Speakers pro tempore of the Florida House
The Speakers pro tempore of the Florida House
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Dear Floridian:

This booklet is meant to provide you a background on the Office of Speaker *pro tempore* in the Florida House of Representatives. Every known Speaker *pro tempore* is referenced, dating back to statehood in 1845.

The use of the title Speaker *pro tempore* in the Florida House of Representatives has had several different meanings. Prior to 1903, it was common to appoint a temporary presiding officer only during the absence of the Speaker. This was not unprecedented among legislative bodies and is similar to the pre-1890 use of the same position by the United States Senate. These appointments could range from an afternoon to several weeks awaiting the return of the Speaker to assume his duties. Once the presiding officer returned, the position of Speaker *pro tempore* dissolved.

Additionally, there have been times during that same period of the House's history when the appointment of a Speaker *pro tempore* was made honorary to perform a task such as to preside over the election of the Speaker and the adoption of the term's Rules during the beginning of the session.

The election of a Speaker *pro tempore* as a regular order of business and for a more permanent role commenced in 1903 with the election of Representative Raymond Bramhall Bullock of Marion County to represent the body for the term. Since that time, the Speaker *pro tempore* has become a permanent part of the House leadership structure, but the duties have often varied dependent on the needs of the House and the unique talents of each *pro tempore*. These duties are assigned by the Speaker.

This booklet contains a listing of all Speakers *pro tempore* since statehood in 1845 and then additional information on each Speaker *pro tempore* beginning in 1903 when the position became a permanently elected role within the legislative body.

It is an honor to serve the Florida House of Representatives as Speaker *pro tempore*. I hope that you find this publication informative and useful.

Sincerely,

Matt Hudson  
Speaker *pro tempore*  
Florida House of Representatives
The title Speaker pro tempore, as used by the Florida House, denotes a temporary speaker and is a leadership office with specified duties and responsibilities. Pro tempore is a Latin phrase that translates "for the time being." In the Florida House, the Speaker pro tempore is elected by his or her fellow Representatives at the Organization Session occurring 14 days after the General Election in even-numbered years.

The duties of this office are primarily to fill the role of presiding officer of the House in the absence of the Speaker of the House. In the event of an interim vacancy through death, resignation, or disability, the Speaker pro tempore may exercise the authority of the Speaker. The Speaker pro tempore often presides in the Chamber when the Speaker leaves the Chair. Speakers pro tempore are often assigned additional duties as determined by the Speaker of the House.

**Basic Protocol**

In the Florida House, pro tempore is not capitalized and is italicized to reflect the use of a Latin phrase. In the Florida Senate, Pro Tempore (to indicate President Pro Tempore) is capitalized and not italicized to reflect that chamber's practice with the rationale that this is a position title.

In conversation, it has been the practice of the House to address the Speakers pro tempore using the full title, abbreviating it by using the shortened term "pro tem."

The plural of the position is Speakers pro tempore and not Speaker pro temporae.
Prior to 1903, it was common to appoint a temporary presiding officer only during the absence of the Speaker. These appointments could range from an afternoon to several weeks awaiting the return of the Speaker to assume his duties. Once the presiding officer returned, the position of Speaker *pro tempore* dissolved. Frequently during this time period, the appointment of Speaker *pro tempore* was made honorary to perform a task such as to preside over the election of the Speaker and the adoption of the Rules during the beginning of the session.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session(s)</th>
<th>Speakers pro tempore</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1845</td>
<td>Isaac Ferguson, Jr. – Gadsden County (elected Speaker pro tempore 7/19/1845, due to Speaker's absence by indisposition) (Speaker 1845 Adjourned Session)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1847</td>
<td>John Tanner – Jackson County (appointed Speaker pro tempore by the Speaker 12/22/1847)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1852</td>
<td>J. Carraway [Caraway] Smith – Jefferson County (elected Speaker pro tempore 12/16/1852, due to Speaker's absence)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1852</td>
<td>Mariano D. Papy – Leon County (elected Speaker pro tempore 12/27/1852, due to Speaker's illness)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1854</td>
<td>Jesse Carter – Hillsborough County (elected Speaker pro tempore 12/4/1854, due to Speaker's absence by indisposition)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1861</td>
<td>Antonio A. Canova – Duval County (by motion filled chair as Speaker pro tempore 11/22/1861, due to Speaker's absence)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1863</td>
<td>Joseph John Williams – Leon County (by motion acted as Speaker pro tempore 11/19/1863 during the Speaker's absence) (Speaker 1865, 1866)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1866</td>
<td>Frederick C. Barrett – Alachua County (by motion declared Speaker pro tempore 11/23/1866, due to Speaker not being present)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1868</td>
<td>Oscar E. Austin – Putnam County (elected Speaker pro tempore 6/19/1868, 7/17/1868, due to Speaker's absence)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1879</td>
<td>Robert Bullock – Marion County (by motion requested to act as Speaker pro tempore 1/22/1879, due to Speaker's absence)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1879</td>
<td>James F. McClellan – Jackson County (by motion acted as Speaker pro tempore 1/24/1879, due to Speaker's absence)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Residence</td>
<td>Party</td>
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<tr>
<td>-------------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quincy</td>
<td>Democrat</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marianna</td>
<td>Democrat</td>
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<td>St. Augustine</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gainesville</td>
<td>Democrat</td>
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<tr>
<td>Palatka</td>
<td>Democrat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ocala</td>
<td>Democrat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marianna</td>
<td>Democrat</td>
</tr>
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</table>

1 Party affiliation is unavailable.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session(s)</th>
<th>Speakers <em>pro tempore</em></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1881</td>
<td>Charles Dougherty – Volusia County (elected Speaker <em>pro tempore</em> 1/4/1881 and by motion elected Speaker <em>pro tempore</em> 2/5/1881, due to Speaker's absence) (Speaker 1879, 1883)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1883</td>
<td>James F. McClellan – Jackson County (by motion elected Speaker <em>pro tempore</em> 1/2/1883)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1885</td>
<td>James E. Yonge – Escambia County (elected Speaker <em>pro tempore</em> 1/6/1885 and on motion selected Speaker <em>pro tempore</em> 1/22/1885, due to Speaker's absence)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1887</td>
<td>John C. Pelot – Manatee County (elected Speaker <em>pro tempore</em> 4/5/1887)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1889</td>
<td>Thomas William Shine – Orange County (elected Speaker <em>pro tempore</em> 2/5/1889)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1889</td>
<td>Samuel J. Turnbull – Jefferson County (on motion made Speaker <em>pro tempore</em> 4/2/1889)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1889</td>
<td>Alonzo P. Baskin – Marion County (elected Speaker <em>pro tempore</em> 4/3/1889, on motion chosen Speaker <em>pro tempore</em> 4/26/1889, due to Speaker's absence)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1889</td>
<td>William Hall Milton, Jr. – Jackson County (elected Speaker <em>pro tempore</em> 5/13/1889, due to Speaker's absence)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1893</td>
<td>George M. Nolan – Orange County (elected Speaker <em>pro tempore</em> 4/6/1893)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1895</td>
<td>Dannitte Hill Mays – Jefferson County (elected Speaker <em>pro tempore</em> 4/5/1895) (Speaker 1897)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1897</td>
<td>William A. Fulton – Hernando County (elected Speaker <em>pro tempore</em> 4/9/1897)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1901</td>
<td>J. Emmett Wolfe – Escambia County (elected Speaker <em>pro tempore</em> 4/10/1901)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Residence</td>
<td>Party</td>
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<tr>
<td>Port Orange</td>
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<td>Democrat</td>
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<td>Democrat</td>
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<td>Manatee</td>
<td>Democrat</td>
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<tr>
<td>Orlando</td>
<td>Democrat</td>
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<td>Monticello</td>
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<td>Anthony</td>
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<td>Monticello</td>
<td>Democrat</td>
</tr>
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<td>Brooksville</td>
<td>Democrat</td>
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<td>Pensacola</td>
<td>Democrat</td>
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The Speakers *pro tempore*

1903 – 2016

In 1903, the Speaker *pro tempore* became a permanent leadership position. The duties assigned to the position have varied dependent on the needs of the House and the unique talents of each *pro tempore*. 
District numbers (Ex: District 1) were assigned to the geographic areas represented (counties or parts of counties) beginning in 1967 with a court-mandated special election. Prior to that, members served geographic areas, often overlapping, and without district numbers. Single-member Districts began with Reapportionment in 1982.

Raymond Bramhall Bullock
1st Speaker pro tempore
1903
Democrat, Marion County
City of Residence: Ocala
Speaker: Harry Cromwell Gibbons (D)

Chauncey S. Wilson
2nd Speaker pro tempore
1905
Democrat, Hernando County
City of Residence: Brooksville
Speaker: Albert Waller Gilchrist (D)

Charles L. Knowles
3rd Speaker pro tempore
1907
Democrat, Monroe County
City of Residence: Key West
Speaker: Eugene S. Matthews (D)

1 District numbers (Ex: District 1) were assigned to the geographic areas represented (counties or parts of counties) beginning in 1967 with a court-mandated special election. Prior to that, members served geographic areas, often overlapping, and without district numbers. Single-member Districts began with Reapportionment in 1982.
John Patrick Stokes
4th Speaker pro tempore
1909
Democrat, Escambia County
City of Residence: Pensacola
(Senate President Pro Tempore 1911)
Speaker: Ion L. Farris (D)

William Glenn Terrell
5th Speaker pro tempore
1911
Democrat, Sumter County
City of Residence: Webster
(Florida Supreme Court Justice 1923-1964, including service as Chief Justice)
Speaker: T. Albert Jennings (D)

Edwin Spencer, Jr.
6th Speaker pro tempore
1913
Democrat, Marion County
City of Residence: Ocala
Speaker: Ion L. Farris (D)
Theodore Tiffany Turnbull

7th Speaker pro tempore
1915
Democrat, Jefferson County
City of Residence: Monticello
(Senate President 1923)
Speaker: Cary Augustus Hardee (D)

William M. Taylor

8th Speaker pro tempore
1917
Democrat, Manatee County
City of Residence: Sarasota
Speaker: Cary Augustus Hardee (D)

Robert Alexis "Lex" Green

9th Speaker pro tempore
1918 Extraordinary Session
Democrat, Bradford County
City of Residence: Starke
(Chief Clerk of the House 1917)
(U.S. House of Representatives 1925-1944, resigned 11/25/1944)
Speaker: George H. Wilder (D)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Speaker Name</th>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Political Affiliation</th>
<th>City of Residence</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>E. P. Wilson</td>
<td>10th Speaker pro tempore</td>
<td>1919</td>
<td>Democrat, Pasco County</td>
<td>Dade City</td>
<td>George H. Wilder (D)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lacy Day Edge</td>
<td>11th Speaker pro tempore</td>
<td>1921</td>
<td>Democrat, Lake County</td>
<td>Groveland</td>
<td>Frank E. Jennings (D)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Ed Stokes</td>
<td>12th Speaker pro tempore</td>
<td>1923</td>
<td>Democrat, Bay County</td>
<td>Panama City</td>
<td>Lacy Day Edge (D)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Jesse Jackson Parrish
13th Speaker pro tempore
1925, 1925 Extraordinary Sessions
Democrat, Brevard County
City of Residence: Titusville
(Senate President 1929)
Speaker: Arthur Y. Milam (D)

Samuel Wyche Getzen
14th Speaker pro tempore
1927
Democrat, Sumter County
City of Residence: Bushnell
(Speaker 1929)
Speaker: Fred Henry Davis (D)

Henry S. McKenzie
15th Speaker pro tempore
1929, 1929 Extraordinary Session,
1931, 1931 Extraordinary Sessions
Democrat, Putnam County
City of Residence: Palatka
Speaker: Samuel Wyche Getzen (D) 1929
Speaker: E. Clay Lewis, Jr. (D) 1931
Dwight Laing Rogers

16th Speaker pro tempore
1933
Democrat, Broward County
City of Residence: Fort Lauderdale
(U.S. House of Representatives
Speaker: Peter Tomasello, Jr. (D)

Harry N. Sandler

17th Speaker pro tempore
1935
Democrat, Hillsborough County
City of Residence: Tampa
Speaker: W. B. Bishop (D)

Noah Brown Butt

18th Speaker pro tempore
1937
Democrat, Brevard County
City of Residence: Cocoa
Speaker: William McLean Christie (D)
John S. Burks
19th Speaker *pro tempore*
1939
Democrat, Pasco County
City of Residence: Dade City
Speaker: George Pierce Wood (D)

Raymond Sheldon
20th Speaker *pro tempore*
1941
Democrat, Hillsborough County
City of Residence: Tampa
Speaker: Daniel Thomas "Dan" McCarty, Jr. (D)

Archie Clement
21st Speaker *pro tempore*
1943
Democrat, Pinellas County
City of Residence: Tarpon Springs
Speaker: Richard Henry Simpson (D)
John Min Ayers
22\textsuperscript{nd} Speaker pro tempore
1945, 1945 Extraordinary Session
Democrat, Gilchrist County
City of Residence: Trenton
Speaker: Evans Crary (D)

Elbert L. Stewart
23\textsuperscript{rd} Speaker pro tempore
1947, 1948 Extraordinary Session
Democrat, Hendry County
City of Residence: Clewiston
Speaker: Thomas DeKalb "Tom" Beasley (D)

B. Robert Burnsed
24\textsuperscript{th} Speaker pro tempore
1949
Democrat, Baker County
City of Residence: Macclenny
Speaker: Perry Earl Murray (D)
Joseph W. McAlpin

25th Speaker pro tempore
1951
Democrat, Hamilton County
City of Residence: White Springs
Speaker: Elmer B. Elliott (D)

Davis H. Atkinson

26th Speaker pro tempore
1953
Democrat, Leon County
City of Residence: Tallahassee
Speaker: C. (Cecil) Farris Bryant (D)

S. D. "Sam" Saunders

27th Speaker pro tempore
1955, 1955-1956 Extraordinary Session,
1956 Extraordinary Session
Democrat, Clay County
City of Residence: Middleburg
Speaker: Thomas Edward "Ted" David (D)
Mack N. Cleveland, Jr.
28th Speaker pro tempore
1957, 1957 Extraordinary Session
Democrat, Seminole County
City of Residence: Sanford
Speaker: Doyle E. Conner (D)

James N. "Gator" Beck
29th Speaker pro tempore
1959
Democrat, Putnam County
City of Residence: Palatka
Speaker: Thomas DeKalb "Tom" Beasley (D)

George G. Stone
30th Speaker pro tempore
1961, 1962 Extraordinary Session
Democrat, Escambia County
City of Residence: Walnut Hill
Speaker: William V. Chappell, Jr. (D)
Robert L. "Bobby" Russ

31st Speaker pro tempore
Democrat, Wakulla County
City of Residence: Crawfordville
Speaker: Mallory E. Horne (D)

Allison R. "Baldy" Strickland

32nd Speaker pro tempore
1965, 1965 Extraordinary Sessions, 1966 Extraordinary Session
Democrat, Citrus County
City of Residence: Inverness
Speaker: E. C. Rowell (D)

James Lorenzo Walker

33rd Speaker pro tempore
1966-1968
1966 Organization Session and 1967 Extraordinary Session:
Democrat, Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry, and Lee Counties
1967 Regular Session:
Democrat, District 1131
(Collier, Glades, Hendry, Lee, and Monroe Counties)
City of Residence: Naples
Speaker: Ralph D. Turlington (D)

1 District numbers (Ex: District 1) were assigned to the geographic areas represented (counties or parts of counties) beginning in 1967 with a court-mandated special election. Prior to that, members served geographic areas, often overlapping, and without district numbers. Single-member Districts began with Reapportionment in 1982.
T. Terrell Sessums
34th Speaker *pro tempore*
1968-1970
Democrat, District 65
(Hillsborough, Citrus, Pasco, and Hernando Counties)
City of Residence: Tampa
(Speaker 1972-1974)
Speaker: Frederick H. Schultz (D)

Eugene F. Shaw
35th Speaker *pro tempore*
1970-1972
Democrat, District 16
(Nassau, Baker, Columbia, Bradford, Union, and Clay Counties)
City of Residence: Starke
Speaker: Richard A. Pettigrew (D)

A. H. "Gus" Craig
36th Speaker *pro tempore*
1972-1974
Democrat, District 28
(Parts of Flagler, Putnam, and St. Johns Counties)
City of Residence: St. Augustine
Speaker: T. Terrell Sessums (D)
John L. Ryals

37th Speaker pro tempore
1974-1976
1976-1978
Democrat, District 63
(Parts of Hillsborough and Polk Counties)
City of Residence: Brandon
Speaker: Donald L. Tucker (D)

Richard S. "Dick" Hodes

38th Speaker pro tempore
1978-1980
Democrat, District 68
(Part of Hillsborough County)
City of Residence: Tampa
Speaker: J. Hyatt Brown (D)

Barry Kutun

39th Speaker pro tempore
1980-1982
Democrat, District 99
(Part of Dade County)
City of Residence: Miami Beach
Speaker: Ralph H. Haben, Jr. (D)
Steve Pajcic
40th Speaker pro tempore
1982-1984
Democrat, District 151
(Part of Duval County)
City of Residence: Jacksonville
Speaker: H. Lee Moffitt (D)

Elaine Gordon
41st Speaker pro tempore
(First woman elected Speaker pro tempore)
1984-1986
Democrat, District 102
(Part of Dade County)
City of Residence: North Miami
Speaker: James Harold Thompson (D)

James C. "Jim" Burke
42nd Speaker pro tempore
(First black member elected Speaker pro tempore since Reconstruction)
1986-1988
Democrat, District 107
(Part of Dade County)
City of Residence: Miami
Speaker: Jon L. Mills (D)

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Elaine Bloom
45th Speaker *pro tempore*
1992-1994
Democrat, District 106
(Part of Dade County)
City of Residence: Miami Beach
Speaker: Bolley L. "Bo" Johnson (D)

Sam Mitchell
43rd Speaker *pro tempore*
1988-1990
Democrat, District 7
(Holmes and Washington Counties and parts of Bay, Jackson, and Walton Counties)
City of Residence: Vernon
Speaker: Tom Gustafson (D)

Everett A. Kelly
44th Speaker *pro tempore*
1990-1992
Democrat, District 46
(Parts of Lake and Sumter Counties)
City of Residence: Tavares
Speaker: T. K. Wetherell (D)
Jack Ascherl
46th Speaker pro tempore
1994-1996
Democrat, District 28
(Part of Volusia County)
City of Residence: New Smyrna Beach
Speaker: Peter Rudy Wallace (D)

Luis C. Morse
47th Speaker pro tempore
(First Republican elected Speaker pro tempore since Reconstruction)
(First Cuban American elected Speaker pro tempore)
1996-1998
Republican, District 113
(Part of Dade County)
City of Residence: Miami
Speaker: Daniel Webster (R)

Dennis L. Jones
48th Speaker pro tempore
1998-2000
Republican, District 54
(Part of Pinellas County)
City of Residence: Treasure Island
Speaker: John Thrasher (R)
Sandra L. "Sandy" Murman

49th Speaker pro tempore
(First Republican woman elected Speaker pro tempore)
2000-2002
Republican, District 56
(Part of Hillsborough County)
City of Residence: Tampa
Speaker: Tom Feeney (R)

Lindsay M. Harrington

50th Speaker pro tempore
2002-2004
Republican, District 72
(DeSoto County and parts of Charlotte and Lee Counties)
City of Residence: Punta Gorda
Speaker: Johnnie B. Byrd, Jr. (R)

Leslie Waters

51st Speaker pro tempore
2004-2006
Republican, District 51
(Part of Pinellas County)
City of Residence: Seminole
Speaker: Allan George Bense (R)
Dennis K. Baxley
52nd Speaker pro tempore
2006-2007
Republican, District 24
(Part of Marion County)
City of Residence: Ocala
(Resigned as Speaker pro tempore 6/12/2007)
Speaker: Marco Rubio (R)

Marsha L. "Marty" Bowen
53rd Speaker pro tempore
(Served as Majority Leader prior to election as Speaker pro tempore on 6/12/2007)
2007-2008
Republican, District 65
(Part of Polk County)
City of Residence: Haines City
Speaker: Marco Rubio (R)

Larry Cretul
54th Speaker pro tempore
2008-2009
Republican, District 22
(Parts of Alachua, Levy, and Marion Counties)
City of Residence: Ocala
Speaker: Ray Sansom (R)
Ron Reagan

55th Speaker pro tempore  
(Elected Speaker pro tempore 3/3/2009)  
2009-2010  
Republican, District 67  
(Parts of Hillsborough, Manatee, and Sarasota Counties)  
City of Residence: Bradenton  
Speaker: Larry Cretul (R)

John Legg

56th Speaker pro tempore  
2010-2012  
Republican, District 46  
(Part of Pasco County)  
City of Residence: Port Richey  
Speaker: Dean Cannon (R)

Martí Coley

57th Speaker pro tempore  
2012-2014  
Republican, District 5  
(Holmes, Jackson, Walton, and Washington Counties and part of Bay County)  
City of Residence: Marianna  
Speaker: Will Weatherford (R)
Matt Hudson

58th Speaker pro tempore
2014-2016
Republican, District 80
(Hendry and part of Collier County)
City of Residence: Naples
Speaker: Steve Crisafulli (R)
Speakers *pro tempore* in Action
LEFT: Supreme Court Justice Alto Adams swears in Elbert L. Stewart (1947) as the 23rd Speaker *pro tempore* of the Florida House.

BELOW: Representative Davis H. Atkinson (1953) is sworn in as the 26th Speaker *pro tempore*. 
Above: 27th Speaker pro tempore S. D. "Sam" Saunders (1955) with his family on Opening Day of the Session.

Below: 28th Speaker pro tempore Mack N. Cleveland, Jr. (1957) (seated) and colleagues review the daily Journal of the House.
Left: 29th Speaker *pro tempore* James N. "Gator" Beck (1959) (*seated*) discusses legislation with a colleague.

Below: Representative George G. Stone (1961) is sworn in as the 30th Speaker *pro tempore*. 
Above: 32nd Speaker pro tempore Allison R. "Baldy" Strickland (1965-1966) points to a key issue with colleagues as Speaker E. C. Rowell with cigar looks on.

Right: 33rd Speaker pro tempore James Lorenzo Walker (1966-1968) gives the "thumbs down" on a proposal.
Left: AP photographer Mark Foley captures 34th Speaker pro tempore T. Terrell Sessums (1968-1970) in debate. Speaker pro tempore Sessums will later become the 69th Speaker of the House.

Above: 36th Speaker pro tempore A. H. "Gus" Craig (1972-1974) (right) shows then Clerk of the House Allen Morris a hand-written amendment.


Right: 40th Speaker pro tempore Steve Pajcic (1982-1984) gives the signal for an up-vote on the bill.

Below: The first woman elected to the position, 41st Speaker pro tempore Elaine Gordon (1984-1986) addresses the House.
Above: 42nd Speaker pro tempore James C. "Jim" Burke (1986-1988), the first black member to serve in this role in recent history, confers with future Speaker T. K. Wetherell.

Below: 43rd Speaker pro tempore Sam Mitchell (1988-1990) (left) in discussion with Representative John Cosgrove and Representative George Crady.

Above: 46th Speaker pro tempore Jack Ascherl (1994-1996) is congratulated by Speaker Peter Rudy Wallace.

Below: 47th Speaker pro tempore Luis C. Morse (1996-1998), the first Cuban American elected to the post, makes his point to colleagues.
Above: 48th Speaker *pro tempore* Dennis L. Jones (1998-2000), one of the longest-serving legislators in modern history, waves thanks as future Senate Presidents King and Pruitt applaud.

Below: The first Republican woman to serve as Speaker *pro tempore*, 49th Speaker *pro tempore* Sandra L. "Sandy" Murman (2000-2002) is congratulated by Speaker Tom Feeney.

Below: 51st Speaker *pro tempore* Leslie Waters (2004-2006) and Speaker Allan Bense listen to Governor Jeb Bush deliver a State of the State Address.
Above: 52nd Speaker pro tempore Dennis K. Baxley (2006-2007) delivers remarks after being sworn in as Speaker Marco Rubio looks on.

Above: 54th Speaker pro tempore Larry Cretul (2008-2009) is sworn in by Judge Stargel as his family looks on. He remained Speaker pro tempore for 104 days prior to being sworn in as Speaker.

Below: 55th Speaker pro tempore Ron Reagan (2009-2010) presides with the portrait of former Speaker Marco Rubio in the background.
Above: 56th Speaker pro tempore John Legg (2010-2012) with Speaker Dean Cannon prior to the start of the Joint Session.

Below: Alongside Speaker Weatherford, 57th Speaker pro tempore Marti Coley (2012-2014) discusses an issue with the Clerk of the House.
ABOVE: Representative Matt Hudson (2014-2016), surrounded by family, is sworn in as the 58th Speaker pro tempore of the Florida House since 1903 by Justice Charles Canady.