



## Good Morning!

This past week I introduced the proposed budget for the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Environment and General Government. The proposal included \$639 million to restore and protect Florida's water quality, exceeding Governor Ron DeSantis's request for \$625 million. The budget highlights include:

- \$322 million for Everglades Restoration
- \$192.6 million for Water Quality Improvements
  - \$25 million for the Indian River Lagoon
  - \$50 million in Lake Okeechobee Watershed Restoration
  - \$25 million for Septic to Sewer and Wastewater Programs
  - \$25 million for TMDLS
  - \$25 million for North Florida's Rivers
  - \$10 million for Coral Reef Protection
  - \$37 million for General Water Projects
- \$50 million for Springs Restoration
- \$40 million for Alternative Water Supply
- \$511.6 million for Drinking and Wastewater Revolving Loan Programs
- \$50 million for Beach Restoration
- \$10.8 million for the Blue Green Algae Task Force
- \$4.2 million for Red Tide Research
- \$5 million for Innovative Technologies to Combat Harmful Algal Blooms
- \$27 million for State Parks Facilities Improvements
- \$21.8 million for Citrus Research and Health Response Programs
- \$125 million for Florida Forever Program
  - This includes funding all 137 local Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program (FRDAP) projects for the acquisition or development of land for public outdoor recreation.



Protecting our natural resources is one of my top priorities and is reflected in our budget proposal. I look forward to working with my colleagues over the next few weeks to pass a balanced budget that supports the goals of Floridians.

As a reminder, these proposals are just one of the steps in developing the state's budget. The Florida Senate and House of Representatives must each pass a budget, which are referred to as general appropriations bills. Differences between the Senate and House budgets are resolved in a joint conference committee. The report of this conference committee becomes the General Appropriations Act and is signed by the Senate President and Speaker of the House, respectively, before it is presented to the Governor. The Governor has the authority to reject the budget, as well as line item veto authority which can be used to delete any specific budget item within the Appropriations Act. Once the Governor has completed his review, he then signs the General Appropriations Act into law, establishing the statewide budget for the next fiscal year.

I consider it a great honor to represent District 17. Please share [this link](#) with your friends and family so that they too can sign up for the [Mayfield Minute](#).

If you or someone you know needs my assistance, please don't hesitate to contact my office. My staff and I are here to serve you!

---

## Legislation Update

This past week I **presented** the following legislation:

[Senate Bill \(SB\) 716: County Boundaries](#) has passed the Senate Community Affairs Committee. This bill provides for a boundary line change to property that is located partially in Indian River County and partially in St. Lucie County. This legislation alters the boundary lines, which has the support of the property owners and both Counties involved. The bill will now go to the Senate Governmental Oversight and Accountability Committee for consideration.

[SB 1742: Home Medical Equipment Providers](#) exempts licensed physicians and chiropractic physicians who sell or rent electrostimulation medical equipment supplies to their patients, from the requirement of an additional sales license. This legislation will now go to the Senate Governmental Oversight and Accountability Committee for consideration.

The following legislation which I am **co-sponsoring** advanced in the Senate this week:

[SB 1000: Traffic and Pedestrian Safety](#) was approved by the Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee. This important legislation, filed by Senator Keith Perry, requires a pedestrian crosswalk on a public highway, street or road, which is located at any point other than at an intersection (also known as "midblock" crosswalks), to be controlled by a coordinated traffic control signal and pedestrian control signal. Tragically a twelve year old girl was struck and killed just before the Christmas holiday while using one of the A1A midblock crossings in Satellite Beach. This horrific incident highlights the need for these improved safety measures. This bill will now go to the Senate Transportation, Tourism and Economic Development Appropriations Committee for consideration.

[SR 142: Abolishing the Constitution Revision Commission \(CRC\)](#) was approved by the Senate Rules Committee. The Florida Constitution requires that a CRC be convened once every 20 years to examine the Florida Constitution and propose any amendments that it deems appropriate. In the 2018 election the CRC recommended 13 disjointed amendments to the Florida Constitution for voter consideration. If this resolution is agreed to by three-fifths of the membership of each house of the legislature, it will become a constitutional amendment to be placed on the 2020 General Election ballot. This will now go to the Senate Floor for consideration.

---

## Florida's New B.E.S.T. K-12 Standards

Governor Ron DeSantis and Education Commissioner Richard Corcoran recently announced that the Florida Department of Education has completed the review of Florida's K-12 academic standards for English Language Arts and Mathematics, and has made recommendations for revisions. The proposed Florida Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking (B.E.S.T.) Standards will provide the foundation for teaching and learning.

*"When I took office, I made a pledge to the citizens of Florida to overhaul our educational standards to remove all vestiges of Common Core and return to the basics of reading, writing and arithmetic," said Governor DeSantis. "I am pleased that this historic task has been completed and we are well on our way*

*to making Florida the best state in the nation for education. My deepest thanks to Commissioner Corcoran and Department of Education staff, Florida teachers, parents, subject matter experts and stakeholders for their participation in this transparent, in-depth and comprehensive process."*

*"These new standards not only incorporate civics throughout every grade, a first of their kind in the nation, ensuring that our students are well versed in the United States Constitution and the responsibilities of citizenship, they also provide educators with clear and concise standards," said Commissioner Corcoran. "I am confident our students will thrive academically and be well prepared for success."*

On January 31, 2019, Governor DeSantis issued Executive Order 19-32, outlining a path for Florida to improve its education system by eliminating Common Core and revising standards to ensure high quality academic standards. Having filed legislation in the past to repeal common core, I am happy to see this initiative advance to ensure Florida students will receive a world-class education to prepare them for jobs of the future. Learn more at [FLDOE.org](https://fldoe.org).

---

## District 17 Highlights

### Florida Wildlife Hospital

The Florida Wildlife Hospital and Sanctuary (FWH), located in Brevard County, rescues and rehabilitates thousands of sick, injured or orphaned animals each year. The Marine Resources Council will be hosting a presentation by FWH Executive Director Tracy Frampton, to discuss the organization and how people can reduce their impact on local wildlife.

Florida Wildlife Hospital Presentation  
Tuesday, February 4th at Noon  
Ted Moorhead Lagoon House  
3275 Dixie Hwy NE, Palm Bay

This event is free to attend and open to the public. For more information or to register, please visit their website [SaveTheIRL.org](https://SaveTheIRL.org).

---

### Indian River School District Stars Awards

The School District of Indian River County (SDIRC) held their annual "Stars of the Year" Gala on Monday, January 27, at the Sebastian River High School's Performing Arts Center. Congratulations to the 2020 Teacher of the Year, Diana O'Connor from Beachland Elementary; and Employee of the Year, Tiffany Langdon from Liberty Magnet.

The Florida Department of Education also recently recognized 15 of the Schools in SDIRC as [Five-Star Schools](#). These schools were recognized for being committed to incorporating family and community members into the school environment to enhance student learning.

Family and community involvement have a direct impact on the lives of our students. It is wonderful to see school leaders and educators engaging the community to prepare our students for future success.

---

# STARBASE

The 45th Space Wing recently opened the STARBASE Academy at Patrick Space Force Base. STARBASE is a Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Enrichment Academy founded by the Department of Defense (DoD).

STARBASE is designed to raise interest, improve knowledge and skills of youth in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). By exposing students to the technological environments and positive role models like those on our military bases and installations, a long-term pipeline of future military and DoD talent can be nurtured.

STARBASE will be providing up to 25 hours of instruction from military personnel to 5th grade students from Brevard Public Schools each week. The 45th Space Wing and BPS jointly applied for the DoD program, which is currently underway at 66 sites across the country. The Space Coast Economic Development Council is also providing funding to help cover transportation costs.

---

Follow me on Facebook and Twitter, and visit my [Senate website](#)



---

## Contact Information

### Melbourne Office

900 E. Strawbridge Ave.  
Melbourne, FL 32901  
(321) 409-2025

Staff: [Adrienne Cronebaugh](#)  
[Yvette Campbell](#)

### Tallahassee Office

322 Senate Office Building  
404 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100  
(850) 487-5017

Staff: [Lauren Lange](#)

### Vero Beach Office

Administration Building B  
1801 27th Street  
Vero Beach, FL 32960  
(772) 226-1970

Staff: [Kaitlyn Currey](#)

---