

LORANNE AUSLEY
STATE SENATOR DISTRICT 3

THE AUSLEY UPDATE



THE WEEKLY RECAP VIDEO

SENATOR AUSLEY



THE WEEKLY RECAP

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HIGHLIGHTS

Any week that starts in downtown Quincy with Sheriff Morris Young and George Clinton (of funk band Parliament fame!) is bound to be exciting. Many thanks to those who came together to honor Sheriff Young for his years of service to Gadsden County – what a way to celebrate! I also was able to get to Wakulla County for an official tour of the parks of St. Marks, and a great meeting with the Wakulla Elections staff in Crawfordville.



BUDGET

Back in Tallahassee, the pace of committee meetings slowed down a bit -- but not the pace of visits by constituents, advocacy groups, and organizations. We are deep in the budget process, as both chambers have passed their respective budgets and are positioned for conference, where we will begin to hammer out the differences between the Senate and House budgets.

The Senate budget addresses many of my top priorities including **historic investments in pre-K, increased support for public education, affordable housing, protection of our land and water,** and a number of **key provisions impacting small rural counties.** Several appropriations of note to Senate District 3 include funding for Rish Park in Gulf County and Apalachicola Oyster restoration, additional support for the Jefferson County School District as it returns to local control, and a special fund for small county law enforcement officers. There are still some issues to work out including funding for small county roads and bridges, and pay increases for State Attorneys and Public Defenders, but the best news is that both the House and Senate acknowledge the hard work of our state workforce by addressing pay increases for state employees.

HIGHLIGHTS

I had the chance this week to meet with Faith in Florida, a nondenominational group who is committed to finding ways to stop gun violence. I spoke with a local solar company that is providing skilled tech jobs in District 3, a company manufacturing digital license plates that can pay your parking meters and tolls for you and might be available in Florida soon, and folks involved in the freight rail industry about how intermodal solutions can contribute to economic development efforts across the District.



SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

I had several speaking engagements including the Commission for Transportation Disadvantaged, and the Florida Electric Co-operatives Youth Tour. While it is not always easy for anyone to make the trip to the Capitol, it is important to recognize how challenging the trip can be for our disabled citizens, which is why their advocacy around funding for Transportation Disadvantaged programs is so important. And I always love talking to young people who are interested in government and politics, and really enjoyed this impressive group of high school juniors from across the Panhandle.



CONSERVATION FLORIDA'S FILM SCREENING

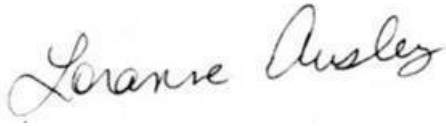
The coolest event of the week goes to Conservation Florida's film screening for a new documentary on Florida's Wildlife Corridor. A huge viewing screen was set up outside in the Capital Courtyard in front of the Capitol steps to show the sneak preview of this beautiful film about saving the "real" Florida for future generations.



Looking forward this weekend to joining the 19th annual H'Cola Black History

Month Celebration and Parade in Apalachicola. With the end of session in sight, I am excited about getting out and around the District, so please send us information about any upcoming events and activities!

Sincerely,



Lorraine Ausley
Senator, District 3

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SENATE OFFICES

-Tallahassee-

202 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100
(850) 487-5003

-Quincy-

20 East Washington Street
Suite D
Quincy, FL 32351
(850) 627-0474