



Good Morning!

This past week, the House and Senate reached an agreement on the 2020-2021 budget for our state. A final vote to pass the \$93.2 billion budget, and officially end the 2020 Legislative Session, took place on Thursday, March 19th.

A few of the budget highlights include our investment in protecting the environment by allocating \$690 million for water quality restoration. This includes \$322.6 million for Everglades restoration, \$236.6 million for water quality improvements like septic to sewer and wastewater improvement programs, and \$25 million for projects to restore the Indian River Lagoon.

The budget also invests \$500 million to increase funding for teacher pay, which could increase base teacher salaries to \$47,500.

The Sadowski Affordable housing program was fully funded at \$370 million.

The Florida Senate has agreed to direct millions of dollars in state funding to respond to the coronavirus and its impacts to Floridians. Funds will be used to address the most pressing needs, which may include: laboratory supplies and personal protective equipment; additional statewide staff to expand capacity to investigate and monitor individuals with COVID-19 and those at risk for contracting the virus; and enhanced communication to the general public, healthcare providers and visitors to our state.

Finally, the state's reserves will be replenished to nearly \$4 billion, which can be used in times of need and to ensure Florida's AAA bond rating.

The budget, also known as the 2020-2021 General Appropriations Act, has been signed by Senate President Bill Galvano and Speaker of the House Jose Oliva. It will now be presented to Governor Ron DeSantis for his consideration.

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. If you would like to express your support or concerns about any specific items included in the Legislature's budget, please [Contact Governor DeSantis's Office](#).

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!

Local Projects Funded in the 2020-2021 State Budget

Indian River Lagoon Water Quality Improvement Projects- \$25,000,000

The St. Johns River Water Management District will use these funds for Indian River Lagoon water quality improvement projects.

Brevard County

Brevard County Water Quality Improvements - \$2,200,000

This funding supports Brevard County in making water quality improvements to stop raw sewage pollution and initiate clean-up of the Indian River Lagoon. This includes upgrading its existing facilities that provide advanced waste treatment, and expanding service to homes and businesses that are not connected to an existing wastewater treatment facility.

Brevard County Septic to Sewer Conversion - \$1,000,000

This will support septic to sewer conversions for 1,019 homes in Brevard County, removing an estimated 33,500 pounds of nitrogen pollution from entering the Indian River Lagoon each year.

Indian Harbour Beach & Satellite Beach Muck Dredging - \$1,000,000

The project will remove the muck via hydraulic dredging from the Grand Canal along the Cities of Indian Harbour Beach and Satellite Beach, which will alleviate an estimated 73 acres of muck from the Lagoon. A permitted county spoil site exists in the area to deposit the muck and treat the interstitial water from the operations.

City of Melbourne Septic to Sewer - \$380,000

This project provides funding for the installation of infrastructure to buildings and properties utilizing septic systems in the City of Melbourne. The project includes extending sewer service to unserved neighborhoods via installation of gravity sewer or low pressure force mains. New sewer infrastructure will lead to improved water quality the Indian River Lagoon.

Florida Institute of Technology's (FIT) Restore Lagoon Inflow Research – \$800,000

Funding will support FIT Indian River Lagoon Institute continue their work to find solutions for improving water quality in the Indian River Lagoon (IRL). The Restore Inflow study is investigating the impacts of how flows impact the IRL.

Cape Canaveral Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements- \$250,000

The project includes improvements to two areas of the City of Cape Canaveral's Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). One part of the project includes the replacement of the pre-treatment system (headworks) which collects debris from the sanitary sewer system influent. Another part of the project is the replacement of the sand filter system which filters out nitrogen and phosphorous from the waste stream.

Melbourne Village Dayton Bridge and Culvert Replacement - \$250,000

Funding will provide for the replacement of the Dayton Bridge and storm water culvert on the M1 canal with a new concrete culvert and a new bridge for vehicles.

Melbourne Eau Gallie Dam Replacement - \$250,000

This project will replace the existing fifty-five (55) year old steel sheet pile impoundment dam within the Eau Gallie River near Apollo Boulevard.

Rockledge Biosolids Final Design- \$150,000

This project supports Rockledge Biosolids operation in upgrading their biosolids treatment system to an aerobic/anoxic digestion to produce class B biosolids.

Brevard County EOC Construction- Phase 1 Completion- \$1,000,000

This funding provides for the complete pre-construction site work for the new Emergency Operations Center (EOC) for Brevard County. The purpose of EOC activation is to centralize response and recovery decisions, plans, and operational activities so that the efficiency, quality, and quantity of resources achieves maximum effectiveness to support our community.

Brevard County Re-entry Portal - \$500,000

The Re-entry Portal is a collaboration of My Community Cares, the Brevard Reentry Task Force, Brevard Homeless Coalition and the Florida Dept of Corrections to facilitate the successful reintegration of ex-offenders returning to Brevard County.

Space Coast Economic Development Council Talent Asset Pipeline - \$250,000

Funding will support the Space Coast EDC's Manufacturing Talent Asset Pipeline program, which supports the development of a strong workforce through standardized training and increased awareness of high-wage career paths.

Astronaut High School's New Welding Technology Program - \$100,000

Brevard Public Schools will be adding a Welding Technology Program to Astronaut High School in Titusville to support the demand for certified welders in Brevard and surrounding counties. Funding will be used for lab renovations and to purchase necessary equipment to meet program standards.

Merritt Island High School StangStation- \$10,000

This funding is to support Merritt Island High School in building a commercial satellite ground tracking station – called StangStation. StangStation will begin with a fixed antenna to track selected small satellites in Low Earth Orbit and eventually they hope to incorporate a steerable antenna system to expand capabilities.

Florida Tech - (BAMx) Biomedical Aerospace Manufacturing Multiplier- \$1,500,000

This funding will support the addition of specialized equipment supporting multidisciplinary engineering and entrepreneurship curriculum at FIT.

Brevard Adults with Disabilities- \$199,714

The project will address increased employment and community inclusion opportunities for individuals with disabilities. This project is designed to provide work opportunities to those who are not able to sustain community employment and increase worker productivity, skills and, therefore, their income, by creating more focused training approaches.

Easterseals of Brevard County - \$150,000

Easterseals Florida Life Skills and Employment-Readiness Program will expand services to Brevard County. The program provides education and training to individuals with disabilities and special needs.

Brevard Zoo Aquarium- \$500,000

Brevard Zoo is the process of planning and funding the development of a world-class aquarium on a second campus in Port Canaveral. The Aquarium and Conservation Campus will be located on a 14-acre site on the shore of the Banana River with direct access to Route 528.

STEPS Women's Level II Residential Treatment - \$250,000

Specialized Treatment, Education and Prevention Services (STEPS), Inc. will provide opioid addiction treatment for pregnant and post-partum women, and women with children, who are residents of Brevard County.

Circles of Care - \$700,000

Funds will be utilized to purchase Baker Act Crisis Stabilization Unit beds and Mental Health treatment beds for Brevard County for the indigent population that represent an imminent danger to themselves and others.

Indian River County

Indian River County North Sebastian Septic to Sewer Phase II - \$750,000

Funding will be used to support 150 conversions from septic to sewer for residential and businesses still operating on poorly maintained and failing septic systems.

Grove Land Water - \$1,000,000

The Grove Land Reservoir and Stormwater Treatment Area (GLRSTA) project will be located in northern Okeechobee and southern Indian River counties. It will provide 130 million gallons a day in additional freshwater to the St. Johns River. The project consists of a 5,000 acre reservoir, a 2,000 acre storm water treatment area (STA), intake/discharge structures, conveyance improvements, and other associated facilities.

University of Florida Health Center for Psychiatry & Addiction - \$250,000

The Vero Beach UF Health Center for Psychiatry and Addiction provides mental health services to patients in Indian River County at reduced or no cost.

Indian River State College Replace Facility 8 Industrial Tech- Main- \$1,000,000

Indian River State College will use these funds to replace Facility 8 Industrial Technology on the main campus.

Highlights from the 2020 Legislative Session

Environment and Natural Resources

It was an honor to serve as the Chair of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Environment, Natural Resources and General Government during the 2020 Legislative Session. This year the Florida Legislature funded a number of critical environmental priorities, including \$100 million for Florida Forever; \$20.8 million to research and combat harmful algal blooms; and \$50 million for Springs Restoration. The Legislature is committed to continuing to invest in protecting Florida's unique environment and water resources, and passed the following legislation:

[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. SB 712 also doubles the fines for wastewater violations. 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.

[SB 680: Shark Fins](#) outlaws the import and export of fins to or from Florida. Shark finning is the process of catching a shark, removing its fins and discarding the shark.

Military and Veteran Affairs

We have a responsibility to our men and women in uniform to make Florida the most Military and Veteran friendly state in the nation. I am proud to announce that this year, the Florida Legislature worked to ensure our Veterans receive the recognition and benefits they deserve. This year, we fought to expand opportunities for military members, Veterans, and their dependents.

[SB 294: Florida Veterans Protection Act](#) fights back against scammers by ensuring swift action for those attempting to commit fraud against our veterans.

[SB 662: Education and the Military](#) gives greater flexibility to transitioning students from military families by considering a student a resident of the school district at the point in time in which the parent is transferred to a military installation within the state, for purposes of enrollment and preferential treatment in special programs.

[HB 879: Surviving Spouse Ad Valorem Tax Reduction](#) authorizes surviving spouses of certain permanently disabled veterans to carry over their discount on ad valorem taxes on homestead property.

[HB 171: Postsecondary Education for Certain Military Personnel](#) requiring specified postsecondary institutions to waive the transcript fee for active duty members of the United States Armed Forces, certain veterans, and their spouses and dependents.

District 17 Highlights

COVID-19 Testing

Yesterday, Governor Ron DeSantis announced that the Florida Department of Emergency Management has sent 600 collection kits to Brevard County.

Currently, the demand for both COVID-19 swab collection kits and COVID-19 test kits exceeds the current supply. However, testing capacity in the U.S. is expected to greatly increase with the approval of COVID-19 tests to be run on high throughput systems by Roche and Thermo Fisher, as well as greatly increased capacity at commercial labs such as LabCorp and Quest.

Until testing capacity increases, the available COVID-19 tests will be given only to patients that meet the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and Florida Department of Health (FDOH) screening guidelines. This includes having symptoms of lower respiratory illness (fever, cough, and shortness of breath) as well as one of the following:

- Close contact with a laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 case
- Patient hospitalized with acute lower respiratory systems of unknown origin
- History of travel to or from an area with widespread community transmission
- History of international travel or cruise
- Over 65 years of age with chronic health conditions
- Immunocompromised

There will be individuals who are ill with respiratory symptoms that want the COVID-19 test, but will likely not be tested if they don't meet the CDC/FDOH criteria. In this case, you are advised to stay at home, self-isolate within your home away from other family members, rest, hydrate, and monitor symptoms.

Anyone who experiences an escalation or other severe symptoms should immediately seek medical attention. This includes:

- Difficulty breathing, or shortness of breath
- Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
- New confusion or inability to arouse
- Bluish lips or face symptoms, chronic chest pain, bluish lips

If you need help determining if you meet the criteria, please visit the [CDC Coronavirus Self-Checker](#).

Schools Provide Meals to Students During Closure

Governor Ron DeSantis and the State Board of Education recently announced that K-12 schools are to remain closed through April 15th.

Brevard Public Schools (BPS) will be opening the following locations as food distribution centers beginning on Monday, March 23rd from 10:30 am – 1:30 pm. Each child will receive a package containing one breakfast meal and one lunch meal. To ensure social distancing, parents are requested to drive in to the bus loop and release their trunk; a BPS employee will place one meal package per child in the trunk of the vehicle. The cafeteria and other school buildings will not be opened to parents and students.

- Atlantis Elementary (Cocoa)
- Cape View Elementary (Cape Canaveral)
- Coquina Elementary (Titusville)
- Mims Elementary (Mims)
- Cambridge Elementary (Cocoa)
- Golfview Elementary (Rockledge)
- Mila Elementary (Merritt Island)
- Central Middle (West Melbourne)
- Jupiter Elementary (Palm Bay)
- Sherwood Elementary (Melbourne)
- Sunrise Elementary (Palm Bay)
- Turner Elementary (Palm Bay)
- University Park Elementary (Melbourne)

The School District of Indian River County's Mobile Cafe's will also be serving breakfast and lunch at the following locations. Please visit IndianRiverSchools.org for the Mobile Cafe schedule and routes, serving the north, central, and south areas of Indian River County.

- Grace Meadows, Fellsmere
- Whispering Pines, Fellsmere
- Sonrise I and II
- Sebastian Public Library, Sebastian
- Pelican Isle, Sebastian
- Barber St Sports Complex, Sebastian
- Pelican Island Elementary, Sebastian
- Grace Groves, Vero Beach
- Orangewood Park Apartments, Vero Beach
- Grace Pines, Vero Beach
- Victory Park Apartments, Vero Beach
- Gifford Youth Achievement Center, Vero Beach
- Hibiscus House, Vero Beach
- Pemberly Palms, Vero Beach
- Walmart, Vero Beach
- Indian River Mall, Sears Parking Lot
- Grace Woods - West, Vero Beach
- Waterside, Vero Beach
- Preserves at Oslo, Vero Beach
- Indian River Academy, Vero Beach

Meals will be distributed to any child 18 years and younger. Per USDA requirements, the child must be present in order to receive a meal package. Parents and children are asked to practice social distancing during this process.

Local State of Emergency Declared

There have been confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Brevard County and Indian River County. Both counties have declared local state of emergencies to encourage social distancing and prevent the spread of COVID-19.

The emergency declaration gives each county additional operational flexibilities during this public health crisis, including the ability to expend additional funds in response to coronavirus. If emergency needs arise, the County is able to appropriate funds as needed.

Brevard County Government has closed their facilities to the public through April 15th, with essential County service operations continuing with limited staffing. Citizens are encouraged to utilize their online services at Brevardfl.gov.

Indian River County has temporarily suspended services that require a physical appearance at the Tax Collector's office and Property Appraiser's office.

Learn more about these emergency declarations by visiting BrevardCounty.us or IRCGov.com.

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



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