

The Florida Senate
2006 - 2008



About the Cover:

From “Savannas Landscape” by Patricia A. Turcotte. The painting portrays Savannas Preserve State Park in St. Lucie County. The park, which covers 7,192 acres of seven natural communities, contains flatwoods, scrub, wet prairies, marshes, and lakes. Stretching more than ten miles from Ft. Pierce to Jensen Beach, this preserve is the largest and most intact remnant of Florida’s east coast savannas. The painting was presented to Senate President Ken Pruitt during his first legislative session in the House of Representatives.

Some of the images which appear in this handbook are taken from privately-owned paintings and are used with permission from the owners.

Also included in this handbook is a photographic tour of the Senate, showing the Senate at work.

Message from the President



Ken Pruitt
President of the Senate

We extend a warm welcome to the Florida Senate — a legislative institution with a rich history and a reputation as the “chamber of deliberation” in Florida government.

We hope that you will take a moment to walk the halls of the Senate and to view the historical photographs of events that have occurred. Also you will notice the portraits of the past Senate Presidents that surround the walls of our Chamber. These men and women presided over incredible times — from the heights of our State’s beginning to the depths of challenges brought on by devastating hurricanes.

Today, the Senate is comprised of forty members, each representing approximately 450,000 constituents. Our Senators come from every walk of life — their backgrounds are as diverse as the beautiful state that we collectively represent. However, on the Senate Floor, we meet as equals — each Senator having the same opportunity to shape the public policy that affects the future of Florida.

I am honored to serve as the presiding officer for this dedicated group of Senators. We have many important issues to tackle over the next two years, including property insurance reform, property tax reform, preservation of our natural resources and the future of our higher education system.

You have a vital role in the process. We love to hear from those who are on the frontline and who can provide us with suggestions and ideas to improve the process. After all, this is *your government*.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to serve you.

Most sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ken Pruitt".

Ken Pruitt

The Florida Senate

When the first Senate was convened on January 7, 1839 — six years before Florida became a state — no business could be transacted because only seven of the sixteen Senators were present. There was no quorum of Senators for three of the first four days, and it was not until the fifth day of the first session that Territorial Governor Richard Keith Call addressed the Senate and the House of Representatives in joint session.



Since the beginning days, the Senate has evolved into a highly organized, smoothly functioning legislative body that meets annually to conduct the people's business. The year-round professional staff conducts vital research and prepares for the legislative sessions.

“Once a Senator, always a Senator” is a catchy phrase of good fellowship that conveys something of the philosophy of the Senate.

The Florida Senate today has 40 members, each elected from a single-member district and each representing approximately 450,000 Florida citizens. Each Senator is elected for a four-year staggered term. He or she may be elected for more than one term, but may not seek reelection if he or she has served for eight consecutive years (see Article VI, Section 4, State Constitution). The Constitution of the State of Florida specifies that Senators must be at least 21 years of age, must be registered voters, must be residents of the district from which they are elected, and must have resided in Florida for two years prior to their election.

While members of the other branches of government work full time in public service, the Legislature maintains its identity as the “citizen” branch. Almost all of the Senators work in a business or profession when they are not carrying out their legislative duties.

The 2006-2008 Senate membership includes 29 men and 11 women. There are 26 Republicans and 14 Democrats whose professions or occupations include law, medicine, banking, business, agriculture, and industry. The average Senator is about 53 years old, is married, and has children. Thirty-one of the Senators have college degrees and 36 have held other public offices before they were elected



to the Senate. Thirty-four Senators served in the House of Representatives prior to their election to the Senate. The Senate is presided over by a President elected by the members of the Senate. Also elected is the President Pro Tempore. The President for the 2006-2008 term is Senator Ken Pruitt from Port St. Lucie. The President Pro Tempore is Senator Lisa Carlton from Osprey.

Additional information on these officers and the other members of the Senate is contained on the following pages of this handbook. The handbook also further outlines and describes the Senate, its operations, and its relationship to the House of Representatives and the other two branches of Florida government.



President of the Florida Senate

The Senate President is a constitutional officer who leads the Florida Senate for a two-year term. The President, who is elected by members of the Senate, manages the operations of the Senate and presides over its sessions. The President's many duties include: selecting a Majority Leader, appointing Senators to standing Senate committees, appointing committee chairs, and appointing citizens to a variety of boards and commissions.



Ken Pruitt
Republican, District 28

Real Estate BORN January 24, 1957, in Miami EDUCATION Indian River Community College, Water and Wastewater Treatment Certification, 1984; TREEO Center, Water Distribution Certification, 1987 WIFE Aileen Kelly CHILDREN Kenneth Jr., Steven, Ashley, Michelle, Mark LEGISLATIVE SERVICE elected to the Senate in 2000, reelected subsequently; House of Representatives, 1990-2000 RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION Disciples of Christ RECREATION Civil War history ADDRESSES (district) 1850 SW Fountainview Boulevard, Suite 200, Port St. Lucie 34986-3443 (Tallahassee) 312 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100; 409 The Capitol, 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 TELEPHONES (district) 772/344-1140 or 561/747-1166 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5088, 850/487-5229.

President Pro Tempore

The role of the President Pro Tempore is defined by the President and the Senate Rules. Additionally, he or she may preside over sessions during the absence of the President.



Lisa Carlton
Republican, District 23

Co-owner/Manager Cattle and Citrus Business BORN May 7, 1964, in Sarasota County EDUCATION Stetson University, B.A., Sociology, 1986; Mercer University School of Law, J.D., 1989 HUSBAND Robert (Rob) Robinson of Lake Wales CHILDREN Carlton Elaine, Mabry Robert, Savell Louise LEGISLATIVE SERVICE elected to the Senate in 1998, reelected subsequently; House of Representatives, 1994-1998 HISTORICAL Mabry Carlton, Jr., father, Sarasota County Commissioner, 1980-1989; Mabry Carlton, Sr., grandfather, Hardee County Tax Assessor for 18 years; Doyle E. Carlton, great-uncle, Florida Senator: 1917, 1919, Florida Governor: 1929-1933; Doyle E. Carlton, Jr., uncle, Florida Senator: 1953, 1955, 1957, 1959, 1965, 1966; Fran Carlton, cousin, Florida Representative: 1976-1988 RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION Baptist RECREATION tennis ADDRESSES (district) 2127 S. Tamiami Trail, Osprey 34229-9695 (Tallahassee) 404 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 TELEPHONES Districtwide: 1/888/349-3042 (district) 941/486-2032 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5081.

Members of the Florida Senate



JD Alexander
Republican, District 17

Citrus Grower BORN July 16, 1959, in Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. Moved to Florida in 1961 EDUCATION University of Florida, B.S., Agriculture, 1981 WIFE Cindy Monroe of Augusta, Georgia CHILDREN Britton, Keaton LEGISLATIVE SERVICE elected to the Senate in 2002, reelected subsequently; Majority (Republican) Whip, 2004-2006; House of Representatives, 1998-2002 HISTORICAL Ben Hill Griffin, Jr., grandfather, Florida House of Representatives, 1956-1963, Senate 1965-1968 RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION Presbyterian ADDRESSES (district) 122 East Tillman Ave., Suite 1, Lake Wales 33853 (Tallahassee) 412 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 TELEPHONES (district) 863/679-4411 or 800/444-9747 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5044.



Dave Aronberg
Democrat, District 27
Minority (Democratic) Whip

Attorney BORN May 4, 1971, in Miami EDUCATION Harvard University: B.A., 1993; J.D., 1996 LEGISLATIVE SERVICE elected to the Senate in 2002, reelected subsequently RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION Jewish RECREATION golf, exercise, guitar, driving back and forth on State Road 80 ADDRESSES (district) 6415 Lake Worth Road, Suite 210, Greenacres 33463; 2120 Main Street, Suite 206, Fort Myers 33901 (Tallahassee) 405 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 TELEPHONES Districtwide: 1/877/435-7351 (district) 561/433-2627 or 239/338-2646 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5356.



Nancy Argenziano
Republican, District 3

State Senator BORN January 1, 1955, in Brooklyn, New York. Moved to Florida in 1971 EDUCATION Broward Community College, pre-veterinary medicine; Gold Coast Real Estate School, Florida Real Estate License, 1986 CHILD Joseph Hall LEGISLATIVE SERVICE elected to the Senate in 2002, reelected subsequently; House of Representatives, 1996-2002 RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION Catholic RECREATION freshwater fishing, mountain climbing, hiking, kayaking ADDRESSES (district) 1120 North Suncoast Boulevard, Crystal River 34429 (Tallahassee) 311 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 TELEPHONES Statewide: 1/866/538-2831 (district) 352/860-5175 or 352/402-6664 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5017.



Jeffrey H. "Jeff" Atwater
Republican, District 25

Banking BORN April 8, 1958, in St. Louis, Missouri. Moved to Florida in 1962 EDUCATION University of Florida, Finance, 1981; M.B.A., 2002 WIFE Carole Funkhouser of Topeka, Kansas CHILDREN Amy, John, Amanda, Courtney LEGISLATIVE SERVICE elected to the Senate in 2002, reelected subsequently; House of Representatives, 2000-2002 HISTORICAL Napoleon B. Broward, Great-grandfather, Governor of Florida, 1905-1909 RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION Catholic RECREATION golf, tennis ADDRESSES (district) 824 US Highway 1, #210, North Palm Beach 33408 (Tallahassee) 406 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 TELEPHONES (district) 561/625-5101 or 954/847-3518 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5100.



Carey Baker
Republican, District 20

Owner, The A.W. Peterson Gun Shop BORN March 16, 1963, in Eustis EDUCATION Lake Sumter Community College, 1981-1982 WIFE Lori Matchett of Leesburg CHILDREN Leighton Lee, Caroline Leigh, Reagan Leigh LEGISLATIVE SERVICE elected to the Senate in 2004, reelected subsequently; House of Representatives, 2000-2004 HISTORICAL Leighton L. Baker, father, Florida House of Representatives 1962-1964, was the first Republican elected to any office in Lake County since Reconstruction MILITARY SERVICE Florida Army National Guard, 1981-present; Currently serving as a First Sergeant; Operation Iraqi Freedom Veteran RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION Methodist RECREATION basketball, hunting, reading ADDRESSES (district) 301 West Ward Avenue, Eustis 32726-4024 (Tallahassee) 316 Senate Office Bulding, 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 TELEPHONES (district) 352/742-6490 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5014.



Larcenia J. Bullard
Democrat, District 39

Former Teacher and Administrator, Educational Consultant, Community Activist BORN July 21, 1947, in Allendale, South Carolina. Moved to Florida in 1980 EDUCATION Antioch University, B.A., 1973; Nova University, M.S., 1991 HUSBAND State Representative Edward (Ed) Bullard of Nassau, Bahamas CHILDREN Vincent, Dwight, Edwina LEGISLATIVE SERVICE elected to the Senate in 2002, reelected subsequently; House of Representatives, 1992-2000 HISTORICAL first female to be elected in Florida House District 118 RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION Baptist RECREATION reading, swimming, traveling, skating, pinochle, card playing, collecting butterfly-shaped objects ADDRESSES (district) 8603 S. Dixie Highway, Suite 304, Miami 33143 (Tallahassee) 218 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 TELEPHONES Statewide: 1/866/234-3734 (district) 305/668-7344 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5127.



Michael S. "Mike" Bennett
Republican, District 21

Electrical Contractor BORN January 1, 1945, in Brainard, Minnesota. Moved to Florida in 1955 EDUCATION Drake University: B.A., 1975; M.B.A., 1976 WIFE Diane M. "Dee" of Des Moines, Iowa LEGISLATIVE SERVICE elected to the Senate in 2002, reelected subsequently; House of Representatives, 2000-2002 MILITARY SERVICE U.S. Navy, 1963-1967, 4 tours Vietnam RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION Baptist RECREATION fishing, golf ADDRESSES (district) Suite 90, 3653 Cortez Road West, Bradenton 34210 (Tallahassee) 216 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 TELEPHONES Statewide: 1/800/500-1239 (district) 941/727-6349 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5078.



Lee Constantine
Republican, District 22

Real Estate Consultant and Broker BORN November 6, 1952, in Wilmington, Delaware. Moved to Florida in 1958 EDUCATION University of Central Florida: B.A., Communications, with honors, 1974, Florida State Council of Student Body Presidents, Chair 1973-1974 LEGISLATIVE SERVICE elected to the Senate in 2000, reelected subsequently; House of Representatives, 1992-2000 RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION Catholic RECREATION beach volleyball, snow skiing, charitable activities ADDRESSES (district) 378 Centerpointe Circle, Suite 1268, Altamonte Springs 32701-3442 (Tallahassee) 413 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 TELEPHONES (district) 407/331-9675 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5050.



**Victor D. Crist
Republican, District 12**

President of Metropolitan Communications Inc. BORN June 21, 1957, in New Orleans, Louisiana. Moved to Florida in 1968 EDUCATION St. Petersburg Junior College, A.A., 1980; University of South Florida, B.A., Communications with Minor in Business Administration and graduate studies in Communication, 1980-1983 WIFE Angela of West Palm Beach LEGISLATIVE SERVICE elected to the Senate in 2000, reelected subsequently; House of Representatives, 1992-2000 HISTORICAL son of a retired U.S. Military Officer; descendant of U.S. President Zachary Taylor RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION Presbyterian RECREATION nonprofit organizations, performing arts, traveling, boating, water sports, bicycling, home projects, gardening, music ADDRESSES (district) 11961 N. Florida Avenue, Suite B, Tampa 33612 (Tallahassee) 208 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 TELEPHONES (district) 813/975-6658 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5068.



**M. Mandy Dawson
Democrat, District 29**

Consultant/Legislator BORN July 18, 1958, in Fort Lauderdale EDUCATION Florida A&M University; Barry University, B.S., Social Work CHILDREN Shatereas, Colongie, Ashley; grandchild: Jalen Omari Weems LEGISLATIVE SERVICE elected to the Senate in 1998, reelected subsequently; Minority (Democratic) Caucus Chair, 2004-2006; House of Representatives, 1992-1998; Freshman Majority Whip, 1992 HISTORICAL first woman elected to the Florida Senate from Broward County; first black woman elected to the Florida Legislature from Broward County RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION Baptist RECREATION traveling, reading, swimming, writing short stories for children ADDRESSES (district) 33 N.E. 2nd Street, Suite 209, Ft. Lauderdale 33301-1033 (Tallahassee) 410 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 TELEPHONES Statewide: 1/877/632-9766 (district) 954/467-4317 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5112.



**Ted Deutch
Democrat, District 30**

Attorney BORN May 7, 1966, in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. Moved to Florida in 1998 EDUCATION University of Michigan: B.A., 1988; J.D., 1990 WIFE Jill Weinstock of Canton, Ohio CHILDREN Gabrielle, Serena, Cole LEGISLATIVE SERVICE elected to the Senate in 2006 RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION Jewish RECREATION piano, basketball, music ADDRESSES (district) 15340 Jog Road, Suite 201, Delray Beach 33446-2170 (Tallahassee) 324 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 TELEPHONES (district) 561/496-5939 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5091.



**Alex Diaz de la Portilla
Republican, District 36**

Political Consultant, Winning Strategies, Inc. BORN August 25, 1964, in Miami EDUCATION University of Miami WIFE Claudia Davant of Columbia, South Carolina LEGISLATIVE SERVICE elected to the Senate January 25, 2000, reelected subsequently; President Pro Tempore, 2002-2004; House of Representatives, 1994-2000 HISTORICAL Angel Pio de la Portilla, grandfather, (deceased), mentor and inspiration for social and political involvement; paternal great-grandfather served in Cuban Senate, while two of his sons served simultaneously in the Cuban House of Representatives; maternal great-grandfather served as Cuban Minister of Justice (Attorney General); long family history of political and civic involvement in Cuba and the United States, including brothers Renier, former Florida State Representative; and Miguel, former Miami-Dade County Commissioner RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION Roman Catholic RECREATION reading, traveling, bicycling ADDRESSES (district) 1481 NW 22nd Street, Miami 33142-7741 (Tallahassee) 414 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 TELEPHONES (district) 305/643-7200 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5109.



Paula Dockery
Republican, District 15
Majority (Republican) Whip

Insurer, Citrus, and Cattle BORN June 6, 1961, in Queens, New York. Moved to Florida in 1968 EDUCATION University of Florida: B.A., Political Science, 1983; M.A., Mass Communications, 1987 HUSBAND C.C. (Doc) of North Carolina LEGISLATIVE SERVICE elected to the Senate in 2002, reelected subsequently; Majority (Republican) Whip, 2002-2004; House of Representatives, 1996-2002, appointed as Majority Whip for 1998-2000 legislative sessions RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION Catholic RECREATION fishing, hiking, traveling, volleyball ADDRESSES (district) Post Office Box 2395, Lakeland 33806-2395 (Tallahassee) 314 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 TELEPHONES Statewide: 1/866/248-6487 (district) 863/413-2900 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5040.



Don Gaetz
Republican, District 4

Co-founder and Vice Chairman (retired), VITAS Healthcare Corporation BORN January 22, 1948, in North Dakota. Moved to Florida in 1978 EDUCATION Concordia College, B.A.; Troy State University, M.P.A. WIFE Victoria Quertermous of Fort Walton Beach CHILDREN Matthew, Erin LEGISLATIVE SERVICE elected to the Senate in 2006 RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION Lutheran RECREATION upland game and waterfowl hunting, American history, real estate, antiques ADDRESSES (district) 217 Miracle Strip Parkway, Fort Walton Beach 32548-5819 (Tallahassee) 320 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 TELEPHONES Toll Free: 1/866/450-4366 (district) 850/897-5747 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5009.



Mike Fasano
Republican, District 11
Majority (Republican) Whip

Associate Vice President, Morgan Stanley/Investments BORN June 11, 1958, in Long Island, New York. Moved to Florida in 1971 EDUCATION St. Petersburg Junior College, 1987-1990 LEGISLATIVE SERVICE elected to the Senate in 2002, reelected subsequently; House of Representatives, 1994-2002; Majority Leader, 2000-2001; Majority Floor Leader, 1998-2000; Majority Whip, 1996-1998 RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION Catholic RECREATION golf, tennis ADDRESSES (district) 8217 Massachusetts Avenue, New Port Richey 34653-3111 (Tallahassee) 302 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 TELEPHONES Statewide: 1/800/948-5885 (district) 727/848-5885 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5062.



Rudy Garcia
Republican, District 40

Businessman BORN April 15, 1963, in Miami EDUCATION Miami-Dade Community College LEGISLATIVE SERVICE elected to the Senate in 2000, reelected subsequently; House of Representatives, 1984-1988, 1989-2000; Cuban-American Caucus, Chair, 1991-1992 HISTORICAL youngest member elected to the Florida House of Representatives, 1984 RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION Catholic RECREATION fishing, sailing, diving, reading, cycling, motorcycling ADDRESSES (district) 7475 West Fourth Avenue, Hialeah 33014-4327 (Tallahassee) 416 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 TELEPHONES (district) 305/364-3191 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5106.



Steven A. Geller
Democrat, District 31
Minority (Democratic) Leader

Attorney BORN November 4, 1958, in Bronx, New York. Moved to Florida in 1965 EDUCATION Florida State University: B.A., 1979; J.D., 1982 WIFE Laurel Leffler of West Palm Beach CHILDREN Marc Isaac, Benjamin Jacob LEGISLATIVE SERVICE elected to the Senate March 17, 1998, reelected subsequently; House of Representatives, 1988-1998; Deputy Majority Leader, 1992 RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION Jewish ADDRESSES (district) 400 South Federal Highway, Suite 204, Hallandale Beach 33009 (Tallahassee) 228 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 TELEPHONES (district) 954/893-5089 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5097.



Anthony C. "Tony" Hill, Sr.
Democrat, District 1
Minority (Democratic) Lead Whip

Service Employees International Union (SEIU) 1199/ Florida Community Organizer BORN September 9, 1957, in Jacksonville EDUCATION Lincoln University, 1975-1977; Edward Waters College, 1995, Honorary Doctorate; National Labor College, 2001, B.A., Labor Studies CHILDREN Anthony C. Jr., Cicely, Tiffany LEGISLATIVE SERVICE elected to the Senate in 2002, reelected subsequently; Minority (Democratic) Lead Whip, 2004-2006; Minority (Democratic) Floor Leader, 2002-2004; House of Representatives, 1992-2000 MILITARY SERVICE U.S. Army, 1977-1983, Baumholder, West Germany, two honorable discharges RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION Baptist RECREATION youth track coach, track ADDRESSES (district) 5600 New Kings Road, Suite #5, Jacksonville 32209-2146 (Tallahassee) 213 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 TELEPHONES Statewide: 1/866/867-0289 (district) 904/924-1646 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5024.



Mike Haridopolos
Republican, District 26
Majority (Republican) Whip

College Professor, Author BORN March 15, 1970, in Huntington, New York. Moved to Florida in 1990 EDUCATION Stetson University, B.A., 1992; University of Arkansas, M.A., 1993 WIFE Stephanie Bressan, M.D., of Ft. Lauderdale CHILDREN Alexis, Hayden, Reagan LEGISLATIVE SERVICE elected to the Senate March 25, 2003, reelected subsequently; House of Representatives, 2000-2003 RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION Baptist RECREATION golf, NASCAR ADDRESSES (district) 1360 Sarno Road, Suite C, Melbourne 32935 (Tallahassee) 322 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 TELEPHONES (district) 321/752-3131 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5056.



Dennis L. Jones, D.C.
Republican, District 13

Vice President, Economic Development and Innovative Programs, St. Petersburg College BORN April 5, 1941, in Erie, Pennsylvania. Moved to Florida in 1950 EDUCATION St. Petersburg Junior College; Lincoln Chiropractic College, D.C., 1963 WIFE Susan Davis, Ph.D., of Brandon CHILDREN Rod, D.C., Jill (deceased); grandchildren: Jacob, Jaxon, Jarod LEGISLATIVE SERVICE elected to the Senate in 2002, reelected subsequently; Majority (Republican) Leader, 2002-2004; House of Representatives, 1978-2000; Speaker Pro Tempore, 1998-2000 HISTORICAL Aaron Arnold, great-great-grandfather, Circuit Judge of Kane County, Pennsylvania, 1840s RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION Methodist RECREATION boating, fishing, traveling ADDRESSES (district) 8940 Seminole Boulevard, Seminole 33772 (Tallahassee) 408 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 TELEPHONES (district) 727/549-6411 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5065.



Arthenia L. Joyner
Democrat, District 18
Minority (Democratic) Whip

Attorney; Public School Teacher, 1964-1965 BORN February 3, 1943, in Lakeland EDUCATION Florida A&M University, B.S., 1964; J.D., 1968 LEGISLATIVE SERVICE elected to the Senate in 2006; House of Representatives, 2000-2006; Democratic Policy Chair, 2004-2006; Democratic Floor Leader, 2002-2004; Democratic Whip, 2000-2002 RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION African Methodist Episcopal RECREATION reading, traveling, walking ADDRESSES (district) 508 W. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., Suite C., Tampa 33603-3415 (Tallahassee) 224 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 TELEPHONES (district) 813/233-4277 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5059.



James E. "Jim" King, Jr.
Republican, District 8

Owner, Personnel Recruiting, Temporary Help, Employee Leasing, Consulting, and Testing Firms BORN October 30, 1939, in Brooklyn, New York. Moved to Florida in 1945 EDUCATION St. Petersburg Junior College, A.A., 1959; Florida State University: B.S.B.A., 1961; M.B.A., 1962 WIFE Linda Braddock of Orange Park CHILDREN Monta Michele, Laurie Anne LEGISLATIVE SERVICE elected to the Senate March 9, 1999, reelected subsequently; Senate President, 2002-2004; Majority Leader, 2000-2002; House of Representatives, 1986-1999, Majority Leader, 1996-1998; Minority Floor Whip, 1988-1990 MILITARY SERVICE U.S. Coast Guard, 1962-1968 RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION Episcopal RECREATION scuba diving, boating, sport fishing, and gardening ADDRESSES (district) Suite 108, 9485 Regency Square Boulevard, Jacksonville 32225-8145 (Tallahassee) 400 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 TELEPHONES (district) 904/727-3600 or 888/861-9761 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5030.



Charlie Justice
Democrat, District 16

Academic Advisor BORN July 23, 1968, in St. Petersburg EDUCATION St. Petersburg Junior College, A.A., 1988; University of South Florida, B.A., 1993 WIFE Kathleen of Long Island, New York CHILDREN Allison, Erin LEGISLATIVE SERVICE elected to the Senate in 2006; House of Representatives, 2000-2006; Democratic Whip, 2004-2006 RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION United Church of Christ RECREATION college sports, Florida travel, politics, reading ADDRESSES (district) Gateway Executive Center, 8601 4th Street, N., Suite 100, St. Petersburg 33702 (Tallahassee) 308 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 TELEPHONES (district) 727/217-7970 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5075.



Alfred "Al" Lawson, Jr.
Democrat, District 6

Insurance Agent; President, Lawson and Associates, Inc. (Marketing Firm) BORN September 21, 1948, in Tallahassee EDUCATION Florida A&M University, B.S., 1970, Student Government; Florida State University, M.S.P.A., 1973 WIFE Delores J. Brooks of Tallahassee CHILDREN Alfred J. III, Shani A.; grandchild: Kobe LEGISLATIVE SERVICE elected to the Senate in 2000, reelected subsequently; House of Representatives, 1982-2000 RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION Episcopal RECREATION basketball, reading, gardening ADDRESSES (district) 20 East Washington Street, Suite E, Quincy 32351 (Tallahassee) 210 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 TELEPHONES (district) 850/921-6620, 850/921-8446 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5004.



Evelyn J. Lynn
Republican, District 7

Legislator, Consultant BORN February 2 in Astoria, New York. Moved to Florida in 1960 EDUCATION Queens College, B.A.; Stetson University, M.A.; University of Florida, Ed.D. CHILDREN Karen Jans, Robert Grimm; grandchild: Sara Jans LEGISLATIVE SERVICE elected to the Senate in 2002, reelected subsequently; House of Representatives, 1994-2002 RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION Methodist RECREATION travel, watercolor, reading ADDRESSES (district) 536 North Halifax Avenue, Suite 101, Daytona Beach 32118 (Tallahassee) 212 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 TELEPHONES Statewide: 1/866/831-2665 (district) 386/238-3180 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5033.



Steve Oelrich
Republican, District 14

Sheriff (retired) BORN September 29, 1945, in Pensacola EDUCATION St. Petersburg Junior College, A.A., 1968; Florida State University, B.S., Criminology, 1970 WIFE Rose Mary Treadway of Pensacola CHILDREN Ivan, Kenneth, Nick (deceased) LEGISLATIVE SERVICE elected to the Senate in 2006 RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION Methodist RECREATION hunting, fishing, birding ADDRESSES (district) 4131 Northwest 28th Lane, Suite 4, Gainesville 32606 (Tallahassee) 310 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 TELEPHONES Districtwide: 1/866/778-2300 (district) 352/375-3555 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5020.



Gwen Margolis
Democrat, District 35

Realtor and Developer BORN October 4, 1934, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Moved to Florida in 1960 EDUCATION Temple University, 1952-1954; University of Tampa; Dade Junior College, special real estate and appraisal courses CHILDREN Edward, Ira, Karen, Robin; grandchildren: Sarah, Jeffery, Jordan, Leah, Jarred, Daniel, Ariel LEGISLATIVE SERVICE elected to the Senate, 1980-1992, Senate President, 1990-1992; reelected to the Senate in 2002, reelected subsequently; Minority (Democratic) Caucus Policy Committee Co-Chair, 2004-2006; House of Representatives, 1974-1980 HISTORICAL first woman to serve as President of the Florida Senate RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION Jewish ADDRESSES (district) 1005 Kane Concourse, Suite 205, Bay Harbor Island 33154 (Tallahassee) 214 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 TELEPHONES (district) 305/993-3632 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5121.



Durell Peaden, Jr.
Republican, District 2

Physician (retired) BORN August 24, 1945, in DeFuniak Springs EDUCATION Tulane University, New Orleans, B.A., 1968; Universidad Autonoma de Guadalajara, Mexico, M.D., 1973; Jones School of Law at Faulkner University, Montgomery, J.D., 1987 WIFE Nancy Green of DeFuniak Springs CHILDREN Durell III (Trey), Tyler, Taylen LEGISLATIVE SERVICE elected to the Senate in 2000, reelected subsequently; House of Representatives, 1994-2000 HISTORICAL John Wilkinson, cousin: Legislative Council House, Santa Rosa, 1844; House, Santa Rosa, 1848-1850, 1860. John Wilkinson, Jr., cousin: House, Santa Rosa, 1885: Senate, District 1, 1889. A.J. Peaden, cousin: House, Santa Rosa, 1905, 1907, 1909; R.W. Peaden, cousin, House, District 2, 1972-1976; John W. Kennedy, grandfather, Okaloosa County Commission Chair RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION Methodist ADDRESSES (district) 598 North Ferdon Boulevard, Crestview 32536-2753; 744 E. Burgess Road, Unit E-103, Pensacola 32504 (Tallahassee) 222 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 TELEPHONES (district) 850/689-0556, 850/484-9898 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5000.



Bill Posey
Republican, District 24

Realtor BORN December 18, 1947, in Washington, D.C. Moved to Florida in 1956 EDUCATION Brevard Community College, A.A., 1969 WIFE Katie Ingram of Rockledge CHILDREN Pam, Cathi; grandchildren: Billy Carson, Clarke Carson, Katie Householder LEGISLATIVE SERVICE elected to the Senate in 2000, reelected subsequently; House of Representatives, 1992-2000 RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION Methodist RECREATION stock-car racing, coaching youth athletics ADDRESSES (district) 1802 South Fiske Boulevard, Suite 108, Rockledge 32955-3007 (Tallahassee) 420 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 TELEPHONES (district) 321/690-3484 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5053.



Jeremy Ring
Democrat, District 32

Entrepreneur BORN August 10, 1970, in New Haven, Connecticut. Moved to Florida in 2001 EDUCATION Syracuse University, 1992 WIFE Sharon CHILDREN Elijah, Levi, Eliana, Galit LEGISLATIVE SERVICE elected to the Senate in 2006 RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION Jewish RECREATION spending time with family, boating, tennis, 19th Century American History ADDRESSES (district) 5790 Margate Boulevard, Margate 33063 (Tallahassee) 326 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 TELEPHONES (district) 954/917-1392 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5094.



Nan H. Rich
Democrat, District 34
Minority (Democratic) Policy Chair

Legislator BORN February 9, 1942, in New York, New York. Moved to Florida in 1951 EDUCATION University of Florida 1959-1961 HUSBAND David of Newark, New Jersey CHILDREN Laurie Rich Levinson, Larry, Marcie, Jennifer LEGISLATIVE SERVICE elected to the Senate in 2004, reelected subsequently; House of Representatives, 2000-2004 RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION Jewish RECREATION hiking, horseback riding, travel, cooking ADDRESSES (district) 777 Sawgrass Corporate Parkway, Sunrise 33325-6256 (Tallahassee) 226 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 TELEPHONES (district) 954/747-7933 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5103.



Burt L. Saunders
Republican, District 37

Attorney, of Counsel, Gray Robinson, P.A. BORN November 7, 1948, in Hampton, Virginia. Moved to Florida in 1978 EDUCATION University of South Florida, B.A., Physics, 1969-1972; William and Mary Law School, J.D., 1975; University of Miami Law School, LL.M., Ocean and Coastal Law, 1978-1979 WIFE Dr. Lillian Love of Whaleyville, Maryland CHILDREN Frank, Jonathan, Matthew LEGISLATIVE SERVICE elected to the Senate in 1998, reelected subsequently; House of Representatives, 1994-1998 RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION Jewish RECREATION snow skiing, hiking ADDRESSES (district) 3301 E. Tamiami Trail, Administration Building, Suite 304, Naples 34112-4902 (Tallahassee) 418 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 TELEPHONES (district) 239/417-6220 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5124.



Gary Siplin
Democrat, District 19

Attorney BORN October 21, 1954, in Orlando EDUCATION Johnson C. Smith University, B.A., Political Science; University of Pittsburgh, M.A., Public & International Affairs; Duquesne University, J.D. WIFE Victoria Pierre CHILDREN Gary Jr., Angelika, Joshua, Jacobe LEGISLATIVE SERVICE elected to the Senate in 2002, reelected subsequently; House of Representatives, 2000-2002 RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION Baptist RECREATION sports, dancing ADDRESSES (district) 1436 North Pine Hills Road, Orlando 32808 (Tallahassee) 205 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 TELEPHONES (district) 407/297-2071 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5190.



J. Alex Villalobos
Republican, District 38

Attorney BORN November 2, 1963, in Miami EDUCATION University of Miami, B.A., 1985; Florida State University, J.D., 1988 WIFE Barbara CHILD Katharine LEGISLATIVE SERVICE elected to the Senate in 2000, reelected subsequently; Majority (Republican) Leader, 2004-May 1, 2006; Majority (Republican) Whip, 2001-2002; House of Representatives, 1992-2000; Cuban-American Caucus Chair, 1995-1996, Vice Chair 1993-1994 RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION Catholic RECREATION tae kwon do, fishing, hunting, skiing ADDRESSES (district) 9766 S.W. 24th Street, Suite 18, Miami 33165 (Tallahassee) 306 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 TELEPHONES (district) 305/222-4160 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5130.



Ronda Storms
Republican, District 10

Teacher, Attorney, Businesswoman BORN September 5, 1965, in Des Moines, Iowa. Moved to Florida in 1982 EDUCATION University of South Florida, B.A., 1988; Stetson University College of Law, J.D., 1995 HUSBAND David of Valrico LEGISLATIVE SERVICE elected to the Senate in 2006 RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION Southern Baptist RECREATION collecting local art, gardening, reading ADDRESSES (district) 313 E. Robertson Street, Brandon, 33511 (Tallahassee) 318 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 TELEPHONES (district) 813/651-2189 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5072.



Daniel Webster
Republican, District 9
Majority (Republican) Leader

Owner, Webster Air Conditioning and Heating, Inc. BORN April 27, 1949, in Charleston, West Virginia. Moved to Florida in 1956 EDUCATION Georgia Tech, B.S.E.E., 1971 WIFE Sandy Jordan of Orlando CHILDREN David Lee, Brent Alan, Jordan Daniel, Elizabeth Anne, John Elliott, Victoria Suzanna; grandchildren: Jonathan, Sarah, Benjamin, Grant LEGISLATIVE SERVICE elected to the Senate in 1998, reelected subsequently; Majority (Republican) Leader, May 1, 2006-November 7, 2006; House of Representatives, 1980-1998: Minority Floor Leader, 1982-1984; Minority Whip, 1988-1990; Republican Leader Pro Tempore, 1992-1994; Republican Leader, 1994-1996; Speaker of the House of Representatives, 1996-1998 RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION Baptist ADDRESSES (district) 315 S. Dillard Street, Winter Garden 34787 (Tallahassee) 330 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 TELEPHONES (district) 407/656-0066 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5047.



Frederica S. Wilson
Democrat, District 33
Minority (Democratic) Leader
Pro Tempore

Executive Director, Office of Alternative Education and Dropout Prevention, Miami-Dade County Schools BORN in Miami EDUCATION Fisk University, B.S., 1963; University of Miami, Master's Degree; Florida Memorial University, Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters CHILDREN Mrs. Nicole St. Hilaire, Lakesha, Paul LEGISLATIVE SERVICE elected to the Senate in 2002, reelected subsequently; Minority (Democratic) Whip, 2004-2006, 2002-2004; House of Representatives, 1998-2002; Democratic Whip, 1998-2002 RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION Episcopal ADDRESSES (district) 18425 N.W. 2nd Avenue, Suite 310, Miami Gardens 33169 (Tallahassee) 202 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 TELEPHONES (district) 305/654-7150 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5116.



Stephen R. Wise
Republican, District 5

Educator BORN December 11, 1941 in Canton, Ohio. Moved to Florida in 1959 EDUCATION Florida Southern College, B.S., 1963; Middle Tennessee State University, M.Ed., 1968; University of Alabama, Ed.D., 1970 WIFE Kathryn (Kathy) Beeman of Melbourne CHILDREN Kelly Anne Legg, Tara Elizabeth Thompson LEGISLATIVE SERVICE elected to the Senate September 25, 2001, reelected subsequently; House of Representatives, 1988-2000 RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION Baptist RECREATION swimming, tennis ADDRESSES (district) 1460 Cassat Avenue, Suite B, Jacksonville 32205 (Tallahassee) 220 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 TELEPHONES (district) 904/381-6000 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5027.

Secretary of the Senate

At its organization session every two years, the Senate elects a Secretary of the Senate pursuant to the Constitution of the State of Florida. This non-member constitutional officer publishes the journal and the calendar, keeps all Senate records, and authenticates each act and resolution passed by the Senate.

Other operations within the Secretary's Office include: bill and amendment filing, duplication and distribution of documents, recording of actions taken by the Senate, and the performance of support services for the Senate. Special chamber computer programs, such as the vote system and the Chamber and Committee Automation System, are designed and operated by the Secretary's Office.

As liaison to the Office of Legislative Information Technology Services, the Secretary serves as the Senate coordinator for the development and maintenance of computer applications used by Senate professional staff as well as for investment in and allocation of hardware and software resources. The Secretary's Office maintains Senate information included on the Florida Senate's official website and on the Legislature's Online Sunshine website.

The Secretary speaks to various visiting civic and student groups during the year. The Secretary's Office hosts numerous mock sessions throughout each year. Staff and facilities are provided for the YMCA Youth Legislature, Boys State, Girls State, the Silver-Haired Legislature, and others.



Faye W. Blanton
Secretary of the Senate

BORN November 9, 1946, in Tallahassee EDUCATION Jones Business College, Jacksonville, 1967 HUSBAND Edwin F. "Ed" Blanton of St. Petersburg CHILDREN Wade, Doug and Laurel McDaniel; Garrett and Travis Blanton; grandchildren: Zachary, Davis, Taylor, Megan, Garrett, Kai, Silas LEGISLATIVE SERVICE elected Secretary of the Florida Senate, November 1996, and reelected subsequently. Secretary and Parliamentarian of the 1997-1998 Florida Constitution

Revision Commission; Assistant Secretary of the Senate, 1984-1996; Assistant to the Secretary, 1974-1984; staff, the 1977-1978 Florida Constitution Revision Commission; Assistant to the Director of Management and Staff, 1972-1974; staff assistant in the Governmental Efficiency Committee, 1970-1972; Board of Directors of Legislative Research Center and Museum; lecturer on the legislative process; facilitator for mock sessions for civic, student, international, and private groups; an Advisor and Counselor for Girls State, Boys State, the YMCA Youth Legislature, and the Silver-Haired Legislature HIGHLIGHTS First woman elected Secretary of the Florida Senate for a two-year term RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION Baptist RECREATION gardening, walking, reading ADDRESS Suite 405, The Capitol, 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 TELEPHONE 850/487-5270.

Sergeant at Arms

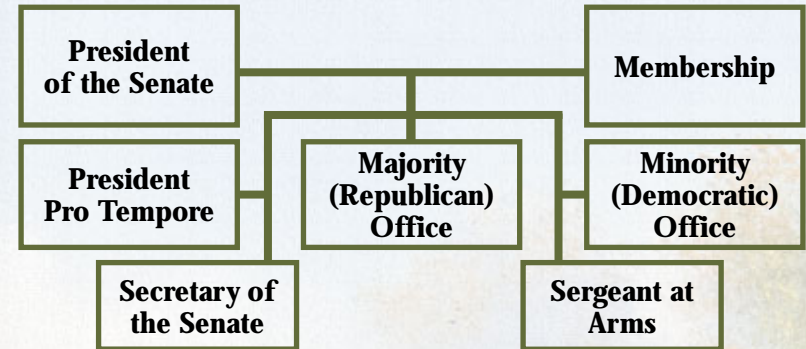
The President appoints a Sergeant at Arms who attends the Senate during its sessions; maintains order under the direction of the President; executes the commands of and serves Senate process as directed by the President of the Senate and by the Senate; has charge of all property of the Senate to the extent as is delegated to the Sergeant at Arms by the President; has general charge of the security of the Chamber, committee rooms, and gallery of the Senate and maintains order therein in cooperation with the Division of Capitol Police; and has general supervision of the doorkeepers and professional maintenance staff.



Donald Severance
Senate Sergeant at Arms

BORN September 24, 1954, in Live Oak EDUCATION Suwanee High School; Tallahassee Community College; Lively Law Enforcement Academy; U.S. Marshal's State and Local Court; Non-commissioned Officer's School/ Florida National Guard WIFE Sherry Gregg of Tallahassee CHILD Chelsey LEGISLATIVE SERVICE Sergeant at Arms, 1999-present; Senate Deputy Sergeant at Arms, 1998-1999; National Legislative Services and Security Association, 1994-present; NLSSA 3rd Trustee, 1999-present; NLSSA Chairman, Region 4, 1997-1999 MILITARY SERVICE Florida National Guard, 1972-1994 RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION Baptist RECREATION hunting, fishing, softball ADDRESS Suite 403, The Capitol, 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 TELEPHONE 850/487-5224.

Senate Organization



Committees

Economic Opportunities Policy and Calendar Committee:

- Banking and Insurance
- Commerce
- Regulated Industries
- Transportation

Oversight and Procedural Policy and Calendar Committee:

- Rules
- Joint legislative committees

Fiscal Policy and Calendar Committee:

- Criminal and Civil Justice Appropriations
- Education Facilities Appropriations
- Education Pre-K - 12 Appropriations
- Finance and Tax
- General Government Appropriations
- Health and Human Services Appropriations
- Higher Education Appropriations
- Transportation and Economic Development Appropriations

Responsible Regulation Policy and Calendar Committee:

- Agriculture
- Communications and Public Utilities
- Community Affairs
- Environmental Preservation and Conservation
- Governmental Operations

Law and Justice Policy and Calendar Committee:

- Criminal Justice
- Ethics and Elections
- Judiciary
- Military Affairs and Domestic Security

Social Responsibility Policy and Calendar Committee:

- Children, Families, and Elder Affairs
- Education Pre-K - 12
- Health Policy
- Health Regulation
- Higher Education

Other Legislative Entities:

- Legislative Budget Commission

The Florida Senate 2006-2008

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE



KEN PRUITT

THE SECRETARY'S
DESK



STORMS (R)
DISTRICT 10
VALRICO



GAETZ (R)
DISTRICT 4
NICEVILLE



LAWSON (D)
DISTRICT 6
TALLAHASSEE



PEADEN (R)
DISTRICT 2
CRESTVIEW



WEBSTER (R)
DISTRICT 9
WINTER GARDEN
Majority Leader



CARLTON (R)
DISTRICT 23
OSPREY
President Pro Tempore



KING (R)
DISTRICT 8
JACKSONVILLE
Rules Chair



HILL (D)
DISTRICT 1
JACKSONVILLE



ARGENZIANO (R)
DISTRICT 3
CRYSTAL RIVER



PRUITT (R)
DISTRICT 28
PORT ST. LUCIE
President



JOYNER (D)
DISTRICT 18
TAMPA



JUSTICE (D)
DISTRICT 16
ST. PETERSBURG



OELRICH (R)
DISTRICT 14
CROSS CREEK



CRIST (R)
DISTRICT 12
TAMPA



GELLER (D)
DISTRICT 31
HALLANDALE BEACH
Minority Leader



WISE (R)
DISTRICT 5
JACKSONVILLE



LYNN (R)
DISTRICT 7
ORMOND BEACH



FASANO (R)
DISTRICT 11
NEW PORT RICHEY



JONES (R)
DISTRICT 13
SEMINOLE



DOCKERY (R)
DISTRICT 15
LAKELAND



DEUTCH (D)
DISTRICT 30
BOCA RATON



HARIDOPOLOS (R)
DISTRICT 26
MELBOURNE



POSEY (R)
DISTRICT 24
ROCKLEDGE



CONSTANTINE (R)
DISTRICT 22
ALTAMONTE
SPRINGS



BAKER (R)
DISTRICT 20
EUSTIS



ALEXANDER (R)
DISTRICT 17
WINTER HAVEN



SIPLIN (D)
DISTRICT 19
ORLANDO



BENNETT (R)
DISTRICT 21
BRADENTON



ATWATER (R)
DISTRICT 25
PALM BEACH
GARDENS



ARONBERG (D)
DISTRICT 27
GREENACRES



RING (D)
DISTRICT 32
FT. LAUDERDALE



RICH (D)
DISTRICT 34
WESTON



DIAZ DE LA PORTILLA (R)
DISTRICT 36
MIAMI



VILLALOBOS (R)
DISTRICT 38
MIAMI



GARCIA (R)
DISTRICT 40
HIALEAH



DAWSON (D)
DISTRICT 29
FT. LAUDERDALE



WILSON (D)
DISTRICT 33
MIAMI



MARGOLIS (D)
DISTRICT 35
MIAMI BEACH

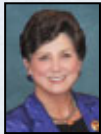


SAUNDERS (R)
DISTRICT 37
NAPLES



BULLARD (D)
DISTRICT 39
MIAMI

SECRETARY OF THE SENATE



Faye W. Blanton

SERGEANT AT ARMS



Donald Severance

Contacting Your Senator

Your Senator is interested in hearing your opinions concerning the issues on which he or she will vote. This section will provide you with guidelines on how to approach legislators and how best to express your ideas so that they will be read, or listened to, and understood.

Most people communicate with their Senator by letter (increasingly by email), but you can also try to speak directly with him or her by telephone or even in person. No matter which method you choose, the same guidelines apply:



- Know your subject matter well, and have data to back up your point of view.
- Inform yourself about the full name and address of your Senator and about the positions he or she has taken on the issues that concern you.
- Do not use form letters; instead, if you are working from a form letter, rewrite the essential points in your own words.
- If you represent others from your community, formally or even informally, indicate that to the Senator.
- Be brief and to-the-point in your presentation. Attach supporting data or documents and refer to them in your cover letter.
- Be courteous.
- Be completely fair in your presentation of the facts.
- If you are interested in a specific bill, refer to that bill by its number. You can find out this information by accessing the Senate's homepage at www.flsenate.gov or by calling the Division of Legislative Information Services at 1-800-342-1827. Note that Senate Bills use even numbers and House Bills use odd numbers.
- Always provide your address (street and/or email) and your telephone number so that your Senator or his or her staff assistants can contact you for further data or discussion.
- If you are going to meet personally with your Senator, prepare carefully for the meeting and be on time. If he or she asks you for more information than you have brought with you, be prompt in responding to the request.

You can build an effective relationship with your Senator on a series of issues and make considerable contributions to the process of creating public policy. Your Senator will be grateful for your participation.



Committee Testimony

You may want to keep track of your bills as they proceed through the legislative process. To find out which committees your bills have been assigned to, access the Florida Senate's homepage (www.flsenate.gov), contact your Senator's office, or call the Division of Legislative Information Services (1-800-342-1827).

You may have an opportunity to appear before a committee that is hearing the bill by contacting the committee as soon as the bill has been referred to the committee. The committee's chair controls his or her committee's agenda and schedules the bills.

If your bill is scheduled for a public hearing, keep these guidelines in mind:

- When signing up to testify on a bill, the committee may require you to present written testimony for distribution to committee members and professional staff. Written testimony should be submitted to the appropriate office at least 24 hours prior to the scheduled committee hearing.
- Generally, each committee chair follows the order of the bills listed on the agenda.
- Prepare your oral testimony in advance and be brief unless asked to elaborate.
- Be specific and to-the-point regarding the bill you are testifying on.
- Be prepared to answer questions from committee members on your testimony or on the position you have taken on each bill. If you do not know the answer to a question, just say so.



The Senate Chamber



The Senate Chamber, also known as the “floor,” is the room on the fourth floor of the Capitol where Senators debate the merits of proposed legislation. The current chamber is the fourth used since the first session of the Senate was called to order in 1839. The first session held in this chamber occurred in 1978.

On the floor above the chamber is the gallery. Citizens may sit in the gallery to observe the Senate in session. From the gallery, attention is drawn to the rostrum where the President is presiding.

The President occupies the “chair,” pacing the flow of legislation, deciding who will speak, and ruling on parliamentary disputes. The President may call on other Senators to preside while he or she works out the details of legislative proposals.

The portraits hanging below the gallery commemorate past Presidents of the Senate. After each President’s term, a portrait is painted and hung in this area. The portraits are arranged in chronological order with the most recent one on the presiding officer’s right. Each time the newest one is added, the oldest one is taken down and moved to the Historic Capitol, keeping 100 years of past Presidents on display in the “new” chamber.

In front of the President’s rostrum is the Secretary’s “desk,” which is staffed by the Secretary of the Senate. Legislative business is not properly before the Senate until it is “on the desk.” Clerks at this desk read the bills and amendments before the body and record Senate actions. These actions are published in the Journal, the official record of Senate proceedings. A Senator who wishes to “approach the well” to make a speech speaks from one of the reading podiums at the Secretary’s desk. The Chamber and Committee Automation System, designed to display amendments and information on bills, allows Senators the flexibility of accessing legislative information from their Tallahassee offices and in the Senate Chamber on their laptop computers.



Voting boards on each side of the chamber record a member’s green “yea” or red “nay” vote. The amber lights you see next to some names indicate that the Senator wants a “page” to deliver a message or retrieve a file from his or her office. The voting boards also display the number of the bill or amendment being debated and other information related to the proceedings. Electronic voting was first used in the Senate in 1966, and now nearly all votes are recorded electronically.

The seating arrangement in the chamber is determined by the President. With the exception of the desks of Senators serving in leadership positions, chamber desks are arranged numerically. Senators from odd-numbered districts sit on the President’s left, and those representing even-numbered districts sit on the right. Telephones at each chamber desk provide direct communication with the Senator’s professional district staff. Only members of the Senate and designated professional staff members are allowed in the chamber while the Senate is in session. Certain present and past state officials and guests invited by the President may also enter the chamber during a session.

Senators are addressed by their district number when they are recognized to speak. Custom decrees that a Senator may not be addressed as a gentleman or lady. He or she is “the Senator from the fifth,” for example, but never “the gentleman or lady from the fifth.” During debate, the members are always formally addressed as “Senator,” not by their given names.

Just above the main entrance is the press gallery, where members of Florida’s press corps report Senate actions. The remainder of the gallery is open to the public at all sessions, except that a portion of the gallery is usually reserved for the Senators’ families and other sections are often reserved for visiting students.

Robotic cameras from the Florida Channel are positioned in the chamber to provide live, televised coverage of all Senate sessions. Each weekday evening during the session, The Florida Channel and Florida’s public television affiliates broadcast “Capitol Update,” a live half-hour news program explaining and analyzing each day’s most significant legislative developments. The broadcasts are funded by the Legislature, but all editorial content is determined by the group of professional journalists who produce the programs. Florida’s legislative telecasts were used as a model for a similar system installed in 1979 in the U.S. House of Representatives. In addition, live and unedited feeds of some legislative events can be found at www.wfsu.org.



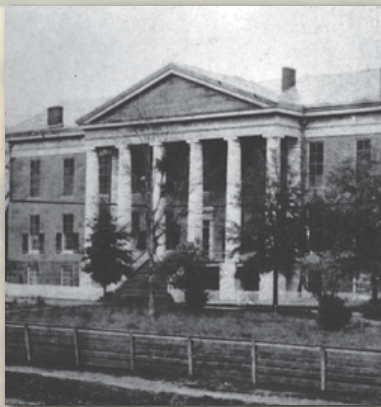
Presidents of the Senate



1824 Capitol



1839 Capitol



1845 Capitol

Session	President
Statehood	
1845	James A. Berthelot
1846	Dennitt H. Mays
1847	Daniel G. McLean
1848-1849	Erasmus D. Tracy
1850-1853	Robert J. Floyd
1854-1855	Hamlin V. Snell
1856	Philip Dell
1858-1859	John Finlayson
1860-1861	Thomas Jefferson Eppes
1862-1863	Enoch J. Vann
1864	Abraham K. Allison
From 1865 through 1887, the Lt. Governor served as President.	
1865-1868	William W. J. Kelly
1868-1870	William H. Gleason
1870	Edmund C. Weeks
1871-1873	Samuel T. Day
1873-1874	Marcellus L. Stearns
1874-77*	A.L. McCaskill (President Pro Tempore)
1877-1879	Noble A. Hull
1881-1885	L.W. Bethel
1885-1887	Milton Mabry

* Presided over the Senate in the absence of Lt. Governor Stearns who became Governor on March 18, 1874, upon the death of Governor O.B. Hart



1891 Capitol



1910 Capitol



1924 Capitol

Session	President
1889**	Patrick Houstoun
1889	Joseph B. Wall
1891	Jefferson B. Browne
1893	William H. Reynolds
1895	Frederick T. Myers
1897	Charles J. Perrenot
1899	Frank Adams
1901	Thomas Palmer
1903	Frank Adams
1905	Park M. Trammell
1907	W. Hunt Harris
1909	Frederick M. Hudson
1911-1912	Frederick P. Cone
1913	Herbert J. Drane
1915	Charles E. Davis
1917-1918	John B. Johnson
1919	James E. Calkins
1921	William A. MacWilliams
1923	Theo. T. Turnbull

** Extraordinary Session



1936 Capitol



1950 Capitol



1978 Capitol

Session President

1925	John S. Taylor
1927	Samuel W. Anderson
1929	Jesse J. Parrish
1931	Patrick C. Whitaker
1933	Truman G. Futch
1935	William C. Hodges
1937	D. Stuart Gillis
1939	J. Turner Butler
1941	John R. Beacham
1943	Philip D. Beall
1945	Walter W. Rose
1947-1948	Scott Dilworth Clarke
1949	Newman C. Brackin
1951	Wallace E. Sturgis
1953	Charley E. Johns
1955-1956	W. Turner Davis
1957	William A. Shands
1959	Dewey M. Johnson
1961-1962	W. Randolph Hodges
1962-1963	F. Wilson Carraway
1965	James E. Connor
1967	Verle A. Pope
1968-1970	John E. Mathews, Jr.



1989 Capitol



2006 Historic Capitol



2006 Current Capitol

Session President

1970-1972	Jerry Thomas
1972-1974	Mallory E. Horne
1974***	Louis de la Parte
1974-1976	Dempsey J. Barron
1976-1978	Lew Brantley
1978-1980	Philip D. Lewis
1980-1982	W.D. Childers
1982-1984	N. Curtis Peterson, Jr.
1984-1986	Harry A. Johnston II
1986-1988	John W. Vogt
1988-1990	Bob Crawford
1990-1992	Gwen Margolis
1992-1993	Ander Crenshaw
1993-1994	Pat Thomas
1994-1996	James A. Scott
1996-1998	Toni Jennings
1998-2000	Toni Jennings
2000-2002	John M. McKay
2002-2004	James E. "Jim" King, Jr.
2004-2006	Tom Lee
2006-2008	Ken Pruitt

*** As President Pro Tempore, served as Acting President from July 1, 1974 when President Horne resigned until November 6, 1974
Capitol photos from 1824-1989 courtesy of the Florida State Archives

Senate Page Program

You can be a part of history! The Senate Page Program gives Florida students the rare opportunity to observe and participate in the legislative process.

During regular sessions of the Legislature, participating students come to Tallahassee for one week to work in the Senate Chamber, distribute materials, and deliver messages to Senators and professional staff. Each Senator may sponsor up to four pages (ages 15-18). Senators may also submit applications for alternate pages, who serve on an as-needed basis.



Sponsoring Senators give an application to the students they wish to sponsor. Senators submit completed applications by the first of February of each year. The Office of the Senate President schedules each page for one week of service during the upcoming session. Professional dress is required.

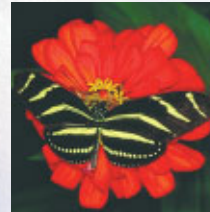
Pages receive a minimum-wage stipend for participating in the program. Students are expected to provide their own transportation, housing, and meals while in Tallahassee.

During each week of session, pages discuss the legislative process and participate in a "mock session." Students act as Senators, debating and voting on bills. Other educational opportunities and Capitol tours are planned during session.



Official State Designations

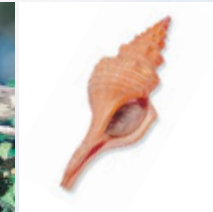
Butterfly:
Zebra Longwing



Bird:
Mockingbird



Shell:
Horse conch



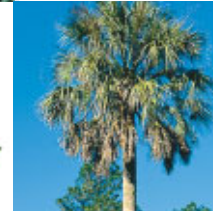
Wildflower:
Coreopsis



Animal:
Florida panther



Beverage:
Citrus sinensis
(orange juice)



Tree:
Sabal Palmetto palm



Marine mammal:
Manatee

Air fair: Central Florida Air Fair

Freshwater fish: Florida largemouth bass

Gem: Moonstone

Pageant: "Indian River"

Pie: Key Lime

Play: "Cross and Sword"

Reptile: American alligator

Rodeo: Silver Spurs Rodeo

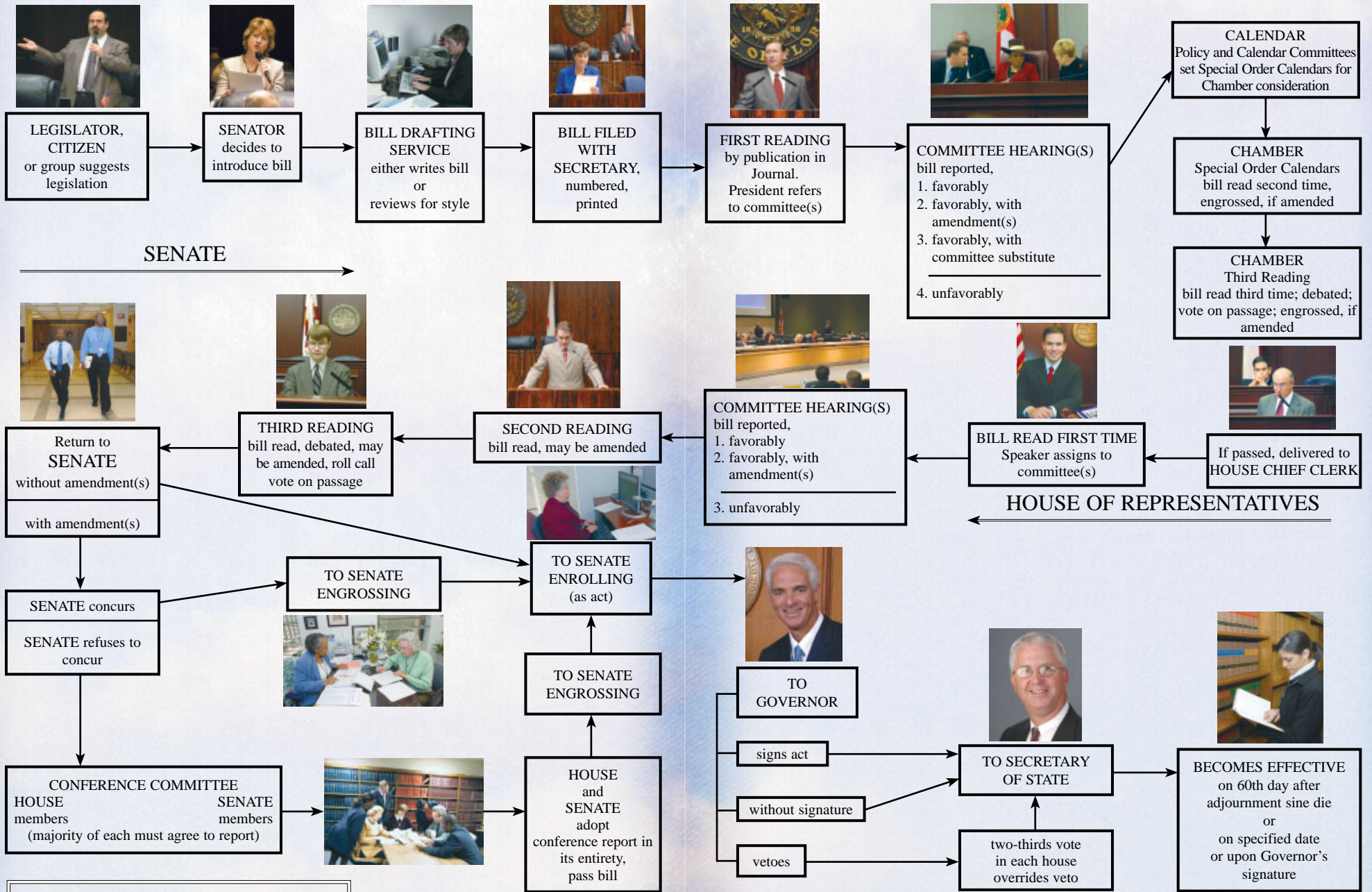
Saltwater fish: Atlantic sailfish

Saltwater mammal: Porpoise

Stone: Agatized coral

Photos courtesy of the Florida State Archives

The Florida Senate - How an Idea Becomes a Law



A simplified chart showing the route a bill takes through the Florida Legislature. Bills may originate in either house. This bill originated in the Senate.

Three Branches of Government



Florida's Constitution, in the traditional American pattern of "separation of powers," divides state government into three separate and independent branches. This division of powers creates a system of "checks and balances" ensuring that all three branches properly perform their constitutional duties in the administration of state affairs. Tallahassee is the seat of Florida's state government.

The Executive Branch



The Governor and the Cabinet: Chief Financial Officer Alex Sink, Commissioner of Agriculture Charles H. Bronson, Governor Charlie Crist, and Attorney General Bill McCollum

The Florida Constitution vests the supreme power of the state in the Governor and provides that he or she shall ensure that the laws are faithfully executed. It provides for a Lieutenant Governor to be elected in a joint candidacy with the Governor. The Lieutenant Governor works with the Governor and performs such duties pertaining to the office of the Governor as assigned by the Governor, or as otherwise provided by law. The Constitution also provides that the Governor shall be assisted by an elected Cabinet consisting of an Attorney General, Chief Financial Officer, and a Commissioner of Agriculture.

The Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and members of the Cabinet are elected to four-year terms. They take office on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in January following their election in November of non-presidential election years. The Governor may succeed himself or herself in office unless he or she has served more than six years in two consecutive terms. Cabinet members may not seek reelection if by the end of their current term they will have served in that office for eight consecutive years.

The Judicial Branch



The Florida Supreme Court

Back row: Justice Raoul Cantero III, Justice Barbara Pariente, Justice Peggy Quince, and Justice Kenneth Bell. Front row: Justice Charles Wells, Chief Justice Fred Lewis, and Justice Harry Lee Anstead

The Judicial Branch interprets the law and applies the Constitution. Florida's court system consists of a series of circuit and county courts, district courts of appeal, and the state Supreme Court.

County courts preside over criminal trials of misdemeanors and some civil cases. They also have the power to issue warrants of arrest. There is one county court located in each of Florida's 67 counties. The number of judges in each county court varies with the population and caseload of the county. County judges are elected to four-year terms.

Circuit courts are located in each of Florida's 20 judicial circuits. Some circuits contain only one county, but most are multi-county. The circuit courts are at the top of the trial system, and they also hear limited appeals from county courts. Circuit judges are elected by the voters of the circuits to serve six-year terms.

The District Courts of Appeal are intermediate appellate courts that receive most of the appeals from trial courts. There are five judicial districts in Florida, with courts located in Tallahassee, Lakeland, Daytona Beach, West Palm Beach, and Miami. Appointed by the Governor to serve in each district court, these judges must be reconfirmed by the voters every six years.

The Supreme Court is at the top of Florida's court system and is the final state court of appeal. The Supreme Court determines the constitutionality of statutes, has the authority to issue advisory opinions to the Governor, and has administrative responsibilities over all lower courts. There are seven Supreme Court justices, each appointed by the Governor and retained by a popular vote every six years.

The Legislative Branch



The Legislative Branch has exclusive lawmaking power and determines the general policies by which the problems of society are to be met. It may delegate limited rulemaking power to some executive agencies.

Composition and Organization. The Constitution of the State of Florida requires that members of the Legislature be elected at the general election in November of even-numbered years. Florida's Legislature is composed of two houses, the Senate and the House of Representatives. Each house is the sole judge of the qualifications and elections of its members and has the power to choose its own officers and establish its own rules of procedure. All legislative sessions are open to the public, except when appointments or suspensions of public officials are considered in executive session. Either house of the Legislature may initiate legislation on any subject.

The State Constitution provides that the Legislature shall be apportioned into 30 to 40 senatorial districts, and 80 to 120 representative districts. The 1972 Legislature established 40 Senate districts and 120 House districts. Senators serve four-year terms and representatives serve two-year terms. While a legislator may be elected for more than one term, he or she may not seek reelection if at the end of his or her current term he or she has served for eight consecutive years.

Reapportionment and Redistricting. During the 2002 Regular Session, the Florida Legislature realigned districts to account for Florida's two new seats in the United States Congress and for uneven population growth during the past decade among Florida Senate and House of Representatives districts.



Legislative Sessions. Two weeks after each general election, the Legislature convenes for the exclusive purpose of organization and election of officers. No legislation is considered during the organization session.



Regular sessions of the Legislature begin on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in March in odd-numbered years and continue for 60 consecutive days, which may be extended by a three-fifths vote of each house. The Legislature may change its convening date in even-numbered years, but generally the date remains the same as in odd-numbered years, except once every 10 years when the Constitution requires the Legislature to reapportion the state's voting districts. Special sessions may be called by the Governor, or may be convened by joint proclamation of the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. Special sessions may not exceed 20 days, unless extended by a three-fifths vote of each house. Each "call" for a special session outlines the business to be considered. The Senate may resolve itself into executive session to consider appointment to or removal from public office, even when the House of Representatives is not meeting.

Rules. During the organization session, each house adopts its rules of procedure to be followed for the next two years. The rules provide for orderly proceedings and determine how each house will conduct its business.



Committees. A committee functions to study, research, and plan solutions to "people problems." The Senate and House rules provide for certain policy and calendar committees, standing committees, special or select committees, and subcommittees. The presiding officers name the chairs and members of all committees.

Bills are assigned to one or more committees for study. Committees may hold public hearings where committee members hear sponsoring legislators and others who are interested in the bill. The committee may vote to recommend the bill favorably; favorably with a committee substitute; unfavorably; or favorably with amendments to be considered when the bill is debated on the floor by the respective house.



When the Senate and House are unable to agree on the final content of a bill, it goes to a conference committee. This committee, composed of members of both houses, tries to resolve the differences between the Senate and House versions of a bill.



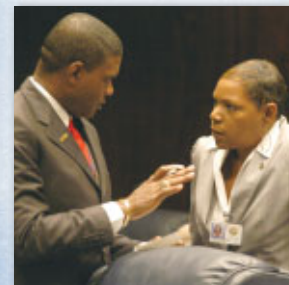
Other committees commonly used are joint committees, which are composed of members from each house, and select committees, which are usually appointed to make recommendations on special or unique problems.

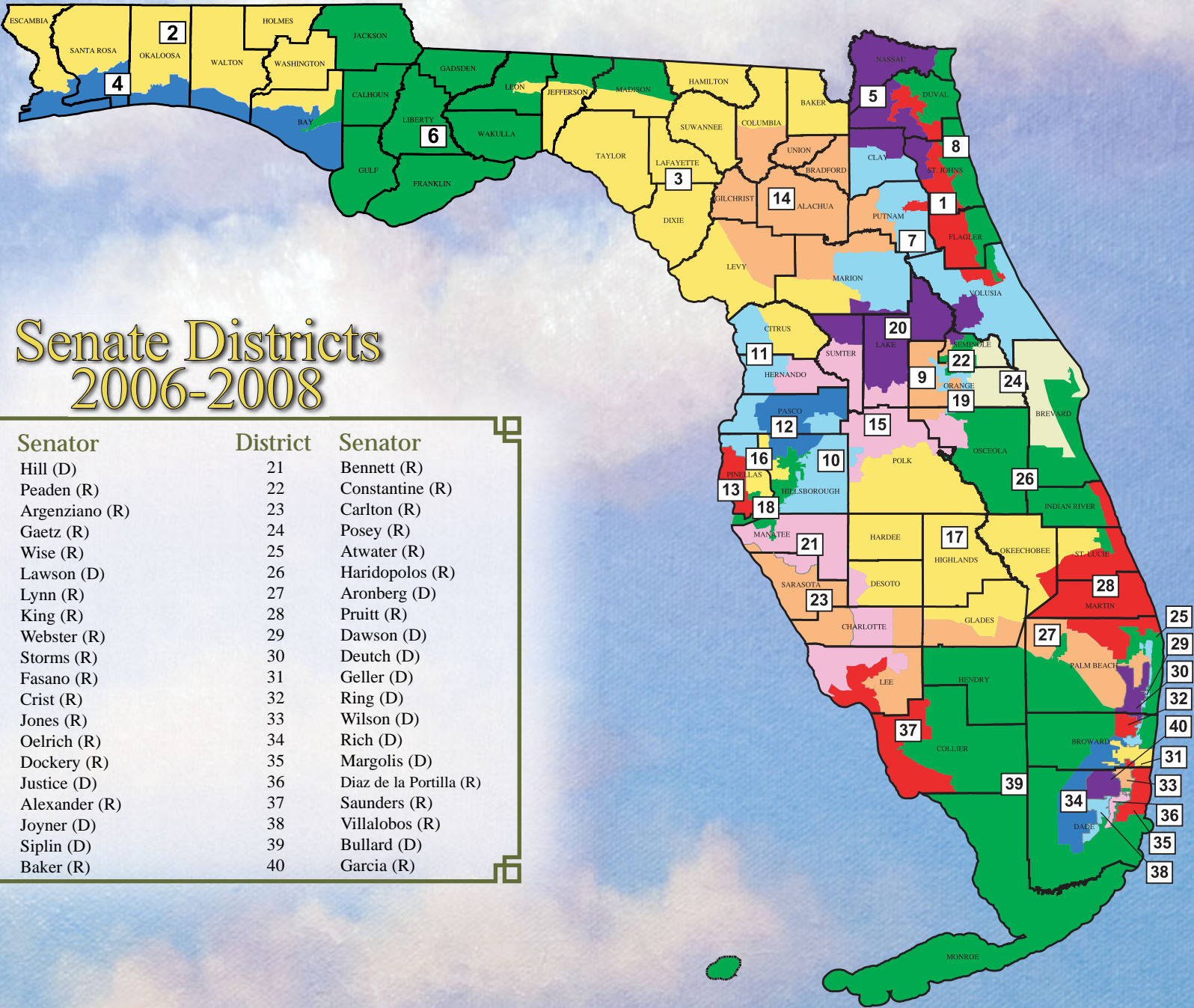
Lobbying. A lobbyist is anyone who tries to influence legislation. Unless exempt, all persons who seek to influence legislation must register with the Division of Legislative Information Services before they begin lobbying. Every lobbyist must also state any direct business association or partnership with any current member of the Legislature and make periodic reports on moneys spent lobbying.

Journals and Calendars. The Secretary of the Senate and the Chief Clerk of the House each publish daily journals and calendars during the legislative session. Each journal details the proceedings on the floor, committee reports, and related actions of the previous day. The calendar is a schedule of business to be taken up that day and the next two days, including committee meetings and bills to be considered.



Forms of Legislation. Legislative proposals may be in the form of bills, resolutions, concurrent resolutions, joint resolutions, or memorials. A bill is a proposed law, and it may be either a general bill or a local bill. A general bill would have a general impact within the state; a local bill would affect only a particular county, city, or town named in the bill. A majority vote is required to pass a bill unless otherwise provided in the Constitution. Companion bills are often used as a timesaving device. These are identical bills introduced in both houses, which allow simultaneous committee study in each body. The appropriations bill is one of the most important bills considered by the Legislature. This bill is the state's budget and it specifies the amount of money available to various state agencies during the next year. The appropriations bill follows the same course as other general bills, but because it is difficult to get both houses to agree on all items in the bill, a conference committee is usually appointed to resolve the differences.





Senate Districts 2006-2008

District	Senator	District	Senator
1	Hill (D)	21	Bennett (R)
2	Peaden (R)	22	Constantine (R)
3	Argenziano (R)	23	Carlton (R)
4	Gaetz (R)	24	Posey (R)
5	Wise (R)	25	Atwater (R)
6	Lawson (D)	26	Haridopolos (R)
7	Lynn (R)	27	Aronberg (D)
8	King (R)	28	Pruitt (R)
9	Webster (R)	29	Dawson (D)
10	Storms (R)	30	Deutch (D)
11	Fasano (R)	31	Geller (D)
12	Crist (R)	32	Ring (D)
13	Jones (R)	33	Wilson (D)
14	Oelrich (R)	34	Rich (D)
15	Dockery (R)	35	Margolis (D)
16	Justice (D)	36	Diaz de la Portilla (R)
17	Alexander (R)	37	Saunders (R)
18	Joyner (D)	38	Villalobos (R)
19	Siplin (D)	39	Bullard (D)
20	Baker (R)	40	Garcia (R)

Glossary of Legislative Terms

Act – A bill passed by the legislature.

Adjourn – To end a legislative session, a day’s session, or a committee meeting.

Adopt – To vote to accept.

Amendment – A proposal to change the original terms of a bill.

Bicameral – Consisting of two houses. All states have bicameral legislatures except Nebraska, which has only one house (unicameral).

Bill – A draft of a proposed law.

Budget – A bill that states how much money will be spent on government programs and services.

Calendar – List of bills awaiting action.

Chair – A legislator who presides over a committee meeting or a session.

Chamber – Also known as the “floor,” it is the room in which the Senate or the House of Representatives meets.

Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives – The person appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives to assist the members of the House in the detailed processes of enacting laws and to record that history.

Committee – A group of Senators or Representatives appointed by the presiding officer to consider important issues and to report its recommendations for action by the body that originated it.

Constitution – The written instrument, embodying the fundamental principles of the state, that establishes power and duties of the government and guarantees certain rights to the people.

Constituent – A citizen who resides in the district of a legislator.

Convene – To meet in formal legislative session.

Debate – To argue the merits of a bill, for and against.

Decorum – Appropriate behavior and conduct.

District – That area of the state represented by a legislator, determined on the basis of population.

Gallery – The seating area for visitors located above the chambers (on the fifth floor of the Capitol).

Governor – The highest ranking state official.

Journal – The official record of the proceedings of the Senate or the House of Representatives.

Law – The final product of the legislative process. It is the end result of the introduction of a bill, its passage by both houses, its approval by the Governor (or the overriding of his veto by the legislature), and its recording by the Secretary of State.

Majority party – The political party having greater than a majority of seats in a house.

Minority party – The political party having fewer than a majority of seats in a house.

Motion – A proposal, usually oral, made to the presiding officer and relating to procedure or action before a legislative body.

Oath of Office – An oath or vow taken by a public official prior to taking up his or her official duties.

Order of Business – The defined routine of procedure in the legislative body each day. It can be deviated from only by waiver of the rules.

Passage – Favorable action on a measure before the legislature.

President of the Senate – The presiding officer of the Senate. He or she is designated as President by the majority party in caucus and then elected by the full membership of the Senate for a term of two years.

President Pro Tempore of the Senate – Literally, president “for a time.” He or she performs specified duties as prescribed by the Senate Rules or the Senate President.

Quorum – The number of members required for the conduct of business.

Repeal – The removal of a provision from the law.

Roll call – To determine a vote on a question by the taking of names in favor of and opposed to.

Rules – Provisions for the procedure, organization, officers, and committees of each house of the legislature.

Secretary of the Senate – The person elected by the Senate to assist Senate officers, members, and professional staff in the detailed processes of enacting laws and to record that history.

Sergeant at Arms – The person in each house who is responsible for the security of the legislative house and the maintenance of that house’s property.

Session – The period during which the legislature meets.

Sine die – Refers to final adjournment of a legislative session. The term is sometimes used to denote the ceremony involving the dropping of white handkerchiefs which symbolizes the end of a regular session.

Speaker of the House of Representatives – The presiding officer of the House of Representatives. He or she is designated as Speaker by the majority party in caucus and then elected by the full membership of the House for a term of two years.

Veto – Return by the Governor to the legislature of a bill without his or her signature; the veto message from the Governor usually explains why he or she thinks the bill should not become a law.

Vote – A decision on a question, either affirmative or negative.

Florida in the 110th Congress



Sidewalk view of the Florida House

Washington, D.C. is the seat of the nation's government. The names and addresses of Florida's representatives in the legislative branch may be found on a separate page in many Florida telephone directories.

Further information on each Member of Congress may be found at the official websites for The United States Senate (www.senate.gov) and The United States House of Representatives (www.house.gov).



View of the Capitol

United States Senate

The Senate is composed of 100 Members, two from each state, elected by the people pursuant to the 17th Amendment to the United States Constitution. A Senator must be at least 30 years of age, have been a citizen of the United States for nine years, and, when elected, be a resident of the state from which the Senator is chosen. The term of office is six years, and one-third of the total membership of the Senate is elected every second year. The terms of both Senators from a particular state are so arranged that they do not terminate at the same time. Of the two Senators from a state serving at the same time, the one who was elected first (or if both were elected at the same time, the one elected for a full term) is referred to as the "senior" Senator from that state. The other is referred to as the "junior" Senator. Senators Bill Nelson and Mel Martinez represent Florida in Washington.



United States House of Representatives



The House of Representatives is composed of 435 Members elected every two years from among the 50 states, apportioned according to their total populations. Today there is one representative for approximately every 646,952 residents, a much larger figure than the 30,000 residents the Constitution of the United States originally required for a Congressional district.

A Representative must be at least 25 years of age, have been a citizen of the United States for seven years, and, when elected, be a resident of the state in which the Representative is chosen.

In addition to the Representatives from each of the states, there is a Resident Commissioner from the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and Delegates from the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, and the Virgin Islands. The Resident Commissioner and the Delegates have most of the prerogatives of Representatives, with the important exception of the right to vote on matters before the House.

Under the provisions of Section 2 of the 20th Amendment to the United States Constitution, Congress must assemble at least once every year, at noon on the third day of January, unless by law it appoints a different day. A Congress lasts for two years, commencing in January of the year following the biennial election of Members, and is divided into two sessions.

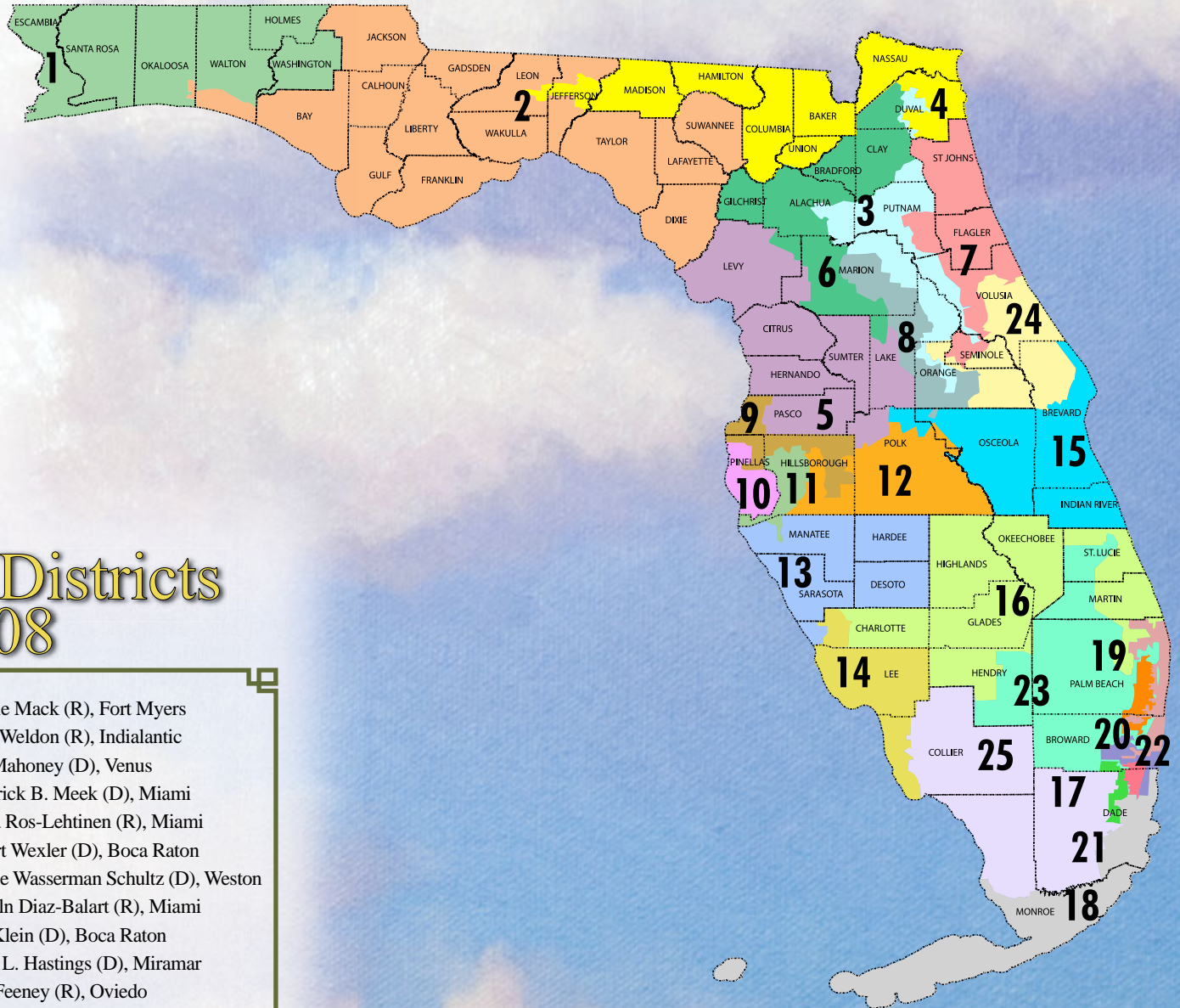
Unlike some other parliamentary bodies, both the Senate and the House of Representatives have equal legislative functions and powers (except that only the House of Representatives may initiate revenue bills), and the designation of one as the "upper" House and the other as the "lower" House is not appropriate.

The United States Constitution authorizes each House to determine the rules of its proceedings. Pursuant to that authority, the House of Representatives adopts its rules on the opening day of each Congress. The Senate, which considers itself a continuing body, operates under standing rules that it amends from time to time.

The chief function of Congress is the making of laws. In addition, the Senate has the function of advising and consenting to treaties and to certain nominations by the President. In the matter of impeachments, the House of Representatives presents the charges – a function similar to that of a grand jury – and the Senate sits as a court to try the impeachment. Following a presidential election, both Houses meet in joint session on the sixth day of January, unless by law they appoint a different day, to count the electoral votes.

Congressional Districts 2006-208

1	Jeff Miller (R), Chumuckla	14	Connie Mack (R), Fort Myers
2	Allen Boyd (D), Monticello	15	Dave Weldon (R), Indialantic
3	Corrine Brown (D), Jacksonville	16	Tim Mahoney (D), Venus
4	Ander Crenshaw (R), Jacksonville	17	Kendrick B. Meek (D), Miami
5	Ginny Brown-Waite (R), Brooksville	18	Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R), Miami
6	Cliff Stearns (R), Ocala	19	Robert Wexler (D), Boca Raton
7	John L. Mica (R), Winter Park	20	Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D), Weston
8	Ric Keller (R), Orlando	21	Lincoln Diaz-Balart (R), Miami
9	Gus M. Bilirakis (R), Palm Harbor	22	Ron Klein (D), Boca Raton
10	C. W. Bill Young (R), Indian Shores	23	Alcee L. Hastings (D), Miramar
11	Kathy Castor (D), Tampa	24	Tom Feeney (R), Oviedo
12	Adam H. Putnam (R), Bartow	25	Mario Diaz-Balart (R), Miami
13	Vern Buchanan (R), Sarasota		



Did You Know....



- Florida has had six Constitutions since it became a state. The first Constitution was drafted in Saint Joseph, now known as Port St. Joe. Presently Florida is governed by the Constitution of 1968, as subsequently amended.

- Florida's first Legislative Council, which was supposed to meet in Pensacola on June 10, 1822, did not meet until 44 days later due to hazardous and time-consuming travel.

- Tallahassee was named the state capital in 1824 by Florida's first territorial governor, William P. DuVal.

- The total land area of Florida is 54,252 square miles. The total water area is 4,308 square miles.

- In 1824, three log cabins were erected in Tallahassee to accommodate the Legislative Council. This was Florida's first Capitol.



- In the 1890s, several efforts were made to move the state capital from Tallahassee. Choices included Jacksonville, Ocala, and St. Augustine.

- After the last attempt to move the capital, Florida's fourth and present Capitol was officially opened on March 31, 1978, by Governor Reubin Askew.

- Construction of Florida's present Capitol required 3,700 tons of structural steel and 2,800 tons of reinforcing steel. The Capitol contains 25,000 cubic feet of concrete, the equivalent of 16 football fields, each one foot thick.*



- Florida has been home to such famed writers as Ernest Hemingway, Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings, and Tennessee Williams.

- In 1990, Senator Gwen Margolis of Miami became the first woman in Florida's history to be elected to serve as President of the Senate.

- Toni Jennings was the first Senator in Florida to be elected President of the Senate for two consecutive terms, presiding from 1996-2000. In 2003, she was chosen by Governor Jeb Bush to become Florida's first female Lieutenant Governor following the resignation of Frank Brogan.



- The first reusable spacecraft, the space shuttle Columbia, was launched on its maiden voyage on April 12, 1981.

- The word "Tallahassee" is of Creek derivation and is frequently translated as "old town" or "old fields." The name may have been taken from the Seminole Indians who occupied the area.

- Juan Ponce de Leon came ashore on the northeast coast of Florida sometime between April 2 and April 8, 1513. He called the area la Florida, in honor of Pascua florida ("feast of the flowers"), a popular celebration held in Spain around Easter.

- The 1868 Constitution provided the Seminole Tribe was entitled to a member in the House and the Senate.

- Saint Augustine is the oldest European settlement in North America.



Photo of Seminole Woman Tommy Jumper "Squirrel" courtesy of the Florida State Archives

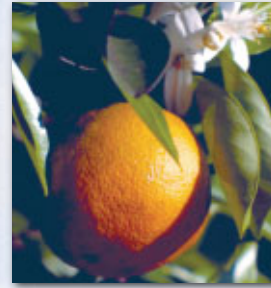
- Snow fell in Dade County on January 20, 1977.
- Dr. John Gorrie of Apalachicola patented the process of making ice artificially in 1851.



- The St. John's River is one of the few rivers that flows north instead of south, and at 273 miles in length, it's Florida's longest river.
- The Buckman Act of 1905 consolidated the state's institutions of higher learning into three: the University of Florida at Gainesville, the Florida State College for Women, and the Florida Agricultural and Mechanical College for Negroes at Tallahassee.
- Founded in 1973 by Rhea Chiles as Florida's "embassy" in our nation's capital, Florida House is owned by the people of the State of Florida. Florida is the only state to have such a facility. It enjoys approximately 10,000 visitors a year. Florida House serves as "home base" for tourists as well as the business community. (www.flahouse.org)



- Florida has more than 11,000 miles of rivers, streams and waterways.
- In 1937, Amelia Earhart took off from Miami for an around-the-world flight and was never seen again.
- The first commercial airline service between two U.S. cities was established between St. Petersburg and Tampa in 1914.
- Six student athletes from Florida universities have won the Heisman Trophy between 1966 and 2004.



- The unified government of Florida was established March 30, 1822, when President Monroe signed into law the act which provided for a Governor and a Legislative Council of 13 citizens. Florida was the 27th state to be admitted to the United States (March 3, 1845).
- DeFuniak Springs is home to one of the two naturally round lakes in the world.

- Ft. Lauderdale is known as the Venice of America because it has 185 miles of local waterways.
- In anticipation of statehood, 56 commissioners elected from Florida's 20 counties gathered at Saint Joseph (Port St. Joe) to draft a constitution. The convention lasted from December 3, 1838, until January 11, 1839.
- Florida's highest natural point is 345 feet, located near Lakewood in Walton County.



- "Stormsong", the 50-foot long pod of leaping dolphins in front of the Capitol, is made of stainless steel and recycled aluminum and weighs 8,000 pounds (four tons).
- The Florida quarter was released by the U.S. Mint as part of its 50 State Quarters Program in 2004.



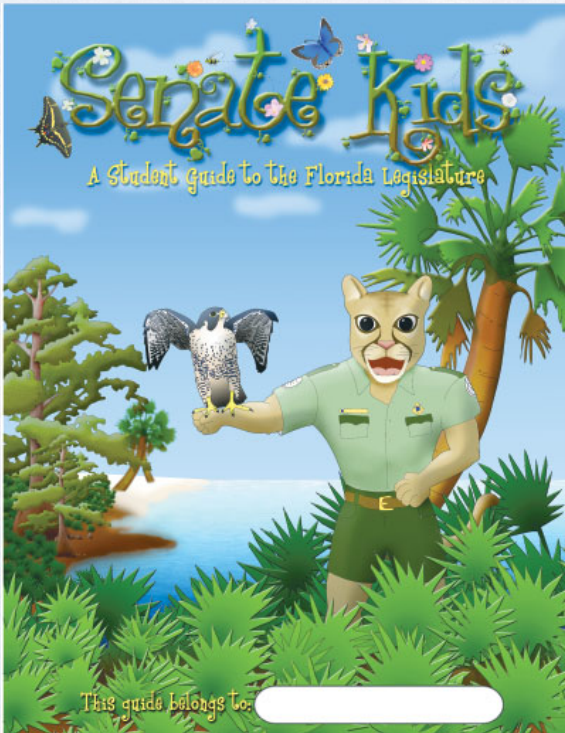
* Selected items were taken from *The Florida Handbook*, 1997-1998 by Allen Morris, published by The Peninsular Publishing Company, Tallahassee, FL.

Photo of the orange is courtesy of the Florida State Archives

Hey Kids, visit us on the web!

We have games, puzzles, fun facts, and more about our state.

www.flsenate.gov



This Internet site introduces younger Floridians to the Florida Senate. Designed to be educational, it appeals to children of all ages. This site is easily accessed (interface is not browser specific) and low-resolution graphics allow for ease of use. Senate Kids is always under construction. Keep checking for new features.



About This Handbook

This Florida Senate Handbook is published by the Secretary of the Senate. It is distributed free of charge to Capitol visitors and other interested Floridians to enhance their knowledge and understanding of Florida's government, and particularly, the Florida Senate.

Faye W. Blanton
Secretary of the Senate

Visit the Florida Senate's homepage:
<http://www.flsenate.gov>



Ken Pruitt
President of the Senate

PAT