



With your help, my staff and I have successfully completed the six committee weeks ahead of the 2020 Legislative Session! Thank you for your steadfast support, engagement, and guidance through these past few months. Because of you, we are in an excellent position going into session, which begins on Tuesday, January 14, 2020.

Here's a look at what's been happening in Tallahassee and throughout our community:

Unanimous Support for Meaningful Legislation



Early Childhood Music Education Incentive Program: This program is one of my top priorities, and I believe that adopting music education into K-2 is the most transformative, cost-effective way to positively impact early childhood education. Studies have already shown that exposure to fine arts increases tests scores and fosters lifelong creativity, and this pilot program will allow the University of Florida to study just how much music classes impact learning gains, social development, and teamwork. Happy to have recieved unanimous support from the Education Committee members!

Peer-to-Peer Support for First Responders: It is estimated that nationwide, 84 percent of first responders have experienced a traumatic event on the job, and for the past few years, we have lost more law enforcement officials to suicide than in

the line of duty. Our bill allows confidentiality to first responders who confide in their fellow first responders about the personal and professional tolls of the job. This week, this bill unanimously passed its second committee stop!

[Back to School Tax Holiday](#): We are one step closer to saving Florida families money as they prepare their children for the 2020 school year! From July 31 through August 9, 2020, tax-exempt items would include clothing and bags under \$60, school supplies under \$15, and computers and related accessories under \$1,000. During this year's holiday, Floridians save more than \$36 million.

Vines Hospital in Ocala provides individualized mental health and addiction services. Last week, they opened their new HOPE Program for Veterans. The program offers outpatient and residential treatment options for veterans with PTSD and trauma. For more info, their number is (352) 671-3130.



I had the honor of visiting with Florida's Future Farmer of America state officers! Their passion for educating our next generation of farmers and growers is unparalleled. Agriculture is the backbone of Florida, and I believe that the future of this industry is in safe hands with leaders like these at the helm. They wear the blue jackets well!

Alachua County is one of three Florida counties that met the state's 70% recycling goal, and with your help, we can earn the top spot. I was proud to be recognized by National Waste & Recycling Association for our efforts to push common sense policies that enhance recycling practices!



Legislative Session

As we approach the next legislative session, you can stay up-to-date with my bills and committee meetings by visiting my [senate web page](#). You can also watch all Florida Senate and House committee meetings live on [The Florida Channel](#).



I'm looking forward to serving another year on the following senate committees:

- Criminal Justice, Chair
- Infrastructure & Security, Vice Chair
- Banking & Insurance
- Education
- Appropriations Subcommittee on Criminal and Civil Justice
- Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development

www.FLSenate.gov

It's an honor to represent you in the Florida Senate. Thank you for your continued support, input and patience as we work together to make lasting impacts in our community. I'm eager to advocate for District 8 during the upcoming Legislative Session!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Keith Perry".

Senator Keith Perry



Tallahassee Office

316 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399
(850) 487-5008

Gainesville Office

2610 NW 43rd Street, Suite 2B
Gainesville, FL 32606
(352) 264-4040

Palatka Office

Putnam County Government Complex
2509 Crill Avenue
Palatka, FL 32177

Ocala Office

Marion County Board of Commissioners
115 SE 25th Avenue
Ocala, FL 34471
(352) 732-1249

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).