SEAL OF THE FLORIDA SENATE

The 1972 Senate adopted a new official Senate seal. The perimeter of the seal contains the words "Senate" and "State of Florida." The center contains a fan of the five flags which have flown over Florida, 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."
MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

TONI JENNINGS  
President of the Senate

Welcome to the Florida Senate. As one of the Florida Legislature’s two houses, the Senate is often referred to as the “upper house” because its smaller membership serves longer terms and Senators represent a larger constituency than members of the House of Representatives. Though elected under partisan banners, the Senate is more collegial in nature. During the 1996-1998 term, inclusiveness and governing by consensus will outweigh individual agendas.

The Senate will focus on the issues of improving our public education system, creating sufficient and meaningful job opportunities, making government less intrusive and more efficient, and protecting our citizens while in their homes and on our streets.

The Senators you will read about in this handbook are part of a forty-member team who will shape Florida’s future as we prepare to meet the 21st Century.

Come along with us. Participate in your government by letting those who represent you know your thoughts on the important issues of the day. Effective government is a two-way street. Let us hear from you. Together we can make a better Florida!
When the first Senate was convened on January 7, 1839 — six years before Florida became a state — no business could be transacted because only seven of the sixteen Senators were present. There was no quorum of Senators for three of the first four days, and it was not until the fifth day of the first session that Territorial Governor Richard Keith Call addressed the Senate and the House of Representatives in joint session.

Since the beginning days, the Senate has evolved into a highly organized, smoothly functioning legislative body that meets annually to conduct the people’s business. There is a year-round staff of committees to conduct vital research and prepare for the legislative sessions. The legislative branch is now equal to the executive and the judicial branches in function as well as in theory.

“Once a Senator, always a Senator” is a catchy phrase of good fellowship that conveys something of the philosophy of the Senate.

The Florida Senate today is made up of 40 members, each elected from a single district representing more than 323,448 Florida citizens. Each Senator is elected for a four-year staggered term and may be elected for more than one term, but may not seek reelection if at the end of his current term he has served eight consecutive years (see Article VI, section 4, State Constitution). The State Constitution specifies that Senators must be at least twenty-one years of age, must be registered voters, must be residents of the districts from which they are elected, and must have resided in Florida for two years prior to their election.

While members of the other branches of government devote full time to public service, the Legislature maintains its identity as the “citizen” branch. Almost all of the Senators are occupied in a business or profession when they are not carrying out their legislative duties.

The 1996-1998 Senate membership includes 34 men and 6 women. There are 23 Republicans and 17 Democrats whose professions or occupations include law, medicine, banking, business, agriculture, and industry. The average Senator is about 51 years old, is married and has children. Thirty-seven of the Senators have college degrees and 36 have held other public offices before they were elected to the Senate. Fourteen Senators served in the House of Representatives prior to their election to the Senate. Others have served in local governments. The Senate is presided over by a President elected by the members of the Senate for a two-year term. Also elected for a two-year term is the President Pro Tempore. The President for the 1996-1998 term is Senator Toni Jennings from Orlando, a 16-year veteran in the Senate. The President Pro Tempore is Senator Roberto Casas from Hialeah, who has served in the Senate since 1988.

Additional information on these officers and the other members of the Senate is contained on the following pages of this booklet. The booklet also outlines and describes the Senate and its operation and its relationship to the other House of the Legislature and the other two branches of Florida government.
Toni Jennings
Republican, District 9
President


Roberto Casas
Republican, District 39
President Pro Tempore

Real Estate Broker, Investor born April 25, 1931 in Havana, Cuba. Moved to Florida in 1962 education Havana Business University, B.A., 1954 wife Violeta Colominas of Matanzas, Cuba affiliations Hialeah-Miami Springs Chamber of Commerce; Hialeah-Miami Springs Board of Realtors; Miami Lions Club; Flamingo Kiwanis Club; Knights of Columbus legislative service House of Representatives, 1982-1988; elected to the Senate in 1988, reelected subsequently other public service Secondary Education Planning Commission, 1983; OTB International Trade Commission highlights United Teachers of Dade, Tiger Award; South Hialeah Elementary PTA Recognition; Florida League of Cities, Prominent Personality, 1985; Metropolitan Dade County Legislative Appreciation religious affiliation Catholic recreation hunting and fishing addresses (district) 4821 W. 4th Avenue, Hialeah 33012 (Tallahassee) 216 Senate Office Building, 32399-1100 telephones (district) 305/827-4040 (Tallahassee) 904/487-5106.
MEMBERS OF THE SENATE

William G. (Bill) Bankhead
Republican, District 8


Charles H. (Charlie) Bronson, Jr.
Republican, District 18

Rancher born September 15, 1949 in Kissimmee education University of Georgia, B.S.A., 1973 wife Regina Bolden of Macon, Georgia children Michelle, Melanie affiliations Republican Men’s Club of Brevard; Florida Cattlemen’s Association legislative service elected to the Senate in 1994 other public service Water Management District Review Commission, 1995-1996; Agriculture and Rural Development Committee of the Southern Legislative Conference, 1995-present; Recycling Markets Advisory Committee, 1995-present; Spaceport Florida Authority, 1995-present; Chairman, Brevard County Republican Party, 1992-1994; appointed by President George Bush to Rural Telephone Bank Board, 1990-1995; Republican State Committee, Brevard County, 1988-1992; Republican Party of Florida, Executive Committee, 1987-present; Brevard County Sheriff’s Department, Reserve Deputy, 1982-present; Dade County Reserve Deputy, 1978-1979 highlights Florida Farm Bureau Federation, Legislative Award, 1996; Florida Aquatic Plant Management Society, Inc., Legislative Environmental Leadership Award, 1996; The Greater Osceola County-St. Cloud Chamber of Commerce, Good Government Award, 1996; Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association, Outstanding Legislator Award, 1996; Florida Medical Association, Inc., Legislative Appreciation Award, 1996; Florida Sheriffs, Legislative Award, 1995 and 1996; Florida Veterinary Medical Association, Legislative Award, 1995; Printing Association of Florida’s Paul Revere Award, 1995; South Brevard Beaches Jaycees, Outstanding Young Farmer Award, 1986 religious affiliation Methodist recreation hunting and fishing addresses (district) Suite 2, 1300 Pine Tree Drive, Indian Harbour Beach 32937; 1322 10th Street, St. Cloud 34769 (Tallahassee) 356 Senate Office Building, 32399-1100 telephones (district) 407/779-1155; 407/846-5275; (district-wide) 800/843-2945 (Tallahassee) 904/487-5056.
Ginny Brown-Waite
Republican, District 10

Legislator born October 5, 1943 in Albany, New York. Moved to Florida in 1986 education State University of New York, B.S., 1976; Russell Sage College, M.S., 1984; Cornell University, Certificate Program, 1980 husband Harvey Waite of Albany, New York children Jeannine Roxby-Waite, Danene Mitchell, and Lorie Sue Meaders affiliations B.P.W.; Suncoast MG Club; West Hernando GOP; Board member, Hernando Spouse Abuse Shelter; former treasurer, United Way legislative service elected to the Senate in 1992; reelected subsequently other public service Hernando County Commissioner; Legislative Director, New York State Senate highlights various community awards: Spring Hill Civic Association, Florida Association of Community Health Centers, Pasco-Hernando Community College, American Lung Association, American Heart Association, American Cancer Society; member of Board of Directors, National Order of Women Legislators; Business and Professional Women, Woman of the Year; Florida League of Cities, Quality Floridian Award; Florida Trial Attorneys, Consumer Rights Award; Florida Public Health Association, Outstanding Legislator; Mothers Against Drunk Driving, Legislative Excellence; American Business Women’s Association, Associate of the Year; Redlands Christian Migrant Association, Exceptional Moments in Good Government; Florida Medical Association, Leadership Award; Florida Sheriffs Association, Legislative Award; Florida Conservation Association Award religious affiliation Catholic recreation reading and computer work addresses (district) 20 North Main Street, County Office Building, Rm. 200, Brooksville 34601 (Tallahassee) 316 Senate Office Building, 32399-1100 telephones (district) 352/544-2344 (Tallahassee) 904/487-5040.

Locke Burt
Republican, District 16
Republican Leader

Walter G. (Skip) Campbell, Jr.
Democrat, District 33


children Christina, 18; Daniel, 13. 

affiliations Democratic Party; local chairman, National Multiple Sclerosis Society legislative service. Elected to the Senate in 1996. 

other public service Florida Elections Commission highlights National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Hope Award; listed in The Best Lawyers In America; Coral Springs Economic Development Foundation, Achievement Award; Broward Lawyers Care, Outstanding Contribution insuring equal access to the legal system for economically disadvantaged of our community. 

religious affiliation Catholic 

recreation golf addresses (district) 10094 McNab Road, Tamarac 33321 (Tallahassee) 254 Senate Office Building, 32399-1100 telephones (district) 954/346-2813 (Tallahassee) 904/487-5094

W. D. Childers
Republican, District 1

Dean of the Senate

Businessman born November 25, 1933 in Okaloosa County. 

education Florida State University, B.S., 1955; wife Ruth A. Johnson of Wakeeney, Kansas. 

children Gail, Jeanna, Karen, and Marvel; grandchildren: Mandy, Jamie, Max, Hailey, Bradley, Brandon and Hannah. 

affiliations Lions Club; Farm Bureau; Masonic Lodge #348 legislative service. Elected to the Senate in 1970, reelected subsequently: President 1980-1982; Dean of the Senate highlights NRA Legislator of the Year Awards; Florida Association of Realtors Legislator of the Year Award; Unified Sportsmen Service Award, several years; Florida Jaycees Governmental Affairs Appreciation Award; Distinguished Service Award for representing the interests of Northwest Florida in the Florida Legislature; Florida Blue Key Honorary Membership; University of West Florida Government Award for Outstanding Leadership and Service; Florida State University and the Florida State University Alumni Association recognition of Outstanding Professional and Public Service Achievements; Allen Morris Awards: Most Effective in Debate, 

three times; Most Effective in Committee; Most Effective Member of the Senate; Former school teacher and retail business owner; various other awards not listed religious affiliation Baptist recreation fishing, hunting, and camping addresses (district) 2889 Michigan Avenue, Pensacola 32526 (Tallahassee) 205 Senate Office Building, 32399-1100 telephones (district) 904/944-3900 (Tallahassee) 904/487-5000.

Charles W. (Charlie) Clary III
Republican, District 7

Architect born June 24, 1950 in Crestview. 


children Joanna, 16; Laura, 13. 

affiliations Destin Kiwanis Club, past president; Salvation Army Advisory Board; YMCA Board; Destin Chamber of Commerce; Ft. Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce; Submarine Veterans; American Legion legislative service. Elected to the Senate in 1996. other public service Councilman, City of Destin, 6 years highlights Destin Kiwanis, Distinguished President’s Award military service U.S. Navy: Submarine service, 4 years active and 2 years inactive religious affiliation Baptist recreation fishing, pen and ink sketching, and photography addresses (district) P.O. Box 277, Destin 32540 (Tallahassee) 328 Senate Office Building, 32399-1100 telephones (district) 904/833-9159 (Tallahassee) 904/487-5009.

Anna P. Cowin
Republican, District 11


affiliations Leesburg Area Chamber of Commerce, president and member; Altrusa International of Lake County, president and charter member; Education Foundation of Lake County, president and founder; Lake Sumter Community College Foundation, member; Leesburg Federated Republican Women’s Club, member and former president; Leesburg Federated Republican Club, member; Hospice Ethics Board, member legislative service
elected to the Senate in 1996 other public service chairman and member, Lake County School Board, 1982-1990; elected precinct committeewoman; Lake County Republican Executive Committee 1982-2000; Committee for Fair Utility Prices, president highlights City of Leesburg, Community Service and Leadership Awards; Orlando Sentinel and League of Cities; Leesburg Area Chamber of Commerce; Rollins College; Board of Directors, Florida School Boards Association; United Way Campaign, Chairman for Lake and Sumter counties; Leadership Lake County, vice president and charter member; former college professor/counselor; field underwriter; biological researcher religious affiliation Catholic addresses (district) 716 West Magnolia Street, Leesburg 34748 (Tallahassee) 240 Senate Office Building, 32399-1100 telephones (district) 352/315-9335 (Tallahassee) 904/487-5014.

Charlie Crist Republican, District 20

Attorney, Senator born July 24, 1956 in Altoona, Pennsylvania. Moved to Florida in 1960 education St. Petersburg High: Senior Class President; National Honor Society; Quarterback, Varsity Football; Wake Forest University, 1974-1976: Quarterback, Varsity Football; Florida State University: Student Body Vice President; Garnet and Gold Key Honorary; B.S., Government, minor in Education, 1978; Cumberland School of Law, J.D., 1981 affiliations Board of Directors, Foundation for Florida’s Future; American Lung Association’s President’s Council of Pinellas County; Tampa Bay MDA Advisory Committee; St. Petersburg Chamber of Commerce; Pinellas Park Chamber of Commerce; Board of Directors, Operation PAR; Florida Conservation Association; Board of Directors, Police Athletic League; Fellow, American Swiss Association; Hillsborough Bar Association; St. Petersburg Bar Association; Ethics Committee, The Florida Bar; American Bar Association; Board of Governors, Republican National Lawyers Association; Pinellas County Republican Executive Committee; Area Agency on Aging Management; Administrative Board, First United Methodist Church; Suncoast Invitational Club; FSU Boosters; Rotary; Board of Directors, Suncoast Tiger Bay Club legislative service elected to the Senate in 1992; reelected in 1994 other public service U.S. Senator Connie Mack’s former State Director; Chairman, Senator Mack’s Baseball Anti-Trust Advisory Committee; served as youngest member of Senator Mack’s Federal Judicial Advisory Commission; Former General Counsel, National Association of Professional Baseball Leagues highlights Florida Police Benevolent Association, Distinguished Legislator Award, 1996; Florida Conservation Association, Legislative Conservation Award, 1996; Honorary Sheriff, 1995; Police Benevolent Association, Legislator of the Year, 1995; Florida Prosecuting Attorneys Association, Senatorial Leadership Award, 1995; Urban League Government Award, 1995; Florida Wildlife Federation’s Conservationist Legislator of the Year, 1995; Florida Sheriffs Association, Legislative Award, 1994, 1996; Stop Turning Out Prisoners Award, 1994; Florida Association of School Administrators, Legislative Award, 1993; Pinellas School Administrators, Legislative Award, 1993; PACE Award, 1993; Florida Chamber of Commerce, Roll Call Award, 1993; Leadership St. Petersburg; Outstanding Young Men of America; Tiger Bay of Tampa True Grit Award; Major League Baseball Phil Piton Award for Service religious affiliation Methodist recreation water skiing, reading, and jogging addresses (district) 360 Central Avenue, Suite 1210, St. Petersburg 33701 (Tallahassee) 304 Senate Office Building, 32399-1100 telephones (district) 813/893-5463 (Tallahassee) 904/487-5075.

Rick Dantzler Democrat, District 17

Lawyer, Mediator, Businessperson born January 6, 1956 in Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. Moved to Florida in 1956 education University of Florida: B.A., 1978; J.D., 1981; Florida Blue Key wife Julie Pope of Winter Haven children Elizabeth, 10; Margaret, 7 affiliations The Florida Bar; Green Horizon Land Trust Board of Directors; United Way Success By Six; Ducks Unlimited legislative service House of Representatives, 1982-1990; elected to the Senate in 1990, reelected subsequently religious affiliation Presbyterian recreation sports, camping, hunting, and fishing addresses (district) P.O. Box 9225, Winter Haven 33883-9225 (Tallahassee) 200 Senate Office Building, 32399-1100 telephones (district) 941/294-2876; (Sebring) 941/386-6016 (Tallahassee) 904/487-5044.
Mario Diaz-Balart
Republican, District 37


Fred R. Dudley
Republican, District 25

Attorney born November 8, 1944 in Fort Myers education University of South Florida, B.A., 1965; President, Interfraternity Council; Stetson University College of Law, J.D., 1968; Dean’s List children Charlie and Chris affiliations Tropical Lodge #56, Masons; Aruba Shrine Temple legislative service House of Representatives, 1982-1986; elected to the Senate in 1986, reelected subsequently other public service Municipal Judge, City of Cape Coral; Planning and Zoning Commissioner, City of Cape Coral; Chairman, Board of Trustees, Cape Coral Hospital; President, Cape Coral Chamber of Commerce highlights Allen Morris Award: Most Promising First Termer, 1986; Board Certified, The Florida Bar: Probate and Estate Planning; Fellow, American College of Trust and Estate Counsel religious affiliation Episcopalian recreation music (guitar) and book collecting addresses (district) 1718 Cape Coral Parkway, E., Cape Coral 33904 (Tallahassee) 313 Senate Office Building, 32399-1100 telephones (district) 941/432-5795 (Tallahassee) 904/487-5124.

John H. (Buddy) Dyer, Jr.
Democrat, District 14

Attorney born August 7, 1958 in Orlando education Brown University, Sc.B. Civil Engineering, 1980; University of Florida College of Law, J.D., 1987: Order of the Coif; Florida Blue Key; Editor-in-Chief, University of Florida Law Review, 1987; member, Chester Bedell American Inn of Court, 1986-87; Golden Key National Honor Society (Honorary Member) wife Karen Caudill of Palm Beach Gardens children John Hugh III (Trey), Andrew (Drew) affliations The Florida Bar (Young Lawyers Division, Board of Governors, 1989-1992); Orange County Bar Association (Young Lawyers Section, Board of Directors, 1989-1992); American Bar Association; Florida Engineering Society; Florida Lawyers Association for the Maintenance of Excellence legislative service elected to the Senate in 1992; reelected subsequently other public service ex-officio member of Enterprise Florida Technology Development Board, 1996; Florida Education Facilities Study Committee, 1994; Governor’s Growth Management Plan Advisory Committee, 1993; Department of Education “Classrooms First” Task Force, 1993 highlights Council of State Governments,
Howard C. Forman
Democrat, District 32


John A. Grant, Jr.
Republican, District 13

Attorney born July 12, 1943 in Tampa education University of Florida, 1961-1962; University of South Florida, B.A., 1964; Florida State University, Master of Science and Government, 1965; Stetson University, J.D., 1968; Trinity College of Florida, Honorary Doctorate of Human Letters (DHL), 1993 wife Beverly Code of Tampa children John, James, and Jeanette Odum affiliations North TAM Baptist Temple Shrine; 32nd degree Mason; Tampa Consistory of Scottish Rite; Temple Terrace Masonic Lodge; The Florida Bar; American Bar Association; American Judicature Society; North Tampa Kiwanis Club, past president; University of South Florida Alumni Association, past national president and National Board of Directors; University of South Florida Foundation Board of Directors; Florida State University Alumni Association; Stetson Lawyers Association; United States Small Business Administration Advisory Board,

Alberto (Al) Gutman Republican, District 34

Businessman born January 4, 1959 in Havana, Cuba. Moved to Florida in 1965 education Miami-Dade Community College, A.A., 1980; University of Miami, B.B.A., 1982; Phi Theta Kappa National Honor Fraternity; Golden Key National Honor Society; Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi wife Marci Rabinowitz of New York, New York children Lauren, 9; and Itana, 8 affiliations University of Miami Alumni Association; FIU Alumni Association, honorary member; B’nai B’rith; Masons; Miami-Roads Civic Association; Young Republicans; Republicans for Environmental Protection, founding member; United Way Hispanic Leadership Committee legislative service House of Representatives, 1984-1992; Joint Committee on Child Abuse; House of Representatives’ Liaison to the Governor’s Commission for a Free Cuba; Founding Chairman of the Cuban-American Caucus of the House of Representatives; elected to the Senate in 1992; reelected in 1994; Select Committee on Hurricane Relief and Disaster Preparedness; Commissioner, Florida Commission on Minority Health, 1993-1995; Select Committee on Health Care, vice chairman, 1994; National Conference of State Legislatures, Health Care Committee; Southern Legislative Conference, Environmental Quality and Natural Resources Committee; Select Committee on Telecommunications other public service Florida Seed Capital Board, Advisory Board Member; Dade County Republican Party Executive Committee; United Way Hispanic Leadership Committee, Youth Sub-chairman highlights Miami Association of Life Underwriters, Dade Association of Health Underwriters; Columbia Hospital Corporation Award; Subacute Care Month Health Care Award, 1994; Recognition for Outstanding Service, Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association; Florida Medical Association, Leadership Award, 1993; Community Service Award: National Alliance of American Latinos, Private Industry Council Stay in School Program; Certificate of Appreciation, United States Department of Justice Drug Enforcement Administration; Republican of the Year Award, Dade County Republican Party; Outstanding Young Men of America; “OTTO” Award, 1992; Legislator of the Year Awards: Florida Bingo Association, 1992; International Council of Shopping Centers, 1989; Retail Grocers Association of Florida, 1989 religious affiliation Jewish; Temple Beth Shmuel, Beth Chaim Yosef Congregation, Temple Beth David recreation fishing and reading addresses (district) 1800 S.W. 27th Avenue, Suite 300, Miami 33145 (Tallahassee) 215 Senate Office Building, 32399-1100 telephones (district) 305/442-6990 (Tallahassee) 904/487-5109.

James T. (Jim) Hargrett, Jr. Democrat, District 21

Real Estate, Retail born July 31, 1942 in Tampa education Morehouse, B.A., 1964; Atlanta University, M.B.A., 1965 wife Berlyn Chatard of New Orleans, Louisiana children Crystal and James III affiliations Board of Directors, Moffitt Cancer Center; member, Florida First Capital Finance Corporation; Board of Directors, Hillsborough County National Conference of Christians and Jews; Board of Governors, Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce; Florida State and Hillsborough County Democratic Executive Committees; Ybor City Chamber of Commerce; Florida Council on Crime and Delinquency; Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center Board of Trustees Alumni Club; University of Tampa Board of Trustees; United Way Florida State Campaign Chairman; Ybor City Centennial Celebration Committee; board member, Legal Environmental Assistance Foundation; Job Club Advisory Committee legislative service House of Representatives, 1982-1992; Chairman: Employee and Management Relations Committee, Public Transportation Committee; Delegate: National Conference of State Legislatures, Southern Regional Education Board; Chairman, Florida Conference of Black State Legislators, 1984-1986; Chairman, Hillsborough County Legislative Delegation, 1986-1987; elected to the Senate in 1992; reelected subsequently. Chairman: Tourism, Trade and
Katherine Harris
Republican, District 24

Vice President, commercial real estate firm born April 5, 1957 in Key West education Agnes Scott College: B.A., History, 1979; first position collegiate tennis team; University of Madrid: Spanish, Art, 1978; L'Abri International Fellowship, Philosophy, Religion, 1980; Harvard University, M.P.A., International Trade, 1996 husband Anders Ebbeson of Halmstead, Sweden affiliations Mote Marine Laboratory, former Advisory Council member; Sarasota, Englewood, Charlotte, and Venice Chambers of Commerce; Women's Resource Center, Presidential Advisory Council; former member, Board of Directors, Sarasota County Arts Council; Leadership Sarasota and Leadership Tampa, former member of Nominating and Steering Committees; Sarasota Jaycees; Habitat for Humanity; New College; United Cerebral Palsy; Florida Republican Executive Committee legislative service elected to the Senate in 1994; Sarasota County

Betty S. Holzendorf
Democrat, District 2

Jim Horne
Republican, District 6

Certified Public Accountant born January 20, 1959 in Orange Park education Florida State University, B.S., Accounting, 1980 (graduated with business degree in 3 years) wife Lori McArdis of Niagara Falls, New York children Ashley, Laura, John David, and Katherine affiliations board member, Orange Park Rotary; board member, “Keep Clay Beautiful”; appointed member of Clay County Transit Authority legislative service elected to the Senate in 1994 other public service Chairman, Clay County Chamber Education Committee; Board member, Clay County Chamber of Commerce; President, Clay County Chamber of Commerce, 1992; Co-founder, Clay County Education Foundation highlights immediately upon graduation from Florida State University, Jim Horne became the youngest tax manager for Price Waterhouse in the history of its Jacksonville office religious affiliation Baptist recreation running, golf addresses (district) 4250 Lakeside Drive, Suite 205, Jacksonville 32210-3306 (Tallahassee) 342 Senate Office Building, 32399-1100 telephones (district) 904/381-6025 (Tallahassee) 904/487-5027.

Kenneth C. (Ken) Jenne II
Democrat, District 29

Democratic Leader

Attorney born December 1, 1946 in New Haven, Connecticut. Moved to Florida in 1956 education Palm Beach Junior College, A.A., 1966; Florida Atlantic University, B.A., 1968; Florida State University, J.D., 1972; Fort Lauderdale College honorary Doctor of Humane Letters, 1978; Southeastern University honorary Doctor of Laws, 1986; Phi Alpha Delta International, Pi Sigma Alpha, Sigma Phi Epsilon, Pi Alpha Alpha, Phi Rho Pi wife Caroline Maslanka of St. Petersburg Beach children Evan Boyd and Sarah Elizabeth Anne affiliations American, Florida, and Broward Bar Associations, member; National District Attorneys, former member; Florida Prosecuting Attorneys Association, former member legislative service elected to the Senate, 1978-1988; reelected to the Senate in 1990; reelected subsequently; Appropriations Committee Chairman; Rules and Calendar Committee Chairman; Judiciary Committee Chairman; Judiciary Criminal Chairman; Executive Business Committee Chairman; Finance, Taxation and Claims Committee Chairman; Select Committee on Hurricane Relief and
Daryl L. Jones
Democrat, District 40

Attorney of Counsel: Adorno & Zeder, PA born
May 31, 1955 in Jackson, Mississippi. Moved to
Florida in 1981 education Valedictorian, Lanier
High School, Jackson, Mississippi; President,
Mississippi State Association of Student Councils;
high school city track champion, mile run; United
States Air Force Academy: B.S., Math, with
honors, 1977; Cadet Vice Wing Commander (#2
in military leadership); middleweight boxing
champion; University of Miami School of Law:
J.D., cum laude, 1987; Iron Arrow; Law Review, Note published; President:
Student Bar Association, National Student Bar Association; Moot Court Board
wife Myoushi Carter of Birmingham, Alabama children Derek L., Durell L.,
Michele E. affiliations member: Governor’s Commission for a Sustainable
South Florida, American Bar Association, National Bar Association, Dade
County Bar Association, American Bankers Insurance Group Board of
Directors, Orange Bowl Committee, Zoological Society of Florida Board of
Directors; Attorney/Coach, 1990 Dade County High School Mock Trial
Champions, Miami Central High School; Lector, Christ the King Catholic
Church; Motivational speaker at Dade County schools legislative service
House of Representatives, 1990-1992; elected to the Senate in 1992, reelected
subsequently other public service Aviation Division, Dade County Attorney's
Court of Appeals, 1978-1980 highlights Best Local Politician, New Times,
1996; Carter G. Woodson Humanitarian Award, 1995; St. Martin de Porres
Association Peace and Unity Award, 1995; Most Effective Freshman Senator,
Miami Herald, 1994; Peace and Justice Award in Law, Alpha Kappa Alpha,
1994; NAACP Gwendolyn S. Cherry Memorial Award, 1994; Ronald
McDonald House, Twelve Good Men, 1994; Legislator of the Year, Medwives
Association of Florida, 1992; Most Effective Freshman Representative,
Miami Herald, 1991; Freshman Legislator of the Year Award, Dade County Young
Democrats, 1991; First Term Legislator of the Year, Florida School Boards
Association, 1991; Outstanding Freshman Representative, Academy of Florida
Trial Lawyers, 1991; Up and Comer Award, Government, Price
Waterhouse/South Florida Magazine, 1991; Excellence and Achievement
Award, the Miami Agenda, 1991; Toll Fellow, Class of 1991, The Council of
State Governments; Politician of the Year Award, Mu Gamma Zeta Chapter,
Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., 1991; Service Award, Richmond/Perrine Optimist
Club, 1991; Leadership Miami. Class of 1987 military service United States
Air Force: 1977-1984, F-4 Phantom Pilot; Puerto Rico Air National Guard,
1988-1989 A-7D Corsair II Pilot; USAF Reserves, 1989-present, F-16 Falcon
pilot religious affiliation Lector and member, Christ the King Catholic Church recreation all sports addresses (district) 9300 S. Dadeland Boulevard, Suite 401, Miami 33156 (Tallahassee) 212 Senate Office Building, 32399-1100 telephones (district) 305/442-6901; (Monroe County) 800/303-2988 (Tallahassee) 904/487-5127.

George Grier Kirkpatrick, Jr. Democrat, District 5

Executive Director, Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida; real estate investments born December 24, 1938 in Gainesville education Davidson College, B.S., Psychology, 1962 wife Monika Godzewski of Berlin, Germany children Catherine Grace and George Grier III affiliations Enterprise Florida, Inc., Board of Directors; Santa Fe Community College Endowment Corporation, Board of Directors; Foundation For Florida's Future, Board of Directors; Governor's Commission on Education; Home Builders Association of Gainesville, past president; Florida Home Builders Association, past area Vice-President and Director; Gainesville Chamber of Commerce, past Director and Vice-President for Economic Development legislative service elected to the Senate in 1980, reelected subsequently highlights University of Florida Distinguished Achievement Award, 1996; Gainesville Sun Person of the Year, 1994; Association of Counties, County Champion, 1994; Florida Dental Association, Legislator of the Year Award, 1994; Florida Association of Community Colleges, Legislative Service Award, 1993; Preservation 2000 Leadership Award, 1992; Florida Association of Realtors, Legislator of the Year Award, 1992; American Foundation for Urological Disease, Appreciation Award, 1992; Florida Restaurants Association, Legislative Leadership Award, 1988; Florida Chamber of Commerce Award, 1986; Florida Student Association, Senator of the Year Award, 1986; Gator Medal of Honor, 1981; Allen Morris Awards: Most Effective First Term Senator, runner-up, 1982; Most Effective in Committee, 1985, 1986, and 1987 military service U.S. Army, 1st Lieutenant Military Police Corps, West Berlin, Germany 1962-1964 religious affiliation Presbyterian recreation fishing, golfing, enology, and origami addresses (district) 1103 N.W. 13th Street, Gainesville 32601 (Tallahassee) 252 Senate Office Building, 32399-1100 telephones (district) 352/377-3800 (Tallahassee) 904/487-5020.

Ron Klein

Democrat, District 28

Attorney born July 10, 1957 in Cleveland, Ohio. Moved to Florida in 1985 education Ohio State University: B.A., Political Science, 1979; Case Western Reserve University, J.D., 1982; Eta Chapter of Alpha Epsilon Pi Fraternity, president and founder; Judicial Commission Chief Justice; Phi Eta Sigma Scholastic Honorary wife Dori Dragin of Cleveland, Ohio children Brian, 11; and Lauren, 8 affiliations The Florida Bar and Palm Beach County Bar Association, Business and Health Care sections; Board of Directors, World Trade Center of Palm Beach County; member: South Palm Beach County Jewish Federation, Executive Committee of the Jewish Community Relations Council, Florida Holocaust Curriculum Task Force, Honorary Board of Directors of the Holocaust Research Collection at Florida Atlantic University, Florida Atlantic University Holocaust Commission, Florida Atlantic University International Business Advisory Board; School Advisory Committee of Omni Middle School in Boca Raton; Fellow: Fleming Fellows Institute, Wexner Heritage Foundation; commissioner; Florida International Affairs Commission legislative service House of Representatives, 1992-1996; elected to the Senate in 1996. Legislative intern, Ohio House of Representatives, 1976-1979; Legislative Intern, U.S. House of Representatives, 1979 other public service United Way; Big Brothers, Big Sisters highlights American Heart Association, Outstanding Legislator, 1996; Florida Economic Development Council, Legislator of the Year, 1996; Recognition by Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office, Outstanding Support of Project D.A.R.E.; Holocaust Documentation and Education Center Award, for the Holocaust Education Bill, 1994; Pulmosa Elementary School Award, Outstanding Contribution to Education, 1993 religious affiliation Jewish recreation tennis, racquetball, water sports, and camping addresses (district) 9070 Kimberly Boulevard, Suite 60, Boca Raton 33434 (Tallahassee) 228 Senate Office Building, 32399-1100 telephones (district) 561/482-8560 (Tallahassee) 904/487-5091.
Patsy Ann Kurth
Democrat, District 15

Real Estate Broker born February 2, 1941 in Washington, Missouri. Moved to Florida in 1960 education Southwest Missouri State Teachers College; Brevard Community College husband Alan "Al" Kurth of New Jersey children Dawn (deceased), Wendy, Martha, and Sara affiliations South Brevard Democratic Women’s Club, League of Women Voters legislative service elected to the Senate in 1990, reelected subsequently other public service Brevard County Planning and Zoning Board; Planning and Zoning Board for the Town of Malabar highlights Area Association of Retarded Citizens, ARC/Florida Senator of the Year, 1996; Children’s Home Society, R. David Thomas Child Advocate of the Year Award, 1996; Florida Alcohol and Drug Abuse Association, 1996 Legislator of the Year; Florida Economic Development Advisory Council, Legislator of the Year, 1996; Florida Network of Youth and Family Services, Legislator of the Year, 1996, 1995; Florida Pediatric Society, Outstanding Advocacy of Children’s Causes, 1996; Rainbow Alliance for the Mentally Ill, Legislator of the Year, 1996; Area Association of Retarded Citizens, Brevard, Legislator of the Year Award, 1995; Brevard County Association of Retarded Citizens, Legislator of the Year Award, 1994; Child Care Association of Brevard, Marjorie Olsen Child Advocacy Award, 1994; Florida Nurses Association Outstanding Senator Award, 1994; Florida Economic Development Advisory Board, Legislator of the Year, 1993; Florida Restaurant Association, Legislator of the Year, 1993; Florida Association of Realtors, Legislator of the Year, 1993; East Central Florida Memory Disorder Clinic, Sustained Support Award, 1992 and 1994; Florida Chamber of Commerce-Chairman International Trade, Economic Development and Tourism, Leadership Award, 1992 religious affiliation Methodist recreation fishing, walking, quilting, and antique collecting addresses (district) 2174 Harris Avenue, N.E., Suite 1-B, Palm Bay 32905 (Tallahassee) 258 Senate Office Building, 32399-1100 telephones (district) 407/984-4951 (Tallahassee) 904/487-5053.

Jack Latvala
Republican, District 19

Tom Lee
Republican, District 23
Vice President, Sabal Homes of Florida, Inc. born January 21, 1962 in San Antonio, Texas. Moved to Florida in 1969 education Hillsborough Community College, A.A., 1982; University of Tampa, B.S., Business, 1984; Presidential Scholarship; Athletic Scholarship; Hillsborough Community College Scholastic Athlete of the Year, 1982 wife Amy Carey of Brandon affiliations Brandon '86 Rotary Club, charter member; Leadership Brandon Alumni; Florida Homebuilders Association; Greater Brandon Chamber of Commerce legislative service elected to the Senate in 1996 other public service Hillsborough County Zoning Board of Adjustment, member, 1991-1993; Brandon Transportation Task Force, member, 1992; Greater Brandon Chamber of Commerce, president, 1993; Hillsborough County City/County Planning Commission, member, 1992-1995 highlights 1986 Graduate, Leadership Brandon; 1991 Greater Brandon Chamber of Commerce President’s Award religious affiliation Catholic recreation golf, travel addresses (district) P.O. Box 2743, Brandon 33509; 1421 Oakfield Drive, Brandon 33511 (Tallahassee) 340 Senate Office Building, 32399-1100 telephones (district) 813/744-8683 (Tallahassee) 904/487-5072.

John M. McKay
Republican, District 26
Real Estate Broker, Mortgage Broker born September 23, 1948 in Winter Haven education Florida State University, B.S., 1972 children Mary Patricia, Sara Jane, and Meredith legislative service elected to the Senate in 1990, reelected subsequently other public service Chairman, Bradenton Downtown Development Authority, 1989-1990; Chairman, Bradenton Community Redevelopment Agency, 1989-1990; Board of Directors, Habitat for Humanity, 1989-1990; member: Manatee and Sarasota Chamber of Commerce, Kiwanis Club; Board member, Learning Disability Association of Florida highlights Florida Association of Counties, County Champion Award, 1996; Tampa Educational Cable Consortium, Community Communications Award, 1996; Port Authority of Manatee County, Appreciation Award, 1996; Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council, Service Award, 1996; Organized Fishermen of Florida, Legislative Award, 1995; International Council of Shopping Centers, Legislative of the Year Award, 1995; Florida Sheriffs Association, Legislative Award, 1995; Florida Association of Realtors, Legislative of the Year Award, 1995; Florida Educators of the Hearing Impaired, Honors Award, 1995; Florida Farm Bureau, Friends of Agriculture Award, 1994; Florida Alcohol and Drug Abuse Association, Legislative of the Year Award, 1994; Florida Medical Association, Legislative Leadership Award, 1993; Florida Association of Community Colleges, Legislative Service Award, 1993; Florida Chamber of Commerce, Cornerstone of Florida Business Award, 1993, 1995 historical D.B. McKay, great-uncle, Mayor of Tampa for 16 years in the early 1900s. Mitchell F. McKay, grandfather, Clerk of the Criminal Court in Tampa, 1908-1910, Deputy Clerk of Circuit Court, 1924-1928 military service Army National Guard and U.S. Army Reserve, 1969-75, honorable discharge religious affiliation First Presbyterian Church of Bradenton, Elder recreation golf and sailing addresses (district) 2424 Manatee Avenue, West, Suite 101, Bradenton 34205 (Tallahassee) 318 Senate Office Building, 32399-1100 telephones (district) 941/741-3099 (Tallahassee) 904/487-5072.

Matthew J. Meadows
Democrat, District 30
Diversity and Cultural Outreach Coordinator, School Board of Broward County born September 5, 1938 in Ft. Pierce education Bethune-Cookman College, 1961; President of Student Government Association; President, Kappa Alpha Psi; graduate studies: University of Massachusetts and Nova University; graduate seminars: University of New Hampshire, Harvard University wife Charley Mae Harris of Macon, Georgia children Matthew, Felicia, Debbie, Tommy, and Priscilla legislative service elected to the Senate in 1992; reelected subsequently other public service consultant: State Department of Education, Florida Right to Read Sessions highlights Who’s Who Among American Colleges and Universities religious affiliation Baptist recreation bowling and fishing addresses (district) 2453 North State Road 7, Lauderdale 33313 (Tallahassee) 224 Senate Office Building, 32399-1100 telephones (district) 954/714-3400, 800/459-3330 (Tallahassee) 904/487-5112.
William G. (Doc) Myers, M.D.
Republican, District 27


John Ostalkiewicz
Republican, District 12

President and Owner of: Ostalkiewicz Diamond Importers (1969-present) in Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and Florida; Park Importers (1990-present); Liger Software (1992-present) born September 19, 1952 in Beverly, Massachusetts. Moved to Florida in 1988 education Babson College, B.S. in Accounting, 1974: Young Republicans; Junior Achievement; President, Chess Club; Gemological Institute of America, Graduate Gemologist wife Cynthia Celona of North Providence, Rhode Island children Joshua, 14; Rebecca, 12; Samuel, 9 affiliations Jeweler of America legislative service elected to the Senate in 1994; Chairman, Seminole County Legislative Delegation, 1996 other public service Host of FM talk show: “John Ostalkiewicz’s Family Rights Show,” 1992-present; sponsor of Leukemia Society Annual Diamond Ball, 1991-present; Founder of Family Rights Committee, Inc., 1989-present religious affiliation Baptist recreation tennis, basketball, chess, family addresses (district) 6000 S. Rio Grande Avenue, Suite 101, Orlando 32809 (Tallahassee) 312 Senate Office Building, 32399-1100 telephones (district) 407/858-6183 (Tallahassee) 904/487-5047.

Tom Rossin
Democrat, District 35

Attorney, Banking Consultant born August 29, 1933 in New York, New York. Moved to Florida in 1958 education Columbia University, B.S., 1957; University of Miami, J.D., 1965 wife Joyce Thornton of Colquitt, Georgia children Thomas, Jr., Allen, and Michael Rossin; stepchildren: Robert Jr., Sam, Andrew, and Sandi Bouchlas affiliations member, Criminal Justice Commission of Palm Beach County; member, Horizons Council of Lee County; immediate past chairman, Economic Council of Palm Beach County; chairman, Hanley Hazeldon Center at St. Mary’s Hospital; past president, Community Bankers of Florida; board member, Big Brothers, Big Sisters; past president, Boy Scouts of America Gulfstream Council; American, Florida, and Palm Beach Bar Associations legislative service elected to the Senate in 1994; reelected subsequently other public service past president (9 years), West Palm Beach Downtown Development Authority; past vice chair, Palm Beach County Charter Revision Commission;
member, Joint Committee to Increase Government Efficiency highlights President, Flagler National Bank (1974-1993); Boy Scouts Silver Beaver Award; American Free Enterprise Award recipient religious affiliation Protestant recreation tennis and skiing addresses (district) 1241 Okeechobee Road, Building A, Suite 4, West Palm Beach 33401-6953; Lee County Courthouse, 2120 Main Street, Ft. Myers 33901 (Tallahassee) 230 Senate Office Building, 32399-1100 telephones (district) 561/837-5400 or 941/338-2646 (Tallahassee) 904/487-5356.

James A. (Jim) Scott Republican, District 31


3306-1195 (Tallahassee) 308 Senate Office Building, 32399-1100 telephones (district) 954/566-8600; (Boca Raton) 954/392-3710; (North Palm Beach) 954/833-9231 (Tallahassee) 904/487-5100.

Ronald A. Silver Democrat, District 38

recreation softball, tennis and basketball addresses (district) 115 N.W. 167th Street, 2nd Floor, N. Miami Beach 33169 (Tallahassee) 246 Senate Office Building, 32399-1100 telephones (district) 305/655-1701 (Tallahassee) 904/487-5121.

Donald C. (Don) Sullivan, M.D.
Republican, District 22

Orthopedic Surgeon born June 10, 1936 in Chicago, Illinois. Moved to Florida in 1972 education Northwestern University, B.S., 1958; Roosevelt University; Baylor University, M.D., 1962 wife Irene Hyland of Detroit, Michigan children Mary, Patrick, and Andrew affiliations Pinellas County Medical Society; Florida Medical Association; member: American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons, Florida Orthopedic Society legislative service elected to the Senate in 1992; reelected in 1994 other public service Board of Legislative Advisors, Institute for Technology Assessment; member, Florida Commission on Aging with Dignity; member, Florida Education Commissioner’s Instructional Materials Task Force; member, Greenways Coordinating Council; member, Greenways Commission; former board member, Pinellas County Medical Society; member of Leadership St. Petersburg highlights Merit Award, Pinellas County Medical Society, 1989-1990 and 1991-1992; Veterans of Foreign Wars; American Legion; Certified, American Board of Orthopedic Surgery; American Medical Association’s Physician’s Recognition Award military service U. S. Air Force, orthopedic surgeon religious affiliation Catholic recreation hunting and private pilot addresses (district) 8050 Seminole Office Center, Suite 330, Seminole 33772 (Tallahassee) 336 Senate Office Building, 32399-1100 telephones (district) 813/547-7801 (Tallahassee) 904/487-5065.

Pat Thomas
Democrat, District 3

Insurance Executive, Mortgage Broker born November 21, 1933 in Quincy education Quincy High School; Future Farmers of America, State Vice President; University of Florida, B.S.A., 1957; Florida Blue Key, Alpha Gamma Rho President, Senior Class President wife Mary Ann Jolley of Naples children Anne Jolley Thomas and John Pat Thomas; grandchildren: Corbett Proctor, Irvie Elizabeth, and Audrey Anne Thomas affiliations BPOE and Rotary, past President; 32nd Degree Mason; Shriner legislative service House of Representatives, 1972-1974; elected to the Senate in 1974, reelected subsequently; President Pro Tempore, 1992-1993; President, 1993-1994 other public service Chairman, Democratic Party of Florida, 1966-1970 highlights Allen Morris Awards; Most Respected Senator Member, 1990 runner-up; Most Effective in Committee, 1983 and 1986; Most Effective in Debate, 1981 and 1986; Most Outstanding First-Term Member of the Senate, 1976; One of Florida’s Five Outstanding Young Men, 1967; National Junior Chamber of Commerce’s nominee as Outstanding Young Man of America, 1967; DeMolay Legion of Honor military service U.S. Army, Korea religious affiliation Presbyterian recreation hunting, boating, and fishing address 220 Senate Office Building, 32399-1100 telephone 904/487-5004.

William H. (Bill) Turner
Democrat, District 36

Education administrator, former policeman, former teacher consultant born August 1, 1931 in Miami education Bethune-Cookman, B.S., 1956; University of Miami, M.Ed., 1969; Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree, Faith College, Birmingham, Alabama, 1982 children Sereetta, Inger, Mark, and Gersen affiliations President’s Leadership Circle, appointed by President William Clinton; Governor’s Ad Valorem Task Force; Southern Regional Education Board; Education Reform and Accountability Commission; Environmental Equity and Justice Commission; Vision 2000; Florida Commission on Long-Term Care; Dade Association of Vocational Adult Career and Community Education; American Association of Retired Persons; Dade County School Administrators Association; Dade County Democratic Executive Committee; Youth Crime
Watch of America Advisory Board; Kids in Dade Society, Board of Directors; NAFC/Fannie Mae Academy of Finance, Board of Directors; Family Counseling Services of Greater Miami, Advisory Board; Elks Lodge 308; Circuit and County Courts Value Adjustment Board; Hialeah Hospital Advisory Board; Dade Public Education Fund, Board of Directors; Veterans Wish Foundation, Honorary Chairperson; Miami-Dade Community College Advisory Board; Dade County Tax Adjustment Board; Council of Great City Schools; National Alliance of Black School Educators; Youth Industries Advisory Board; Community Action Advisory Board; Released Employment Placement Service Advisory Board; Carver YMCA Board of Management; Dade County Association for Retarded Children; Black Grove; Third Century-Planning Committee; Southern Association of Black Administration Personnel, Inc.; Economic Development and Job Placement Council; Urban League of Greater Miami; School Board’s Self-Insurance Commission; Dade Association of Vocational Adult Career and Community Education; National Jewish Democratic Council; Democratic National Committee; Miami Dade Chamber of Commerce legislative service elected to the Senate in 1992, reelected subsequently; Dade County Legislative Delegation chairman, 1993-1994 other public service elected to Dade County School Board, 1971, 1974, 1982, 1986, and 1990; elected Chairman, 1989 and 1990 highlights Distinguished Education Service Award, FIU College of Education, 1996; Outstanding Black American, Robert Morgan Vocational Technical Institute; Red Shield Award, The Salvation Army; Florida’s Public Official, Adult and Community Educators of Florida; Founders Award, Kids In Dade Society/Florida Youth Cadets; Pinnacle Award, Bethune-Cookman College; Outstanding Legislator Award, South Florida Consortium of School Boards; Dr. Jean Jones-Perdue Special Achievement Award; Legislator of the Year, Florida School Boards Association; Citizen of the Year Award, Sigma Alpha Chapter, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity; Good Government Award, Dade County League of Cities; "Legislator of the Year," Dade County School Administrators’ Association; Lard Brick Award given in recognition of support for state employees, AFL-CIO; Cornerstone of Florida Business 100% Award, Florida Chamber of Commerce; "67 Award," Florida School Boards Association; Who’s Who Among Black Americans; Raymond B. Stewart Gavel of Authority Award, Florida Association of School Administrators; United Negro College Fund, honorary chairperson; Outstanding Citizen of the Year, Association for Retarded Citizens; The Hand of Friendship Award, NAACP ACT-SO Committee; William H. Turner Day, City of Miami; Arts and Letters Award, Miami Alumnae Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.; Freedom Fighter Award, Greater Miami NAACP; Citizen of the Year, Phi Beta Sigma, Tau Zeta Chapter; Nathan W. Collier Meritorious Service Award, Florida Memorial College; William “Bill” Turner Day throughout Metropolitan Dade County; Melvin Rolle Memorial Award, Liberty News of Miami; recognized as a “Living Legend,” W.D. Redmond Christian Academy military service U.S. Army, 1951-1953 religious affiliation Episcopal recreation fishing and listening to jazz addresses (district) 9999 N.E. 2nd Avenue, Suite 207, Miami Shores 33138 (Tallahassee) 234 Senate Office Building, 32399-1100 telephones (district) 305/758-8100 (Tallahassee) 904/487-5116.

Charles Williams
Democrat, District 4

Non-member Officers

At its organization session every two years, the Senate designates a Secretary of the Senate and the President employs a Sergeant at Arms. These two officers are not members of the Senate. The Secretary keeps all Senate records and authenticates each act and resolution passed by the Senate. She also publishes the journal and the calendar and supervises Legal Research and Drafting, which drafts proposed legislation. The Sergeant maintains order in the chamber, in the gallery, and in committee rooms. He is responsible for the maintenance of all Senate property.

Faye W. Blanton
Secretary of the Senate

born November 9, 1946 in Tallahassee education
Jones Business College, Jacksonville, 1967
husband Edwin F. (Ed) Blanton of St. Petersburg
children Wade, Doug, and Laurel McDaniel; Garrett and Travis Blanton; grandchildren: Zachary Gillis and Garrett Blanton, Jr. affiliations American Society of Legislative Clerks and Secretaries, past staff vice president, and chairman, vice-chairman and member of various committees; past Leon County School District Advisory Board member; PTO President; Advisor and Counselor for: Girls State, YMCA Youth Legislature, and Silver-Haired Legislature legislative service Committee secretary, Senate Governmental Efficiency Committee, 1970-1972; Administrative Assistant to Director of Management and Staff, 1973-1974; Assistant to Secretary of the Senate, 1983-1984; Assistant Secretary of the Senate, 1984-1996; designated Secretary of the Senate, November 19, 1996 highlights first woman designated as Secretary of the Florida Senate for a two-year term religious affiliation Baptist recreation gardening, walking, and reading address Suite 405, The Capitol, 32399-1100 telephone 904/487-5270.

Wayne W. Todd, Jr.
Sergeant at Arms

born July 19, 1944 in Tallahassee education
A Photographic Tour of the 1996-1998 Florida Senate

Supreme Court Justice Charles T. Wells administers the oath of office to President Toni Jennings and to President Pro Tempore Roberto Casas.

The oath of office is administered to Senators Skip Campbell, Tom Rossin, Jim Scott, Roberto Casas, Ken Jeanne, Mario Diaz-Balart, Fred Dudley, Ron Klein, Tom Lee and Jim Hargrett.

President Jennings works with policy directors.

Friendly service is a hallmark of Senate Documents.

A bill begins with a consultation in Legal Research and Drafting Services.

The Committee on Health Care at work on an interim project.

A presentation before the Rules and Calendar Committee meeting.

Secretary of the Senate Faye Blanton encourages tomorrow's leaders.
SENATE DISTRICTS
1996 - 1998

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(D) denotes Democrat
(R) denotes Republican
The Senate Chamber

Frequently before a session of the Senate convenes, Senators can be seen rushing "to the floor." They're headed for the chamber on the fourth floor of the Capitol where they debate the merits of proposed legislation. This is the fourth chamber used since the first session of the Senate was called to order in 1839. The first session held in this chamber was in 1978.

On the floor above the chamber is the gallery. Citizens may be seated in the gallery to observe the Senate in session. From the gallery, attention is drawn to the rostrum where the President is presiding.

The President occupies the "chair," pacing the flow of legislation, deciding who will speak, and ruling on parliamentary disputes. The President frequently calls on other members to preside while she works out the details of legislative proposals. If the President wishes to debate an issue before the Senate, she will vacate the chair and speak from her regular desk on the floor.

The portraits hanging below the gallery commemorate past Presidents of the Senate. After each President's two-year term a portrait is painted and hung in this area. The portraits are arranged in chronological order with the most recent one on the presiding officer's right. Since all spaces are now filled, each time the newest one is added, the oldest one is taken down and moved to the Historic Capitol, keeping 100 years of past Presidents on display in the "new" chamber.

Under the direction of President Toni Jennings a new chamber automation system, designed to display amendments and information on bills, will be used for the first time during the 1997 session. Senators will have the flexibility of accessing the chamber automation system from their Tallahassee offices and in the Senate chamber on their laptop computers.

Just above the President's rostrum is the screen used to welcome groups of visitors watching from the gallery. In the booth on the left side of the screen, computer operators record the Senate's actions into the legislative information network. The booth on the right houses the chamber's sound system operators.

In front of the President's rostrum is the Secretary's "desk," that is staffed by the Secretary of the Senate. Legislative business is not properly before the Senate until it is "on the desk." Clerks at this desk read the bills and amendments before the body and record Senate actions. These actions are published in the journal, the official record of Senate proceedings. The chamber automation system, the video system, and the voting boards are also operated from this desk. A Senator who wishes to "approach the well" to make a speech on a particularly important matter speaks from one of the reading podiums at the Secretary's desk.

Voting boards on each side of the chamber record a member's green "yea" or red "nay" vote. (The white lights you see next to some names indicate that the Senator wants a "page" to deliver a message or retrieve a file from his or her office). The voting boards also display the number of the bill or amendment being debated and other information related to the proceedings. Electronic voting was first used in the Senate in 1966, and now nearly all votes are recorded electronically.

The seating arrangement in the chamber is determined by district number. Senators from odd-numbered districts sit on the President's left, and those representing even-numbered districts sit on the right. There are exceptions to this tradition. The Chairman of the Committee on Rules and Calendar sits in the first seat to the President's left in the front row and the Minority (Democratic) Leader sits directly behind him. The President Pro Tempore is seated to the President's right in the front row, with the Majority (Republican) Leader seated directly behind him. With these exceptions, the seats are arranged numerically. The front row numbers represent single-digit districts, the second row all teens, the third row the twenties and the back row holds the thirties and number 40.

At one time, the chamber desk was a member's only desk. Members' secretaries sat beside them in the chamber, even during sessions. Often a Senator would interrupt a letter he was dictating to rise and speak on a bill, then return to his correspondence after he had had his say. Now adequate office space is provided for the Senators and their staff; telephones at each chamber desk provide direct communication with the staff. Today, only members of the Senate and designated staff members are allowed in the chamber while the Senate is in session. Certain present and past state officials and guests invited by the President may also enter the chamber during a session. All men in the chamber must wear coats and ties.

Senators are addressed by their district number when they are recognized to speak. Custom decrees that a Senator may not be addressed as a gentleman or lady, as are members of the House of Representatives. He or she is "the Senator from the thirty-fifth," for example, but never "the gentleman or lady from the thirty-fifth." During debate, the members are always formally addressed as "Senator," not by their given names.

In the room at the right rear of the chamber, staff attorneys draft "floor amendments" to bills being debated. The caucus room at the left rear is frequently used for quick conferences of Senators, often with their colleagues from the House of Representatives. Just over the main entrance is the press gallery, where members of Florida's press corps record history. The remainder of the gallery is open to the public at all sessions, except that a portion of the gallery is usually reserved for the Senators' families and other sections are often reserved for visiting students.
Television cameras from Florida Public Broadcasting are positioned at the front and rear of the gallery to provide live, televised coverage of all Senate sessions. Each weekday evening during the session, public television stations broadcast "Today in the Legislature," a one-hour program summarizing that day's legislative action. The broadcasts are funded by the Legislature, but all editorial content is determined by the group of professional journalists who produce the programs. Florida's legislative telecasts were used as a model for a similar system installed in 1979 in the U.S. House of Representatives.

President of the Senate

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<td>John E. Mathews, Jr.</td>
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<td>Mallory E. Horne</td>
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<td>James A. Scott</td>
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<td>Toni Jennings</td>
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*Extended Session
**Served as Acting President from July 1, 1974 when President Home resigned until November 5, 1974

Senator Katherine Harris demonstrates the use of her laptop computer to a future Senator.
A simplified chart showing the route a bill takes through the Florida Legislature. Bills may originate in either house. This bill originated in the Senate.
Three Branches of Government

Florida's Constitution, in the traditional American pattern of "separation of powers," divides the governmental structure of the state into three separate and independent branches.

The Legislative Branch has exclusive law-making power and determines the general policies by which the problems of society are to be met. It may delegate limited rule-making power to some executive agencies.

The Executive Branch, with the Governor as its chief, administers the laws made by the Legislature. The Cabinet—composed of the Secretary of State, Attorney General, Comptroller, Treasurer, Commissioner of Agriculture, and Commissioner of Education—shares some executive power and responsibilities with the Governor.

The Judicial Branch interprets the law and applies the Constitution. The judiciary also presides over trials, although certain limited administrative disputes may be decided by executive agencies when authorized by law.

This structural division, faithfully maintained, sets up a system of "checks and balances" to ensure that all three branches properly perform their constitutional duties in the administration of state affairs.

The Legislative Branch

Composition and organization Florida's Legislature is composed of two houses, the Senate and the 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. All legislative sessions are open to the public, except executive sessions of the Senate when appointments or suspensions of public officials are considered. Either house of the Legislature may initiate legislation on any subject.

The State Constitution, adopted in 1968, provides that the Legislature shall be apportioned into not less than 30, nor more than 40, senatorial districts; and not less than 80, nor more than 120, representative districts. The Legislature met that mandate during the 1972 session when it established 40 Senate districts and 120 House districts and membership of each house has since remained at that same number. Senators serve four-year terms and representatives serve two-year terms. While a legislator may be elected for more than one term, he may not seek reelection if at the end of his current term he has served for eight consecutive years.

Elections and qualifications The Constitution requires that members of the Legislature be elected at the general election in November of even-numbered years. Party candidates are nominated in party primary elections held prior to the general elections. Members of the Legislature must be at least 21 years old, electors and residents of the districts they represent, and Florida residents for two years prior to election.

Legislative sessions Two weeks after each general election, the Legislature convenes for the exclusive purpose of organization and election of officers. Each office is filled by the respective House of Representatives. Special sessions convene as necessary to transact the business to be considered. The Legislature may convene in special session under specified circumstances. The Senate may resolve itself into executive session to consider appointment of persons to office, or removal from office, or the impeachment of public officials.

Committees The committee is the heart of the legislative process, functioning to study, research, and plan solutions to "people problems." The Senate and House rules provide for certain standing committees, special or select committees, and subcommittees. The presiding officers name the chairmen and members of all committees.

Bills are assigned to one or more committees for study. In this preliminary screening the committees may hold public hearings where committee members hear sponsoring legislators and others in the industry or profession, the governmental agency, or the general public, who are interested in the bill. The committee then votes to recommend the bill favorably, unfavorably, or favorably with amendments to be considered when the bill is debated in the floor by the full Senate.

When the Senate and House are unable to agree on the final content of a bill, it goes to a conference committee. This committee, composed of members of both houses, tries to resolve the differences between the Senate and House versions of a bill. The conference committee report may not be amended and must be approved by both houses.

Other committees commonly used are joint committees, which are composed of members from each house, and select committees, which are usually appointed
to make recommendations on special or unique problems.

The Joint Legislative Management Committee supervises services that can be shared by both houses, thereby affording better facilities at a reduced cost. The Joint Legislative Auditing Committee, another joint Senate-House committee, employs an Auditor General who audits governmental agencies.

Florida's Public Counsel is also an office of the Legislature. The Public Counsel represents Florida consumers in utility-rate cases.

The Joint Administrative Procedures Committee, the Joint Legislative Committee on Intergovernmental Relations, the Joint Information Technology Resources Committee, and the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability are also part of the legislative branch.

Lobbying By definition a lobbyist is anyone who tries to influence legislation. Unless exempt, all persons who seek to influence legislation must register with the Joint Legislative Management Committee before they begin lobbying. Every lobbyist must also state any direct business association or partnership with any current member of the Legislature and make periodic reports on moneys spent lobbying.

Forms of legislation Legislative proposals may be in the form of bills, resolutions, concurrent resolutions, joint resolutions, or memorials. A bill is a proposed law, and it may be either a general bill or a local bill. A general bill would have a general impact within the state; a local bill would affect only a particular county, city, or town named in the bill. A majority vote is required to pass a bill.

A resolution expresses the opinion of one house of the Legislature, whereas a concurrent resolution expresses the opinion of both houses. A joint resolution is usually a proposal to amend the State Constitution, to apportion the Legislature, or to set the effective date of a vetoed bill when the veto is overridden. Resolutions, concurrent resolutions, and joint resolutions are passed by a majority vote, except that a three-fifths vote of the members of both houses is required to pass a joint resolution that proposes an amendment to the State Constitution. A memorial is a petition addressed to the President of the United States, the Congress, or some official agency of the federal government. It requests action or expresses the Legislature's collective viewpoint and is passed by a majority vote.

Impeachments The Governor, Lieutenant Governor, members of the Cabinet, justices of the Supreme Court, and judges may be removed from office only by impeachment. The House of Representatives has the sole power to impeach, that is, to bring charges. The Senate then tries all impeachments, with the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court presiding. A two-thirds vote of the Senate is required to convict. If convicted, the officer is removed from office.

STATE DESIGNATIONS

Air fair: Central Florida Air Fair
Animal: Florida panther
Band: St. Johns River City Band
Beverage: Citrus sinensis (orange juice)
Bird: Mockingbird
Butterfly: Zebra Longwing
Festival: "Calle Ocho-Open House 8"
Fiddle contest: see section 15.048, Florida Statutes
Flower: Orange Blossom
Gem: Florida largemouth bass
Litter control symbol: Moonstone
Marine mammal: The official Keep Florida Beautiful, Incorporated, service mark
Motto: Manatee (sea cow)
Moving image center and archive: "In God We Trust"
Nickname: Louis Wolfson II Media History Center, Inc.
Opera program: Sunshine State
Pageant: see section 15.044, Florida Statutes
Play: "Indian River"
"Cross and Sword"
Railroad museums: see section 15.045, Florida Statutes
Renaissance festival: see section 15.0445, Florida Statutes
Reptile: American alligator
Rodeo: Silver Spurs Rodeo
Saltwater fish: Atlantic sailfish
Saltwater mammal: Porpoise (dolphin)
Shell: Horse conch
Soil: Myakka fine sand
Statewide trail: Florida National Scenic Trail
Stone: Agatized coral
Transportation museum: Florida Museum of Transportation and History
Tree: Sabal palmetto palm
Wildflower: Coreopsis
EVENTS IN FLORIDA'S HISTORY

9000 B.C. Florida may first have been seen by Indian wanderers who crossed a land bridge from Siberia to Alaska during the late Pleistocene or Ice Age. Their presence in Florida may be surmised from stone points of javelins and spears found in conjunction with bones of large animals long extinct.

5000 B.C. First semi-permanent settlements appeared in Florida as the Indians depended in a large degree upon snails, mollusks, and freshwater shellfish.

1498-1586

1498-1528 John Cabot viewed in 1498 or 1499 a great bay that may have been Miami's Biscayne Bay. Giovanni da Verrazano likely reached the coast of Florida during a voyage in 1528. The Cantino map of 1502 shows a New World peninsula not unlike Florida. 1513 Juan Ponce de Leon sighted Florida on March 27. Going ashore between April 2 and 8 in the vicinity of St. Augustine, he named the land "Pascua Florida" because of its discovery "in the time of the Feast of Flowers." 1516-1561 Florida explored by Ponce de Leon; Panfilo de Narvaez; Hernando de Soto; and Tristan de Luna, who established a colony on the shores of Pensacola Bay in 1559. 1562 Jean Ribault, searching for a site for a Huguenot colony, entered the St. Johns River on April 30. 1565 On August 28, Pedro Menendez de Aviles, celebrating the feast day of Saint Augustine with a High Mass, gave the place the name of San Augustin (afterwards St. Augustine). 1586 Sir Francis Drake sacked and burned St. Augustine.

1600-1698

1600 San Marcos de Apalache (St. Marks) was a fort and a settlement of consequence by the 1680s. Possession of Pensacola was reestablished in 1698. 1605 Franciscan friars were conducting a primary school in the Convent of the Immaculate Conception, where a "maestro de gramatica" instructed the children of St. Augustine. 1672-1698 Thirty years in building, the Castillo de San Marcos was finished at St. Augustine. This fort of coquina, a rock formed of sand and shell, provided a bastion for the Spanish in East Florida.

1783-1795

1783 Florida was returned to Spain by the British for the Bahamas. Florida's first newspaper, the East Florida Gazette, was published at St. Augustine by William Charles Wells. 1795 Treaty between the United States and Spain as to Florida's western boundary.

1819-1845

1819 American Secretary of State John Quincy Adams and Spanish Minister Luis de Onis reached an agreement, finally ratified by both nations in 1821, by which Spain gave the United States title to East and West Florida. 1822 The unified government of Florida was established March 30, 1822, when President Monroe signed into law the Congressional act providing for a Governor and a Legislative Council of 13 citizens, appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. William P. DuVal, a Virginian who grew up in Kentucky, became the first Territorial Governor. 1824 Governor DuVal, on March 4, proclaimed the site of today's Tallahassee as the seat of the new Territory, with the Legislative Council meeting there in November at a log house erected in the vicinity of today's Capitol. 1830 Population 34,730 1834-1837 Florida's first railroads began operation. The Tallahassee-St. Marks road was first incorporated (February 10, 1834). The St. Joseph-Lake Wimico line was the first to get into service (early March 1836). St. Joseph put in service the state's first steam locomotive (September 5, 1836). 1835 Beginning of the Seminole War. Major Francis L. Dade and Chief Osceola were major figures in this war. 1838-1839 Fifty-six commissioners elected from Florida's 20 counties gathered at Saint Joseph to draft a constitution in anticipation of statehood. The convention lasted from December 3, 1838, until January 11, 1839. 1840 Population 54,477 1842 Seminole War ended. 1845 President John Tyler on March 3, signed into law the act granting statehood to Florida with its 57,921 people. First State Governor was William D. Moseley. Elected to Congress as first Representative was David Yulee.

1850-1898

1850 Population 87,445 1851 Dr. John Gorrie of Apalachee patented the process of making ice artificially, a process he had developed in 1845 to cool the rooms of feverish patients. 1860 The Florida Railroad, first cross-state line, linked Fernandina, on the east coast, with Cedar Key on the west. Population 140,424; voting population, 14,374 1861 Florida withdrew from the Union on January 10. Florida was admitted to the Confederacy on February 4, but remained an independent nation until April 22, when the Secession Convention ratified the Constitution of the Confederate States of America. 1861-1865 Florida furnished salt, beef, and bacon to the armies of the Confederacy. 1865 Home Guards and Cadets from West Florida Seminary saved Tallahassee from capture by turning back invading federal forces at the Battle of Natural Bridge. The war ended with Tallahassee the only Confederate state capital east of Mississippi to escape occupation. Federal troops entered Tallahassee on May 10, and the American flag again flew over the Capitol on May 20. A Constitutional Convention, convened on October 25, annulled the Ordinance of Secession and decreed that slavery no longer existed. 1868 The faction-torn convention submitted a new Constitution, given voter-approval in May, which granted equal suffrage to male persons of "whatever race, color, nationality, or previous condition ..." 1870 Population 187,748 1884 The first train of the new Plant System, created of many short-lines in the south by Henry B. Plant, rumbled
into Tampa to produce the agricultural and industrial awakening of the West Coast. 1885 A Constitutional Convention of 56 days broadened people’s share in their government. Cabinet posts were made elective, as were those of Justices of the Supreme Court and all county offices except county commissioner. The State Board of Education was created. The establishment of normal schools was authorized. 1886 Requiring a railroad adequate to serve a great hotel he had built at St. Augustine, Henry M. Flagler bought the first transportation link in the chain of railroad and hotel properties he constructed down the East Coast to Key West. 1888 The first commercial shipment of phosphate from the Peace River Valley, in the southwestern peninsula, where the mineral had been discovered in 1881. 1889 A yellow fever epidemic broke out in Key West. 1890 A national convention of Farmers’ Alliance, a predecessor of the Populist Party, was held in Ocala. Population 391,422. 1894-1899 Repeated frosts killed much citrus and sent the industry southward. 1897 The State Railroad Commission was established with authority to promulgate “reasonable and just” passenger and freight rates, and to correct transportation abuses. Floridians gave aid and comfort to the Cubans rebelling against Spain. 1898 The Spanish-American War saw embarkation camps at Tampa, Miami, and Jacksonville, with thousands of soldiers and others who later returned to visit or to live.

### 1900-1949

1900 Population 528,542. 1901 On May 3, flames raced for eight hours across the heart of Jacksonville, destroying 2,368 buildings, including 23 churches and 10 hotels. 1905 The Buckman Act consolidated state institutions of higher learning into three: the University of Florida at Gainesville, Florida State College for Women at Tallahassee, and the Florida Agricultural and Mechanical College for Negroes at Tallahassee. 1906 Hundreds of workers on the Florida East Coast Railway’s Overseas Extension were lost when a hurricane swept the Keys on October 18. Miami was battered. 1908 With $400 capital the Kalem Company made in Jacksonville what is regarded as the first dramatic motion picture in Florida. It was entitled A Florida Feud. 1911 In March, Lincoln Beachey, at Tampa, made the first night flight in history. He also set a new world’s altitude record of 11,500 feet over Tampa during this year. 1912 R.C. Fowler, in January, started the second transcontinental flight at Jacksonville, flying to San Francisco, a distance of 2,232 miles, in 151 days. 1913 Governor Park Trammell sponsored the first腐rupt Practices Law, to reduce the legal cost of seeking public office. The law allowed the expenditure of $4,000 by the candidates for the U.S. Senate and for Governor; $5,500 for cabinet positions. The Legislature also enacted a law for state-conducted primary elections. On May 17, Domingo Rosillo flew across the Straits of Florida from Key West to Havana in two hours and 30 minutes. 1914 On January 1, the first regularly scheduled commercial airline between two U.S. cities was established at St. Petersburg as Antony Jannus flew St. Petersburg’s Mayor A.C. Pheil and freight to Tampa. 1915 The first legal steps were taken toward establishment of a state constructed and maintained system of highways, a governmental function left previously to local agencies but requiring emergency measures because of rapid development of automobiles and tourist traffic. 1917-1918 Florida was the scene of training for World War I fighting men, particularly aviators, as weather permitted year-round activity. On October 27, 1918, air passenger service between Key West and Havana was inaugurated by Aeromarine Company. 1919 The first guided missiles were tested at Carlsbad Field, Arcadia, in September. 1920 A campaign to eradicate the Texas cattle tick saw Georgia erect along the boundary a double-barred wire fence, policed by riders, to keep infested Florida cattle from straying into Georgia. Within Florida, for the same purpose, counties were quarantined against other counties. Dipping vats were used to kill the ticks. Population 968,470. 1922 The U.S. Department of Commerce issued its first Florida radio broadcasting license on May 15, 1922, to WDAE, Tampa. WFWA, afterwards WQAM, Miami had commenced broadcasting in 1920 with a 50-watt transmitter assembled by Frederick William Hardin from materials in a shop specializing in electrical repairs to automobiles and fixtures. 1925 Mark Sullivan, in his book Our Times, said of Florida’s land boom: “All of America’s gold rushes, all her oil booms, and all her free-land stampedes dwindled by comparison with the torrent of migration pouring into Florida during the early fall of 1925.” 1926 Florida Airways Corporation, on April 1, became the nation’s second airline to commence domestic airmail service. 1927 On October 28, a chartered Fokker trimotor airplane rumbled along the dirt runway of Key West’s Meacham Field to inaugurate both Pan American Airways and airmail service to Havana. The Pan American plane carried 28 sacks of mail over the 90 miles of water. Service for paying passengers began three months later. 1928 Hurricane winds and water on September 15 brought death to 1,820 persons on the southernmost shores of Lake Okeechobee, perhaps the third after the Galveston Hurricane and Johnstown flood among America’s natural catastrophes. The loss of life was so great that funeral pyres were required. 1929 An infestation of Mediterranean fruit fly required tons of citrus fruit to be destroyed in 20 mid-state counties. 1930 Eastern Air Transport, Inc. (formerly Pitcairn Aviation, Inc.) in April inaugurated service between New York and Miami, changing pilots at Jacksonville. Population 1,468,211. 1931 The Legislature, applying part of the proceeds of a gasoline tax, secured bonded issues by counties for roads and bridges during the expansion period of the 1920s. Pari-mutuel wagering at horse and dog tracks was legalized. 1934 The Depression-exhausted Key West City Council and the Monroe County Commission signed over their powers to the Federal Emergency Relief Administration. FERA’s administrator initiated a program to make Key West the American winter resort of the tropics. 1935 A storm in the Florida Keys brought death to upwards of 400 persons, including some 200 veterans of World War I. A remnant of the Bonus Army which marched on Washington, the veterans were employed on highway construction as a federal work relief project. 1937 On June 1, Amelia Earhart took off from Miami on the first overwater leg of a round-the-world flight. Flying a new Lockheed Pegasus, she was accompanied by Fred Noonan, veteran aerial navigator. They disappeared over the Pacific on July 2 in an aura of mystery. 1939 The Highway Patrol, financed from the sale of driver licenses, was established. 1940 The ad valorem tax for state purposes was abolished. A constitutional amendment
authorized the Legislature to create a parole commission for the supervised release of worthy prisoners. Population 1,897,414. 1941-1945 Florida hummed with World War II industry, as training grounds for tens of thousands of men and women of the armed forces at camps like Camp Blanding and Camp Gordon Johnston and in the forging of vessels and tools for the conflict. Tourist hotels and restaurants at Miami Beach, Daytona Beach, St. Petersburg, and other resort centers afforded quick means for accommodating hordes of trainees. 1943 A cigarette tax was levied to replace the war-lost revenue from horse and dog racing. 1945 The cigarette tax was increased from three cents to four and taxes on beer and other alcoholic beverages were raised to finance a multi-million dollar improvement program at state institutions and to provide more money for schools. A state advertising program of $500,000 a year was instituted. 1946 The end of World War II allowed the start of public institutional improvements and a statewide building boom. 1947 The Legislature enacted a Minimum Foundation Program to put a floor under educational opportunity for children in elementary schools of all counties and to encourage teachers to improve their qualifications by offering better pay for better training. Florida State College for Women transformed into coeducational Florida State University. The University of Florida was opened to female students. 1949 The Legislature banned livestock from highways; enacted an omnibus citrus law designed to raise marketing standards for fresh and canned fruit; overhauled election laws; enacted three percent limited retail sales tax; shared the proceeds of an increased cigarette tax with cities; and earmarked money from the seventh cent of gasoline tax (previously used for schools and general government) for roads.

1950-1969

1950 Frozen concentrates of citrus juices became a major industry. Population 2,771,305. 1952 Voters amended the Constitution to allow the pledge of motor vehicle tax revenue for school construction. 1953 An institutional building program was authorized, particularly to catch up the lag in mental hospitals. 1954 The first Republican since 1885 was elected to Congress. The Sunshine Skyway, stretching 15.2 miles across lower Tampa Bay, opened to toll traffic. 1954-1960 The school desegregation decision of the U.S. Supreme Court in Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka had Florida ramifications. Sit-in demonstrations at segregated lunch counters occurred. In later days, often through interracial committees, segregated lunch counter policies were ended in some 20 Florida communities. 1955 The Legislature authorized a state-long turnpike. Lawmakers were deadlocked for months in a special session over reapportionment of the state Senate. 1956 Elected in 1954, LeRoy Collins was the first chief executive reelected to a successive term. Collins also was the first candidate for Governor to win a first-primary victory, defeating five opponents for the Democratic nomination. A worm-eaten grapefruit in a Miami Shores backyard brought first aerial spraying to combat the Mediterranean fruit fly. More than a half million acres were sprayed before the battle ended nearly a year later. 1957 The Legislature authorized statewide educational television. Funds were appropriated for the University of South Florida and for expansion of the network of community colleges. 1958 The free world's first earth satellite, Explorer I, was sent aloft from Cape Canaveral. 1960 The federal census ranked Florida 10th in the nation. Population 4,951,560. 1961 On May 5, astronaut Alan Shepard, climbed into space from Cape Canaveral. President Kennedy announced that the United States would undertake to fly men to the moon and back during the decade of the 60s, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration selected Florida for its Spaceport, acquiring 87,763 acres by purchase. The state granted use rights to an additional 53,553 acres. The flight of Cubans from their homeland brought upwards of 50,000 into Florida. 1962 Space Age ramifications, spreading out from Cape Canaveral's launching base, influenced the state in many ways; higher education and industry being among the most important of these. Florida was the build-up area for the nation's armed forces during a crisis with Russia over missile bases and offensive weapons in Cuba. The first black students were admitted to undergraduate classes at the University of Florida and Florida State University. The Mediterranean fruit fly returned to Dade County. A quarantine was quickly established and spraying commenced, to be continued for a year. 1963-1964 In May 1963, blacks demonstrated against discrimination in Daytona and Tallahassee. St. Augustine became the center of disturbances in 1964, with wide coverage by media. 1963 The State Constitution was amended to authorize the sale of state bonds to construct buildings at universities, colleges, and vocational schools. Voters also approved the issuance of bonds to purchase land for conservation purposes. The election of Governor and Cabinet was shifted to off-year from Presidential selection. Cape Canaveral was renamed Cape Kennedy after President John F. Kennedy's assassination (reverted to original historical name in 1973). 1964 The first classes were held at Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton. The University of West Florida was the name given to the institution being established at Pensacola. 1965 The Board of Regents took over policymaking for the state's institutions of higher learning from the Board of Control. 1966 The first Republican since 1872, Claude R. Kirk, Jr., was elected Governor. Quarterback Steve Spurrier, of the University of Florida, won the Heisman Trophy. 1967 Repeated efforts by the Legislature to devise an acceptable plan of apportionment ended when a three-judge federal court drew the boundaries of Senate and House districts and ordered new elections. 1968 The Legislature submitted and voters ratified three amendments which combined to give the state an almost new Constitution. Republicans held their convention at Miami Beach, the first national gathering of a major political party ever convened in Florida. The first Republican, Edward J. Gurney, ever elected by popular ballot was sent to the U.S. Senate. 1969 With the office reestablished by the revised Constitution, the first Lieutenant Governor (Ray C. Osborne) since 1889 was appointed. On July 16, at 9:32 a.m., Apollo II, with Astronauts Neil Armstrong, Edwin Aldrin, and Michael Collins, lifted off Pad A at Cape Kennedy on the journey to the moon. Four days later, at 4:15 p.m. (EDT) on July 20, as Armstrong stepped onto the surface of the moon, he advised the Earth - “The Eagle has landed.”

1970-1989

1970 The first Legislature to meet in annual session under the new Constitution enacted a significant package of conservation laws that included
protection of alligators, stiffer penalties for air and water pollution, and reduced use of persistent pesticides. Population 6,789,443

1971 The Legislature submitted, and the voters ratified, an amendment to the State Constitution permitting the levy of a tax on the income of corporations. Two successful moon landings by Apollo spacecraft blasted off from Cape Kennedy. 1972 The voters ratified a constitutional amendment reorganizing the sixteen kinds of trial courts into a uniform state system. The new Judicial Article eliminated all Justice of the Peace courts. All judges were to be elected without party label. Democratic and Republican National Conventions met at Miami Beach.

1973 After seven and a half years and nearly 261,000 refugees, the “freedom flights” from Cuba came to an end on April 7. The state commenced defining areas of critical concern to the well-being of the public, first being the 858,000 acres of the Big Cypress in southwest Florida brought under control by purchase or regulation. 1974 Reubin O’D. Askew became the first Governor to be elected to successive four-year terms. The Legislature enacted legislation for collective bargaining by public employees, and created an ethics commission to oversee public officers and employees. 1975 Governor Askew appointed Joseph W. Hatcher to the Supreme Court, the first black Justice in the court’s history.

1976 Former Georgia Governor Jimmy Carter topped Alabama Governor George C. Wallace and 10 other Democrats in Florida’s March Presidential Primary. In the same primary, Florida Republicans preferred President Gerald R. Ford over former California Governor Ronald Reagan. 1977 January 20 saw snow as far south as Cutler Ridge in Dade County. A numbing wind brought death, power failure, agricultural ruin, and hundreds of traffic accidents around Florida. U.S. Corps of Engineers recommended against resumption of construction on Cross Florida Barge Canal. Completion of the new Capitol building. 1978 Jesse J. McCrary, Jr., the second black to serve as Secretary of State and as a member of the Cabinet, was appointed Secretary of State by Governor Reubin O’D. Askew on July 19. First meeting of the Legislature in the new Capitol building. Florida A&M University defeated the University of Massachusetts to become the first NCAA Division I-AA National football champions. 1980 The “Mariel Boatlift” of myriad small boats risked the Straits of Florida to bring 120,000 Cubans to Key West. Some 30,000 Haitian and 15,000 Nicaraguan refugees added to the resettlement problems of federal, state, and local authorities. Population 9,746,342 1981 The Space Shuttle Columbia rose from the Kennedy Space Center on April 12, the dawn of a new age in spaceflight. Successfully completing its series of experiments aloft, Astronauts John Young and Bob Crippen brought the Columbia to a landing at Edwards Air Force Base, California. On October 1, Florida’s Walt Disney World observed its tenth anniversary. During the decade, the central Florida theme park attracted more than 125 million visitors and became the world’s biggest privately owned tourist attraction. 1982 The Legislature established single-member districts for the House and Senate. Mrs. Carrie P. Meek of Miami was nominated without opposition to be the first black State Senator since 1887 and the first black woman Senator ever. Roberto Casas, of Hialeah, became the first Cuban American elected to the Florida House of Representatives.

1983 A devastating Christmas freeze ruined groves in central Florida with damage to fruit and trees totaling more than $1 billion. The University of Miami defeated the University of Nebraska to become the National football champions. 1984-1986 Betty Castor, Tampa, became the first woman elected to serve as President Pro Tempore of the Senate. 1985 Nature was unknd to Florida. Citrus and vegetables were frozen in all but one of the 67 counties. A total of 8,949 forest fires charred a record 345,643 acres. On May 12 fires destroyed 200 structures statewide including 130 homes at Palm Coast in Flagler County. Three hurricanes brushed the seacosts. Disaster stunned the owners of citrus groves and nurseries, with more than 10 million trees uprooted and burned to eradicate citrus canker. Rosemary Barkett became the first woman Florida Supreme Court Justice on October 14th.

1986 The space shuttle Challenger exploded upon take-off from Cape Canaveral on January 28, killing six astronauts and its citizen-passenger, Christa McAuliffe, an elementary school teacher from Concord, New Hampshire. Quarterback Vinny Testeverde, of the University of Miami, won the Heisman Trophy. 1987 The University of Miami defeated the University of Oklahoma to become the National football champions. 1988 The space shuttle Discovery catapulted five astronauts aloft from Cape Canaveral on September 29. It was 32 months after the Challenger catastrophe suspended American manned space flight. Also in September, a Winter Springs resident, Sheelah Ryan, won the Florida Lottery’s $55.1 million jackpot, the largest prize awarded in a North American lottery to that time. Arnett E. Girardeau, from Jacksonville, became the first African American elected President Pro Tempore of the Florida Senate. 1989 Death robbed the country of an outstanding Floridian. U.S. Representative Claude Denson Pepper, a self-described Alabama plowboy who became a tireless champion of the poor and the elderly, died May 30. In his place was elected Florida’s first Cuban-born woman, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen. The University of Miami defeated the University of Alabama to become the National football champions.

1990-1996

1990 The history of the community, Miami U.S.A., by Helen Muir reported that streams of refugees had poured into Miami since Cubans arrived. Nicaraguans, Colombians, Jamaicans, Salvadorans, Guatemalans, Venezuelans, Peruvians, Ethiopians, Cambodians, Lebanese, and Ukrainians, “to name a few.” Germans, Japanese, Mexicans, Chinese, and citizens of the Arab countries joined the march to south Florida. Gwen Margolis, North Miami Beach, was elected as the first woman President of the Florida Senate. Federal census ranked Florida fourth in the nation with a population of 13,003,362. 1991 The University of Miami defeated the University of Nebraska to become the National football champions. 1992 Homestead and adjacent south Florida was devastated on August 24 by the costliest natural disaster in American history, with Hurricane Andrew wreaking damage demanding billions in aid. The first elections since Florida gained four additional seats in the U.S. House of Representatives saw Cuban Americans and African Americans seated. Lincoln Diaz-Balart joined Ileana Ros-Lehtinen. Among the African Americans elected to Congress were Carrie Meek of Miami and Corrine Brown of Jacksonville. After the November general election, when the Legislature met to organize as provided in the Constitution, there were 20 Democrats and 20 Republicans in the 40-member Senate and each had its President-Designate. After several ballots, it
was obvious that the Senate was deadlocked on the election of the President for a two-year term. After several days of negotiation, a solution was worked out which provided for splitting the term into two one-year terms with Ander Crenshaw, Jacksonville, the Republican President-Designate in command the first year and Pat Thomas, Quincy, the Democratic President-Designate taking over for the second year.

Quarterback Gino Torretta, of the University of Miami, won the Heisman Trophy. ◆ 1993 Janet Reno, for 15 years State Attorney for Dade County, was named Attorney General of the United States by President Clinton; the first woman to so serve in U.S. history. The Florida State University defeated the University of Nebraska in the Orange Bowl to become the National football champions, and quarterback Charlie Ward won the Heisman Trophy. ◆ 1994 In July, tropical storm Alberto caused the worst flooding in 65 years and did at least $40 million in damage to crops, livestock, and equipment in counties west of the Apalachicola River. In August, tropical storm Beryl flooded much of panhandle Florida again, and in November, tropical storm Gordon killed eight in Florida and did $336 million in damage to south Florida winter crops. Connie Mack became the first Republican U.S. Senator from Florida to win reelection. The first Republican majority elected to the State Senate in this century resulted in the election of Jim Scott, Ft. Lauderdale, as President of the Senate for a two-year term. ◆ 1995 Florida celebrated its Sesquicentennial. ◆ 1996 Toni Jennings, of Orlando, became the first Republican woman elected President of the Florida Senate. Roberto Casas, of Hialeah, became the first Cuban American elected President Pro Tempore of the Senate. The University of Florida defeated The Florida State University in the Sugar Bowl to become the National football champions, and quarterback Danny Wuerffel won the Heisman Trophy.

About This Handbook

This handbook 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.

Included in the handbook is a photographic tour of the Senate, showing the Senate at work. The front cover, courtesy of Donn Dughi (House Communications Office), captures the tower of the new Capitol rising above the cupola of the Historic Capitol. The back cover features the Seal of the Florida Senate.

The Florida Senate handbook is published by the Secretary of the Senate. While many individuals of the Secretary's staff contributed in myriad ways to publishing this handbook, special acknowledgment is made to Jhonne Gillispie for compiling and editing the content, to Paulette Lowry for photographs, and to Shirley Joyce for the computer entry of graphics and text. A special thanks is also extended to Pam Stevens and Jim Higdon with the Legislative Data Center.

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