



# THE PERRY POST

Senator Keith Perry  
FL District 9

November, 2023



District 9

Friends,

As we approach my final legislative session, I want to thank you for your unwavering support over the years. It has been an honor and a privilege serving as your State Senator, and I look forward to finishing strong bringing more meaningful, positive change to those in District 9 and all of Florida. If you need assistance or have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out my office.

Sincerely,

*W. Keith Perry*

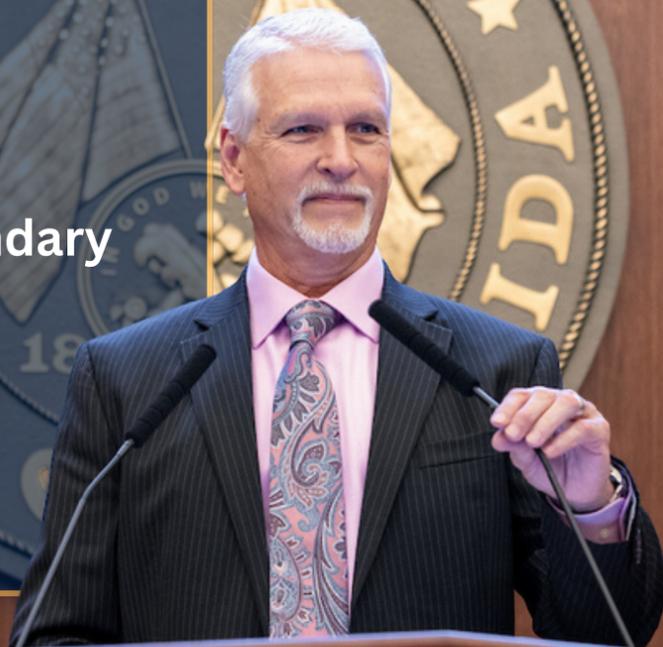


## SENATOR PERRY'S 2024 COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS



### Committee Assignments

- Appropriations Committee on Education, Chair
- Rules, Vice Chair
- Appropriations
- Criminal Justice
- Education Postsecondary
- Education Pre-K -12
- Joint Legislative Budget Commission



Gainesville Office: M-F  
9AM-5PM  
Gigi Hernandez: (352) 264.4040

Ocala Office M-F  
9AM-5PM  
Suzy McGuire, Damon Vitale: (352) 732.1249

Tallahassee Office M-F  
9AM-5PM  
Anthony Serge: (850) 487.5009



# DISTRICT NEWS



## *Press release from Alachua County Sheriff's Office*

ALACHUA COUNTY, Fla. – A team of assessors from the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation (CFA) will arrive on November 28 to examine all aspects of the Alachua County Sheriff's Office's policies and procedures, management, operations, and support services. The Alachua County Sheriff's Office has to comply with 235 standards in order to receive reaccredited status.

Many of the standards are critical to life, health, and safety issues.

As part of the assessment, agency members and the general public are invited to offer comments to the assessment team. A copy of the standards is available through the Policy and Accreditation Unit at (352) 384-3030. For more information regarding CFA or for persons wishing to offer written comments about the ACSO's ability to meet the standards of accreditation, please contact the Florida

Accreditation Office:

P.O. Box 1489, Tallahassee, Florida 32302

1(800) 558-0218

[flaccreditation@fdle.state.fl.us](mailto:flaccreditation@fdle.state.fl.us)

The Policy and Accreditation Commander for the ACSO is Captain Kaley Behl. The assessment team will be composed of law enforcement practitioners from similar agencies. The assessors will review written materials, interview individuals, and visit offices and other places where compliance can be witnessed. Once the Commission's assessors complete their review of the agency, they report back to the full Commission, which will then decide if the agency is to receive reaccredited status. The accreditation is reviewed every three years. Verification by the team that ACSO meets the Commission's standards is part of a voluntary process to achieve or maintain accreditation, a highly prized recognition of law enforcement professional excellence. ACSO was first accredited by the CFA in 1997. This year marks the 9th reaccreditation process for the Alachua County Sheriff's Office.



## *Press release from the office of Governor Ron DeSantis*

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Governor Ron DeSantis awarded more than \$28 million through the Florida Job Growth Grant Fund to expand semiconductor manufacturing and chip manufacturing through five workforce development projects, including a \$3 million grant to Santa Fe College.

These awards are part of a cutting-edge workforce development initiative announced by Governor DeSantis to dedicate at least \$25 million to support the semiconductor industry through the Florida Job Growth Grant Fund. Across the state, these funds will create high-demand, high-wage jobs for Floridians and strengthen local talent pipelines for businesses. Florida is already #5 in the US for semiconductor manufacturing jobs and #3 in the nation for semiconductor establishments. These investments will help Florida continue to grow its semiconductor industry.

Announced in September 2023, this cutting-edge workforce development initiative dedicates \$50 million in funds through FloridaCommerce and the Florida Department of Education to projects and workforce education opportunities that support semiconductor manufacturing, advanced packaging, and research and development within the military, defense and space industries.

Since 2019, \$180 million has been awarded through the Job Growth Grant Fund, making strategic investments in programs that build stronger communities and support workforce training across the state. The Florida Job Growth Grant Fund is an economic development program designed to promote public infrastructure and workforce training across the state. Proposals are reviewed by FloridaCommerce and are chosen by Governor DeSantis to meet the demands for workforce training or infrastructure needs in communities around the state.

For more information on the Job Growth Grant Fund, [click here](#).





# Senator Perry Attends Veterans Memorial Project Gala



It was a great night supporting the Newberry Veterans Memorial project. So many amazing volunteers worked on the event and the community will benefit from this important project. The memorial park will be a haven for veterans and their families to meditate, reflect, and remember. It will also be open to local and regional schools for educational field trips where students can receive abundant learning opportunities in each branch of the United States military. The City of Newberry has drafted a preliminary design for the memorial, and I am proud to support this project. Our Veterans have served and sacrificed for our nation and community and the chance to pay reverence to them in our local communities is wonderful. Their stories and names will live on.



# Senator Perry Attends Fallen Firefighter Memorial Ceremony in Ocala



Among the chaos of the world today, it is a must to stop and remember those who have sacrificed their lives to protect us. I was humbled and honored to attend the Fallen Firefighter Memorial ceremony at the Florida State Fire College. Today, 16 firefighters were forever remembered for their bravery and dedication to duty. 16, husbands, fathers, sons, brothers, daughters...who made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty as well as firefighters who lost their lives while serving across the state. Their names etched at the Florida State Fire College memorial in Ocala as well as the Florida Memorial Monument in Tallahassee. May God bless your families.



# Lincoln Middle School student Ann Moywaywa wins Florida's National Civics and Debate Competition



420 students from around the country gathered in Orlando to compete in The Great Debate: Florida's National Civics and Debate Competition. Participation in the competition has tripled since Governor DeSantis launched the Florida Civics and Debate Initiative (FCDI) in 2019. FCDI, the host of The Great Debate, now can boast that all 67 school districts in Florida have established a middle or high school debate team as part of this initiative.

Ann Moywaywa of Lincoln Middle School was the Overall Champion in the Middle School Division. She was also the Congressional Debate Champion, Extemporaneous Debate Champion, and Impromptu Speaking Champion in the Middle School Division. Michael Huan of Lincoln Middle School placed third in Extemporaneous Debate in the Middle School Division. Mia Yu of Lincoln Middle School placed third and Selena Dexter of Alachua Learning Academy placed fifth in Impromptu Speaking in the Middle School Division, while Peter Moywaywa of Eastside High School placed fifth in Impromptu Speaking in the High School Division.

Florida is leading the way in strengthening civics instruction and education in Florida's kindergarten through postsecondary schools. In 2019, the Florida Department of Education and the Florida Education Foundation established a statewide debate program that focused on civics education. The Florida Civics and Debate Initiative (FCDI) is the first of its kind to use debate specifically as a tool to enrich civics education and to have incredibly strong support from state leaders.



“The Florida Civics and Debate Initiative teaches students civics education, which is important to ensure future generations understand our nation's core values,” said Governor Ron DeSantis. “Congratulations to this year's contest winners, and thank you to the more than 400 students from across the country who came to Florida to participate in The Great Debate.”

“Florida is leading the way in civics education, and we are proud that our national hallmark event is growing exponentially along with the Florida Civics and Debate Initiative,” said Commissioner of Education Manny Diaz, Jr. “The Great Debate provides an opportunity for Florida to reinvigorate public debate and civil discourse while simultaneously enriching students' understanding of the democratic values of our country.”



To learn more about the Florida Civics and Debate Initiative, visit [www.civicsanddebate.com](http://www.civicsanddebate.com).





## FLORIDA OFFICE OF **Insurance Regulation**

### OIR Approves an 15.1% Decrease in Workers' Compensation Insurance Rates for 2024

~ Effective January 1, 2024 for new and renewal policies ~

Florida Insurance Commissioner Michael Yaworsky issued a Final Order granting approval to the National Council on Compensation Insurance (NCCI) for a statewide overall workers' compensation insurance rate decrease of 15.1 percent. The rate decrease applies to both new and renewal workers' compensation insurance policies effective in Florida as of January 1, 2024.

“As a former small business owner myself, I’m always working to support Florida’s small businesses and entrepreneurs. A decrease in workers’ compensation rates means lower insurance costs for employers, allowing them to put more money back into their business, where it belongs,” said Chief Financial Officer Jimmy Patronis. “I’m pleased that Florida’s business owners will benefit from another year of rate relief and look forward to keeping Florida the best place to live, work, and run a business.”

“I’m pleased to announce that Florida businesses will see a reduction in workers’ compensation rates for the seventh consecutive year,” said Insurance Commissioner Michael Yaworsky. “It’s clear the workers’ compensation market in Florida is stable and competitive; I’m confident lower workers’ compensation rates will assist in ensuring that all of Florida’s businesses have the opportunity to succeed in our state.”

OIR hosted a recorded, virtual public hearing regarding the Workers’ Compensation Rates and Rating Values submitted by NCCI. A recording of the hearing is available here.

Additional information regarding the NCCI public hearing and rate filing is available on OIR’s website here.

About the OIR

The Florida Office of Insurance Regulation (OIR) has primary responsibility for regulation, compliance, and enforcement of statutes related to the business of insurance and the monitoring of industry markets. For more information about OIR, please visit our website or follow us on Twitter @FLOIR\_comm.



### Governor Ron DeSantis Awards Over \$57 Million to Protect Florida’s Springs



Governor Ron DeSantis announced the award of over \$57 million for 23 statewide springs restoration projects to protect Florida’s iconic springs, as well as increase spring flow and improve water quality.

Suwannee River Water Management District was among those awarded. They received \$1.67 Million for Alachua County’s Poe Springs for the acquisition of 250 acres of slash pine plantation adjacent to Poe Springs that will be permanently placed into conservation.

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and four of Florida’s water management districts have identified projects such as wastewater, stormwater, pollution control projects and water-quality projects to protect and restore our springs. Additionally, these projects will help conserve and acquire land in spring recharge zones to prevent nutrients from entering the groundwater that feeds our springs.

“Florida is home to more than 1,000 springs, with more large springs than any other state in the nation, which attract visitors from across the world,” said Governor DeSantis. “This \$57 million investment will continue to protect water quality and allow Florida’s springs to continue to be a world class tourist destination for years to come.”

“Thanks to Governor DeSantis for once again continuing to protect one of Florida’s greatest assets – our invaluable springs,” said DEP Secretary Shawn Hamilton. “In partnership with our water management districts, local governments and community leaders, implementation of these projects will help to continue the protection of this precious resource for generations to come.”

The selected projects reflect a collaborative effort with DEP, water management districts, community leaders and local stakeholders. Combining efforts and leveraging resources from various agencies across Florida allows for a more efficient and comprehensive restoration effort.

Lists of the recent spring’s protection projects and projects funded in previous years can be found HERE.





# ICYMI FLORIDA RANKS NUMBER ONE FOR EDUCATION FREEDOM

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Governor Ron DeSantis announced that Florida has been ranked number one for education freedom by the ALEC Index of State Education Freedom: A 50-State Guide to Parental Empowerment. The index evaluates each state on school choice and family empowerment policies, which allow students a choice of educational options that best meet their needs.

After a legislative session where Florida lawmakers passed universal school choice, the state was recognized as the nation's best in a recent report for its policies on education. The nonprofit American Legislative Exchange Council, which previously published the Report Card on American Education over the past 25 years, has a new publication, The Index of State Education Freedom: A 50-State Guide to Parental Empowerment. In the overall rankings, Florida was first with an A grade, followed by Arkansas and Indiana. Arizona was 4th with a B grade, followed by Iowa, Tennessee, Oklahoma, Idaho and Utah. West Virginia was ranked 10th.



“This new ranking further proves that Florida is the national leader in education,” said Governor Ron DeSantis. “By focusing on academic achievement, expanding school choice, and empowering parents, Florida continues to see unprecedented success in our classrooms.”

“Florida’s commitment to education shines through ALEC’s ranking, which has Florida leading the country in education freedom,” said Commissioner of Education Manny Diaz, Jr. “Florida’s dedication to universal school choice and protection of parental rights is the reason why Florida stands ahead of the rest.”



## Florida Rankings by Category

- #1 overall
- #1 in funding and financing programs
- #1 in open enrollment

The full 2023 ALEC Index of State Education Freedom is available here.

In addition to today’s recognition, Florida ranked number one in the nation for education by U.S. News & World Report and number one on the Heritage Foundation Education Freedom report card. Florida is also ranked number one in the Parent Power Index.

