



THE FLORIDA SENATE
SENATOR BEN ALBRITTON
President

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Contact: Katie Betta
(850) 487-5229

Senate Republican Caucus Elects Senator Jim Boyd as President-Designate
Senator Boyd to Serve as Senate President for the 2026-28 Legislative Term

Tallahassee—The Florida Senate Republican Caucus today unanimously elected Senator Jim Boyd (R-Bradenton) as the President-Designate for the 2026-28 Legislative Term.

“A dedicated family man and business owner, we have all witnessed his strong work ethic, innate intellect, and willingness to tackle tough issues with grace and good humor. Jim always works to build consensus and has spent countless hours with Senators on both sides of the aisle exploring and talking through ideas to make legislation stronger and bring tough and complex issues across the finish line,” **said Senate President Ben Albritton (R-Wauchula)**, who presided over today’s ceremony. “As we continue into the fourth decade of our Republican Majority in the Florida Senate, now, more than ever, Floridians are showing strong support for a conservative agenda, guided by leaders who defend faith, family, the dignity of work, and the opportunity to live in freedom. Jim Boyd is the right leader to carry on the legacy of Republican leadership in the Florida Senate, and I couldn’t be more blessed by him.”

President-Designate Boyd was nominated by **Senator Danny Burgess (R-Zephyrhills)**, who stated: “You hear the priorities of your constituents. You have a servant’s heart, and a leader’s spine. You will take on the big issues, not pretend that they don’t exist. You are guided by your conservative principles, not by convenience or popularity. You don’t believe that we are here to be someone, but to do something. You don’t speak on this floor often, but when you do, people listen. You are a tough opponent, but a fair one. You are vision-driven, but people-focused. You don’t look for a fight, but you aren’t afraid of one. You set the diamond standard for all of us.”

The nomination was seconded by **Senator Jay Trumbull (R-Panama City)**, who stated: “In an age when politicians can often lose their way in fog and noise, Jim Boyd has remained strikingly transparent, speaking with honesty, acting with consistency, and building trust not through promises, but through performance. You never wonder where he stands because his principles are not hidden in shadow but illuminated by action. Long after the applause fades and the headlines shift, Jim Boyd’s legacy will remain in the reforms we will pass, the voices he will amplify, the relationships he will build, and the standard of leadership he will set.”

President-Designate Boyd delivered the following comments, as prepared for delivery, following recognitions of his family, special guests, and dignitaries.

This moment is not about me. It is about the institution we serve, the legacy we inherit and the future we are called to build together.

When I think about the responsibility of leading this chamber, my mind turns to the story of Samuel Sparks Lamb, known as the father of Palmetto, which is my hometown.

In 1866, Samuel Lamb and his wife packed up their six children and traveled more than 600 miles from Mississippi to the banks of the Manatee River. They didn't come to chase comfort — they came to chase opportunity.

Samuel Lamb built more than a home — he built a community. He donated his land to create schools, churches, a park and a library. He laid out a Main Street wide enough to welcome the generations to come. His vision was not just for his family, but for a future he would never fully see.

The Sarasota Herald-Tribune once said, “Samuel Sparks Lamb was no trailblazer” — that the route from Tampa to Manatee County had already been “beaten out of the wilderness.” But I disagree. Because trailblazing is not always about clearing paths through the wilderness. Sometimes, it is about building a vision where others only see empty space.

This is how Florida came to be.

People from every background, every corner of this country, and every part of the world came here searching for sunshine and opportunity. And generation after generation, Floridians take what they find and build something greater for those who will follow.

As members of the Florida Legislature, I believe that is our calling. To be trailblazers. To take the Florida entrusted to us today and envision what it can be tomorrow. To widen the path, to expand opportunity and to ensure our children inherit a state even stronger than the one we know today.

My vision is a Florida where every person has the chance to prosper. A Florida where families feel safe in their neighborhoods, where parents know their voices matter and where every child can pursue an education that prepares them for the future. A Florida where businesses grow, innovators thrive and hard work is rewarded. A Florida where our natural treasures — from the Everglades to our rivers and coasts — are protected, restored and cherished. For they are the lifeblood of both our economy and our heritage. Above all, my vision is a Florida that remains the beacon of freedom and opportunity for our nation.

To reach this vision, we must continue to lead with principle. We will defend the taxpayer and ensure every dollar is used wisely. We will break down barriers for job creators and innovators.

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We will protect the rights of parents and strengthen our schools. We will stand firmly with law enforcement to keep our communities safe. We will conserve Florida's natural beauty so that it endures for generations. These are not just policies, they are commitments. They are the values that will guide this chamber under my leadership.

Yes, we face challenges. Growth is stretching our infrastructure. Demand is testing our schools and health care system. The economy is changing in ways that require adaptation and resilience. But I believe in this chamber. I believe in the strength of principled leadership. I believe in each of you. And I believe in the great state of Florida.

Together, we will meet these challenges with courage. We will debate vigorously, but we will treat each other with respect. We will disagree at times, but we will never lose sight of why we are here: to serve the people of Florida.

Just as Samuel Lamb built with a vision for generations beyond his own, so must we. We are not simply caretakers of this moment; we are stewards of Florida's future.

So let us lead with courage. Let us govern with conviction. Let us widen the road for the people of Florida, so that this great state shines brighter than ever before.

Thank you. May God bless you and may God bless the great state of Florida.

About Today's Designation Ceremony

The prayer opening today's ceremony was offered by Pastor Tim Perrier, Chaplain of the Florida House of Representatives.

The State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota Choir performed The National Anthem. The Color Guard was organized by the Manatee County Sheriff's Office and included: Commander, Detective Darryl Davis; Assistant Commander, Sergeant Keyion Laws; Detective Lorenzo Waiters; and, Deputy Charles Bigby.

President-Designate Boyd was accompanied by his wife of more than 40 years, Mrs. Sandy Boyd. The couple's daughter and son-in-law, Ansley and Ryan Haskins; son and daughter-in-law, Austin and Molly Boyd; and, grandchildren Houston and Emmette Haskins and Hugh Boyd also attended today's ceremony. Extended family included Senator Boyd's sister and brother-in-law, Didi and Rick Hager; Mrs. Boyd's sister, Jo-Ann Boerner; and, Senator Boyd's cousins, Valerie and Jeff Gargiulo.

Video of President-Designate Boyd's designation speech and today's ceremony can be found via the Florida Channel at www.TheFloridaChannel.org.

About President-Designate Boyd

Senator Jim Boyd, 68, was elected to the Florida Senate in November 2020, after serving in the Florida House of Representatives from 2010 to 2018. He has also served as Commissioner on the

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North River Fire District, a volunteer firefighter/EMT, and as a member of the Palmetto City Council.

A lifelong resident of Manatee County and a small business owner, through his family-owned Boyd Insurance & Investments, Senator Boyd has dedicated his career to helping Florida families and businesses safeguard their lives and most valuable assets. An active member of the community, Senator Boyd also serves on several volunteer boards, including the Manatee Memorial Board of Governors.

Senator Boyd earned a bachelor's degree from Florida State University in 1978. He and his wife of over 40 years, Sandy, live in Bradenton and have two adult children, Ansley and Austin, who also reside in Manatee County with their families. They are proud grandparents to three grandchildren.

Senator Boyd is the third member of his family to serve in the Florida Legislature. His grandfather, Hugh Boyd, served in the Florida House in the 1940s. His uncle, Wilbur Boyd, served in the Florida House from 1959 – 1966 and in the Senate from 1967 – 1972, including a term as President Pro Tempore from 1970 – 1972.

For more information, please visit www.FLSenate.gov.

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