



Gwyndolen "Gwyn"
CLARKE-REED



STATE REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 92

Dear Residents,

What a Session the Legislature had this year, both the Regular and the Special. As you know from all of the media attention, Regular Session in the House ended very abruptly on Tuesday, April 28th. The Speaker said "Sine Die" and it was over. No budget had been voted on and where did that leave the State of Florida? Members of the Senate filed a petition with the Supreme Court and the justices ruled the early adjournment of the House unconstitutional.

Bills we passed in the House and the Senate were sent to the Governor to sign into law. I was very lucky to work with fellow members to have three bills signed by the Governor this year. Two of the bills were local bills through the Broward Legislative Delegation for the cities of Coral Springs and Parkland and The Town of Davie and the City of Weston. The third bill was my Civil Citation bill, HB-99, which implements an expanded Civil Citation program statewide.

The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives called us back into Special Session beginning June 1, for the purpose of getting a budget in place for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2015. The biggest issue was the expansion of health care to some of more than 800,000 Floridians. After long hours of questions and debate on the House floor, the Senate plan, Florida Health Insurance Exchange, was rejected. The Florida Legislature continues to reject expansion of coverage under the Affordable Care Act. I believe the Senate plan was responsible and right for the state and I voted for it.

As we began budget negotiations, federal officials gave preliminary approval for reduced funding in the Low Income Pool program that, in part, is used to reimburse health care providers for uncompensated care. That federal money, in combination with \$400 million in state general revenue, was used to reach a budget compromise.

On June 19, the House and Senate officially adjourned Sine Die. On June 22, the Governor acted on the budget, using his line-item veto to reject \$427 million from the \$78.7 billion spending plan approved by the Legislature.

For more in-depth information on the bills or to monitor the progress of bills that are on the Governor's desk for his signature, please direct your attention to the website of the Florida House of Representative, www.myfloridahouse.gov, or download the FL HOUSE app to your iPhone or Smartphone.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss any state issues, please call my office at 954.786.4848, or send me an email to Gwyn-Clarke-Reed@myfloridahouse.gov.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve in the Florida House of Representatives.

Sincerely and in FULL-TIME Service to you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gwyn".

REPRESENTATIVE GWYNDOLEN CLARKE-REED

Andrea C. Knowles, Legislative Assistant III
Andrea.Knowles@myfloridahouse.gov

Gwyn.Clarke-Reed@myfloridahouse.gov

Kathy Snyder, Senior Executive District Secretary
Kathy.Snyder@myfloridahouse.gov



CHILDREN, FAMILIES, AND SENIORS

SB-7018 Re-established the operating structure of the state's Long-Term Ombudsman Program, expands the authority and duties of Ombudsman in local districts, and, I believe, improves the relationship between families and long-term care facilities. With HB-5, the Legislature revised guardianship proceedings to place what I believe are important new checks on those who acting as guardians to our most vulnerable Floridians.

HB-269 allows citizens in the last stages of illness the ability to try treatments that are still under regulatory investigations providing what I believe is appropriate choice to pursue benefits that may extend or improve the lives of terminal patients.

HB-7013 expands incentives to increase adoptions in the state. The legislation adopted also eliminated a ban on adoption by members of the LGBT community that had been in state law even though an appeals court ruled it unconstitutional. I'm happy to support both adoption and equality.

INSURANCE

The Legislature's decisions about how to HB-165 Property and Casualty Insurance legislation contained insurance information on a number of areas: Personal Injury Protection, or PIP, clarified payment for doctors as related to coverage dates. A sinkhole policy allows policyholders to have neutral evaluation if a claim was timely filed.

Another insurance bill, HB-715, passed relating to coverage by state-run Citizens Property Insurance Corporation. The bill will allow owners of structures in certain coastal areas to improve or repair or rebuild their properties and remain eligible for insurance through Citizens provided the total square footage of the finished area is not increased by more than 25 percent.



FLORIDA'S BUDGET

As usual, the substantive issues debated by the Legislature were largely mirrored in the spending plan lawmakers build. Important issues of education, the environment and health care were translated into dollars and cents within the \$78.7 billion budget passed by both House and Senate on June 19.

In addition to larger policy issues, members and delegations also worked during budget conference negotiations on behalf of projects and programs within their districts and areas. The 2015-16 budget that went into effect July 1 includes \$1 billion more than the year before.

Highlights of this year's Florida budget, as passed by the Legislature, include:

- **\$32.9 billion on Health and Human Services**
 - o \$18.3 million for Federally Qualified Health Centers around the state
 - o \$41.6 million for mental health and substance abuse services
 - o \$1 billion within the Low Income Pool to cover uncompensated care
 - o \$1.7 million to help 167 individuals waiting for services within the Alzheimer's Disease Initiative
 - o \$1.2 billion for the state's Agency for Persons with Disabilities
 - o \$3 billion for the Department of Children and Families
- **\$19.7 billion for public schools operating funds, a 4 percent increase**
 - o Per-student funding increased \$207 per pupil, a 3 percent increase
 - o \$4.5 billion for the State University System
 - o \$2 billion for the Florida College System
- **\$9.3 billion to fully fund the Department of Transportation Work Program**
 - o \$3.6 billion for highway construction
 - o \$186.4 million for county transportation programs
 - o \$633.6 million for state highway resurfacing
 - o \$523.9 million for public transportation development grants
 - o \$447.7 million for the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles
- **\$1.5 billion for the Department of Environmental Protection**
 - o \$785.6 million in the Land Acquisition Trust Fund, Amendment 1
 - o \$17.4 million for Florida Forever conservation lands
 - o \$55 million overall for land acquisition
 - o \$50 million for springs restoration
 - o \$32.1 million for beach projects

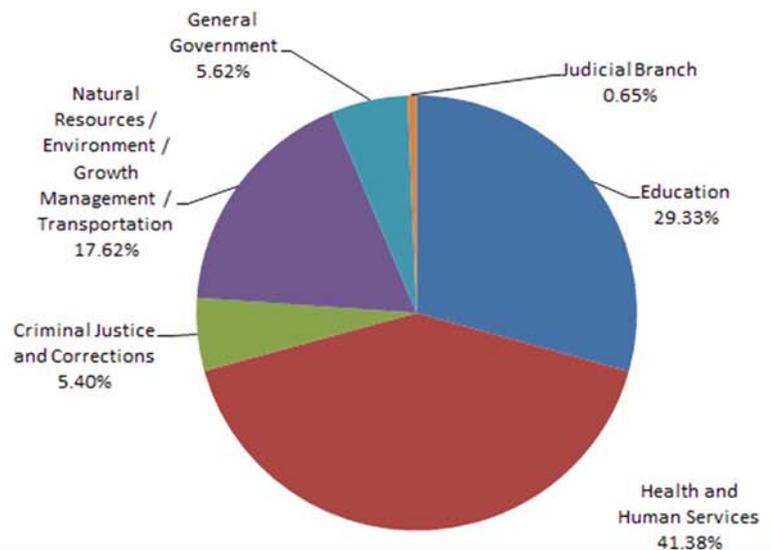
The Governor on June 23 signed the budget, using his line-item veto authority to eliminate \$461 million in spending, including many projects sponsored by members of both parties.

ENVIRONMENT

The Legislature's decisions about how to spend more than \$750 million under the voter-approved Amendment 1 led to some differences of opinion. The more than \$50 million for land acquisition was considered not enough by some.

Water issues were a priority of the Speaker. His concerns were the quality and quantity of water available to residents and businesses.

SFY 2015 Final Budget



FINANCE AND TAXATION

A \$428 million package of tax cuts was passed in Special Session. It extends a back-to-school sales tax holiday to 10 days, gives a one year tax break to college & university students on textbooks and provides a reduction in the Communication Services Tax by an about two dollars a month on the average Floridian's cell phone bill.



EDUCATION

The Education Accountability bill, HB-7069, eliminated some statewide test such as the 11th grade English Language Arts (ELA) assessment, eliminating required administration of the Postsecondary Education Readiness Test. The bill also provides an adjustment of the teacher evaluation formula so that only one-third of the evaluation will be based on student test scores, down from half. Passage of this bill on April 14 eliminated some tests that were to be taken this past school year.

BROWARD COUNTY

STATE HOUSING INITIATIVES PARTNERSHIP (SHIP)

FUNDS 2015-2016



The State Housing Initiatives Partnership Program (SHIP) provides funds to local governments as an incentive to create partnerships that produce and preserve affordable homeownership and multifamily housing. The program was designed to provide very low, low and moderate income families with assistance to purchase a home, money to repair or replace a home and many other types of housing assistance. Broward County received \$101,000,000 (Figures courtesy of www.floridahousing.org), with the City of Deerfield Beach receiving 364,544, the City of Ft. Lauderdale receiving 821,520, the City of Margate receiving 265,202 the City of Pompano Beach receiving 501,032 and the City of Tamarac receiving 293,709



FLORIDA'S BUDGET (LOCAL ITEMS)

Florida Governor Rick Scott signed a new budget into law June 23rd, but not before vetoing nearly \$500 million stuffed into the spending plan by legislators. Scott signed the budget just days after the Florida Legislature approved it during an unusual June special session. State government could have been partially shut down if a new budget had not been in place by July 1.

POMPANO BEACH

Broward County Shore Protection Project/Segment II (Beach Restoration) \$2,700,000

Pompano Beach Cultural Center (Cultural Facilities) 500,000

•Pompano Beach State Farmers' Market (State Farmers' Market) 200,000

TAMARAC

Tamarac Receiving Pond Erosion Control Project (Water Project) 150,000