bills "transformational healthcare and education policy" setting an example for other state legislatures.

In his State of the State Address, Governor Ron DeSantis highlighted bold actions taken in 2019 and building on that momentum to address issues important to Floridians, *"In 2019, we took bold steps to expand educational opportunities, protect our environment and natural resources, reform health care, invest in infrastructure and bolster public safety – all while reducing taxes and adding to our budget reserves. While we should look with favor on these bold beginnings, we have much more to do. For everything there is a season, and this is Florida's season of opportunity – we have the chance to build on a strong foundation, the chance to face the challenges before us and the chance to leave a legacy of success that will benefit our people now and in the future. There is no reason why we can't seize this moment and deliver for the people of Florida."*

I look forward to a busy and productive legislation session, and working with my colleagues to achieve solutions to the challenges facing our state.

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 week I **presented** [SB 630: Regulation of Smoking](#) in the Senate Committee on Community Affairs. This legislation would allow municipalities and counties the ability to restrict smoking within the boundaries of any of their own public parks. The bill passed favorably and will now go to the Senate Committee on Innovation, Industry and Technology for consideration. Thank you to Indian Harbor Beach City Manager Mark Ryan for traveling to Tallahassee to speak in support of this bill.

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

[SB 1608: Florida National Estuary Program Act](#) recognizes the following federally designated National Estuary Programs (NEP): Indian River Lagoon NEP, Tampa Bay NEP, Sarasota Bay NEP, and Coastal and Heartland NEP. The legislation also qualifies these NEPs for funding consideration by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for specified projects.

[SB 1654: Biosolids Management](#) specifies regulation for biosolids management in order to minimize the migration of harmful nutrients that impair our water bodies. The bill also calls for innovative technologies in biosolids processing to be implemented as a means of protecting our water resources and water quality. This legislation requires the DEP adopt rules for biosolids management to include stringent land application rates and monitoring requirements. This will ensure that nitrogen and phosphorus do not impair our water quality.

I also **co-sponsored** the following legislation:

[SB 1000: Traffic and Pedestrian Safety](#) would require flashing lights for pedestrian-only crossings to be updated to red lights or removed by October 1, 2024.

[SB 1878: Environmental Protection](#) would designate an annual appropriation of \$625 million toward water quality and Everglades restoration through June 30, 2023. This legislation would ensure that necessary restoration funding would not be trimmed in budget negotiations over the next three years. The funding would be used for Everglades restoration projects, including the Everglades Agricultural Area reservoir project; South Florida Water Management District aquifer storage and recovery wells; springs restoration; red tide research; coral reef protection; alternative water supplies; as well as projects in the Indian River Lagoon, St. Johns River, Suwannee River and Apalachicola River watersheds.

[SB 494: Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute](#) increases the percentage of cigarette tax proceeds paid to the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute for research purposes, etc.

Florida Prepaid Savings

The Florida Prepaid College Board announced that they will be lowering Prepaid Plan prices by \$1.3 billion, a reduction benefiting 224,000 current customers. Nearly half of the affected families will have refunds available totaling more than \$500 million. The remaining Plans will have lower monthly payment amounts and may be paid off earlier than anticipated due to the price reduction. This savings is due to successive years of lower than anticipated tuition increases and fee inflation.

More than 108,000 Plans are now paid in full and can receive an average cash refund of \$4,700. Plan holders also have the option to transfer their refund to a Florida Prepaid savings account for other college expenses like books, supplies and housing. Pricing for the upcoming 2020 plan year will have the lowest rate in five years, starting at \$44 per month for a newborn.

“Our goal has always been to empower and support Florida families by making college savings simple and affordable,” said Board Chairman John D. Rood. “The price reduction reflects our unwavering commitment to that objective. We commend Governor Ron DeSantis and the Florida Legislature for their continued efforts to make a college education affordable for Florida students and families.”

Eligible plan holders will receive notification from the Board about their refund and/or payment reduction information. Families can find out how their Plan will be affected by going to MyFloridaPrepaid.com/lowprices.

Florida Prepaid is the largest, longest running and most successful prepaid plan in the nation with nearly 2 million Florida Prepaid College Plans purchased and more than \$14 billion in assets. While nationwide student loan debt exceeds \$1.5 trillion, Florida Prepaid Plans allow Florida families to lock in the cost of college now, without having to worry about stock market fluctuations or tuition increases. Prepaid Plans are guaranteed by the State of Florida, so families can never lose money in the Plan. If a child attends a private institution or out-of-state school, a Prepaid Plan will pay the same amount as a public college or university in Florida. For more information about Florida Prepaid College Plans please visit MyFloridaPrepaid.com.

District 17 Highlights

Indian River Lagoon Straight Talk

The Brevard Indian River Lagoon Coalition will be hosting a community forum on Indian River Lagoon restoration projects and initiatives.

[Indian River Lagoon Straight Talk](#)
Wednesday, January 22nd at 5:30-8:00 PM
Satellite Beach High School Auditorium
300 Scorpion Lane, Satellite Beach

The forum will feature updates on Indian River Lagoon restoration projects, the status of the sales tax trust fund, and how you can help the Lagoon. Attendees will also have the opportunity to ask questions from a panel of local leaders and scientists including Virginia Barker, Director of the Brevard County Natural Resources Department; Dr. Duane DeFreese, National Estuary Program; Courtney Barker, Satellite Beach City Manager; and Satellite Beach Mayor Frank Catino.

This forum is open to the public and free to attend. To register, please visit their [website](#). For those that are not able to attend, you may watch the event live streaming on the Brevard Indian River Lagoon Coalition Facebook Page.

Transforming Landscapes for a Sustainable Future

The Pelican Island Audubon Society is hosting their annual conference to discuss the benefits of sustainable landscaping for our communities.

[Transforming Landscapes for a Sustainable Future Conference](#)
Saturday, January 25th 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM
Emerson Center, 1590 27th Ave, Vero Beach

Smart landscaping can play a vital role in protecting water quality and providing habitats for plants and animals. The Conference will be providing educational sessions on Native gardening and

landscaping, lagoon gardens, plants for birds, etc. For more information on this event, please visit their [website](#) or call (772) 567-3520.

Space Coast Birding and Wildlife Festival

Florida is rich in native populations of wildlife and birds, but it is also on a busy route for migrating birds stopping over for the winter. Florida's Space Coast – home to Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge, Canaveral National Seashore, and Kennedy Space Center, is one of the best birding locations in the United States because it is situated at the convergence of two zones, temperate and tropical, creating a natural diversity of unique habitats that attract varied bird species. To showcase those birds and their habitat, the Brevard Nature Alliance will be hosting one of the largest birding festivals in the country.

[23rd Annual Space Coast Birding & Wildlife Festival](#)

January 22-27th
Eastern Florida State College
1311 US 1, Titusville

The festival boasts a variety of field trips, boat tours, workshops, exhibits, live raptor shows and a Family Wildlife Adventure Day. To learn more about the festival or view the daily schedules, please visit [SCBWF.org](#) or call (321) 268-5664.

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



Contact Information

Melbourne Office

900 E. Strawbridge Ave.
Melbourne, FL 32901
(321) 409-2025
Staff: [Adrienne Cronebaugh](#)
[Yvette Campbell](#)

Tallahassee Office

322 Senate Office Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100
(850) 487-5017
Staff: [Lauren Lange](#)

Vero Beach Office

Administration Building B
1801 27th Street
Vero Beach, FL 32960
(772) 226-1970
Staff: [Kaitlyn Currey](#)
