



Good Morning!

I hope everyone has enjoyed the first few days of this holiday weekend, and take time to reflect on our great nation and honor those who protect and serve it.

Many of you may be celebrating on or near Florida's beautiful waters. Florida boasts thousands of miles of sparkling waterways that provide essential habitat to a diverse array of fish and wildlife. Now we can also celebrate that those waters will be better protected to ensure that this precious natural resource will be enjoyed for generations to come.



As you know, harmful algal blooms have had a devastating effect on Florida communities in recent years. During the 2020 Legislative Session Representative Bobby Payne and I sponsored [Senate Bill \(SB\) 712, The Clean Waterways Act](#), which Governor Ron DeSantis signed into law this past week. This comprehensive legislation addresses the most significant sources of pollution contributing to these blooms including onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems (septic tanks), overflows and discharges from Waste Water Treatment facilities, agricultural and stormwater runoff. Furthermore, SB 712 provides meaningful deterrents to polluters by doubling fines for wastewater violations.

Governor DeSantis also signed another important bill that I sponsored, [SB 1414: Fish & Wildlife Activities](#), which makes great strides in preserving Florida's wildlife and their ecosystems while also protecting the rights of Floridians to hunt and fish.

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!

Governor Ron DeSantis Signs 2020-2021 State Budget

Governor Ron DeSantis signed the state budget for Fiscal Year 2020-2021. The budget totals \$92.2 billion and provides over \$350 million in tax relief to Floridians. To accommodate the unexpected fiscal challenges Florida faces due to the COVID-19 pandemic the Governor did veto more than \$1 billion in spending.

Even amid the hard fiscal realities we face, Governor DeSantis has consistently shown strong leadership in addressing our state's most pressing environmental needs. As Chair of the Senate Agriculture, Environment and General Government Appropriations Committee I am proud that for the

second year in a row the budget includes record investments in Florida's environment and water quality, providing more than \$640 million for Everglades restoration and water quality improvement projects.

Included in this investment is more than \$322 million for Everglades restoration projects, \$50 million for springs restoration, \$160 million for targeted water quality improvements, \$40 million for alternative water supply, \$25 million to combat harmful algal blooms and red tide.

Additionally, the budget includes \$100 million for Florida Forever, the state's premier conservation and recreation lands acquisition program to ensure the conservation and preservation of our natural resources for future generations.

The budget also provides \$25 million for Indian River Lagoon Water Quality Improvement Projects, plus an additional \$4.5 million was successfully secured by the Brevard Legislative Delegation and \$750,000 by the Indian River County Legislative Delegation for local projects to restore our treasured Lagoon.

Highlights of the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Budget include:

- **K-12 Education** The budget includes \$500 million to raise the minimum K-12 teacher salary into the Top 5 nationwide, and increase salaries for veteran teachers and other eligible instructional personnel. The budget also includes record per student funding of \$7,793, an increase of current year spending by \$137 per student.
- **Higher Education** To continue building on the success of Florida's higher education system, the budget includes historic state operating funding for the Florida College System and State University System at \$1.3 billion and \$2.7 billion respectively. It does not include any tuition increases. The budget also provides an increase of \$18.9 million for Florida's Historically Black Colleges and Universities.
- **Transportation and Infrastructure** Despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the state has not lost its focus on critical transportation infrastructure and hurricane recovery needs. The budget provides \$9.2 billion for the State Transportation Work Program, including \$2.5 billion for highway construction, \$400.5 million for aviation improvements, \$885.5 million for rail/transit projects and \$236.4 million for safety initiatives. \$1.3 billion in federal and state funding for communities to respond to, recover from, and mitigate against major disasters or emergencies. Further, the budget provides \$10 million for state-level election oversight activities, with a focus on cybersecurity enhancements to Florida's election system.
- **Health and Human Services** The health and well-being of all Floridians is paramount. The budget invests \$117.6 million in funding for children and families who receive services through Florida's child welfare system, including \$53 million for major reforms to our child welfare system to enhance accountability and the quality of care a child receives. The budget also includes \$8.7 million in funding to support the Office of Public and Professional Guardianship to ensure the legal rights of Florida's elderly population are protected. The budget includes \$138.1 million in total funding to fight the opioid epidemic in Florida, investing \$81.8 million from the State Opioid Response Grant to address the opioid crisis by providing evidence-based prevention, medication-assisted treatment and recovery.
- **Public Safety** The budget continues to make necessary investments in public safety. It includes \$2.3 million to implement the first Statewide Behavioral Threat Assessment strategy in the country and more than \$8.1 million to expand and enhance Florida's crime databases. The budget includes \$6 million to make Florida's correctional facilities safer, including \$3 million for security equipment. It also provides important funding for pay increases for correctional officers and \$17.3 million for a pilot project that transitions these officers from a 12-hour shift to an 8.5-hour shift.

For more details on the [2020-2021 General Appropriations Act](#) and a complete list of vetoed line items, please visit FLGov.com.

Florida Reemployment Assistance Update

The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) recently announced that they are continuing to make progress in paying reemployment assistance claims. As of July 1st, the [DEO Claims Dashboard](#) reports that the Department has paid 1,584,575 claimants, for a total of more than \$8.2 billion.

Governor Ron DeSantis has directed DEO to continue waiving the work search and work registration requirements for claimants through August 1, 2020. Additionally, the waiting week requirement will continue to be waived through August 1, 2020.

Beginning Monday, July 6th the request to modify the date of your claim must be made by calling the Reemployment Assistance Customer Service center at 1-833-FL-APPLY (833-352-7759 and choose option 5).

For individuals needing to file a new Reemployment Assistance claim, please visit [Connect.MyFlorida.com](#). For additional information regarding Reemployment Assistance benefit programs, please visit [FloridaJobs.org/COVID-19](#) or call (833) 352-7759. As always, please contact me if I can assist you in anyway. My staff and I stand ready to help.

District 17 Highlights

Indian River County COVID-19 Testing Sites

The Florida Department of Health (DOH) has issued a Public Health Advisory advising all individuals in Florida to wear face coverings in any setting where social distancing is not possible, with limited exceptions. As a reminder, the Indian River County Board of Commissioners have recently issued an Emergency Order requiring all persons working in restaurants, grocery stores, food service, retail establishments, businesses open to the public, or any other locations visited by the public where social distancing is not possible, to wear face coverings.

The DOH Indian River County continues to provide drive-through testing for COVID-19 at the Cleveland Clinic Indian River Hospital, by appointment only. To request an appointment, please call (772) 794-7411.

The following drive-through COVID-19 testing locations do not require an appointment and may be visited at the designated times:

Indian River County Fairgrounds
7955 58th Ave, Vero Beach
Mondays and Wednesdays 8:30am to 10:00am

Treasure Coast Community Health
12196 County Road 512, Fellsmere
Fridays 2:30-4:30pm

Gifford Health Center
4675 28th Court, Vero Beach
Saturdays 8:30-10:00 am

You may find the most up-to-date information and guidance on COVID-19, by visiting the DOH dedicated COVID-19 webpage: [FloridaHealthCOVID19.gov](#), calling (866) 779-6121 or emailing COVID-19@flhealth.gov.

Brevard County COVID-19 Testing Sites

A recent upward trend of positive COVID-19 cases in Brevard County serves as a reminder that we should continue to make sensible efforts to decrease the spread of this virus, like wearing a mask in social settings and other preventive measures such as social distancing and washing or sanitizing hands.

Several test sites are currently available for COVID-19 testing in Brevard County including:

DOH Brevard County Viera Clinic
2555 Judge Fran Jamieson Way, Viera FL
Open Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9:00 a.m. to Noon
Free, drive-through, Appointment Required, Call (321) 454-7141

Eastern Florida State College, Palm Bay Campus
250 Community College Parkway
Operated by by the Florida Department of Health
Free, drive-through, no-appointment-required
Open daily from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Health First: Pro-Health & Fitness
255 Borman Drive, Merritt Island
Open Monday-Saturday, 9 a.m. to noon
Appointment Required, Call (321) 434-3131

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