

PUBLIC GUIDE

# FLORIDA HOUSE *of* REPRESENTATIVES RULES CHANGES

Ushering in a New Level of Transparency & Accountability  
Revolutionizing State Government

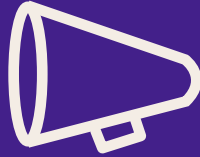


The Florida House of Representatives is ushering in a new level of transparency and accountability in government. Members of the Florida House are making unprecedented changes to the rules that govern us. Together, we have decided that we are tired of business as usual, and we can change a political culture that is more beholden to special interests than to the people of Florida.

It is our hope that the mission to hold government accountable spreads like a wildfire. Read on to learn how the new rules that will govern the Florida House can revolutionize state government.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Corcoran", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

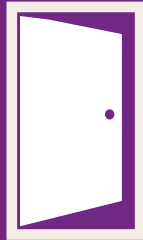
Richard Corcoran  
*Speaker-designate*



## LOBBYIST DISCLOSURE

Special interests must publicly disclose the issues they are lobbying in the Florida House of Representatives.

- ✓ The Florida House will require every lobbyist to disclose which bills, amendments and appropriations they are trying to influence.
- ✓ Before being allowed to lobby the Florida House on a specific issue, lobbyists will be required to file an electronic notice of appearance to disclose that they are lobbying on that specific issue.



## 6-YEAR LOBBYING BAN

The Florida House of Representatives is closing the revolving door between lobbyists and legislators.

- ✓ In the Florida House of Representatives, former legislators will be banned from lobbying the Florida House for a period of six years after they leave office.
- ✓ Former members' influence remains after they leave the Legislature. But to trade directly on that influence is personally profiting from public service.
- ✓ The rule will also apply to former Senators who would lobby in the House.



## APPROPRIATIONS PROJECT BILLS

Every year, there are news reports about budget items inserted at the last minute without proper review. The Florida House of Representatives will put an end to that. All projects in the Florida House budget must be filed as a stand-alone bill by the first day of the legislative session so that everyone, including the public and the press, can scrutinize them.

- ✓ The rule will facilitate an unprecedented level of scrutiny with projects. The vetting of these projects will be formalized and require approval of the appropriate budget subcommittee in order to be considered for inclusion in the Florida House budget.
- ✓ A project must be filed as an Appropriations Project Bill to be considered in the General Appropriations Act passed by the Legislature.
- ✓ All new appropriations projects will be nonrecurring expenditures, so that each Legislature can make decisions regarding the inclusion of projects in the state budget.



## MEMBER EMPLOYMENT RESTRICTIONS

Members of the Florida House of Representatives will be required to disclose any new employment with a taxpayer-funded entity.

- ✓ While in office, Florida House members will also be prohibited from entering into business deals or investment relationships with registered lobbyists or principals.



## DISCLOSURE OF PUBLIC FUNDS SPENT ON LOBBYING

The Florida House of Representatives will require further disclosure when taxpayer dollars are being used for one government to influence another.

- ✓ The Florida House will require additional disclosure of contracts from lobbyists that are paid with taxpayer dollars to lobby for local governments or public entities.
- ✓ Taxpayer dollars should not be spent by one government to hire contract lobbyists to influence another government.



## NO PRIVATE PLANES

No member of the Florida House will be allowed to fly on a private plane owned by a lobbyist or a corporation that employs a lobbyist.

- ✓ Members will not fly on private planes owned by lobbyists or principals even if they pay for the flight.
- ✓ Lobbyists and principals should not be subsidizing the cost of travel for members to travel to do their job.





## CREATION OF THE PUBLIC INTEGRITY & ETHICS COMMITTEE

The Florida House of Representatives will establish a Public Integrity & Ethics Committee to provide an unprecedented level of scrutiny to ethics requirements.

- ✓ The committee will consider legislation and monitor matters relating to the conduct and ethics standards of Florida House members, state and local public officials, public employees, lobbyists and candidates for public office, the regulation of political and constitutional prerogatives of the Legislature.
- ✓ The purpose of this committee is to back up our words with actions. The Florida House cannot say we are serious about ethics reform, lobbying reform, or judicial reform, without creating a mechanism to compel change.



## NO ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS

The Florida House of Representatives will prohibit lobbyists texting members while they are in committees or on the floor of the House.

- ✓ If a lobbyist has something to say to a member during a meeting, it should be done in a public and transparent way.

