

Good Morning!

This past week the Florida Legislature held budget conferencing meetings. Budget conference is a process by which the House and Senate work out our differences until we arrive at a unified concurrent budget that each chamber will then adopt.

The Florida Legislature has reached an agreement on key items, including full funding of the Sadowski Affordable Housing Trust and providing \$100 million for Florida Forever.

It has been a pleasure to serve as the Chair of the Senate Agriculture, Environment and General Government Appropriations Committee, and to work with House Members, Chair Holly Raschein and Chair Jay Williamson.

The 2020 Legislative Session has been extended to Thursday, March 19th to accommodate the 72 hour budget review period that is required before we may cast our vote on the Budget for the 2020-2021 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

The Florida Legislature **passed the following legislation** this past week:

[SB 712: Clean Waterways Act](#) takes action based on the recommendations of the Blue-Green Algae Task Force in order to stop excess pollution and restore our waterways. This legislation addresses many sources of environmental pollution by transforming policy related to septic tanks, biosolids, wastewater and stormwater infrastructure, and agriculture. I am proud to have sponsored this bill to improve water quality throughout Florida.

[SB 1414: Fish and Wildlife Activities](#) increases the number of free fishing days from 4 to 6 days, to allow more anglers to get out and experience our state's natural resources. This legislation also expands the list of Conditional Nonnative species to include the Green Iguana and Black & White Tegu.

[HB 1091: Environmental Enforcement](#) increases penalties for violations relating to sanitary sewer overflows.

[HB 1189: Genetic Information for Insurance Purposes](#) provides that a life insurer may not cancel, limit or deny insurance coverage or establish new rates based on the genetic information of applicants.

[SB 994: Guardianship](#) reforms the state's guardianship program to better protect elderly individuals no longer able to care for themselves. This legislation adds additional factors for a court to consider when appointing a guardian, revises the requirements for a petition for the appointment of a guardian, and prohibits a guardian from consenting to or signing a Do Not Resuscitate order or taking other serious actions on behalf of a ward without court approval. These additional safeguards are in response to a case in Orlando where a guardian signed Do Not Resuscitate orders against the wishes of the wards and without the knowledge of the wards' families.

[HB 835: Alzheimer's Disease](#) creates the position of a Dementia Director within the Department of Elderly Affairs to combat Alzheimer's disease in Florida.

[SB 170: Donna's Law](#) eliminates the statute of limitations for prosecuting sexual assault against any victim under the age of 18, regardless of whether the victim reports the crime within 72 hours. This replaces a complicated system of varying time limitations based on the age of the victim and reporting requirements. The bill was inspired by women such as Donna Hedrick who found the courage to come forward and share their stories, only to find that they were barred from seeking justice by an arbitrary deadline.

[SB 1326: State of Hope Act](#) makes changes to the child welfare programs administered by the Department of Children and Families to promote accountability and improve program performance.

[HB 7011: Zachary Martin Act](#) protects high school athletes from suffering heat stroke by requiring the Florida High School Athletic Association to establish requirements for cooling zones, and access to automated external defibrillators. This legislation is named after Zachary Martin, a high school student that died during a football practice in Southwest Florida.

[SB 646: Student Athlete Achievement Act](#) allows student athletes the right to benefit from their own name, image or likeness, just like every other student on their college campus. This legislation will support Florida's 11,000 student athletes in their efforts to participate in the free market.

Governor Ron DeSantis **signed the following bills into law** this past week:

[HB 599: Consultant Pharmacists](#) expands the locations where consultant pharmacists can practice to include ambulatory surgery centers, inpatient hospice facilities, hospitals, alcohol or chemical dependency centers, ambulatory care centers or nursing homes within continuing care retirement communities, in addition to nursing homes or home health agencies.

[HB 607: Direct Care Workers](#) allows advanced practice registered nurses to provide primary care independent of physicians and for certified nurse midwives to work autonomously.

Please follow me on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) for live updates from the Capitol.

Business Damage Assessment Survey for Coronavirus

The Florida Senate is working diligently with the Florida House of Representatives and Governor Ron DeSantis to ensure the Florida Department of Health and Florida Division of Emergency Management (DEM) have the funding and resources necessary to address COVID-19 (coronavirus) in Florida.

Governor Ron DeSantis recently released the Business Damage Assessment survey to assess the impact of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) on Florida's local business operations. The survey, managed by the

Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO), will evaluate businesses affected by COVID-19 and the impacts the virus has had on the local economy. This information will help guide actions so that the appropriate relief programs can begin.

“ Gathering information about the impact COVID-19 has on Florida businesses and industries will be invaluable to the state’s efforts in coordinating our response ,” said Governor DeSantis. “ It is important that we understand the total impact COVID-19 has on businesses to ensure that we access the resources that may be available .”

You can access the Business Damage Assessment Survey online at [Floridadisaster.biz](https://floridadisaster.biz) . Results from this survey will be shared with state agencies and local partners. Surveys submitted by small businesses can be used to access the Small Business Administration’s Economic Injury Disaster Loan, made available for COVID-19 through the Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act.

For the most current information about COVID-19 in Florida, please visit the Florida Department of Health’s dedicated [COVID-19 webpage](#) . For any other questions related to COVID-19 in Florida, please contact the state’s dedicated COVID-19 Call Center by calling (866) 779-6121. The Call Center is available 24 hours per day. Inquiries may also be emailed to COVID-19@flhealth.gov .

District 17 Highlights

Brevard & IRC Schools Extend Spring Break

Following the recommendations of the Florida Department of Education (DOE), Brevard Public Schools and Indian River County School District will be extending spring break an additional week. Students will not be returning to their classrooms before Monday, March 30th. Extracurricular activities, including sports, have also been canceled until at least March 30th.

For the most updated information on school closures, please visit BrevardSchools.org or IndianRiverSchools.org.

Humiston Park Coastal Cleanup

Coastal Connections will be hosting a beach cleanup and will also be collecting data to better understand how much debris is in our waterways.

[Coastal Cleanup - Humiston Beach Park](#)

March 21, 2020 9:00 am - 11:00 am

Humiston Beach Park

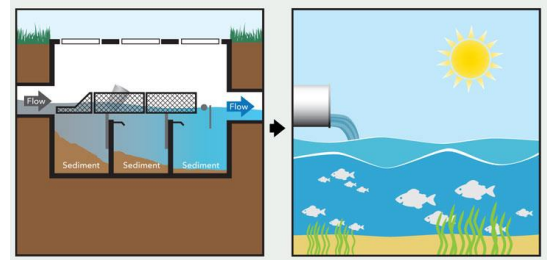
3000 Ocean Dr, Vero Beach

Coastal Connections works to restore the function and beauty of our coastal habitats through education, research and conservation activities. For more information or to sign up to participate, please email info@coastal-connections.org.

Indian River Lagoon Restoration Efforts in Melbourne

In their efforts to improve water quality in the Indian River Lagoon, The City of Melbourne is installing the largest nutrient-separating baffle box east of the Mississippi River.

A baffle box is an underground structure made up of chambers that trap debris, trash and other pollutants from stormwater that flows off the streets into stormdrains after a heavy rain event. Melbourne's structure has an additional feature that will remove harmful pollutants, like nitrogen and phosphorus, which have contributed to deteriorating water quality in the Indian River Lagoon.



The baffle box is currently being constructed in the Cliff Creek neighborhood, which will treat a 515-acre drainage basin. The project is expected to reduce loading of 3,952 pounds of nitrogen, and 797 pounds of phosphorus per year. Learn more about this project and its status at MelbourneFlorida.org.

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



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