

State Senator Audrey Gibson

District 6

Post Session in Review

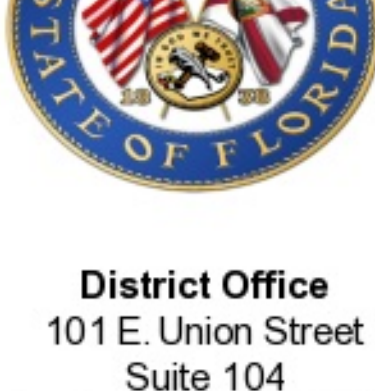


Dear Constituent and Friend,

The 2017 Legislative Session has come to an end and I **THANK YOU** for the opportunity to serve you in the Florida Senate.

After an extended Session, the Senate and House came together on differences in each chambers' spending plans, to pass the State's roughly \$83 billion budget.

This year's budget includes funding for several local issues for the City of Jacksonville and others that have statewide impact, including benefits for our community. The budget will be presented to the Governor soon, who has the power to veto specific line items, or the entire budget. After much effort personally and with Duval and Northeast Florida delegations, I am hopeful the Governor will see the benefit in every line item!



District Office
101 E. Union Street
Suite 104
Jacksonville, FL 32202
(904) 359-2553

Tallahassee Office
405 Senate Office
Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Email Senator Gibson

Jacksonville and issues of benefit in the 2017-18 budget are:

Community programs and social services

State of Florida Police Athletic/Activities League; City of Jacksonville - Shot Spotter; Outward Bound; Wayman Community Development Corporation; Northwest Jacksonville YMCA expansion; Florida's Children Initiative - New Town Success Zone; Communities in Schools; and AMiKids Technology Match and Family Centric Program.

Health and public safety

AGAPE Community Health Center, Inc.; Gateway Community Services; ACORN Clinic; The ARC Jacksonville; and Mary Brogan Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program.

Higher education

Clara White Mission (Homeless Veterans Training Program); University of North Florida (UNF); Science and Engineering Renovation; Advance Manufacturing and Materials Innovation (AMMI); Culture of Completion and Career Initiative; Schultz Hall Renovation; and Edward Waters College Institute on Criminal Justice.

Economic development, roads, and infrastructure

Florida African American Heritage Preservation Network; James Weldon Johnson and Rosamond Johnson Birthplace Project; City of Jacksonville: Crosswalk Countdown Heads; Pedestrian & Bicycle Safety Improvement Program; J.P. Small Historic Park and Museum; Lasalle Street Pump Station Phase 1; Beaver Street Enterprise Center; and NeighborWorks Florida Collaborative.

Total funding: \$30,696,000.00

While community colleges in general and Florida State College Jacksonville in particular, suffered reductions in their overall funding, I engaged in full force to restore \$55 million in performance and developmental education funding, of which loss would have been much more devastating to all of the institutions. As we begin to think about budget 2018-19 it is imperative that the student enrollment numbers (which according to leadership is the reason for the funding reductions), are discussed sooner rather than late in the process.

If you have questions on any of the above, or other budget items, please do not hesitate to contact my office. Also, look for my 2017 policy legislative update soon!

As always, it is an Honor and a Pleasure to serve you in the Florida Senate!

Sincerely,

Audrey Gibson
State Senator
District 6

Session snapshots:



Dr. David El Hassan accepted my invitation to be Doctor of the Day in the Florida Senate



Chaplain of the Day: Bishop Leofric W. Thomas Sr., Open Arms Christian Fellowship



With Bishop Leofric W. Thomas Sr. and Senate President Joe Negron



First Lady Sandy Lorraine Thomas, daughter Kristian Lorraine Thomas and Bishop Leofric W. Thomas Sr. at the Florida Senate



Representative Kimberly Daniels and Representative Tracie Davis welcomes Bishop Leofric W. Thomas Sr. to The Capitol



House chambers voted on the State budget. It's Sine Die time!