

TOM LEE

Florida State Senator
District 20



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2018 SESSION PREVIEW

The 2018 Florida Legislative Session is fast approaching - beginning January 9, 2018 and running through March. While I am hesitant to make predictions about how a Session might turn out, I am confident you'll see a host of issues critical to Floridians. Legislation to tackle assignment of benefits abuse, repeal PIP insurance, reform our education and criminal justice systems, and address Florida's opioid epidemic have already been filed. My priority, as always, is

the people of District 20. My staff and I had the pleasure of meeting and working with numerous constituents over the summer to resolve matters affecting us right here at home. We had the privilege to hear from you at town halls, delegation meetings, and panel discussions. As your voice in Tallahassee, it is vital that we continue to keep an open line of communication with you throughout the legislative process.

If you have ideas on legislation, feedback on what you're seeing in Tallahassee, or need help in any way, call us anytime at (813) 653-7061. I look forward to hearing from you.

PROPOSED LEGISLATION

I have proposed several bills this Session aimed at curbing fraud, increasing access to quality healthcare, and putting more money back into your pocket. Some highlights of what you can expect out of me this year include:



Senator Lee with the Florida Life Care Residents Association



Senator Lee accepting an award from Hillsborough County Sheriff Chad Chronister

ENHANCED PROTECTIONS FOR FL SENIORS

When a senior decides to join a Continuing Care Retirement Community (CCRC), it is a significant decision and a huge investment of their assets – usually their life’s savings. Unfortunately, a few bad actors in Florida took advantage of loopholes in current law to engage in hazardous business practices that resulted in financial and emotional harm to CCRC residents and their families. I’ve proposed legislation that ensures residents are adequately protected without placing onerous regulations on those CCRCs operating in good faith.

AUTO INSURANCE REFORM

It’s about time we do something to stop the fraud, abuse, and complexity of Florida’s “No-fault system,” also known as PIP insurance. I am proposing to repeal PIP and move Florida to a tort-based system with mandated bodily injury and first-party medical coverages. This will restore personal and financial responsibility to Florida’s roads, provide more adequate liability coverage at a reasonable price for consumers, and preserve some important protections for our healthcare providers.

INNOVATIVE & AFFORDABLE HEALTHCARE

We all get sick from time to time, but many of us avoid going to the doctor because it is almost always expensive and inconvenient. My proposal establishes Direct Primary Care, a new model for delivering healthcare aimed at making it easy and affordable for patients to get the help they need whenever and wherever they need it.

GREATER ACCOUNTABILITY & TRANSPARENCY

Community Redevelopment Agencies (CRAs) are mechanisms used by local governments to address blighted and slum-ridden areas using property tax dollars. Recent reports have shed light on several examples of mismanagement of large amounts of public dollars by CRAs throughout our state. I filed a bill to increase CRA accountability and transparency by requiring annual ethics training for CRA board members and ensuring CRAs focus solely on development. The local taxes raised by CRAs come out of the pockets of hardworking families, and this bill will ensure those funds are being used appropriately.



Tampa Tiger Bay Club



2017 Pasco County Legislative Delegation Meeting

CONSTITUTION REVISION COMMISSION



I am proud to spend the next year serving on the Constitution Revision Commission (CRC), a thirty-seven member Commission that meets once every twenty years to review Florida's Constitution and propose changes for voter consideration. Any amendments proposed by the CRC are placed on the 2018 General Election ballot. I've proposed several amendments for consideration by the Commission, including:

PROPOSAL 67: BAN DOG RACING IN THE STATE OF FLORIDA

There is growing recognition that these animals live in inhumane conditions, a reality that is out of line with the moral standard of Floridians. For over a decade, the Legislature has fought to end greyhound racing, but special interests derail the issue every year. Now is our opportunity to finally end the mistreatment of greyhounds, reduce the amount of gambling in our state, and restore community values.

PROPOSAL 66: ALTER THE ROLE OF FLORIDA'S LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR TO CREATE MORE VALUE FOR TAXPAYERS

Floridians pay more than \$265,000 annually to employ a Lieutenant Governor and Secretary of State, yet the Lieutenant Governor has almost no formal responsibilities. This proposal is an opportunity to combine the two positions, which will eliminate wasteful spending and create a more efficient and streamlined government.

PROPOSAL 68: INCREASE WATCHDOG AUTHORITY OVER STATE CONTRACTS

The people who spend the state's money (the Governor and the Legislature) should not have the exclusive authority to decide how much money to spend. Adding Florida's Chief Financial Officer (CFO) to the discussion lends an objective voice and creates a necessary system of checks and balances that one would expect to see in any responsible corporate governance structure.

My proposed amendment authorizes the CFO to participate in economic, demographic, and state revenue estimating conferences, giving the position a seat at the table when it comes to projecting Florida's fiscal future.

The amendment also gives the CFO, as Florida's constitutionally mandated check writer, the ability to review and approve state contracts worth more than \$10 million. Granting the CFO watchdog authority gives them the unique ability to hold state contractors accountable.

GET INVOLVED!

You can track the actions of the CRC, submit comments and review information on all scheduled meetings here: <http://flcrc.gov>

Merry Christmas!



FROM MY FAMILY TO YOURS,
Wishing you a safe and healthy holiday season!



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