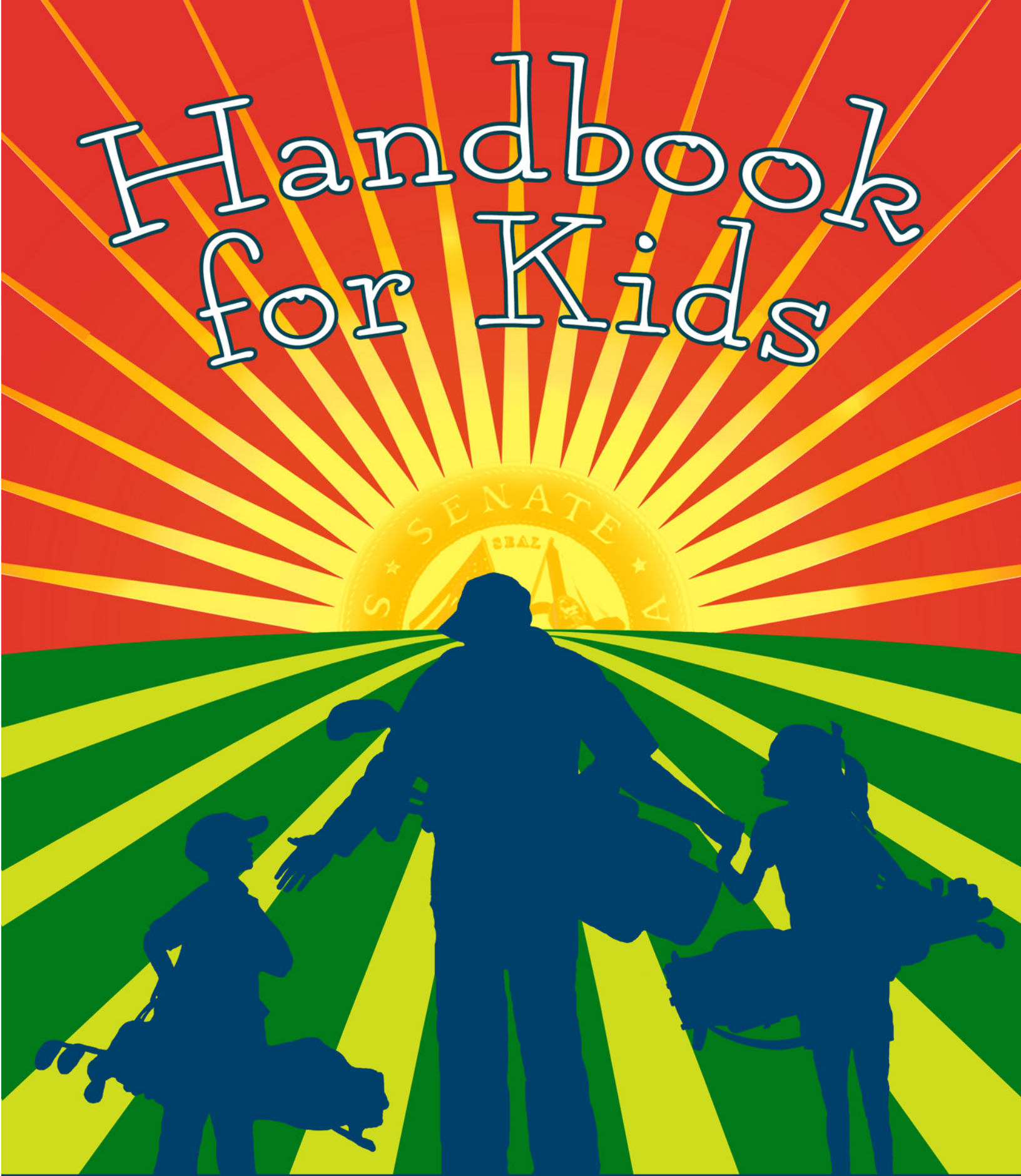
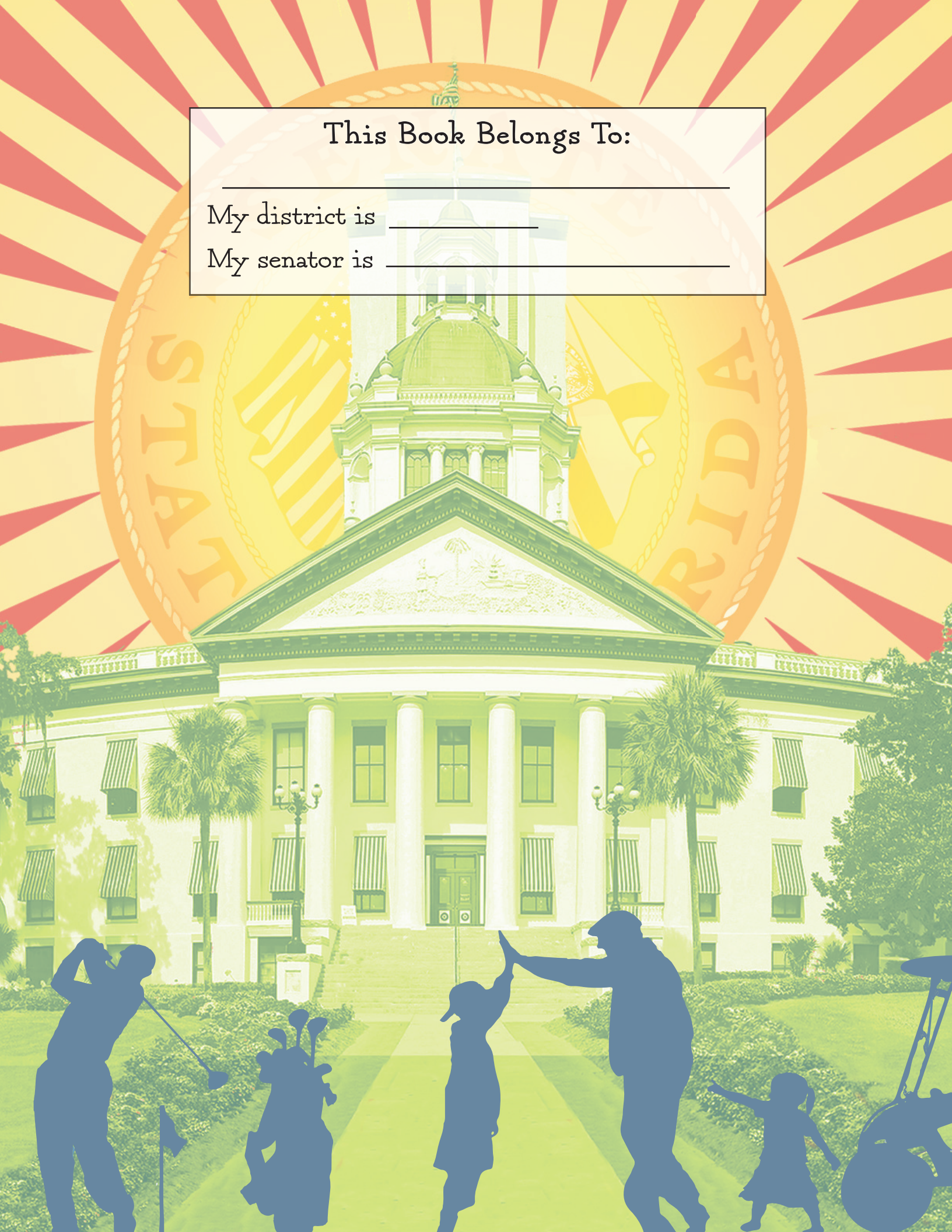
Handbook for Kids



THE FLORIDA SENATE



This Book Belongs To:

_____

My district is _____

My senator is _____

THE FLORIDA SENATE

Handbook for Kids

2018-2020

TABLE OF CONTENTS

YOUR FLORIDA LEGISLATURE..... 1

GETTING INVOLVED..... 3

CONTACTING YOUR LEGISLATORS..... 3

YOUR STATE CAPITOL..... 4

SEATING CHART..... 5

LEGISLATIVE LEADERS..... 7

SENATORS..... 8

LEGISLATIVE TERMS GLOSSARY..... 11

ACRONYMS..... 27

HOW DOES AN IDEA BECOME A LAW IN FLORIDA?... 28

DISTRICT MAP..... 29

SYMBOLS OF FLORIDA..... 31

SENATE EMBLEMS..... 37

FUN SENATE FACTS..... 38

FLORIDA GEOGRAPHIC FACTS..... 40

GAMES..... 41

COLORING PAGES..... 47

ANSWER KEYS..... 51

YOUR FLORIDA LEGISLATURE

Have you ever wondered who decides how long a school day can be, when a student can drive without an adult in the car, or how many math credits a student needs before graduation? The responsibility to answer all these questions rests with the Legislature of the State of Florida.

The Florida Legislature, which is divided into two houses, the Senate and the House of Representatives, makes laws that govern our state. Members of the legislature, senators and representatives, are chosen by the citizens of Florida to represent them and the area where they live. These areas are called districts. Senators and representatives are responsible for making sure the people who elected them have a voice in all matters concerning the state.

Senators are elected to serve four-year terms. Representatives are elected to serve two-year terms. Currently, 40 senators and 120 members of the House of Representatives serve the people of Florida. Members of the Senate and House must be at least 21 years old, a resident of the district where they have been elected, and must have lived in Florida for two years before running for election.

Each year, the Senate and House meet in legislative session to resolve issues important to the people of our state. Issues like driving regulations, recycling, and education are debated. In odd-numbered years, the session begins on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in March and lasts for 60 days. In even-numbered years, the session begins on the second Tuesday after the first Monday in January and lasts for 60 days. The session typically ends in sine die adjournment with the ceremonial dropping of white handkerchiefs by each chamber's Sergeant at Arms.

During session, legislators work on making new laws or changing existing laws. Each member also serves on several committees where the effects of laws on the people in our state are studied. Any member of either chamber can make suggestions for new laws. These suggestions, called bills, are studied in committees. The committee can change the bill, accept the bill, or reject the bill. If the bill is changed or accepted by the committee, it can then be considered by the full Senate or the full House of Representatives, which in turn votes to accept the bill as it is, change the bill, or reject the bill. Passage of a bill occurs when the bill is accepted, in most instances, by a majority of the members of one chamber.

The passed bill goes to the other chamber of the Florida Legislature for review which means a bill passed in the Senate goes to the House of Representatives for review. The bill goes through the same process in the second chamber as it did in the first chamber. The only bill the legislature is required to pass every year is the state's budget.

When a bill is passed by both chambers, it is sent to the Governor for action. The Governor may sign the bill, allow it to become a law without signature, or veto it. All the bills that are not vetoed become laws, which are compiled to form the Florida Statutes.

The Senate has various software applications designed specifically for Senate legislative processes. The core application provides for a variety of functions, including drafting legislation and amendments, bill filing, messaging the House of Representatives, and enrolling bills for the Governor's signature. Overall, these applications ensure that every task involved with legislation, from taking an idea and turning it into a bill to enrolling the bill once it passes both chambers, can be processed electronically and quickly made available to the public.

Senators invite selected students (ages 15-18) to come to Tallahassee for one week to work as pages during the regular session. Pages distribute materials and deliver messages to senators and staff. They also participate in a mock session and have scheduled visits to offices in other branches of government. House members also invite pages (grades 6-8) and messengers (grades 9-12) to work during the regular session.

This guide to the legislative process was created to help students become familiar with the Florida Legislature. Your participation in the legislative process is essential to the preservation of democracy. You can make a difference!

GETTING INVOLVED

Even though you cannot vote until you are 18 years old, you play an important role in the shaping of Florida laws. You have a responsibility to learn all you can about the legislative process so you can become an informed voter. You can become knowledgeable about the issues affecting the lives of the people of our state and how those issues affect us even on the national level.

You can start by involving yourself in statewide mock government programs such as 4-H, Boys State, Girls State, YMCA Youth in Government, and other such organizations. Involvement in student government programs at your school is also a good way to learn how the legislative process works.

CONTACTING YOUR LEGISLATORS

Legislators enjoy hearing from their younger constituents. You can determine who your legislators are by visiting the Senate's website at www.flsenate.gov. You may also email your legislators using the email address provided on each legislator's web page.

If you wish to meet with your senator or representative during the legislative session, you should call ahead to make an appointment. Groups wishing to make special arrangements to visit on a day when the legislature is in session should contact their legislators as far in advance of their proposed visit as possible. Your legislator can assist you in making sure your visit to the Florida Legislature is properly scheduled.

We also encourage you to visit other parts of the State Capitol in Tallahassee. The Welcome Center provides educational and fun tours for your family or class all year round. You will get to see such sights as the Great Seal of the State of Florida in the Capitol Rotunda and a panoramic view of Tallahassee and its surrounding area from the twenty-second floor. You may schedule a tour of the Capitol by calling (850) 488-6167.

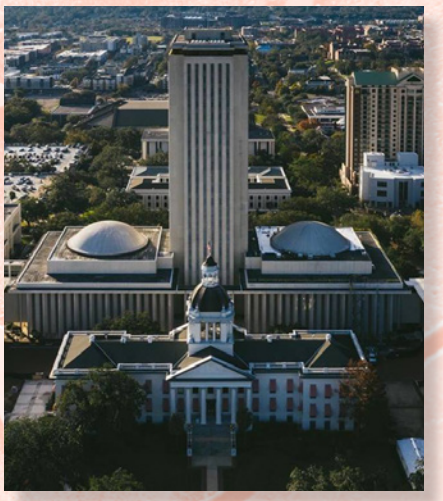
YOUR STATE CAPITOL

FIRST CAPITOL BUILDING, 1824

The first Capitol was a log cabin built in 1824 with the establishment of Tallahassee as the territorial capital. In the early 1820s, legislators transferred government business from St. Augustine to Pensacola for alternating sessions. Travel was hazardous and took almost 20 days. As a result, Tallahassee was chosen as the capital of Florida in 1824, primarily because it was the midway point between two principal cities.

CAPITOL BUILDING, 1845

On March 3, 1839, Congress appropriated $20,000 for construction of the new Capitol. The old structure was torn down immediately, and Florida's government temporarily moved into rented quarters. Builders commenced work on the third Capitol, a brick structure, in 1839 and completed it by 1845. This structure still remains the core of the Old Capitol.



THE CAPITOL COMPLEX AND HISTORIC CAPITOL BUILDING, 2019

In 1972, the Legislature authorized money for a new Capitol Complex to include House and Senate chambers and offices, along with a 22-story executive office building, which was completed in 1977. The complex consists of three structures: a 22-story high-rise tower and two legislative office buildings, including the Senate Building on the south, which is connected by skywalks to the Capitol. A third skywalk connects the Capitol to the Knott Building.

THE SENATE CHAMBER

The Senate chamber, also known as the "floor," is the room on the fourth floor of the Capitol where senators debate the merits of proposed legislation. The current chamber is the fifth used since the first session of the Senate was called to order in 1839.

A comprehensive renovation of the current Senate chamber started after the adjournment of the 2016 Legislative Session. Construction crews stripped down the chamber to its concrete and steel bones, incorporating several historical elements as well as new features designed to improve accessibility for people with unique abilities while preserving history at the same time. The renovated chamber was unveiled during a ceremonial opening on November 22, 2016, for the organization session. The chamber now has a timeless design which accommodates modern technology and reflects the elements of the Florida Historic Capitol.

On the floor above the chamber is the gallery. Citizens may sit in the gallery to observe the Senate in session. From the gallery, attention is drawn to the rostrum where the President is presiding. Above the rostrum is the Senate Seal, which was originally adopted in 1972 and revised in 2015 and 2016.

THE FLORIDA SENATE
2018-2020

THE SECRETARY'S DESK

PERRY (R)
DISTRICT 8
GAINESVILLE

BRAYNON (D)
DISTRICT 35
MIAMI GARDENS

LEE (R)
DISTRICT 20
BRANDON

BRANDES (R)
DISTRICT 24
ST. PETERSBURG

SIMPSON (R)
DISTRICT 10
TRILBY

STEWART (D)
DISTRICT 13
ORLANDO

GAINER (R)
DISTRICT 2
PANAMA CITY

BAXLEY (R)
DISTRICT 12
OCALA

HUTSON (R)
DISTRICT 7
ST. AUGUSTINE

GIBSON (D)
DISTRICT 6
JACKSONVILLE
MINORITY LEADER

WRIGHT (R)
DISTRICT 14
NEW SMYRNA BEACH

GRUTERS (R)
DISTRICT 23
SARASOTA

ALBRITTON (R)
DISTRICT 26
WAUCHULA

HOOPER (R)
DISTRICT 16
CLEARWATER

BOOK (D)
DISTRICT 32
PLANTATION

GALVANO (R)
DISTRICT 21
BRADENTON
PRESIDENT

PIZZO (D)
DISTRICT 38
N. MIAMI BEACH

BERMAN (D)
DISTRICT 31
LANTANA

POWELL (D)
DISTRICT 30
WEST PALM BEACH

FARMER (D)
DISTRICT 34
LIGHTHOUSE POINT

SECRETARY OF THE SENATE

DEBBIE BROWN

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

BILL GALVANO

SIMMONS (R)
DISTRICT 9
ALTAMONTE SPRINGS
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

PASSIDOMO (R)
DISTRICT 28
NAPLES
MAJORITY LEADER

BRADLEY (R)
DISTRICT 5
FLEMING ISLAND

THURSTON (D)
DISTRICT 33
FORT LAUDERDALE

BENACQUISTO (R)
DISTRICT 27
FORT MYERS
RULES CHAIR

BEAN (R)
DISTRICT 4
FERNANDINA BEACH

DIAZ (R)
DISTRICT 36
HIALEAH

RODRIGUEZ (D)
DISTRICT 37
MIAMI

FLORES (R)
DISTRICT 39
MIAMI

STARGEL (R)
DISTRICT 22
LAKELAND

ROUSON (D)
DISTRICT 19
ST. PETERSBURG

RADER (D)
DISTRICT 29
DELRAY BEACH

MONTFORD (D)
DISTRICT 3
TALLAHASSEE

BROXSON (R)
DISTRICT 1
PENSACOLA

HARRELL (R)
DISTRICT 25
STUART

TADDEO (D)
DISTRICT 40
MIAMI

MAYFIELD (R)
DISTRICT 17
MELBOURNE

BRACY (D)
DISTRICT 11
OCOEE

TORRES (D)
DISTRICT 15
ORLANDO

CRUZ (D)
DISTRICT 18
TAMPA

SERGEANT AT ARMS

TIM HAY

LEGISLATIVE LEADERS

BILL GALVANO
Senate President

DAVID SIMMONS
Senate President
Pro Tempore

DEBBIE BROWN
Secretary of the Senate

TIM HAY
Senate Sergeant at Arms

The President of the Senate presides over the Senate, and the Speaker of the House presides over the House of Representatives. The President and Speaker have many other responsibilities in addition to presiding over the chamber during session, including appointing members to committees and appointing chairs of committees.

The President Pro Tempore and Speaker Pro Tempore preside over their respective chambers in the absence of the President or Speaker.

NONMEMBER OFFICERS

The Senate elects a Secretary of the Senate and the Speaker of the House appoints a Clerk of the House. These nonmember constitutional officers have various responsibilities including keeping the records of their respective chambers, authenticating each bill passed by the legislature, and publishing the journals and calendars of their respective chambers. During session, each day's official actions are recorded and published in a journal. The Senate Journal is considered the official record of the Florida Senate as overseen by the Secretary of the Senate. Daily journals are provisional. Journals are available at www.flsenate.gov. Vote disclosure records are also available.

SERGEANTS AT ARMS

Each chamber has a Sergeant at Arms who is in charge of keeping order in the chamber, gallery, and committee rooms. Each sergeant also maintains that chamber's property. The recorded history of the Office of Sergeant at Arms dates back to the 1400s, though it likely existed well before that because preserving order was essential to the conduct of business in even the earliest legislative chambers. The first Florida Senate Sergeant at Arms was appointed in 1839 when Florida was still a territory.

JOSE R. OLIVA
House Speaker

MARYLYNN MAGAR
House Speaker
Pro Tempore

JEFF TAKACS
Clerk of the House

RUSSELL HOSFORD
House Sergeant at Arms

SENATORS

BEN ALBRITTON
(R) 26

DENNIS BAXLEY
(R) 12

AARON BEAN
(R) 4

LIZBETH BENACQUISTO
(R) 27

LORI BERMAN
(D) 31

LAUREN BOOK
(D) 32

RANDOLPH BRACY
(D) 11

ROB BRADLEY
(R) 5

JEFF BRANDES
(R) 24

OSCAR BRAYNON II
(D) 35

DOUG BROXSON
(R) 1

JANET CRUZ
(D) 18

MANNY DIAZ, JR.
(R) 36

GARY M. FARMER, JR.
(D) 34

ANITERE FLORES
(R) 39

GEORGE B. GAINER
(R) 2

BILL GALVANO
(R) 21, PRESIDENT

AUDREY GIBSON
(D) 6, MINORITY LEADER

JOE GRUTERS
(R) 23

GAYLE HARRELL
(R) 25

ED HOOPER
(R) 16

TRAVIS HUTSON
(R) 7

TOM LEE
(R) 20

DEBBIE MAYFIELD
(R) 17

BILL MONTFORD
(D) 3

KATHLEEN PASSIDOMO
(R) 28, MAJORITY LEADER

KEITH PERRY
(R) 8

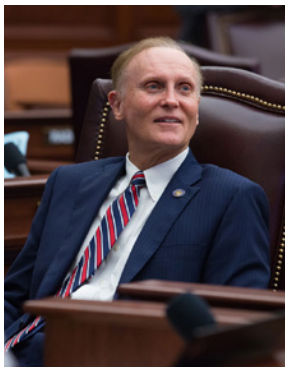
JASON W. B. PIZZO
(D) 38

BOBBY POWELL
(D) 30

KEVIN J. RADER
(D) 29

JOSE JAVIER RODRIGUEZ
(D) 37

DARRYL ERVIN ROUSON
(D) 19



DAVID SIMMONS
(R) 9, PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

WILTON SIMPSON
(R) 10

KELLI STARGEL
(R) 22

LINDA STEWART
(D) 13

ANNETTE TADDEO
(D) 40

PERRY E. THURSTON, JR.
(D) 33

VICTOR M. TORRES, JR.
(D) 15

TOM A. WRIGHT
(R) 14

LEGISLATIVE TERMS GLOSSARY

ACT
A bill that has passed both houses of the legislature.

ADJOURNMENT
The recess of a legislative house until a later stated time or until the time fixed by its rules for reconvening. Sine die adjournment is the final adjournment of a legislative session. Each house adjourns after its daily session and adjourns sine die at the end of each session.

ADOPTION
The favorable agreement by vote of an amendment, motion, resolution, or memorial.

AGENDA
The list of business (including proposed legislation) to be considered at a committee meeting or during a hearing.

AMENDMENT
A proposal to change a procedural motion or proposed legislation. Types and versions of amendments include:

- **COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**
  Recommended changes to a bill, which a committee has agreed upon. By motion, each adopted committee amendment accompanies the bill reported favorably out of committee for floor consideration. When the bill goes to the floor, the committee amendment must be considered before any other amendment may be taken up.

- **FLOOR AMENDMENT**
  A proposal offered by one or more legislators for consideration in the respective chamber.

- **TECHNICAL AMENDMENT**
  A nonsubstantive amendment used to correct errors such as spelling, numbering, incorrect coding or directory language.

ANALYSIS
Sometimes called a bill analysis or staff analysis, it is prepared by the staff of each committee of reference. It summarizes the bill and explains the current law affected by the bill, the likely impact of the bill, any constitutional issues raised by the bill, and committee amendments, if any, are summarized.

APPORTIONMENT AND REDISTRICTING
Legislative action required following each decennial census, fixing the size of each house of the Florida Legislature and drawing legislative and congressional district boundaries to provide representation in the Florida Legislature and the U.S. Congress for the people of the state.

BICAMERAL
A legislature having two houses; in Florida, these two houses are the Senate and the House of Representatives.

BIENNIUM
A two-year period. This term is often used to describe the two-year term of the Florida Legislature that begins in November of an even-numbered year and ends in November of the next even-numbered year.

BILL (SB, HB)
A proposed act filed in either house of the legislature. Types and versions of bills include:

- **APPROPRIATIONS, IMPLEMENTING, AND CONFORMING BILLS**
  The general appropriations bill authorizes the spending of public money for specific uses, including salaries of public officers and other current expenses of the state. The implementing bill contains provisions necessary to effect the general appropriations bill. These bills are effective for one fiscal year only. A conforming bill is a bill that amends the Florida Statutes to provide for specific changes in the general appropriations bill.

- **CLAIM BILL**
  A bill that presents a claim to compensate a particular individual or entity for injuries or losses caused by the negligence or error of a public officer or agency.

- **COMMITTEE BILL**
  A bill that is the product of a legislative committee rather than an individual legislator.

- **COMPANION BILL**
  A bill introduced in one house that is substantially the same and identical as to specific intent and purpose as a bill introduced in the other house. The use of companion bills allows bills in each body to move through the committee process at the same time.

- **GENERAL BILL (SB, HB)**
  A bill of general statewide interest or whose provisions apply to the entire state.

- **LINKED BILL**
  A bill that is contingent upon passage of another bill within the same chamber, e.g., a trust fund bill, a bill providing a public record exemption, or an implementing bill.

- **LOCAL BILL (OR SPECIAL ACT)**
  A bill that applies to an area or group that is less than the total area or population of the state. Its subject matter is such that those to whom it is applicable are entitled to publication or referendum as required by section 10 of Article III of the State Constitution.

- MEMORIAL (SM, HM)
  A measure addressed to an executive agency or another legislative body, usually Congress, which expresses the consensus of the Florida Legislature or urges that certain action be taken on a matter within the jurisdiction of the agency or body to which it is addressed. When both houses adopt the measure, the memorial is signed by the legislative officers and transmitted to the Secretary of State for presentation to the addressee. A memorial is not subject to the approval or veto powers of the Governor, is not subject to constitutional title requirements, and does not have the effect of law.

- PROPOSED COMMITTEE BILL (PCB)
  A proposal that may represent a mandated review, repeal scheduled by law, or, with the Senate President's prior approval, an additional subject of broad committee significance as determined by the committee chair. When the idea is expanded, is drafted in bill form, receives a favorable vote by the committee, and is filed, it becomes a bill.

- PROPOSED COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR A SENATE BILL (PCS)
  A proposal that represents the changes that a committee intends to make to a bill that is being heard by that committee. When voted favorably by the committee, it is drafted in bill form and reported out as a committee substitute.

- RESOLUTION
  A bill that is not subject to action by the Governor, is not subject to the constitutional one-subject limitation or to the constitutional title requirements, and, except for certain uses of joint resolutions and concurrent resolutions, does not have the effect of law. When adopted by both houses, it is signed by the legislative officers and presented to the Secretary of State. Types include:

  - CONCURRENT RESOLUTION (SCR, HCR)
    A resolution that is adopted by both houses and is limited to procedural legislative matters and ratification of federal constitutional amendments.

  - SENATE OR HOUSE RESOLUTION (SR, HR)
    A one-house document used for matters not involving the other house. It is often ceremonial or congratulatory in nature.

  - JOINT RESOLUTION (SJR, HJR)
    A resolution that is the only authorized method by which the legislature may propose amendments to the State Constitution. If passed, the proposed amendment would appear on a statewide ballot for voter approval or rejection. It must pass each house by a three-fifths vote of the membership. A joint resolution is also used for redistricting.

- REVISER'S BILL
  A bill prepared by the Division of Law Revision within the Office of Legislative Services which makes grammatical, editorial, or other technical changes in the Florida Statutes for clarity and proper interpretation. It may also remove certain obsolete, inconsistent, redundant, invalid, or superseded statutes and laws or parts thereof from the official statutes.

- TRUST FUND BILL
  Section 19(f)(3) of Article III of the State Constitution requires the legislature to periodically review trust funds to determine whether they should be terminated, modified, made exempt from review, or re-created without modification. Creation of a trust fund requires a three-fifths vote of the membership. Section 215.3208, Florida Statutes, provides the schedule for termination and review of trust funds.

BILL DRAFT
A proposal that has been drafted, at the request of a legislator or a legislative committee, by the bill drafting office of the Senate or House of Representatives.

BILL DRAFTING
The unit of each respective house primarily responsible for drafting bills and amendments and performing related legal research.

BILL HISTORY
A chronological listing of all actions that occur on a bill from its filing to its final disposition. This information is available electronically.

BILL NUMBER
The identifying number given each bill filed for introduction. Since 1990, Senate bills have received even numbers and House bills have received odd numbers. Bill numbers do not carry over from session to session or from a regular session to a special session.

BODY
One house of a bicameral legislature. The term is often used in floor debate to refer to the house where debate is occurring.

BUDGET
The totality of appropriations measures passed by the legislature. The detailed spending plan submitted by the Governor to the legislature which recommends monetary allocations for each of the departments of the state for the next fiscal year is also known as a "budget." Using recommendations from the Governor and individual departments, each house prepares its own version of the budget.

CALENDARS
Important tools in the legislative process which serve as official notification of bills to be considered, sessions, and committee meetings and hearings. Types and versions of calendars include:

- CLAIM BILL CALENDAR
  A special calendar of claim bills for chamber consideration.

- CONSENT CALENDAR
  A special calendar of noncontroversial bills, passage of which may expedite the work of the legislature.

- DAILY CALENDAR
  A document containing the schedule of meetings and individual committee agendas, the day's order of business, the special order and other special calendars, bills on second and third reading, and other business. It is published each weekday during session.

- INTERIM CALENDAR
  Published periodically during the months between regular sessions, this document contains a list of agendas of committee meetings, filed bills and their committee references, and other significant legislative information. Printed copies are available from the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House.

- LOCAL BILL CALENDAR
  A special calendar of local bills for chamber consideration. This listing is generally incorporated into the daily calendar.

- SPECIAL ORDER CALENDAR
  The list of bills on second reading to be taken up in session on a particular day.

- TRUST FUND BILL CALENDAR
  A special calendar that deals with the legislative review of specific trust funds as required by section 19(f) of Article III of the State Constitution.

CAUCUS

A private (although not necessarily closed) meeting of legislators. A caucus may be composed of members of a political party, members from a geographical area, or members allied for some temporary purpose. Legislative officers and leaders are designated and nominated within the political parties at caucus. A party's position on pending legislation is often discussed at caucus.

CHAIR

A term used to refer to the presiding officer in a floor session or in a legislative committee meeting.

CHAMBER
The large rooms in which the Senate and the House meet. The Senate and the House chambers are located on the fourth floor of the Capitol.

CHAPTER LAW
The identifying number assigned by the Secretary of State to a bill that has been enacted into law. The number indicates the year passed and the printing number. For example, chapter 2000-541 represents the 541st law printed in the year 2000. Chapter laws are compiled and published annually in the *Laws of Florida.*

CITATOR
An electronic publication that provides the status and a chronological listing of all actions concerning all legislation filed during a session. The *Citator* also provides statistics, descriptions by bill number, sponsor reports by member and committee, and indices by statute number affected and by subject.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
The constitutional officer who performs ministerial duties as directed by the Speaker which include keeping and publishing a correct Journal of House proceedings; superintending the engrossing and transmitting of legislation; attesting to all writs issued by order of the House and the passage of all legislative measures; the publishing of other House documents; and supervising the custody of legislation, official records, and documents of the House. Additionally, upon request, this position provides parliamentary guidance. The Office of the Clerk is a nonpartisan, nonpolitical office.

CLERK'S MANUAL, THE
Published biennially by the Clerk of the House of Representatives, this book contains biographical information on members of the legislature and other information.

CODING
The underlining of new language and overstriking of deleted existing language in a bill, required by the rules of both houses of the legislature, which indicates changes being made to the text of existing law or an existing constitutional provision.

COMMIT
To refer a bill to a committee.

COMMITTEE
A panel of legislators chosen by the respective presiding officers to perform specific functions. Types of committees include:

- CONFERENCE COMMITTEE
  A committee composed of members of the Senate (appointed by the President) and members of the House of Representatives (appointed by the Speaker) whose sole purpose is to reach a final agreement on a bill.

- JOINT COMMITTEE
  A committee composed of Senate and House members appointed by their respective presiding officers to oversee a specified legislative function.

- SELECT COMMITTEE
  A committee created for the purpose of studying or investigating a specific matter within a specified time period.

- STANDING COMMITTEE
  A committee appointed by the respective presiding officer and given a continuing responsibility over legislation covering specific subject matters.

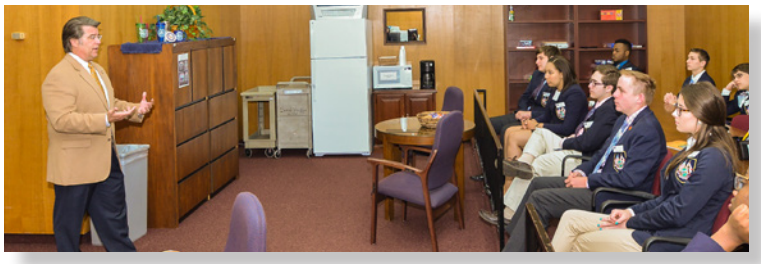
- SUBCOMMITTEE
  As used in the Senate, a committee within a full committee, which makes recommendations to the full committee.

COMMITTEE REPORT
The findings or recommendations of a committee on a measure or matter referred to it or on a subject it has been asked to study.

CONFEREES
Members of a conference committee appointed by the Senate President and House Speaker.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT
The report of a conference committee on the bill or bills for which the committee was formed. The conference committee report usually includes amendments proposed by the conference committee. The report of the conference committee must be either adopted or rejected as a whole by each house.

CONSENSUS ESTIMATING CONFERENCES
An umbrella term designating a group of conference bodies, consisting of members of the legislature, representatives from the Governor's Office, and designees from various state agencies, which meets to develop caseload or workload data and revenue projections to assist in the budgeting and appropriations process.



CONSTITUENT
A resident in an elected official's district.

CONSTITUTION, STATE
The written instrument embodying the fundamental principles of the state which establishes power and duties of the government and guarantees certain rights to the people. This document outlines the basic framework of Florida's system of government which was revised in 1968 and subsequently amended.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT
A joint resolution that proposes an amendment to, or revision of, the State Constitution. After final passage and filing with the Secretary of State, a proposed constitutional amendment is pre-

sented to the voters at the next regular general election pursuant to section 5 of Article XI of the State Constitution.

CONVENE
To assemble the legislature or either house thereof. The annual session of the Florida Legislature begins, for a period not to exceed 60 days, on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in March of each odd-numbered year and on the second Tuesday after the first Monday in January of each even-numbered year.

DAILY ORDER OF BUSINESS
The items of business and the order in which they are to be considered each day as set out in the rules of each house.

DEBATE
Discussion by legislators during a committee meeting or while a house is meeting supporting or opposing an issue.

DECORUM
Appropriateness of behavior or conduct.

DELEGATION, LEGISLATIVE
A group of legislators who represent parts of the same county or geographical area.

DISTRICT
The area from which a state senator, representative, or congressman is elected. The boundaries of state legislative and congressional districts are drawn in the decennial process known as apportionment and redistricting.

DISTRICT STAFF
Personnel employed by a legislator to work in the legislator's district office.

EFFECTIVE DATE
The date upon which an act becomes effective. If a date is not specified in the bill, an act takes effect 60 days after the final adjournment of the legislative session in which it was enacted.

ENABLING LEGISLATION
A bill designed specifically to carry out an adopted constitutional amendment.

ENACTING CLAUSE
The State Constitution requires that each bill be prefaced by the phrase: "Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida."

FISCAL YEAR
The period used for budgeting and accounting. In Florida state government, this is the period from July 1 of one calendar year to June 30 of the next calendar year.

FLOOR
Synonymous with chamber or "in session." Floor action suggests consideration by the entire Senate or House rather than committee action.

FLORIDA STATUTES
An edited compilation of general laws of the state.

GALLERY
The seating area on the floor above the Senate or House chamber where the public may observe a house in session.

HOUSE
Generally, either body or chamber of the legislature. When capitalized, the term refers to the House of Representatives.

IMPEACHMENT
The process of considering removal of an officeholder for charges brought against the officeholder. The Governor, Lieutenant Governor, members of the Cabinet, justices of the Supreme Court, and judges may be removed from office by impeachment. The House of Representatives has the sole power to impeach. It may do so by a two-thirds vote of the members voting. The Senate tries all impeachments with the Chief Justice of the Florida Supreme Court presiding. A two-thirds vote of the Senate is required to convict. If convicted, the officer is removed from office.

INITIATIVE
An amendment to the State Constitution proposed by a number of electors. An initiative is accomplished by filing with the Secretary of State a petition containing a copy of the amendment proposed which has been signed by a specified number of electors.

INSTANTER
Latin for *immediately*. A motion to take up an issue immediately.

INTERIM
The period between the adjournment of a regular session sine die and the convening of the next regular session.

INTRODUCER
The legislator who files a bill for introduction or the committee that votes to file the bill for introduction. The introducer's name appears first on the bill, in the journal, and in any material dealing with the bill. This term is often used interchangeably with sponsor. A co-introducer or co-sponsor is a legislator whose name is added to a bill in addition to the introducer.

INTRODUCTION
The reading of a bill (including a committee substitute) the first time in a house of the legislature. Publication of the title of the bill in the journal of a house constitutes its first reading in that house.

JOURNAL
A requirement of section 4(c) of Article III of the State Constitution, the Journal is the official legal record of the proceedings of the Senate or the House of Representatives. Each legislative house publishes a journal for each day of session. The Journal records only the formal action in the legislature and committees. Its contents include titles of bills introduced and considered, a record of members' votes on issues, as well as motions and other business before the legislature.

LAW
An act becomes a law when the Governor either approves it or fails to sign or veto it within the period specified in the State Constitution. An act can also become a law when a subsequent legislature overrides a veto by the Governor. While the legislature is in session, the constitution allows a 7-day period following presentation of a bill to the Governor within which to sign or veto the bill. If the legislature adjourns sine die before an act is presented to the Governor or while an act is in the Governor's possession, the Governor has 15 days following the date of presentation in which to take action.

LAW REVISION, DIVISION OF
The unit of the Office of Legislative Services responsible for the codification, publication, and distribution of the *Laws of Florida* and the *Florida Statutes*, as well as other various research materials.

LAWS OF FLORIDA
A verbatim publication of the general and special laws enacted by the Florida Legislature in a given year and published each year following the regular session of the legislature. It presents the laws in the order in which they are numbered by the Secretary of State, as well as resolutions and memorials passed by the legislature.

LEGISLATURE, THE FLORIDA
Florida's bicameral legislature, composed of the 40-member Senate and the 120-member House of Representatives. Each house is the sole judge of the qualifications and elections of its members and has the power to choose its own officers and establish its own rules of procedure. Either house may initiate legislation on any subject. Senators serve 4-year, staggered terms and representatives serve 2-year terms. A legislator may not seek reelection "if, by the end of the current term of office, the person will have served . . . in that office for eight consecutive years."

LOBBYIST
One who encourages, directly or indirectly, the passage, defeat, or modification of any legislation.

MAJORITY LEADER
A legislator from the majority party designated by the presiding officer of each house to be the leader of the majority party members in that house.

MAJORITY PARTY
The political party having the most members in a house.

MESSAGE
Communication by one house to the other house concerning action taken on a bill. Each bill, and any amendments to it, is transmitted from one house to the other accompanied by a document (message) that states the action taken on the bill. The term "messages" is also used to describe the unit of the office of the Secretary of the Senate or the Clerk of the House responsible for transmitting bills to the other house.

MINORITY LEADER
The legislator elected by the minority party caucus in each house to be the leader of the minority party members in that house.

MINORITY PARTY
The political party that has fewer than a majority of members in a house.

MOTION
A formal request made by a legislator on the floor or in a committee meeting to take some procedural action. The rules of each house determine the importance of a motion, whether it may be debated, and the vote required for adoption of the motion.

ONE-SUBJECT RULE
The constitutional requirement, imposed by section 6 of Article III of the State Constitution, that every law shall embrace but one subject and matter properly connected therewith.

OPEN MEETINGS
Section 4(e) of Article III of the State Constitution provides that specified legislative meetings shall be open and noticed to the public. All legislative sessions are open to the public except executive sessions of the Senate.

OVERSIGHT
Analysis of how the agencies of the executive branch go about the performance of their duties is an important responsibility of committees.

PASSAGE
Favorable floor action on a bill.

POPULAR NAME
Name by which some legislative acts come to be known. It may include the name of a person (Mrs. Doubtfire bill), an action (10-20-Life bill), or an acronym (WAGES bill).

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE
The presiding officer of the Senate, having been designated by the majority party in caucus and then elected by the full membership of the Senate for a term of two years at the organization session.

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE OF THE SENATE
A senator who is chosen by the President and elected by the full membership of the Senate for a term of two years at the organization session.

PROCLAMATION
The formal, written announcement issued by the Governor, or the Senate President and House Speaker jointly, to call the Florida Legislature into a special session. It states the reason for the session, the issues to be addressed during the session, and the length of the session. Also referred to as "the Call."

PROVISO
In a general appropriations bill, language used to qualify or restrict a specific appropriation.

QUORUM
A majority. The State Constitution requires a majority of the members elected to a house to be present for the transacting of legislative business.

QUORUM CALL
A call made by the presiding officer to establish the presence of a majority for the lawful transacting of business.

RATIFICATION
The act approving an amendment to the United States Constitution.

READING
Each bill or proposed constitutional amendment must receive three readings on three separate days in each legislative house before it can be passed (unless waived by a two-thirds vote of the members for readings on the same day). These readings are:

- FIRST READING
  The bill is introduced and its title is published in the journal; sometimes first reading takes place during a chamber session.

- SECOND READING
  After favorable reports by all committees of reference, the bill is available for placement on the calendar. When it is considered on the floor, it is read a second time by title. Amendments may be considered. If amendments are adopted, the bill is engrossed.

- THIRD READING
  The bill is read by title a third time. Debate on final passage occurs and a vote is taken; a two-thirds vote is required to amend at this stage.

RECALL A BILL
A request by either house for return of a bill from the other house or from the Governor's Office. When the request is from one house to the other, a written message is sent to the other house. The adoption of a concurrent resolution is required to recall a bill from the Governor's Office.

RECESS
A break within a sitting during which a legislative body is not conducting business. After a recess, a legislative body resumes business at the point where business halted when the recess was taken.

REFERENDUM
A vote of the electors on a specific measure presented for approval or rejection on a ballot. A referendum is required as a condition for the effectiveness of a local bill if proof of publication has not been provided.

REPEAL
The removal of an entire section, subsection, or paragraph of law from the *Florida Statutes* by the legislature. The repeal of a statute or statutes is accomplished by the insertion of a repealer clause in a bill that becomes a law.

ROLL CALL
The calling of names of members of the Senate or the House, either to determine the presence of a quorum or to act upon a matter before that house. In the chamber, the roll is recorded by an electronic voting machine.

RULES
Each house determines its own process for conducting its business and adopts rules at the beginning of each legislative term.

RULING BY THE CHAIR
A decision by the committee chair or the presiding officer concerning a question of order or procedure.

SECRETARY OF THE SENATE
The officer specified in section 2 of Article III of the State Constitution and designated by the Senate to serve at its pleasure who is responsible for assisting the officers, members, and staff of the Senate in the detailed processes by which laws are enacted.

SENATE HANDBOOK, THE FLORIDA
Published biennially, this book provides information on senators and officers and outlines and describes the Senate, its operations, and its relationship with the House and the other branches of government. It is distributed free of charge to Capitol visitors and other interested Floridians to enhance their knowledge and understanding of Florida's government and, particularly, the Florida Senate.

SERGEANT AT ARMS

The person charged with enforcing the directions of the President of the Senate or the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The Sergeant's office is responsible for the security of the respective legislative body and maintenance of property of that house.

SESSION

The term is used to refer to the entire period for which the legislature has been convened. Types of sessions include:

- **EXECUTIVE SESSION**
  Section 4(b) of Article III of the State Constitution provides that the Senate may resolve itself into executive (closed) session for the sole purpose of considering a person's appointment to office or removal or suspension from office.

- **EXTENDED SESSION**
  A regular or special session that has been prolonged beyond its allocated time in order to complete action on introduced legislation. Extension requires a three-fifths vote by members of each house. Additional business may be considered only by a two-thirds vote of the membership of each house.

- **JOINT SESSION**
  The annual session held the first day of the regular session in the House chamber and attended by members of both houses, the Governor, the Cabinet, members of the Supreme Court, and invited guests. The purpose of this session is for the Governor to inform the legislature concerning the condition of the state, propose such reorganization of the executive department as will promote efficiency and economy, and recommend measures in the public interest. Joint sessions are also held on other occasions.

- **ORGANIZATION SESSION**
  Section 3(a) of Article III of the State Constitution directs the legislature to convene on the 14th day after the general election, solely for the purpose of organizing. Organizing includes the taking of the oath by members, the selection of officers, the appointment of committees, and the adoption of the rules.

- **REGULAR SESSION**
  This is the name given to the annual session that begins on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in March of each odd-numbered year, and on the second Tuesday after the first Monday in January of each even-numbered year, for a period not to exceed 60 consecutive days.

- **SPECIAL SESSION**
  Special sessions may be called by Proclamation of the Governor, by Joint Proclamation of the Senate President and the House Speaker, or by members of the legislature for the purpose of considering specific legislation and shall not exceed 20 consecutive days unless extended by a three-fifths vote of each house.

SINE DIE

Latin for *without day*. The motion to "adjourn sine die" is the last action of a session of the legislature. Each house may adjourn on its own motion.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The presiding officer of the House of Representatives, who is designated by the majority party in caucus and then elected by the body for a term of two years at the organization session.

SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

A member of the House of Representatives who is designated by the majority party in caucus and then elected by the body. The Speaker pro tempore presides over the House of Representatives at the request of the Speaker or in the absence of the Speaker.

SPONSOR

A term used interchangeably with introducer. In the Senate, a legislator who files an amendment to a bill is referred to as the amendment sponsor.

SUMMARY

Bill summaries are created by committee staff and give brief explanations of legislation that passed in both the House and Senate during a particular session.

TERM LIMITS

Section 4 of Article VI of the State Constitution provides that specified elected officials may not seek reelection "if, by the end of the current term of office, the person will have served . . . in that office for eight consecutive years."

UNICAMERAL LEGISLATURE

A legislature that has only one house. Nebraska is the only state having a unicameral legislature.

VETO

Objection by the Governor to an act passed by the legislature, which kills the act unless it is reenacted later by a two-thirds vote of both houses.

VETO, LINE ITEM

Power of the Governor to selectively veto items in a general appropriations act or any specific appropriation in a substantive act containing an appropriation. See section 8(b) of Article III of the State Constitution for restrictions on the Governor's use of this power.

VETO OVERRIDE

Action by the legislature to set aside the Governor's objections to an act. It takes two-thirds of the members voting in each house to override a veto.

VOTE
The Constitution requires the recorded yeas and nays on final passage of legislation. Types of votes include:

- **EXTRAORDINARY VOTE**
  Certain measures require more than a simple majority vote for passage; thus such measures are said to require an "extraordinary vote." For example, it takes two-thirds of the members voting to override the Governor's veto or to move to waive the requirement for the readings of a bill on separate days.

- **FAVORABLE VOTE**
  The necessary votes obtained in either house for a legislative matter to pass in that house.

- **TIE VOTE**
  An equal number of legislators in either house vote for and against a bill, amendment, or motion, thereby killing the measure.

- **UNFAVORABLE VOTE**
  The term used when an issue fails to receive the necessary number of favorable votes.

- **VOICE VOTE**
  An oral vote is allowed on some legislative issues such as motions, amendments, and resolutions. A voice vote cannot be used for passage of bills or joint resolutions.

VOTE BOARD
The electronic voting display located in each chamber which shows how legislators are voting on a measure before the body.

WAIVE THE RULES
The process, requiring a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting, of setting aside certain rules in order to take certain action.

WITHDRAW
To remove a bill, amendment, or other legislative matter from a committee or from further consideration by the body.

WITHOUT OBJECTION
A phrase used by the presiding officer to indicate that he or she is disposing of a matter without taking a roll call vote of the members, assuming that the action taken is approved unanimously.

YIELD
A legislator may release part of the allotted time for which he or she has the floor to another member of his or her chamber, usually for questions or clarification of the yielding legislator's discussion.

ACRONYMS

CR
Concurrent Resolution

CS or C1
Committee Substitute

CS/CS or C2
Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute

E
Engrossed Bill

E1 or 1st ENG
First Engrossed

E2 or 2nd ENG
Second Engrossed

ER
Enrolled Bill

F.S.
Florida Statutes

GB
General Bill

GC
Claim/ General Bill

GL
General Bill/ Local Application

GR
Reviser's/ General Bill

GT
Trust Fund/ General Bill

H
House

HB
House Bill

HCR
House Concurrent Resolution

HJ
House Journal

HJR
House Joint Resolution

HR
House Resolution

JR
Joint Resolution

L.O.F.
Laws of Florida

LB
Local Bill

LC
Claim/ Local Bill

M
Memorial

PCB
Proposed Committee Bill

PCS
Proposed Committee Substitute

R
Resolution

S
Senate

SB
Senate Bill

SCR
Senate Concurrent Resolution

SJ
Senate Journal

SJR
Senate Joint Resolution

SR
Senate Resolution

TF
Trust Fund

TP
Temporarily Postponed

WD
Withdrawn

HOW DOES AN IDEA BECOME A LAW IN FLORIDA?

1. A concerned citizen, advocacy group, government agency, or legislator has an idea to make the State a better place.

2. If the legislator or legislators decide it is a good issue, then the idea is drafted into a legislative bill.

3. The new bill is filed, given a "First Reading," and assigned to a committee or several committees.

4. In each committee, to which the bill is referred, the bill is debated and amended if changes are needed. If approved in one committee, the bill moves on to the next referenced committee.

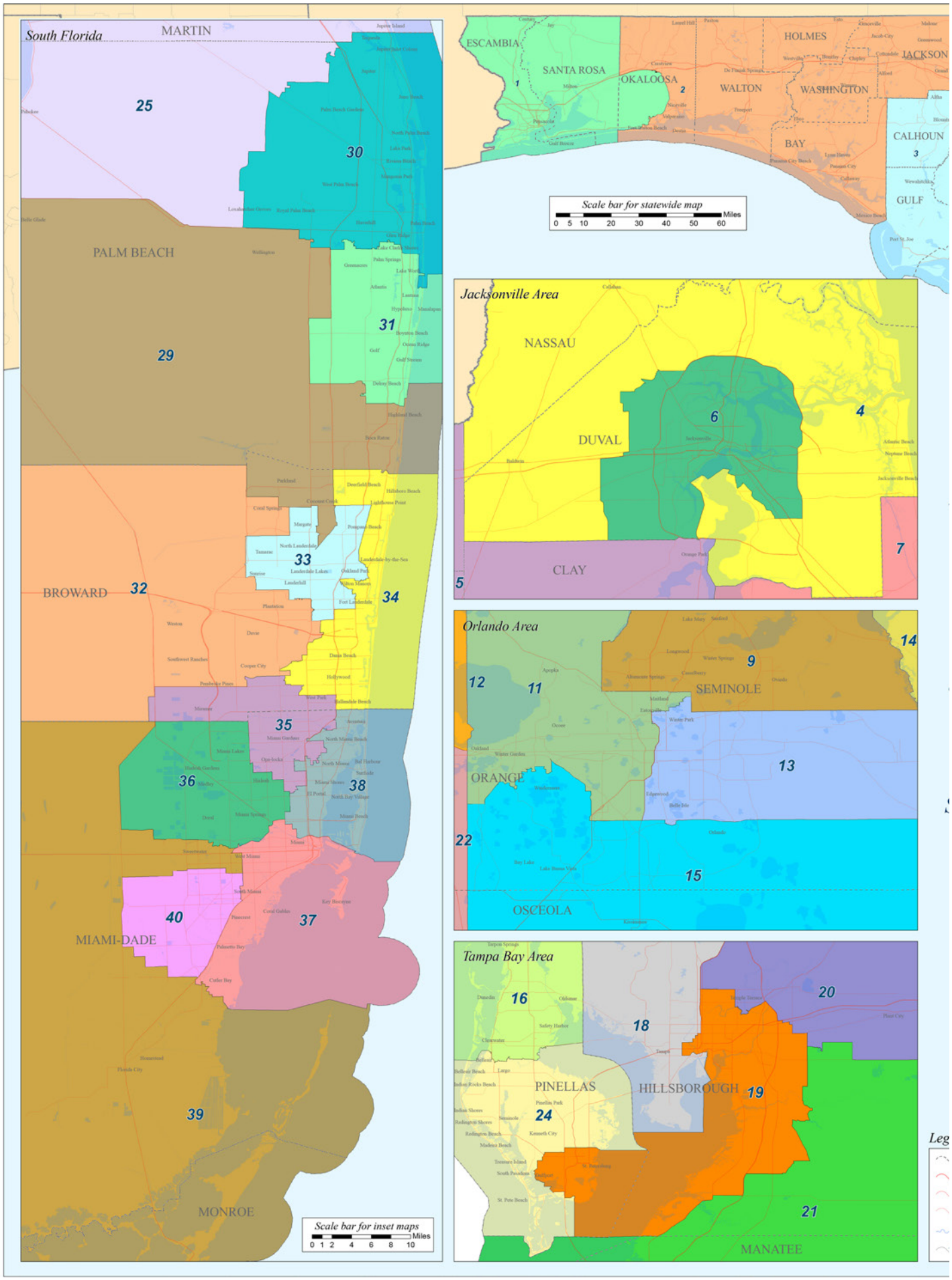
5. If the bill is approved by all assigned committees, then the bill is placed on the calendar to be heard on the floor. When it comes up on the calendar, the bill is debated, amended, and then voted on by the entire chamber!

6. If the bill passes one chamber, it must make its way through the other chamber and follow the same process. A bill may go back and forth between chambers until a consensus is reached.

7. Once both chambers pass the same bill, it proceeds to the Governor. The Governor can do one of three things:
    1. Sign the bill into law,
    2. Decide to veto the bill, or
    3. Allow the bill to become law without a signature.

8. If the Governor signs the bill, allows the bill to become law without his signature, or vetoes the bill and both the House and Senate override the veto by a two-thirds vote, then...

THE IDEA HAS FINALLY BECOME A STATE LAW IN FLORIDA!


South Florida
MARTIN
25
30
PALM BEACH
29
31
BROWARD
32
33
34
35
36
38
40
37
MIAMI-DADE
39
MONROE
Scale bar for inset maps
Miles
0 1 2 4 6 8 10
ESCAMBIA
1
SANTA ROSA
OKALOOSA
2
WALTON
HOLMES
WASHINGTON
JACKSON
BAY
CALHOUN
3
GULF
Scale bar for statewide map
Miles
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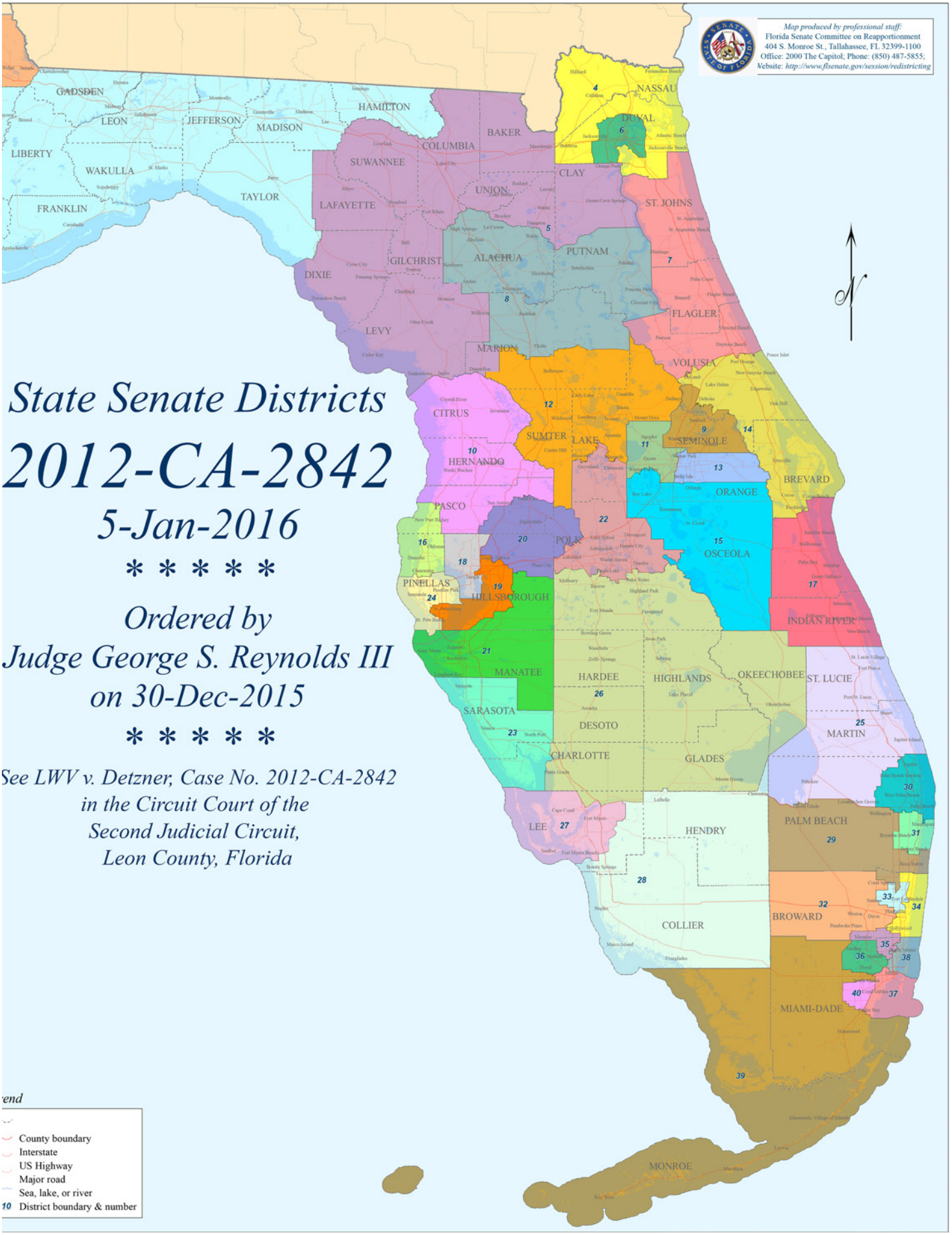
Jacksonville Area
NASSAU
DUVAL
6
4
7
5
CLAY
Orlando Area
14
9
12
11
SEMINOLE
13
ORANGE
22
15
OSCEOLA
Tampa Bay Area
16
20
18
PINELLAS
HILLSBOROUGH
19
24
21
MANATEE


Map produced by professional staff:
Florida Senate Committee on Reapportionment
404 S. Monroe St., Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100
Office: 2000 The Capitol; Phone: (850) 487-5855;
Website: http://www.flsenate.gov/session/redistricting
State Senate Districts
2012-CA-2842
5-Jan-2016
* * * * *
Ordered by
Judge George S. Reynolds III
on 30-Dec-2015
* * * * *
See LWV v. Detzner, Case No. 2012-CA-2842
in the Circuit Court of the
Second Judicial Circuit,
Leon County, Florida
GADSDEN
LEON
JEFFERSON
MADISON
HAMILTON
LIBERTY
WAKULLA
TAYLOR
FRANKLIN
SUWANNEE
COLUMBIA
BAKER
NASSAU
DUVAL
CLAY
UNION
LAFAYETTE
ST. JOHNS
PUTNAM
ALACHUA
GILCHRIST
DIXIE
LEVY
MARION
FLAGLER
VOLUSIA
CITRUS
SUMTER
LAKE
SEMINOLE
HERNANDO
BREVARD
ORANGE
PASCO
POLK
OSCEOLA
PINELLAS
HILLSBOROUGH
INDIAN RIVER
MANATEE
HARDEE
HIGHLANDS
OKEECHOBEE
ST. LUCIE
SARASOTA
DESOTO
MARTIN
CHARLOTTE
GLADES
LEE
HENDRY
PALM BEACH
BROWARD
COLLIER
MIAMI-DADE
MONROE
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40
Legend
County boundary
Interstate
US Highway
Major road
Sea, lake, or river
10 District boundary & number

Symbols of FLORIDA

STATE SEAL

In 1985, a revised Great Seal of the State of Florida was presented to the Governor and Cabinet. The previous version of the state seal had several historical errors, which were corrected in the 1985 seal. The current seal features a Seminole woman rather than a western Plains Indian, as was depicted on earlier seals. The image of a steamboat has been made more accurate, and the seal now includes a sabal palm, our state tree, instead of a cocoa palm.

Through the years, the appearance of the state seal has changed considerably. The steamboat, for instance, has been depicted in a variety of ways. Also, the earliest official state seal pictured a mountainous background, which was later removed because it did not represent Florida's flat terrain. The Indian woman has worn various types of clothing, some of them more historically accurate than others. In one version of the seal, for example, the woman wore a feather headdress of a style worn only by Indian men. Despite the changes in the appearance of the seal, the basic elements of the Great Seal of the State of Florida have remained the

STATE FLAG

The 1899 Legislature adopted a joint resolution that led to the design of our current flag: "The State Flag shall conform with standard commercial sizes and be of the following proportions and descriptions: The seal of the state, in diameter one-half of the hoist, shall occupy the center of a white background. Red bars, in width one-fifth the hoist, shall extend from each corner towards the center, to the outer rim of the seal."

STATE MOTTO

"In God We Trust" was adopted by the Florida Legislature as part of the state seal in 1868. This is also the motto of the United States and is a slight variation on Florida's first state motto, "In God is our Trust." In 2006, "In God We Trust" was officially designated in state statute as Florida's motto.

STATE ANTHEM

Responding to an initiative to find a new Florida state song, the Florida Music Educators Association managed an online contest to find a new song to represent the state. The winning song was "Florida, Where the Sawgrass Meets the Sky," written by Jan Hinton, a music teacher from Pompano Beach. In the 2008 Legislative Session, a compromise was reached that kept the old state song "Old Folks at Home" (with revised lyrics) and designated "Florida, Where the Sawgrass Meets the Sky" as the new state anthem. Sawgrass grows in Florida's coastal marshes and is particularly common in the Everglades, where it stretches as far as the eye can see.

Florida, Where the Sawgrass Meets the Sky

Florida, where the sawgrass meets the sky,
Florida, where our hearts will ever lie,
Sitting proud in the ocean like a sentinel true,
Always shielding your own, yet giving welcome.

Florida, land of flowers, land of light.
Florida, where our dreams can all take flight.
Whether youth's vibrant morning or the twilight of years,
There are treasures for all who venture here in Florida.

Mockingbirds cry and 'gators lie out in the sun,
Bridges span southward to the Keys and rockets skyward run,
The orange blossoms' sweet perfume and fireworks fill the air,
And cultures rich our native people share.

Florida, where the sawgrass meets the sky,
Florida, where our hearts will ever lie,
Sitting proud in the ocean like a sentinel true,
Always shielding your own, yet giving welcome.

Florida, land of flowers, land of light.
Florida, where our dreams can all take flight.
Whether youth's vibrant morning or the twilight of years,
There are treasures for all who venture
here in Florida, Florida.

STATE ANIMAL

Students throughout the state of Florida voted the panther as our state animal in 1982. Panthers are pale brown and black in color and play a large part in our wildlife ecosystem. They have been on the federal endangered species list since 1967 and on the state endangered list since 1973. Panthers have been protected from legal hunting in Florida since 1958. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is responsible for the management and preservation of the panther.

STATE FLOWER

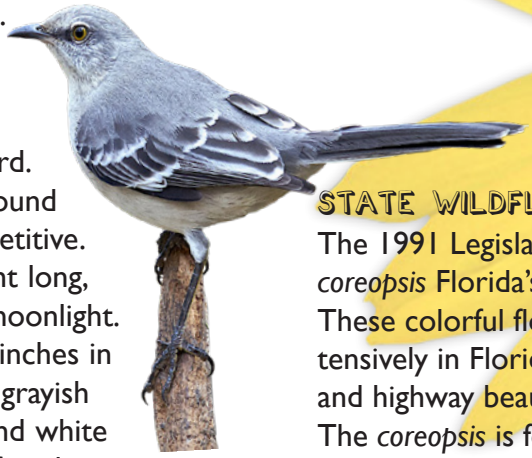
The blossom of the orange tree (*Citrus sinensis*) is one of the most fragrant flowers in Florida. Millions of these white flowers perfume the atmosphere throughout central and south Florida during orange blossom time. The orange blossom was selected as the state flower by the 1909 Legislature.

STATE BIRD

Designated by the 1927 Legislature, the mockingbird is Florida's state bird. Its own song has a pleasant lilting sound and is, at times, both varied and repetitive. Often, the mockingbird sings all night long, especially under bright springtime moonlight. Mockingbirds are usually about ten inches in length, with a fifteen-inch wingspan, grayish upper portions, white undersides, and white patches on the tail and wings. The female has slightly less whiteness in its feathers than the male. The mockingbird is helpful to humans because it usually feeds on insects and weed seeds. In the summer and fall, it also eats ripe berries. It lives in Florida year-round and is known for its singing voice and mimicry skills. Its Latin name means "mimic of many tongues."

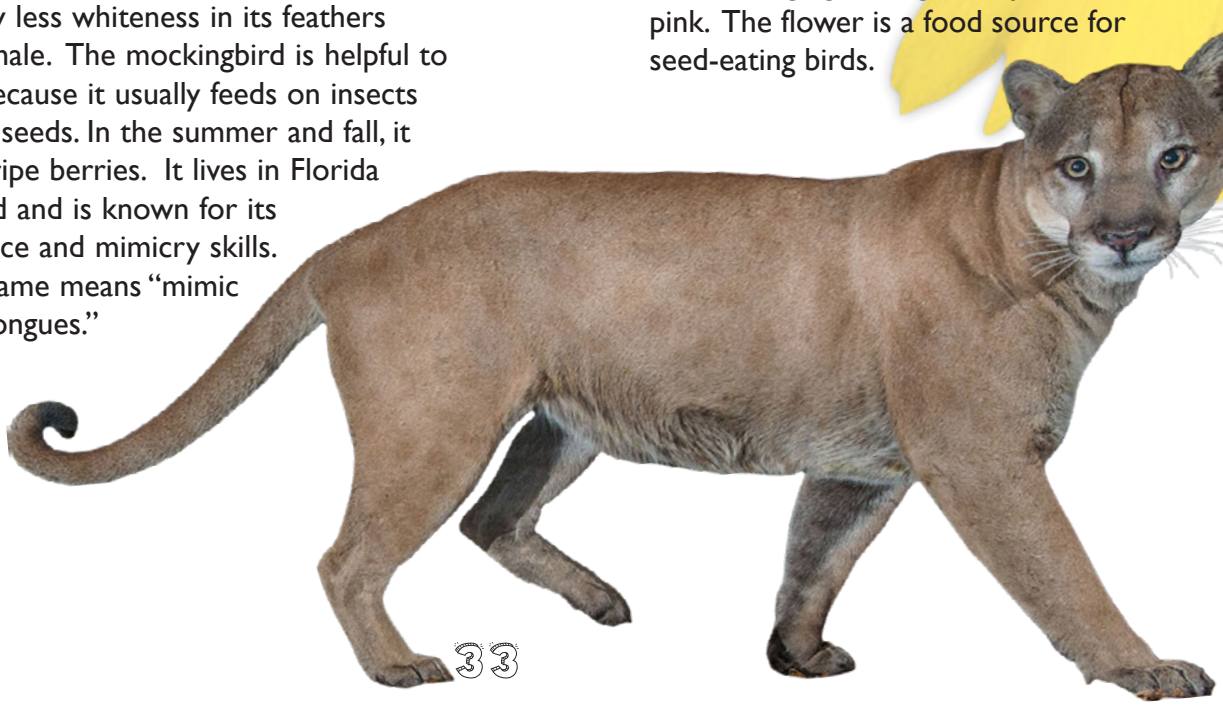
STATE BUTTERFLY

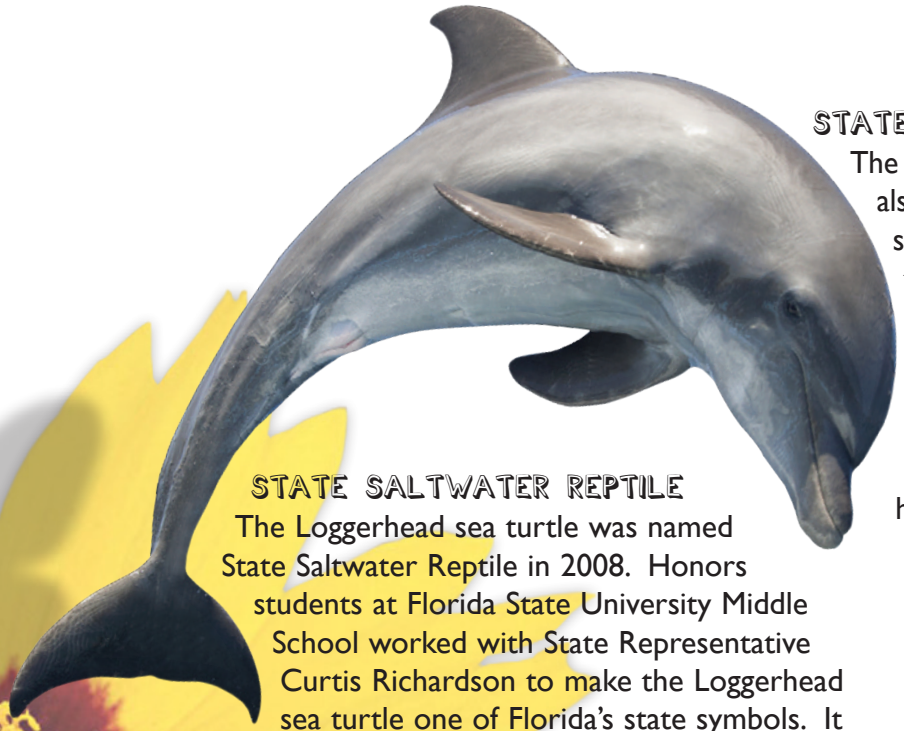
The zebra longwing became the state butterfly in 1996. It is common in south Florida, especially in the Everglades National Park. However, the longwing is not common in north Florida. This black and yellow butterfly is known for dining on the sweet nectar of passion flowers.



STATE WILDFLOWER

The 1991 Legislature named the *coreopsis* Florida's official wildflower. These colorful flowers are used extensively in Florida's roadside plantings and highway beautification programs. The *coreopsis* is found in a variety of colors, ranging from golden yellow to pink. The flower is a food source for seed-eating birds.





STATE SALTWATER MAMMAL

The 1975 Legislature designated the "porpoise, also commonly known as the dolphin," our saltwater mammal. The porpoise belongs to the mammalian order *cetacea*. It is gray or black with a slightly lighter underside. A system of echos, much like sonar, directs them in their travels. Porpoises have no sense of smell, but they make up for this loss with sharp eyesight and extraordinary hearing. Historically, sailors took the presence of porpoises near their boats as a sign of good luck.

STATE SALTWATER REPTILE

The Loggerhead sea turtle was named State Saltwater Reptile in 2008. Honors students at Florida State University Middle School worked with State Representative Curtis Richardson to make the Loggerhead sea turtle one of Florida's state symbols. It is the most common sea turtle in Florida. Florida beaches host about 90 percent of their nests. Loggerheads are reddish brown and named for their large heads. They can weigh up to 350 pounds and reach up to three feet in length. Females travel thousands of miles back to the same beach every two or more years to lay eggs, then use the moon and stars to find their way back to the ocean. The Loggerhead sea turtle is an endangered species.

STATE SHELL

The horse conch (*Pleuroploca gigantea*), also known as the giant band shell, has been Florida's official state shell since its designation by the Legislature in 1969. This shell is native to Florida and can grow to a length of twenty-four inches. Young horse conchs have orange-colored shells; adults have orange apertures. At least 535 million years ago, mollusks acquired the ability to secrete a carbonate of lime solution that formed a hard, protective shell around them. The word "conch" comes from a Greek word meaning "shell." The shell is the external skeleton of a soft-bodied animal that inhabits it.

STATE REPTILE

In 1987, the American alligator (*alligator mississippiensis*) was designated the official state reptile. It has long been an unofficial symbol of the state as the alligator originally symbolized Florida's untamed lands. Alligators are found throughout Florida and in parts of other southeastern states. They like lakes, swamps, canals, and other wetland habitats. They eat fish, turtles, and many other animals. Alligators should not be fed because this causes them to lose their fear of humans. Feeding alligators is also against Florida law. Alligators are now under controlled management by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. This commission works to preserve the species and the wetland habitats that they and other Florida wildlife inhabit.

STATE SALTWATER FISH

The 1975 Legislature named the sailfish as Florida's state saltwater fish. A sailfish is dark blue on top and brown-blue on the sides with a silvery white underbelly and many black spots. Its upper jaw is elongated in the form of a spear, and the first dorsal fin is in the shape of a large sail. The sailfish is a rapidly growing species, reaching up to 7 feet long and 116 pounds. Sailfish are not unique to Florida; they are found nearly everywhere there is warm ocean water. However, Florida sailfishing is legendary, especially in the Fort Pierce, Miami, and Keys areas during colder months. Sailfish migrate southward as the weather chills in the north. They are found offshore in south Florida near the Gulf Stream and off the Panhandle. They feed on smaller fishes and squid at the surface or at mid-depths.

STATE FRESHWATER FISH

In 1975, the Legislature named the Florida largemouth bass, the largest member of the sunfish family, as the official state freshwater fish. It usually has light green to brown sides with a dark line down the side. The upper jaw of the largemouth bass extends beyond the rear edge of the eye. It prefers clear, nonflowing water and aquatic vegetation that provides food and cover. Largemouth bass are found in rivers, lakes, reservoirs, ponds, and estuaries, usually at depths of 20 feet or less. The largemouth bass is Florida's most popular freshwater game fish.

STATE MARINE MAMMAL

The manatee became the state marine mammal in 1975. The manatee, which is also known as the sea cow, big beaver, mermaid, or "furnished with hands," is a gray, waterplant-eating marine mammal that reaches eight to fourteen feet in length and can weigh more than a ton. The manatee is on the endangered species list, but chances for its survival are good if we, as citizens of this state, take steps to ensure its safety. The Florida Manatee Sanctuary Act of 1978 and later regulations have limited the speed of boats in waters populated by manatees during winter months, when more than 1,500 of the creatures swim to warm bays and rivers to avoid pneumonia and death.

STATE GEM

United States astronauts Neil Armstrong and Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin landed on the moon on July 20, 1969, aboard the Apollo 11 spacecraft. Since this and all other astronaut-controlled spaceflights had been launched from the Kennedy Space Center in Brevard County, the Florida Legislature sought to memorialize this "giant step" for humankind. In 1970, lawmakers adopted the moonstone as the official state gem.

STATE STONE

In 1979, agatized coral was designated the official state stone. Coral is the outside skeleton of tiny ocean animals called polyps, which live in colonies attached to hard underwater surfaces. When alive, polyps combine their own carbon dioxide with the lime in warm seawater to form a limestone-like hard surface, or coral. Agatized coral occurs when silica in the ocean water hardens, replacing the limy corals with a form of quartz known as chalcedony. This long process (20-30 million years) results in the formation of a "pseudomorph," meaning that one mineral has replaced another without having lost its original form. Agatized coral is found in three main Florida locations: Tampa Bay, the Econfina River, and the Withlacoochee/Suwannee River beds.

STATE TREE

The 1953 Legislature designated the sabal palm our state tree. The sabal palm grows in any kind of soil and is found throughout the state. There are many uses of the sabal palm, including medicine, food, and landscaping. In 1970, the Legislature mandated that the sabal palm should replace the cocoa palm on the state seal.

STATE BEVERAGE

Whenever the words "orange juice" are read, written, or spoken, many people automatically think of Florida. During the Second World War, scientists invented a process for making concentrated orange juice. Soon, a frozen concentrate was developed that transformed orange juice production into a multibillion dollar industry. In 1967, the Florida Legislature designated orange juice as the official state beverage.

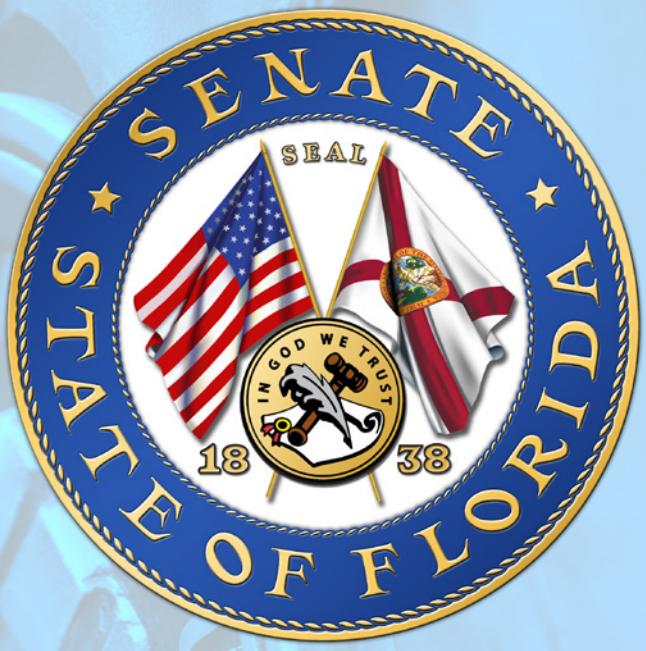
STATE PIE

The 2006 Legislature designated key lime pie as the official state pie. The key limes (*Citrus aurantiifolia,* Swingle) used to make this dessert are named after the Florida Keys where the key limes originated in the United States. The first key lime pie was created in the 1850s in south Florida. Made using key limes and sweetened condensed milk, the recipe became popular in early Florida because it did not require refrigeration.

SENATE EMBLEMS

THE SENATE SEAL

The Senate Seal was officially adopted in 1972 and revised in 2015 and 2016. Previously, there were no records in the Senate journals or rules of any official Senate Seal. It seems that before 1972, an unofficial seal or the state seal was used when necessary. The perimeter of the seal contains the words "Senate" and "State of Florida." The center contains the Florida state flag and the United States flag above a disc containing the words, "In God We Trust," arched above a gavel, quill, and scroll symbols of the Legislature. The quill depicts the writing of laws, the gavel depicts control or authority in the presiding officer, and the scroll depicts the parchment on which laws are permanently written. It is this body of written law upon which rests the very foundation of this nation's "rule of law," as opposed to "rule of men."



THE SENATE COAT OF ARMS

The Senate Coat of Arms was officially adopted in 1972 and revised in 2015 and 2016. However, variations of the coat of arms as we know it today have made appearances before the coat was officially adopted. The current coat of arms contains the Florida state flag and the United States flag above the Great Seal of Florida. At the base are the words: "The Florida Senate." The seal used in the Senate Coat of Arms is not the official seal of the State of Florida because it does not include the words "Great Seal of the State of Florida: In God We Trust," as outlined in section 15.03, Florida Statutes.

FUN SENATE FACTS

FIRST AFRICAN-AMERICAN WOMAN SENATOR
Carrie P. Meek, District 36, Miami, Democrat, 1982-1992

FIRST AFRICAN-AMERICAN SENATORS SINCE RECONSTRUCTION
Arnett E. Girardeau, District 7, Jacksonville, Democrat, 1982-1992
Carrie P. Meek, District 36, Miami, Democrat, 1982-1992

FIRST AFRICAN-AMERICAN WOMAN TO SERVE AS MINORITY (DEMOCRATIC) LEADER
Arthenia L. Joyner, District 19, Tampa, Democrat, 2014-2016

NUMBER OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN SENATORS DURING RECONSTRUCTION (1868-1887)
18

FIRST WOMAN SENATOR
Beth Johnson, District 19, Orlando, Democrat, 1962-1967

FIRST WOMAN SENATE PRESIDENT
Gwen Margolis, District 37, North Miami Beach, Democrat, 1990-1992

FIRST HISPANIC SENATOR
Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, District 34, Dade County, Republican, 1986-1989

YOUNGEST KNOWN SENATE PRESIDENT
John L. Doggett (1827) age 29
Park M. Trammell (1905) age 29

OLDEST KNOWN SENATE PRESIDENT
William A. Shands (1957) age 68

SENATOR WITH HIGHEST NUMBER OF YEARS SERVED
Scott Dilworth Clarke: 36 years, 34 sessions

YOUNGEST KNOWN SENATOR ELECTED
Dennis J. Patrick O'Grady, Republican, elected in 1967, age 23

SENATORS ELECTED AS GOVERNOR OF FLORIDA SINCE THE CONSTITUTION WAS REVISED IN 1968
1971-1979: Reubin O'Donovan Askew, Democrat
1979-1987: Daniel Robert "Bob" Graham, Democrat
1991-1998: Lawton M. Chiles, Democrat
2007-2011: Charlie Crist, Republican

FIRST CUBAN-AMERICAN SENATE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE
Senator Roberto Casas, District 39, Hialeah, Republican, 1996-1998

SENATOR TONI JENNINGS

Republican, the second woman to serve as Senate President, was the first and only senator to serve two consecutive terms as President (1996-1998; 1998-2000) and later became the first female Lieutenant Governor of the State of Florida (2003-2006).

SENATOR GARRETT RICHTER

Republican, is the first President Pro Tempore to serve two consecutive terms (2012-2014; 2014-2016).

DURING THE 1992-1994 LEGISLATIVE TERM

Senators Ander Crenshaw, Republican, and Pat Thomas, Democrat, split the Senate presidency. Each senator served one year as President. This was due to an even split in the number of Republicans and Democrats for that term.

INSTANCES OF FAMILY MEMBERS SERVING TOGETHER WITHIN THE LEGISLATURE

- Senator Don Gaetz (2006-2016) and his son, Congressman Matt Gaetz (former representative 2010-2016)
- Senator Larcenia Bullard (2002-2012; former representative 1992-2000), her husband, Representative Edward B. Bullard (2000-2008), and their son, Senator Dwight M. Bullard (2012-2016; former representative 2008-2012)
- Senator Jack Latvala (1994-2002; 2010-2018) and his son, Representative Chris Latvala (2014-present)
- Senator Aaron Bean (2012-present; former representative 2000-2008) and his brother-in-law, Senator Rob Bradley (2012-present)
- Senator Victor M. Torres, Jr. (2016-present; former representative 2012-2016) and his daughter, Representative Amy Mercado (2016-present)

TWO SENATORS NAMED BETH JOHNSON

served together for five months in the Senate in 1967.

FLORIDA'S FIRST LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

which was supposed to meet in Pensacola on June 10, 1822, did not meet until 44 days later due to hazardous and time-consuming travel.

CONSTRUCTION OF FLORIDA'S PRESENT CAPITOL REQUIRED

3,700 tons of structural steel,
2,800 tons of reinforcing steel, and
25,000 cubic yards of concrete, the equivalent
of 16 football fields, each one foot thick.

Information obtained from: Allen Morris et al., The Florida Handbook (34th ed. 2014), available at http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/contentViewer.aspx?Category=PublicGuide&File=FloridaHandbook.html
Allen Morris and Joan Perry Morris, The Florida Handbook (33rd ed. 2011-2012)

FLORIDA GEOGRAPHIC FACTS

TOTAL AREA 65,757.7 square miles

TOTAL LAND AREA 53,624.76 square miles

TOTAL WATER AREA 12,132.94 square miles

LENGTH NORTH AND SOUTH (ST. MARYS RIVER TO KEY WEST) 447 miles

WIDTH EAST AND WEST (ATLANTIC OCEAN TO PERDIDO RIVER) 361 miles

HIGHEST NATURAL POINT Britton Hill at 345 feet, near Lakewood in Walton County

GEOGRAPHIC CENTER Located in Citrus County, 12 miles NNW of Brooksville

GENERAL COASTLINE 1,350 statute miles

GENERAL TIDAL SHORELINE 2,276 statute miles

NUMBER OF ISLANDS OR "KEYS" 10 ACRES OR LARGER 4,510

LONGEST RIVER St. Johns, approximately 273 miles

LARGEST LAKE Lake Okeechobee, 700 square miles

LARGEST COUNTY (LAND AREA) Collier, 1,998.32 square miles

LARGEST COUNTY (LAND AND WATER AREA) Miami-Dade, 2,431.18 square miles

SMALLEST COUNTY (LAND AND WATER AREA) Union, 249.75 square miles

NUMBER OF NATURAL FRESHWATER LAKES 10 SQUARE MILES OR MORE 20

NUMBER OF FIRST-MAGNITUDE SPRINGS 33

FLORIDA IS THE FLATTEST STATE IN THE COUNTRY. Florida's mean elevation is just 100 feet (30 meters).

FLORIDA HAS THE LONGEST COASTLINE IN THE CONTIGUOUS UNITED STATES.

FLORIDA IS THE LARGEST PRODUCER OF CITRUS FRUITS IN THE UNITED STATES AND THIRD IN THE WORLD BEHIND BRAZIL AND CHINA.

FORT LAUDERDALE IS KNOWN AS THE VENICE OF AMERICA BECAUSE THE CITY HAS 185 MILES OF LOCAL WATERWAYS.

HIGHEST RATE OF LIGHTNING STRIKES PER CAPITA IN THE UNITED STATES Clearwater

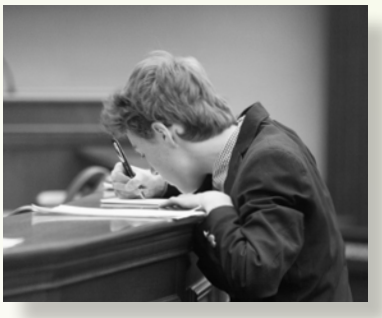
Matching

Match the letters with these Florida facts.

A. Union
B. Near Brooksville
C. St. Augustine
D. Miami-Dade
E. Tallahassee
F. 1821
G. Okeechobee
H. St. Johns
I. 1839
J. 1909
K. Walton County
L. 1967
M. 1824

[ ] Florida's Capital city
[ ] State Flower designated
[ ] Florida acquired as a U.S. territory
[ ] Smallest county in Florida (land and water area)
[ ] First Capitol building erected
[ ] The first Florida Senate Sergeant at Arms appointed
[ ] Two women named Beth Johnson served in the Senate
[ ] Largest county in Florida (land and water area)
[ ] Largest lake in Florida
[ ] Florida's highest natural point
[ ] First European settlement in Florida
[ ] Geographic center of Florida
[ ] Longest river in Florida

Answers on page 51



Scrambler

1. Home of the Jaguars Football Team. EOVAKCJLLISN _____
2. Home of NASA. CPAEVLCEANARA _____
3. Southernmost point of Florida and home of author Ernest Hemingway. YKETWSE _____
4. National Park. VGELDESARE _____
5. Name of our State Capital which comes from a Muskogee Indian word meaning "old town." HSLATSLEAAE _____
6. Home of Mickey and Minnie Mouse. LNAORDO _____
7. Named after its founder, Mathias Day, one of Florida's most pristine beaches. OATYANDHCAEB _____
8. "Haiyakpo" and "hili," Muskogee Indian words, describe this city as a "pretty prairie." LHIHAEA _____
9. City known as the birthplace of naval aviation. SCLAPONAE _____
10. City named after Major William Lauderdale. FEUDALDLRAET _____
11. Known as the "Sunshine City" and also named after a port city in Russia. TSBTESRUGRPE _____

Answers on page 51

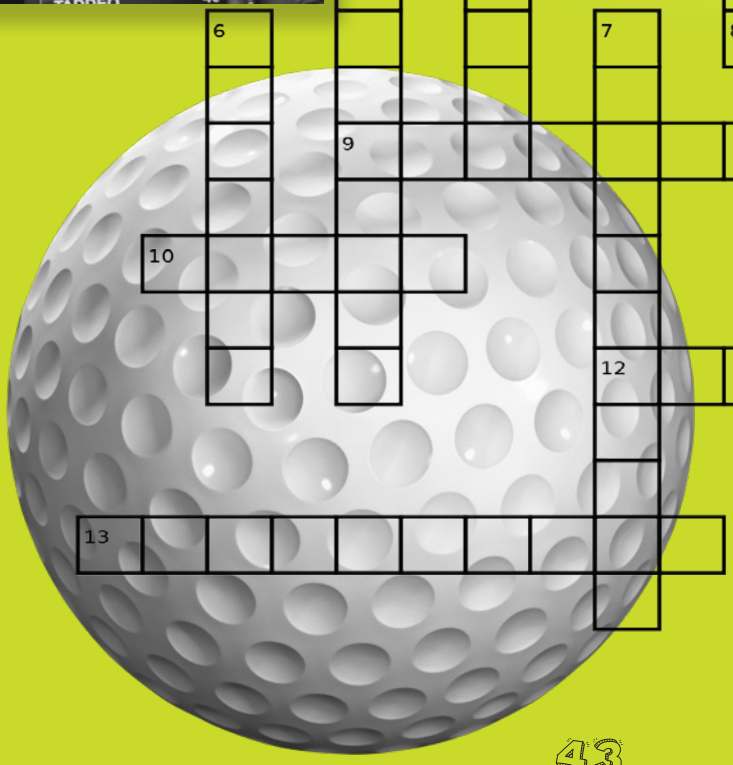
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

DOWN:

1. Means consisting of two houses
2. Latin phrase meaning "without day"
5. To pass a bill after the Governor has vetoed it, requiring a two-thirds vote of each house
6. Longest river in Florida
7. This animal's name means "mimic of many tongues" in Latin
11. To delete a previously passed law

ACROSS:

3. Smallest county in Florida
4. A compilation of individual laws which are the official laws of Florida
8. This branch implements the laws
9. An electronic vote
10. Presides over a committee meeting or a session
12. Chief executive of the State
13. Means "for a time"



Answers on page 51

ABOUT OUR GOVERNMENT

Are you a good code breaker? We need one! In the following paragraph, certain words disappeared, and in their place were left numbers. We know that each of these numbers matches up to a certain letter in the alphabet. We need you to convert these numbers to letters and bring back the missing words. Fill in the blank above the number with a letter. When you think you've cracked the code, check the solution on page 51. We discovered that 12 = L, hope this helps. Good luck!!

											L													
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

Florida is the only state in the nation whose _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ is reviewed every
3 15 14 19 20 9 20 21 20 9 15 14

20 years. This set of rules determines the State's government and our laws. Our government

has three branches. They are the _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _, the _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _,
12 5 7 9 19 12 1 20 9 22 5 5 24 5 3 21 20 9 22 5

and the _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ branches. The legislature passes _ _ _ _, which are carried
10 21 4 9 3 9 1 12 12 1 23 19

out by the executive branch. The head of this branch is the _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _. The judicial
7 15 22 5 18 14 15 18

branch is a system of _ _ _ _ _ _ _. Judges and justices in this branch determine facts,
3 15 21 18 20 19

interpret the law, and make rulings on legal cases. The legislature meets _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _
1 14 14 21 1 12 12 25

to discuss laws, change the law, or make new laws. The two bodies of the legislature are the

_ _ _ _ _ and the _ _ _ _ _ _. Together, these houses work to better the lives of the
8 15 21 19 5 19 5 14 1 20 5

people of Florida.

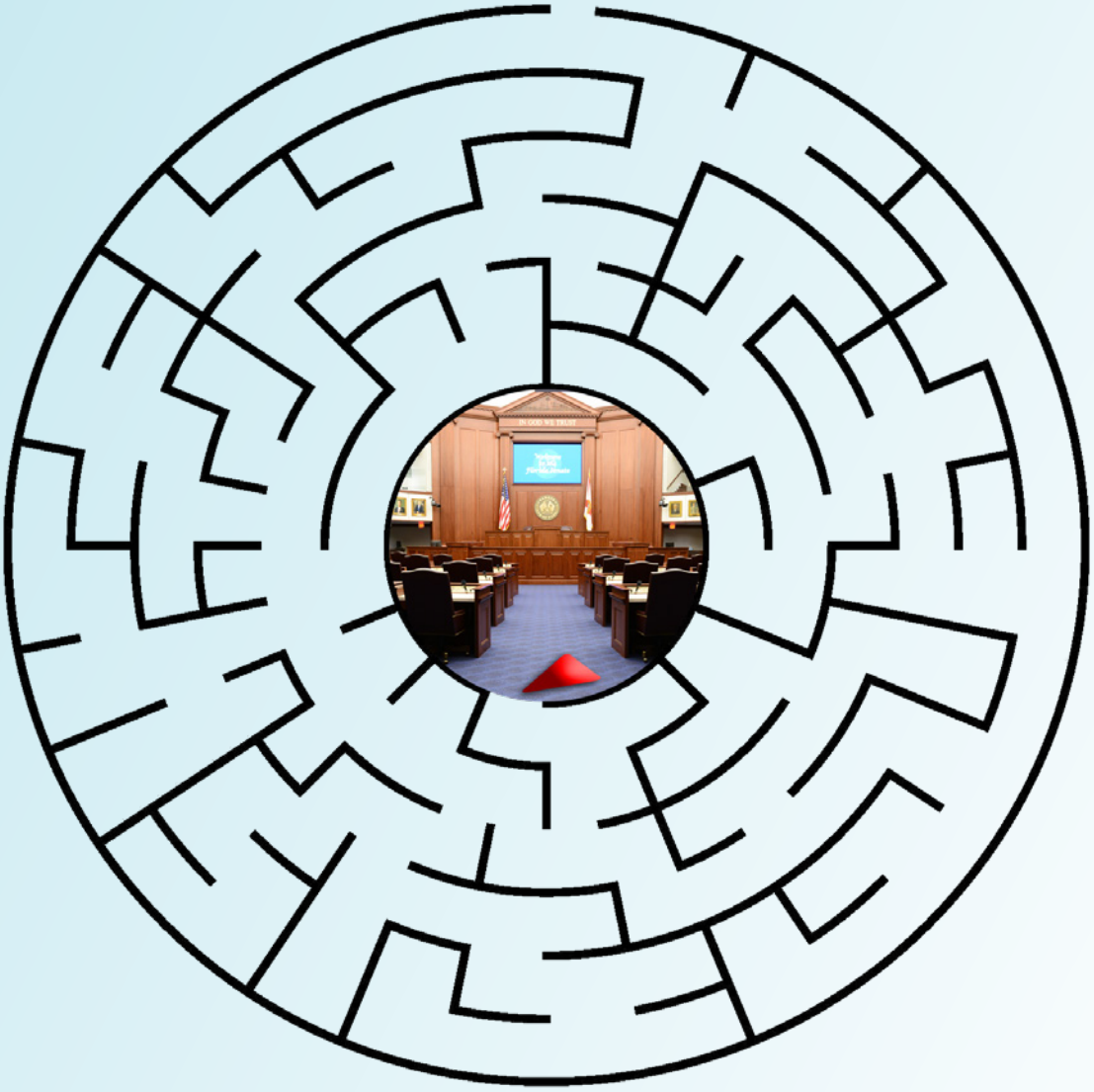
SENATOR WORD SEARCH

Q H F B Z H H F I E D C N Z U Q J F Z J T K W O G P C W H F
M V B J J U A L S U N G R U G I B S O N Z K G T J H Y A A U
S T A D D E O O S Z R J A Q W H L C V J U Y S T R X D I A Z
I Y X Z I N V B I R A K S U O V D W C M A L B R I T T O N J
Z R K Z W X H M M B E P Y Y C U A R H S O J G N X H R T V J
O D K U T G T W M V H F V U N B Z I A T P V Q C H K S G W R
Q H F L Q H W U O D B C V K I R V G R A D P K Z C Q O G V K
M G A B O M B Y N R R F V Q D A P H R R P I F C T Z T G L U
Q V R K E Z L Z S Z O A I H N Y X T E G U Z R G R E J T N S
S F M C M N H G H E K F S Q Y N E T L E L Z E D Q U Q O J N
U Z E P T X A D G I P M K M Y O Y L L L U O G A B F Z R B Z
I M R M B Z V C X B C E X I F N X G H J E H A R R P X R Y L
O G B Z C K W A Q F R O T E H S R D P X A D L W O P Q E Y Z
B R W E R W L R O U E A U X Y O T I L S O K V I X Y S S C H
M U M P A O O B W T I O D Z R Y B E M B M X A V S N V F O V
H T H Y K N D O K G Y S T L G M L D W R R E N K O Q R L W Q
D E F K X N G R X U R R T E E Q P U C A S X O C N A A O V A
D R D H P X X V I Z F R A O I Y J A Z N R R M E J X G R M O
E S D Q W W W E M G H W Y D J D G P D D P T S A E G G E G A
C H P E N M I I C Z U P O W E L L J W E A H F S Y K D S N T
B E R M A N Y U A W W E T H F R I Q S S S P I G M F B Z U I
F T N Z R R O G B S A V Z H K T T P F S S Y O H F Q I Y C W
W Z M O N T F O R D Y A F R U P U A Y V I H G B J J B E L R
B R A C Y F L E E I K L P K X R S P V V D O P R A U D B L A
K K H O O P E R W E B O C V G M S H R Z O H Y F Z X I V I D
F A K M P E R R Y D M N R E A A P T T Y M G B Y D J L F B C
S R O U S O N N Q U H U T S O N J L O O O E R H R A T E U N
W P C V E K Z L Q H Z U T J M Q X L N N B Q N U J N A O Y I
H L X U Q B D U D G H G F G B O O K Q X U M W T J O L I D V
R E F C X F N G A I N E R S I M P S O N E W H R X J M C L K

Albritton	Brandes	Galvano	Montford	Simmons
Baxley	Braynon	Gibson	Passidomo	Simpson
Bean	Broxson	Gruters	Perry	Stargel
Benacquisto	Cruz	Harrell	Pizzo	Stewart
Berman	Diaz	Hooper	Powell	Taddeo
Book	Farmer	Hutson	Rader	Thurston
Bracy	Flores	Lee	Rodriguez	Torres
Bradley	Gainer	Mayfield	Rouson	Wright

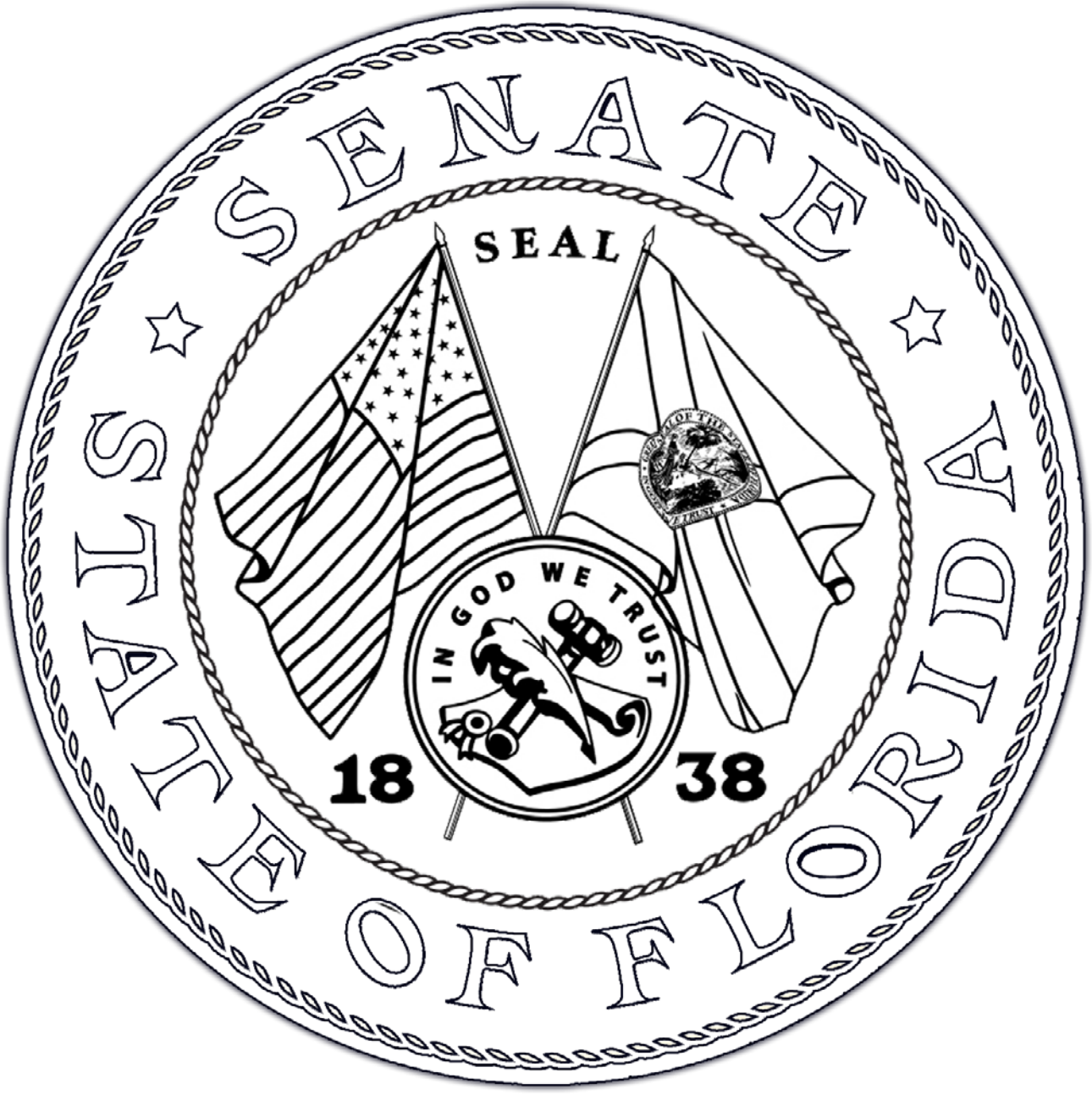
Answers on page 52

Help the students find their way to the Senate chamber!

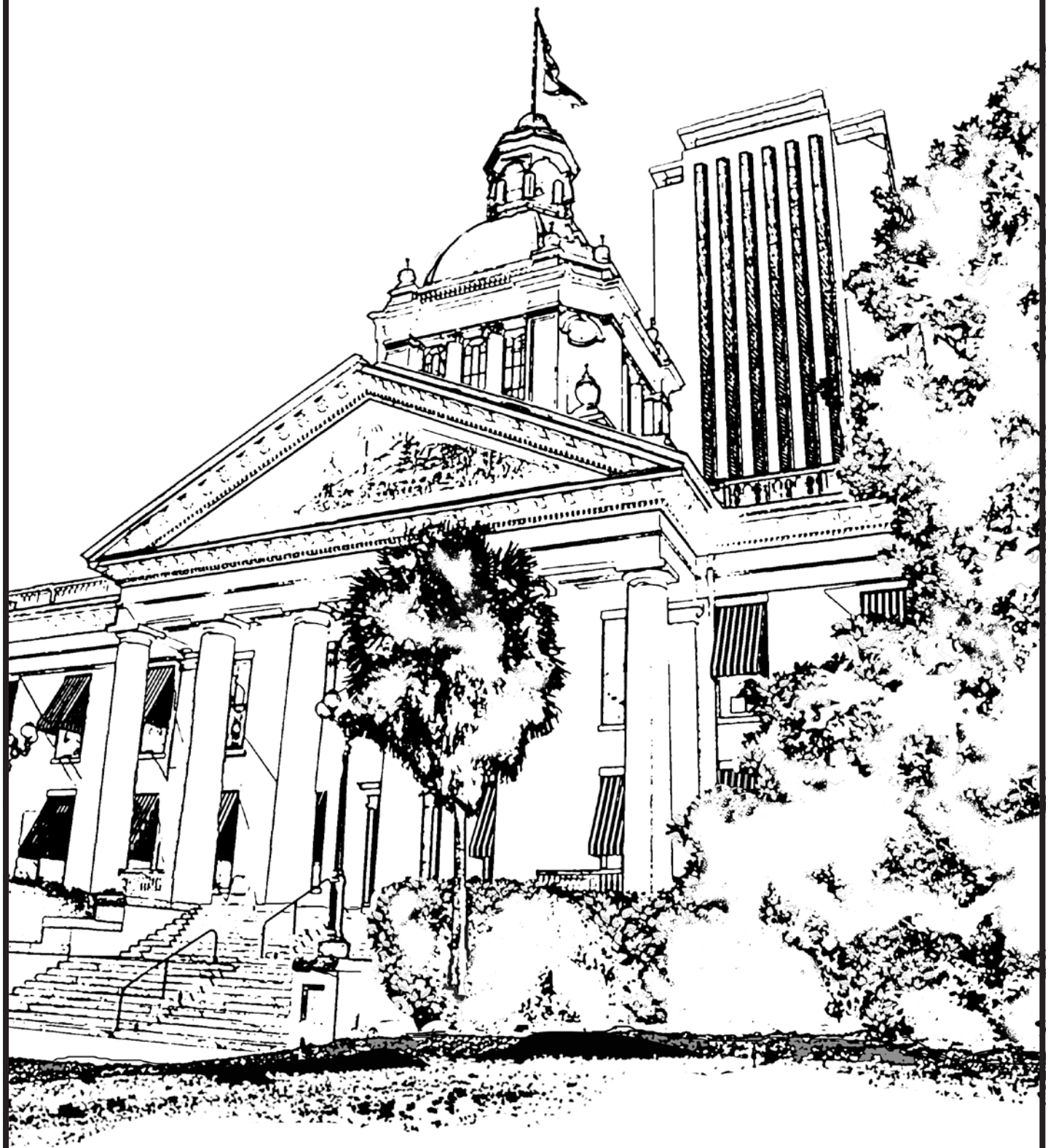


Answer on page 52

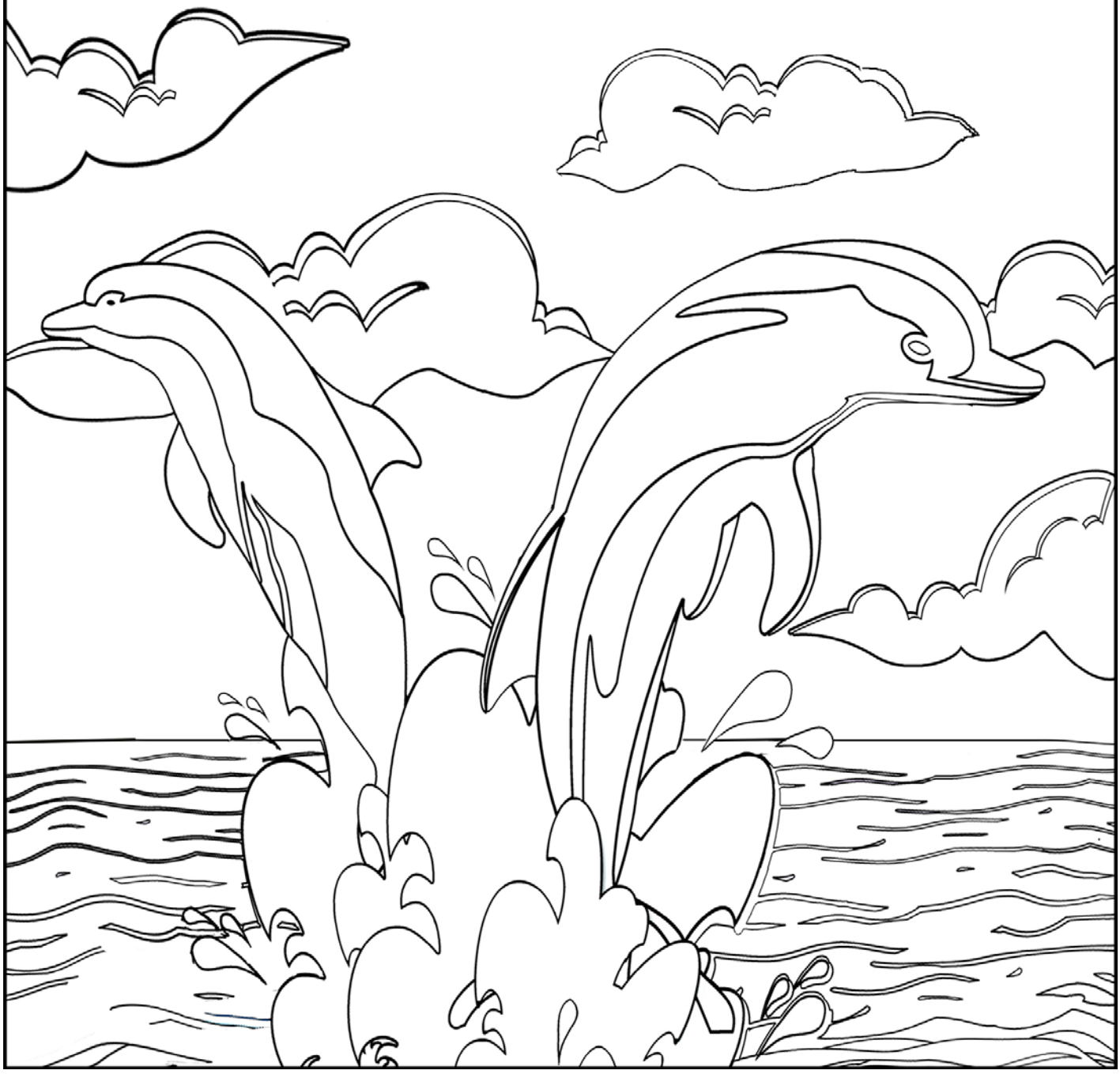
THE SENATE SEAL



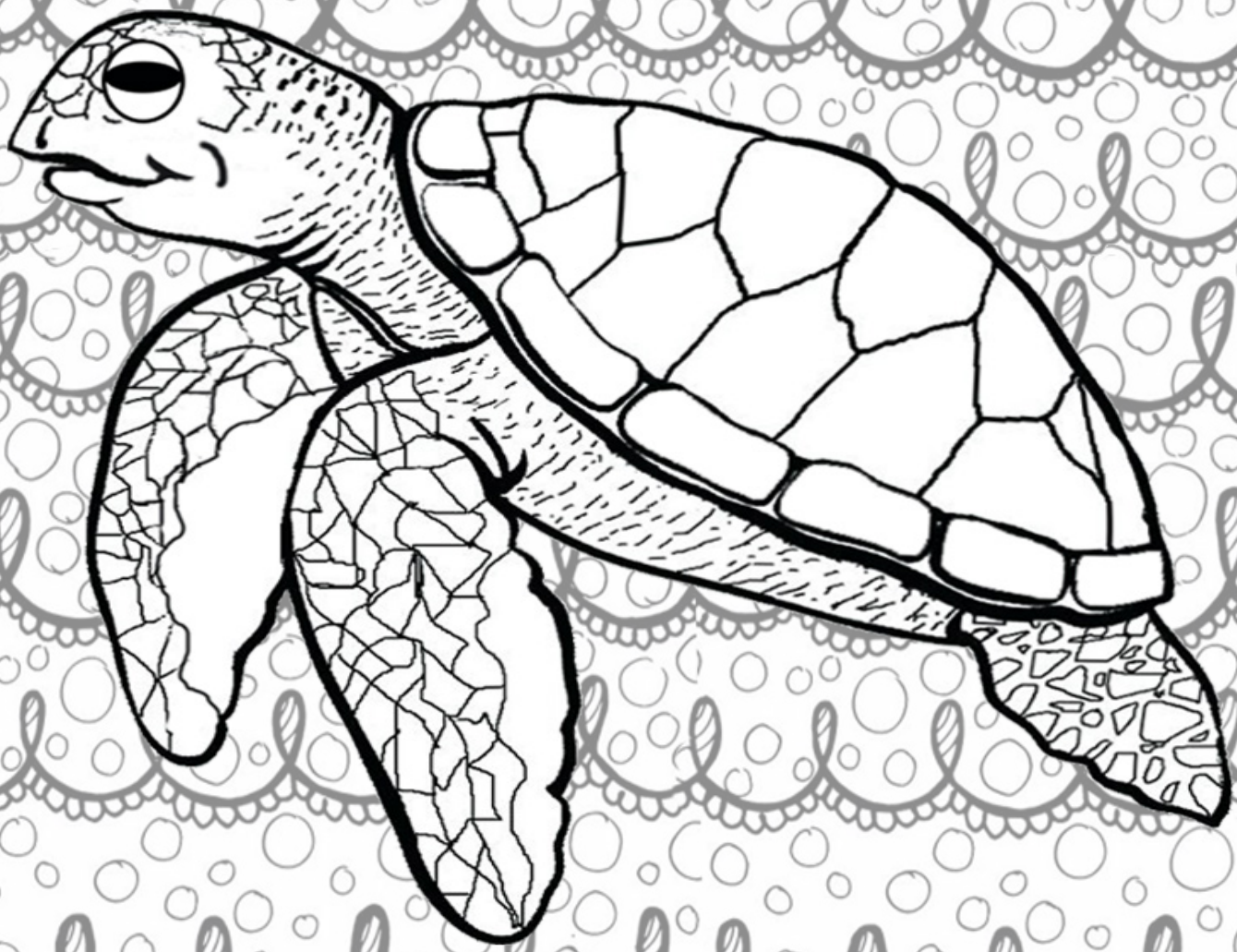
THE HISTORIC CAPITOL



Bottlenose Dolphin



Loggerhead Turtle



ANSWER KEYS

[E] Florida's Capital city

[J] State Flower designated

[F] Florida acquired as a U.S. territory

[A] Smallest county in Florida (land and water area)

[M] First Capitol building erected

[I] The first Florida Senate Sergeant at Arms appointed

[L] Two women named Beth Johnson served in the Senate

[D] Largest county in Florida (land and water area)

[G] Largest lake in Florida

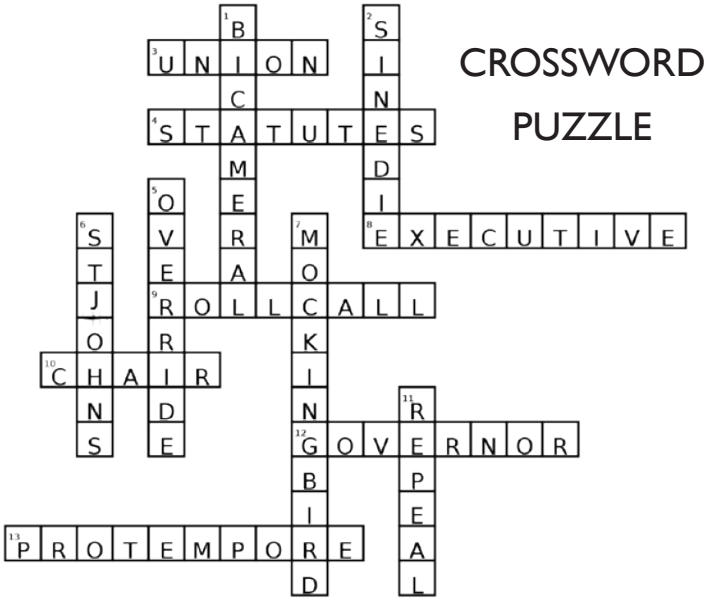
[K] Florida's highest natural point

[C] First European settlement in Florida

[B] Geographic center of Florida

[H] Longest river in Florida

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



WORD SCRAMBLE

1. Jacksonville
2. Cape Canaveral
3. Key West
4. Everglades
5. Tallahassee
6. Orlando
7. Daytona Beach
8. Hialeah
9. Pensacola
10. Ft. Lauderdale
11. St. Petersburg

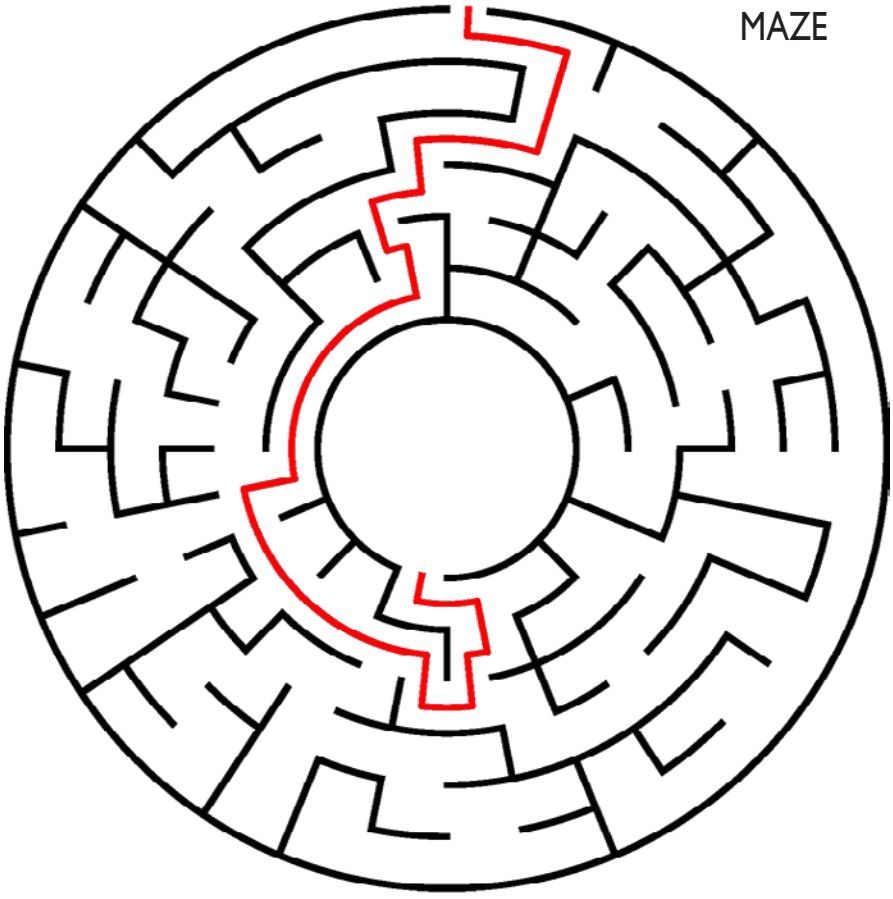
ABOUT OUR GOVERNMENT

Florida is the only state in the nation whose CONSTITUTION is reviewed every 20 years. This set of rules determines the State's government and our laws. Our government has three branches. They are the LEGISLATIVE, the EXECUTIVE, and the JUDICIAL branches. The legislature passes LAWS, which are carried out by the executive branch. The head of this branch is the GOVERNOR. The judicial branch is a system of COURTS. Judges and justices in this branch determine facts, interpret the law, and make rulings on legal cases. The legislature meets ANNUALLY to discuss laws, change the law, or make new laws. The two bodies of the legislature are the HOUSE and the SENATE. Together, these houses work to better the lives of the people of Florida.

WORD SEARCH

Q H F B Z H H F I E D C N Z U Q J F Z J T K W O G P C W H F
M V B J J U A L S U N G R U G I B S O N Z K G T J H Y A A U
S T A D D F O O S Z R J A Q W H L C V J U Y S T R X D I A Z
I Y X Z I N V B I R A K S U O V D W C M A I B R I T T O N J
Z R K Z W X H M M B E P Y Y C U A R H S O J G N X H R T V J
O D K U T G T W M V H F V U N B Z I A T P V Q C H K S G W R
Q H F L Q H W U O D B C V K I R V G R A D P K Z C Q O G V K
M G A B Q M B Y N R R F V Q D A P H R R P I F C T Z T G L U
Q V R K E Z L Z S Z O A I H N Y X T E G U Z R G R E J T N S
S F M C M N H G H E K F S Q Y N E T L E L Z E D Q U Q O J N
U Z E P T X A D G I P M K M Y O Y L U U U O G A B F Z R B Z
I M R M B Z V C X B C E X I F N X G H J E H A R R P X R Y L
O G B Z C K W A Q F R Q T E H S R D P X A D L W O P Q E Y Z
B R W E R W L R O U E A U X Y O T I L S O K V I X Y S S C H
M U M P A Q O B W T I O D Z R Y B E M B M X A V S N V F O V
H T H Y K N D O K G Y S T L G M L D W R R E N K O Q R L W Q
D E F K X N G R X U R R T E E Q P U C A S X Q C N A A O V A
D R D H P X X V I Z F R A Q I Y J A Z N R R M E J X G R M O
E S D Q W W W E M G H W Y D I D G P D D P T S A E G G E G A
C H P E N M I I C Z U P Q W E L I J W E A H F S Y K D S N T
B E R M A N Y U A W W E T H F R I Q S S S P I G M F B Z U I
F T N Z R R O G B S A V Z H K T T P F S S Y O H F Q I Y C W
W Z M O N T E O R D Y A F R U P U A Y V I H G B J J B E L R
B R A C Y F I E E I K L P K X R S P V V D O P R A U D B L A
K K H O O P E R W E B O C V G M S H R Z O H Y F Z X I V I D
F A K M P E R R Y D M N R E A A P T T Y M G B Y D J L E B C
S R O U S O N N Q U H U T S O N J L Q Q O E R H R A T E U N
W P C V E K Z L Q H Z U T J M Q X L N N B Q N U J N A O Y I
H L X U Q B D U D G H G F G B O O K Q X U M W T J O L I D V
R E F C X F N G A I N E R S I M P S O N E W H R X J M C L K

MAZE



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