

# Representative

## Daphne Campbell R.N.



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### Dear Friends,

We are preparing to enter a new session in response to the ruling issued by the Florida Supreme Court on July 9, 2015 on redistricting. The House and Senate has agreed to a special session that will begin on Monday August 10, 2015 for the sole purpose of passing a remedial congressional map.

I am excited to get back to working on your behalf.

I will be returning to Tallahassee August 10, 2015 however, I want to let you know I will be looking forward to returning to Miami with news about this special session. In the mean time, you can still refer any of your issues to my district office where I have placed knowledgeable staff.

I look forward to hearing from you soon!

### Visit Us Online!

If you would like to stay updated on everything happening in Tallahassee please visit [www.MyFloridaHouse.gov](http://www.MyFloridaHouse.gov)

You can find out a lot of interesting information!



Florida House of Representatives



## Recap of Regular Session & Special Session A

The regular session of the House of Representatives ended abruptly on April 28, 2015, three days before its scheduled conclusion. The Florida Supreme Court ruled the early adjournment was unconstitutional but declined, for practical reasons, to order the house to reconvene. There were 227 general

and local bills passed by both chamber's. The Governor signed nine of those bills into law— 68 bills in total were sent to the Governor on May 7, in which he had 15 days to act.

Among the bills passed by both chambers, there were important advances in state policy.

- HB 7069 eliminating a number of high

stake tests required for school children's.

- SB 982 making it illegal to discriminate in employment on the basis of pregnancy
- SB 228 allowing online voter registration
- SB 378 expanding juvenile civil citation

### **Budget Impasse**

A state budget was not passed during regular session as leadership in the House and Senate could not agree on major issues, chiefly healthcare. The House on April 2 passed, by an 86-29 vote, a State spending plan that totaled \$76.2 Billion. The

Senate on April 1 passed, by a 36-0 vote, a budget \$80.4 billion. The building blocks of the two budgets and the \$4 Billion difference could not be resolved and regular session ended May 1 without a spending plan.

Although, both the Senate and the House of Representatives knew Florida's constitution required a balanced budget before the State's fiscal year begin, both decided to take a break.

### **Budget Impasse Continued...**

Presiding officers announced a special session June 1– 20 to negotiate and finalize a spending plan. The proposed House spending plan contained \$23.3 Billion for education, \$9.9 Billion for the Department of Transportation, \$22.9 Billion for the State's Agency for Health

Administration, \$1.8 Billion for the Department of Environmental Protection and \$690 million in tax cuts, including back to school sales tax holiday and an exemption for sales taxes on textbooks. Members of the House returned to Tallahassee to negotiate, debate, and vote on the new proposal.



The Legislatures were determined to pass a balanced budget before the State's financial year began on July 1.

## Budget Impasse Conclusion

In Special Session A, the Legislature passed 11 bills, all related to the State budget, its implementation and conforming bills to direct the State spending. The Governor signed all of those bills exercising his line-item veto authority on the appropriations bill, on June 23. While the session work was done, work to prepare for the 2016 session was scheduled for September 16, 2015.

There, the legislators would all gather for their mandatory committee meetings.



## Healthcare

Differences over how to address access to Health care was the chief reason the abrupt end to the Legislature's regular session. In special session, the House questioned and debated a Senate plan to expand coverage under provisions of the Affordable Care Act that included a private-insurance program for some of those in

Florida who do not now have health insurance. Rep. Mia Jones, though she was not the sponsor, introduced the Senate plan and fielded questions from other members for nearly three hours in the first week of special session. Nearly seven hours of debate followed on the House floor. The house

rejected the Senate plan on a 41-72 vote. House members proposed a number of other bills to address other aspects of access to health care. Though those proposals were passed in the house, they were not heard in the Senate. Eventually the House and Senate compromised and a solution was found.

## Education

The legislature took swift action when session began in March, passing a bill that was soon signed into law that reduced the load of State required tests for students. The legislation signed into law does limit state-required testing to 45 hours of school time each year. In addition, the new law suspended third

grade retention, school grades and teacher evaluations related to testing in 2015 until this year's assessment were confirmed as valid. Florida public schools will get more funding in the coming year with \$19.7 billion going to operating funds, a 4.13 percent increase. Per-Pupil spending went up to a total of \$7,097, up 3 percent,

equivalent to an increase of \$207 per student. There is \$560 million in the State budget for school readiness and \$389 million for voluntary Pre-Kindergarten. All early learning services received \$1 Billion in funding. Florida public colleges also received \$2 Billion from the State Budget.



## Environment

In November 2014, three-fourths of Florida voters approved Amendment 1, the Water and Land Conversation Amendment to the State's constitution. It dedicated a third of documentary stamp revenue to protecting the State's land and water, money that will amount to many hundreds of millions of dollars for the next 20 years. There were a lot of

differences in the Legislature about how to spend the hundreds of millions of dollars dedicated to the environment by voters, including by the sponsors of the constitutional amendment. In the days following the end of special session, environmental advocates filed suit challenging the way the money was appropriated in the

budget. Gov. Rick Scott also vetoed a number of elements of the Amendment 1 allocations, money that will remain restricted to future uses specified by the amendment.



# Photos In Tallahassee



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# Numbers to Note

## Representative Daphne Campbell's

### District Office

9999 NE 2nd Avenue, Suite 309  
Miami Shores, FL 33138

Monday–Friday  
9am–5pm

305-795-1210  
[www.MyFloridaHouse.Gov](http://www.MyFloridaHouse.Gov)

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### Social Security Administration

1800-772-1213  
[www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov)

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### Medicare

1800-633-4227  
[www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov)

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### Unemployment

[www.fluidnow.com](http://www.fluidnow.com)  
1800-204-2418

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## United States Citizenship and Immigration Services

8801 NW 7th Avenue  
Miami, FL 33150  
[www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov)  
1800-375-5283

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## Internal Revenue Service (IRS)

51 SW 1st Avenue  
Miami, FL 33130  
[www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov)

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## Workforce One Employment Services

4690 NW 183rd Street  
Miami, FL 33055  
[www.southfloridaworkforce.com](http://www.southfloridaworkforce.com)  
305-620-8012

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## Miami-Dade County Housing Counseling Office

701 NW 1st Court, 16th Floor  
Miami, FL 33136  
786-469-4100

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**EMERGENCIES DIAL 911**

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*See you soon!*

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