

WELCOME
TO THE
Florida House of Representatives



JOSE R. OLIVA
SPEAKER
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA
2018-2020



Jose R. Oliva Speaker

House of Representatives



Dear Floridian,

On behalf of the 120 members of the Florida House of Representatives, welcome and thank you for the honor of allowing us to represent you. We've said in the past that all of you, the citizens of Florida, are all of us. Your Florida House represents and embodies the people of our great state. You, the people of Florida, chose doctors, lawyers, farmers, teachers, first responders, ministers, marketers, parents, realtors, officers and enlisted members of the United States Armed Forces, and more to lead our state.

We are all here to serve the people and do what's right – not what's easy.

You will hear from some that being a legislator is a two-month job. While it is true we are in session for only two months, those two months are built upon a foundation of many more months of work before the gavel drops. House members spend significant time holding local legislative briefings, meeting with constituents, and working with Federal, State, and local officials on issues that impact your community.

For those of us who call Florida home, we know it is a dynamic and growing state. It is my hope that this booklet will help you navigate your government. It contains information on the history and development of the State of Florida and the House of Representatives, state symbols and interesting Florida facts, the structure of state government and the House, session and the budget process, how an idea becomes a law, member demographics, and a list of legislative terms. In addition to the information provided in this book, you can also find up-to-date information on members, bills, and the legislative process at our website: www.myfloridahouse.gov.

I thank you for your interest in the Florida House of Representatives – the people's House.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. Oliva".

Jose R. Oliva
Speaker



Capitol History

Changes in Florida's Capitol over the years have reflected the growth of the state. In the early 1820s, legislators transferred government business from St. Augustine to Pensacola for alternating sessions. Travel was hazardous and

took almost sixty days — clearly an unsatisfactory arrangement. As a result, Tallahassee was chosen as the capital of American Florida in 1824, primarily because it was the midway point between the two principal cities.

Three log cabins served as Florida's first Capitol. In 1826, a two-story masonry building, 40' X 26', was built. It was to be the wing of a larger structure planned for the future. Although this larger portion was started, it was never completed due to financial problems.

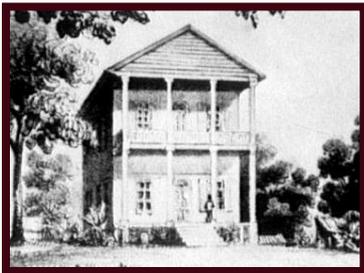
As Florida moved toward statehood, the needs of the government grew. There arose a demand for a suitable state house or public building for the use of the Territorial Legislature. On March 3, 1839, Congress appropriated \$20,000 for the erection of a new Capitol. The old structure was razed immediately, and Florida's government temporarily moved into rented quarters.

The brick Capitol was completed in 1845, just prior to the installation of the new State government and the same year Florida became a state. This structure remains the core of the Old Capitol to the present day.

The Capitol remained virtually unchanged during the Civil War years when Tallahassee was the only Confederate capital east of the Mississippi to avoid capture by Federal troops.



One of three cabins that served as the first Florida Capitol in 1824



The Capitol in 1830



The Capitol in 1845



Capitol History

By the 1880s, Florida suffered growing pains caused by an economic boom and expanding population. By 1891, the Capitol needed thorough repair. The building was repainted, a small cupola was added, and plumbing was installed.



Architect Frank Milburn's original rendering for the 1902 additions of the Capitol

The first major alteration to the Capitol came in 1902 when the addition of two wings provided more room for the growing State government, and the familiar dome was added. This was the last time Florida's government operated under one roof. By 1911, State government was moving to other buildings. Further additions to the Capitol were made in 1923, 1936, and 1947.



Looking northwest at the construction of the new Capitol in 1976

Florida's population continued to grow as did its need for government services. In 1972, the Legislature authorized money for a new Capitol Complex to include House and Senate chambers and offices, along with a twenty-two story executive office building completed in 1977.

Restoration of the Old Capitol became an issue in 1978 with the then Governor Reubin O'D. Askew and House Speaker Donald Tucker favoring outright demolition. Luckily, the Old Capitol building was saved and refurbished, and reopened to the public in 1982.



View of the Historic Capitol with the new Capitol behind it from Apalachee Parkway

Much of this article was taken from the Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources. All photos are from the Florida State Archives. See <http://www.flheritage.com/> for more information on Florida's history.



Florida's Government

The Constitution of Florida declares that "All political power is inherent in the people." With the passing of each election, those to be governed choose those who will lead their government.



Under its Constitution, the powers of the state government of Florida (like those of the United States and of the other American states) are divided among three branches. This division, known as the doctrine of separation of powers, is based on principles intended to protect the rights of every person.

The legislative branch is the lawmaking branch, setting the main policies of the government through the laws it enacts. The executive branch, headed by the Governor, sees that the laws are faithfully executed, commissions all officers of the State and counties, and transacts all necessary business with the officers of government. The judicial branch, composed of the courts, interprets the laws, makes their meaning clear when it is questioned, and, on the basis of their meaning, resolves disputes between individuals or between the State and an individual.

Although the Constitution provides for these three separate and distinct branches of government, it provides for checks and balances to prevent any one branch from becoming all-powerful. For instance, the Governor is given power to veto acts of the Legislature and the courts are given power to declare acts unconstitutional. Similarly, by amending a statute, the Legislature may revise a policy of one of the other branches. The three branches are, therefore, not wholly unconnected but are interlocked in order to give each a constitutional control over the others.



A view of the Historic and current Capitols



The Executive Branch

Governor Ron DeSantis is head of the executive branch of government and is commander-in-chief of all military forces of the state not in active service of the United States. The Constitution provides that the Governor shall take care that the laws be faithfully executed, commission all officers of the State and counties, and transact all necessary business with the officers of government. The Governor may also, by proclamation stating the purpose, call the Legislature into special session.

The Governor administers the executive function of state government along with the three elected Cabinet officers. The Attorney General is the chief state legal officer and is responsible for protecting Florida consumers from various types of fraud and enforcing the state's antitrust laws. The Chief Financial Officer oversees the state's accounting and auditing functions, investigates insurance fraud, verifies workers' compensation coverage, and licenses and oversees insurance agencies, funeral homes, and cemeteries. The Chief Financial Officer also serves as the State Fire Marshal. The Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services supports and promotes agriculture, protects the environment, safeguards consumers, and ensures the safety and wholesomeness of food.

The following agencies, commissions, departments and divisions are considered a part of the executive branch: Agencies for Health Care Administration, Persons with Disabilities; Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Florida Commission on Offender Review; Departments of Agriculture & Consumer Services, Business & Professional Regulation, Children & Families, Citrus, Corrections, Economic Opportunity, Education, Elder Affairs, Environmental Protection, Financial Services, Health, Highway Safety & Motor Vehicles, Juvenile Justice, Law Enforcement, Legal Affairs, the Lottery, Management Services, Military Affairs, Revenue, State, Transportation, Veterans' Affairs; Office of Executive Clemency, and State Board of Administration.



State of Florida Seal



The Judicial Branch



Chief Justice Charles T. Canady



Supreme Court of Florida

The Constitution describes the powers of the judicial branch as vested in "a supreme court, district courts of appeal, circuit courts and county courts."

The courts are empowered to try persons accused of a crime or to provide a legal ruling when someone seeks to recover damages for an injury caused by the wrongful act of another. The court system oversees enforcement of judicial decisions rendered.

Florida's highest court is the Supreme Court, based in Tallahassee. It does not try cases, as such, but reviews important cases which have been tried in the lower courts and appealed. Similarly, less important cases are appealed to the District Courts of Appeal. There is a Chief Justice, selected by the six other justices of the Supreme Court. These justices are initially appointed by the Governor from a list of qualified persons submitted by the Judicial Nominating Commission. For subsequent terms, they must stand for retention at general elections. Each appellate district is represented by at least one justice.

Charles T. Canady is the Chief Justice. Other justices, in order of seniority, are Ricky Polston, Jorge Labarga, Alan Lawson, Barbara Lagoa, Robert J. Luck, and Carlos G. Muñiz.

District Courts of Appeal

1st District
(Tallahassee)
15 judges

2nd District
(Lakeland)
16 judges

3rd District
(Miami)
10 judges

4th District
(West Palm Beach)
12 judges

5th District
(Daytona Beach)
11 judges
2 senior judges



The Legislative Branch



Jose R. Oliva, Speaker
Florida House of Representatives



Bill Galvano, President
Florida Senate

The Legislature is composed of two chambers: a House of Representatives and a Senate. Each house biennially chooses its officers and adopts its own rules of procedure. All sessions of the House of Representatives and the Senate are open to the public. Either house of the Legislature may initiate legislation on any subject. For a bill to become a law, it must be passed by both houses in identical form.

Article III, Section 1 of the State Constitution states, "The legislative power of the state shall be vested in a legislature of the State of Florida, consisting of a senate composed of one senator elected from each senatorial district and a house of representatives composed of one member elected from each representative district." The House has 120 members and the Senate has 40.

The Legislature meets in regular session each year as set in the Florida Constitution or established by law. In 2019, the first day of session was Tuesday, March 5. In 2020, the first day of session is Tuesday, January 14.



Sergeants at Arms Russell Hosford (House) and Tim Hay (Senate) drop the handkerchief signaling *sine die*, the official end of the 2018 Regular Legislative Session.



The Florida House of Representatives

The Speaker

The Speaker is a constitutional officer who leads the House for a two-year term, manages its operations, and presides over its sessions. The Speaker is elected by his or her fellow Representatives. Among the most important duties are the appointment of committee members and selection of their chairs. Chairs are key figures in the legislative process and play an important role in determining content of legislation considered by the House.

Speaker Jose R. Oliva
District 110



The Speaker *pro tempore*

The Speaker *pro tempore* is also elected by his or her fellow Representatives. In the event of an interim vacancy of the Speaker through death, resignation, or disability, the Speaker *pro tempore* may exercise the authority of the Speaker. The Speaker *pro tempore* often presides in the House Chamber when the Speaker leaves the Chair.

Speaker *pro tempore* MaryLynn "ML"
Magar, District 82



The Florida House of Representatives

The Leadership Offices

Both the Republican and Democratic members of the House elect their own leaders. The Republicans and Democrats have a formalized leadership structure. The Speaker appoints a Majority Leader who, along with the leader of the minority party, is expected to actively articulate his or her party's viewpoint on the House floor during sessions.

Majority Leader

The Republican officers, in addition to the Speaker and Speaker *pro tempore*, include the Majority Leader, Deputy Majority Leader, Majority Whip, and Deputy Whips.



Dane Eagle
Majority Leader



Minority Leader

The Democratic officers include the Democratic Leader, Democratic Leader *pro tempore*, Floor Leader, Policy Chairs, Policy Advisor, Democratic Whip, and Deputy Whips.



Kionne L. McGhee
Democratic Leader



The Florida House of Representatives

Other Officers

The House has two non-member officers: the Clerk and the Sergeant at Arms. The Clerk is a constitutional officer appointed by the Speaker and by House Rule, and the Sergeant at Arms is also appointed by the Speaker.



The Clerk of the House



Jeff Takacs, Clerk

The Clerk is a constitutional officer responsible for keeping and publishing a correct *Journal* of House proceedings, publishing other House documents, attesting to official records, and supervising the custody of all legislation and documents of the Florida House of Representatives.

513 The Capitol, 402 S. Monroe St., Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300 • Main (850) 717-5400



The Sergeant at Arms

The Sergeant at Arms is the officer responsible for security of the House and its members when engaged in their constitutional duties, property management, facilities operations and support services for the House, and other duties under the command and supervision of the Speaker of the House.



Russell Hosford, Sergeant at Arms

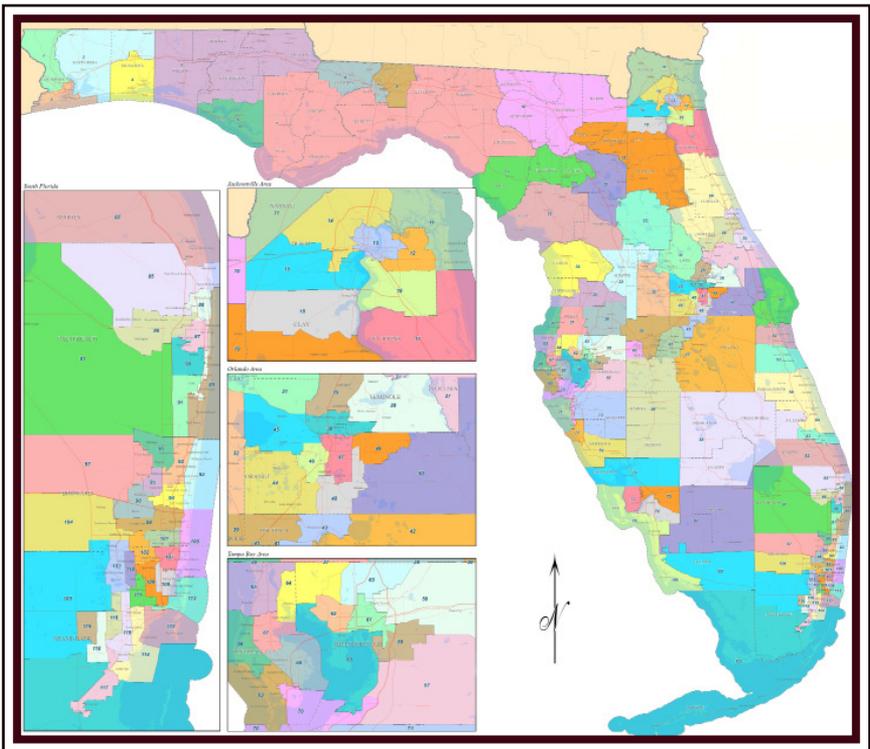
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Florida House District Map

One Person, One Vote: Determining the Number of Representatives

The Florida Constitution requires the Legislature to redraw the geographic areas from which members of the House are elected in the second year following each 10-year census. It also requires there be no fewer than 80 nor more than 120 members of the House of Representatives. In addition, the United States Supreme Court has ruled that state legislative districts be as nearly equal in population as possible, adhering to the principle of one person, one vote.



For the 2012 reapportionment, the Legislature retained the number of House members at 120 and continued the single-member-district policy first adopted in 1982. To arrive at the ideal membership apportionment, the total population of Florida, 18,801,310 (2010 Census), was divided by 120, resulting in an ideal of 156,678 persons per district. The next reapportionment session will be held in 2022.



Florida House Member Index

Republicans in roman (73); Democrats in italics (47)

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<i>Fitzenhagen</i> -78.....34	<i>Pigman</i> -55.....28	<i>Yarborough</i> -12.....17
<i>Geller</i> -100.....40	<i>Plakon</i> -29.....21	<i>Zika</i> -37.....23



2018-2020 Representatives



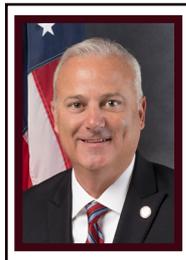
Mike Hill
Republican
District 1
Part of Escambia
Elected in 2018



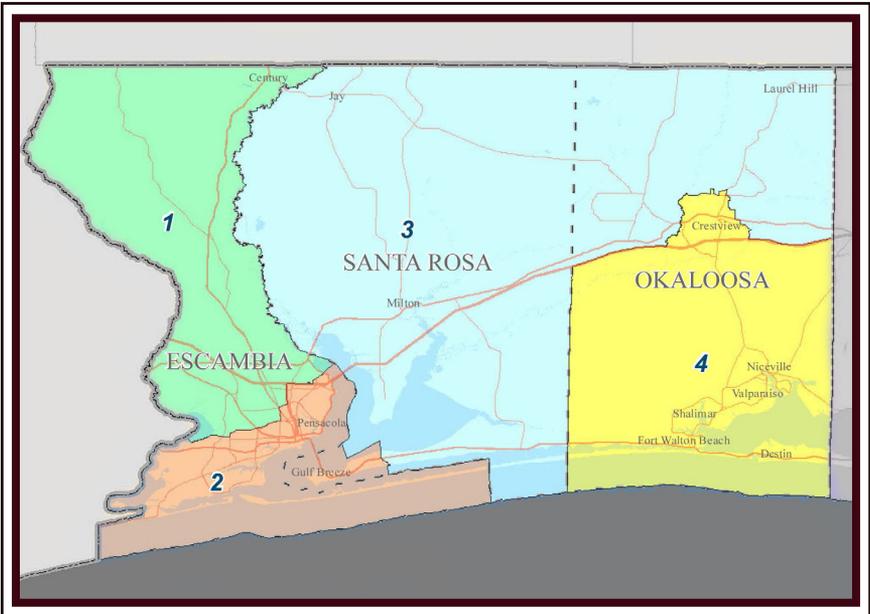
Robert Alexander "Alex" Andrade
Republican
District 2
Parts of Escambia, Santa Rosa
Elected in 2018



Jayer Williamson
Republican
District 3
Parts of Okaloosa, Santa Rosa
Elected in 2016



Mel Ponder
Republican
District 4
Part of Okaloosa
Elected in 2016



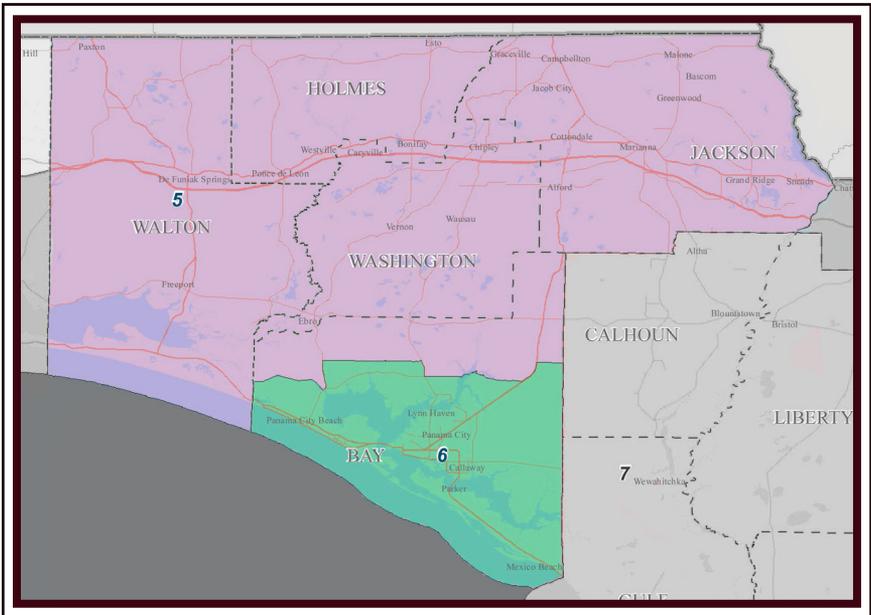
2018-2020 Representatives



Brad Drake
Republican
District 5
Holmes, Jackson, Walton,
Washington and part of Bay
Elected in 2014



Jay Trumbull
Republican
District 6
Part of Bay
Elected in 2014



2018-2020 Representatives



Jason S. Shoaf
Republican

District 7
Calhoun, Franklin, Gulf,
Jefferson, Lafayette,
Liberty, Madison, Taylor,
Wakulla and part of Leon
Elected June 18, 2019



Ramon Alexander
Democrat

District 8
Gadsden and part of Leon
Elected in 2016



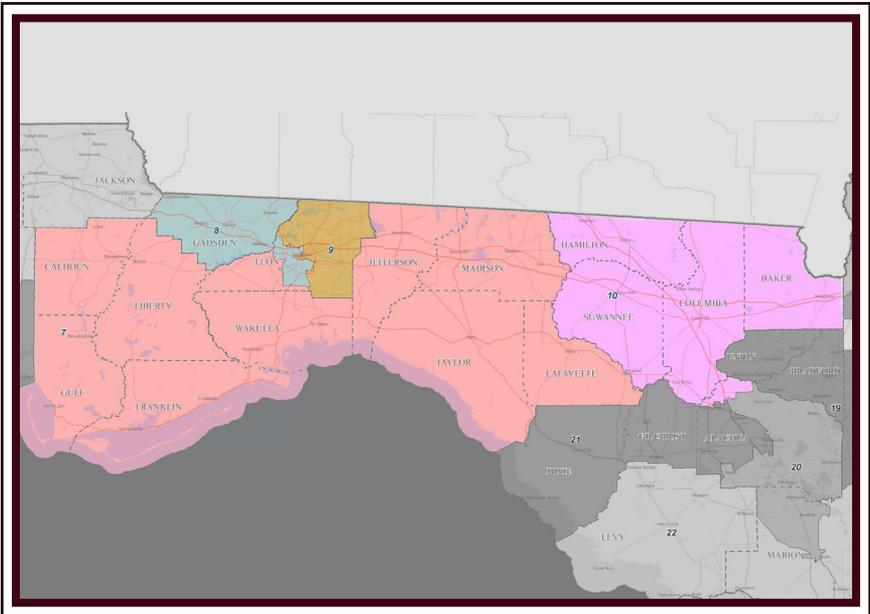
Lorraine Ausley
Democrat

District 9
Part of Leon
Elected in 2016



Robert Charles "Chuck" Brannan III
Republican

District 10
Baker, Columbia, Hamilton,
Suwannee and part of
Alachua
Elected in 2018



2018-2020 Representatives



Cord Byrd
Republican
District 11
Nassau and part of Duval
Elected in 2016



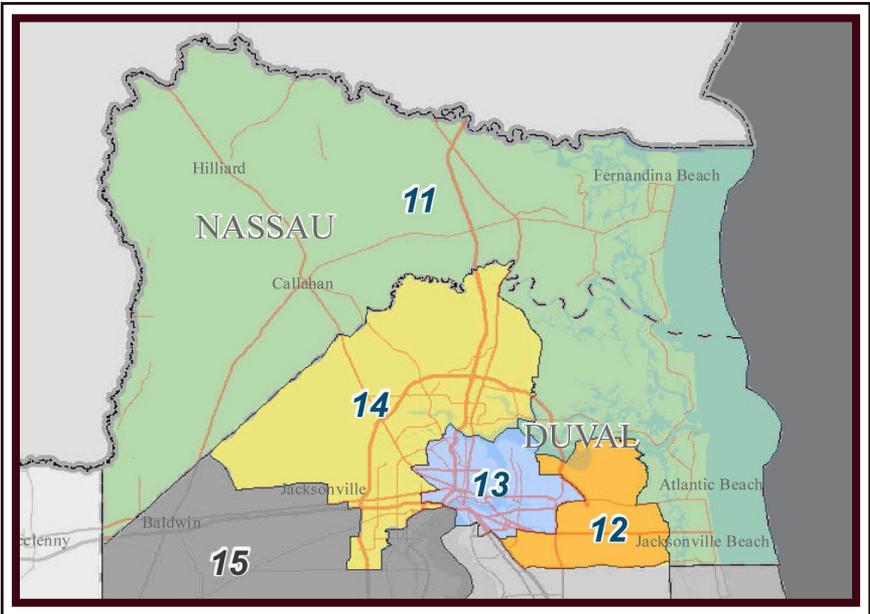
Clay Yarborough
Republican
District 12
Part of Duval
Elected in 2016



Tracie Davis
Democrat
District 13
Part of Duval
Elected in 2016



Kimberly Daniels
Democrat
District 14
Part of Duval
Elected in 2016



2018-2020 Representatives



Wyman Duggan
Republican

District 15
Part of Duval
Elected in 2018



Jason Fischer
Republican

District 16
Part of Duval
Elected in 2016



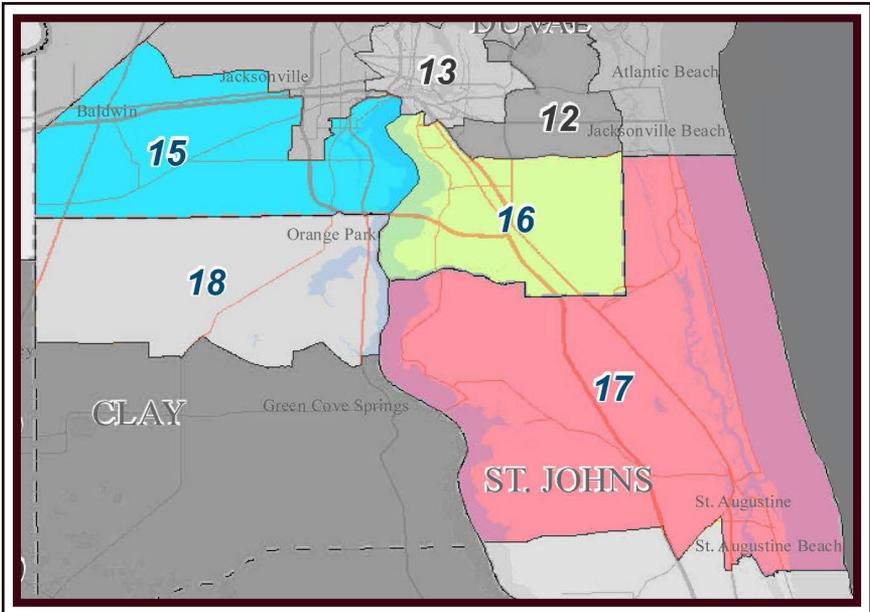
Cyndi Stevenson
Republican

District 17
Part of St. Johns
Elected April 7, 2015



W. Travis Cummings
Republican

District 18
Part of Clay
Elected in 2012



2018-2020 Representatives



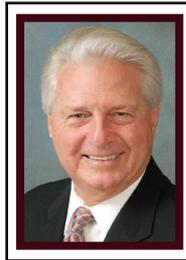
Bobby Payne
 Republican
District 19
 Bradford, Putnam, Union
 and part of Clay
 Elected in 2016



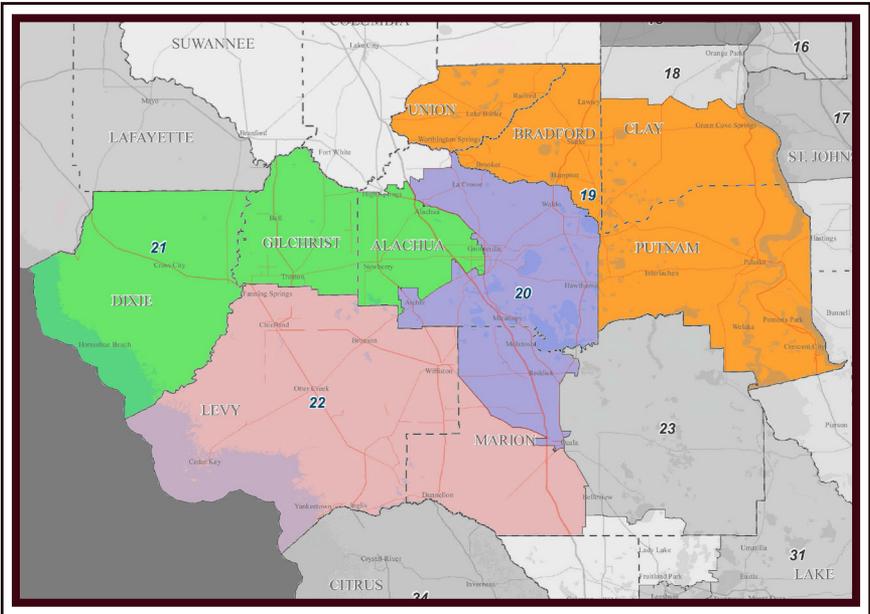
Clovis Watson, Jr.
 Democrat
District 20
 Parts of Alachua, Marion
 Elected in 2012



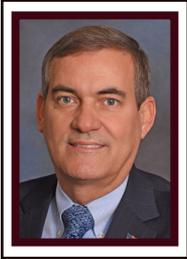
Charles Wesley "Chuck" Clemons, Sr.
 Republican
District 21
 Dixie, Gilchrist and part of
 Alachua
 Elected in 2016



Charlie Stone
 Republican
District 22
 Levy and part of Marion
 Elected in 2012



2018-2020 Representatives



Stan McClain
 Republican
District 23
 Part of Marion
 Elected in 2016



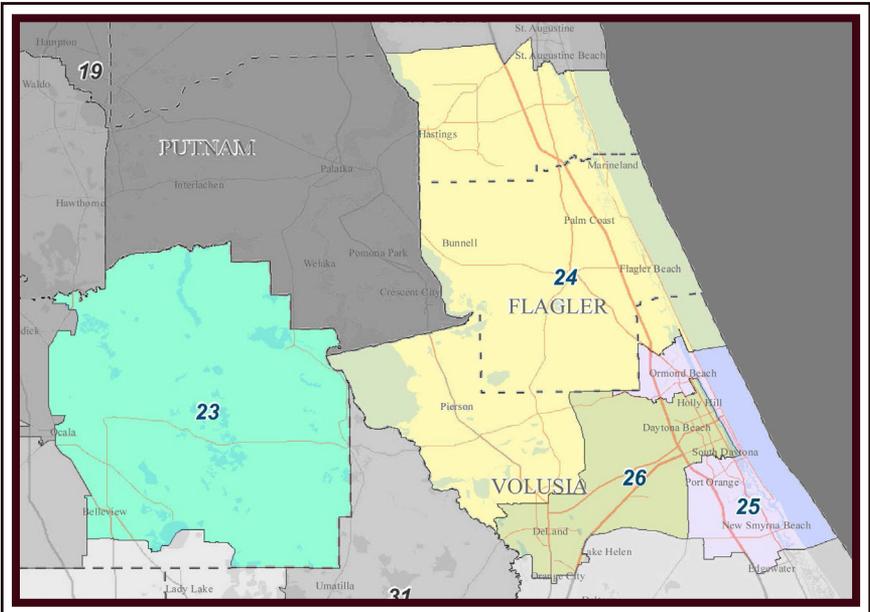
Paul Renner
 Republican
District 24
 Flagler and parts of
 St. Johns, Volusia
 Elected April 7, 2015



Thomas J. "Tom" Leek
 Republican
District 25
 Part of Volusia
 Elected in 2016



Elizabeth Anne Fetterhoff
 Republican
District 26
 Part of Volusia
 Elected in 2018



2018-2020 Representatives



David Santiago
Republican

District 27
Part of Volusia
Elected in 2012



David Smith
Republican

District 28
Part of Seminole
Elected in 2018



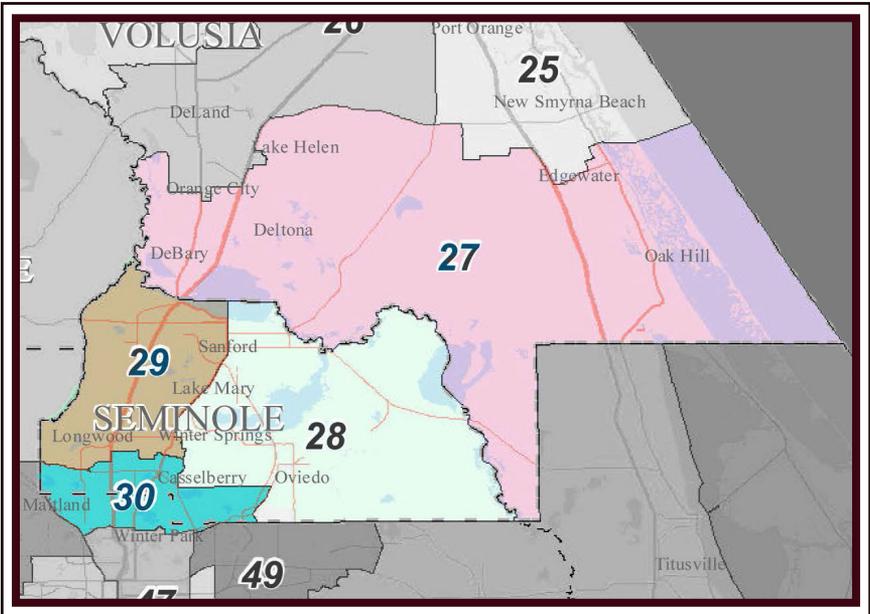
Scott Plakon
Republican

District 29
Part of Seminole
Elected in 2014



Joy Goff-Marcil
Democrat

District 30
Parts of Orange, Seminole
Elected in 2018



2018-2020 Representatives



Jennifer Mae Sullivan
 Republican
District 31
 Parts of Lake, Orange
 Elected in 2014



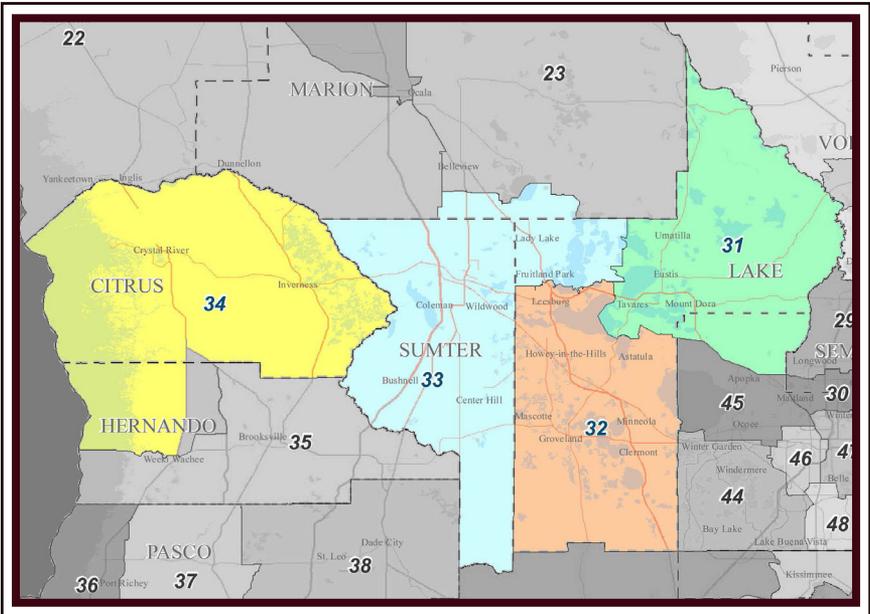
Anthony Sabatini
 Republican
District 32
 Part of Lake
 Elected in 2018



Brett Thomas Hage
 Republican
District 33
 Sumter and parts of Lake,
 Marion
 Elected in 2018



Ralph E. Massullo, MD
 Republican
District 34
 Citrus and part of Hernando
 Elected in 2016



2018-2020 Representatives



Blaise Ingoglia
 Republican
District 35
 Part of Hernando
 Elected in 2014



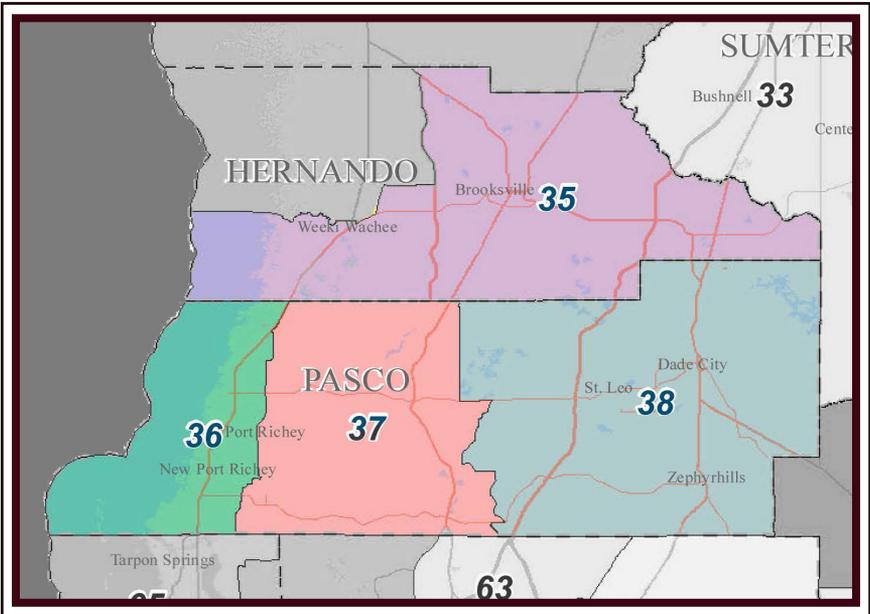
Amber Mariano
 Republican
District 36
 Part of Pasco
 Elected in 2016



Ardian Zika
 Republican
District 37
 Part of Pasco
 Elected in 2018



Randall Scott "Randy" Maggard
 Republican
District 38
 Part of Pasco
 Elected June 18, 2019



2018-2020 Representatives



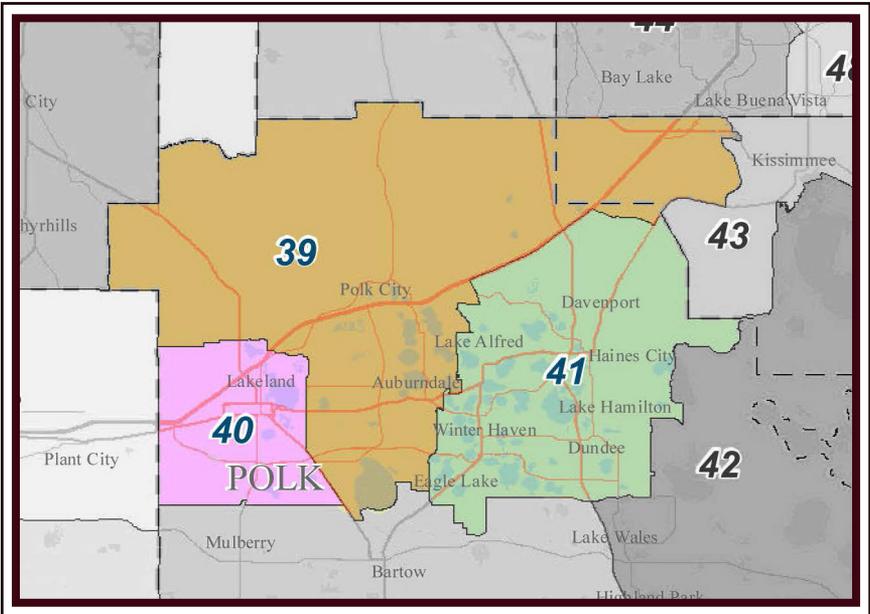
Josie Tomkow
 Republican
District 39
 Parts of Osceola, Polk
 Elected May 1, 2018



Colleen Burton
 Republican
District 40
 Part of Polk
 Elected in 2014



Sam H. Killebrew
 Republican
District 41
 Part of Polk
 Elected in 2016



2018-2020 Representatives



Mike La Rosa
 Republican
District 42
 Parts of Osceola, Polk
 Elected in 2012



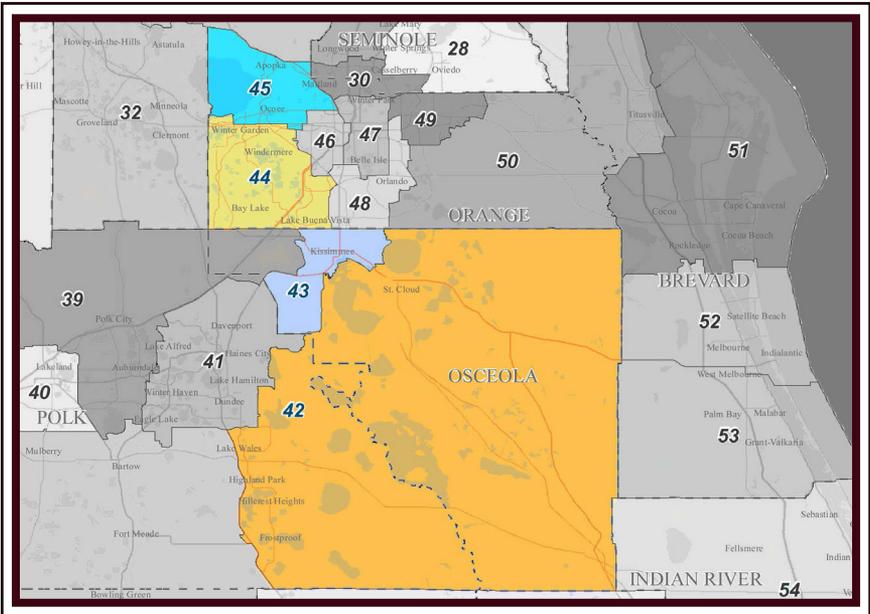
John Cortes
 Democrat
District 43
 Part of Osceola
 Elected in 2014



Geraldine F. "Geri" Thompson
 Democrat
District 44
 Part of Orange
 Elected in 2018



Kamia L. Brown
 Democrat
District 45
 Part of Orange
 Elected in 2016



2018-2020 Representatives



Bruce Antone
Democrat
District 46
Part of Orange
Elected in 2012



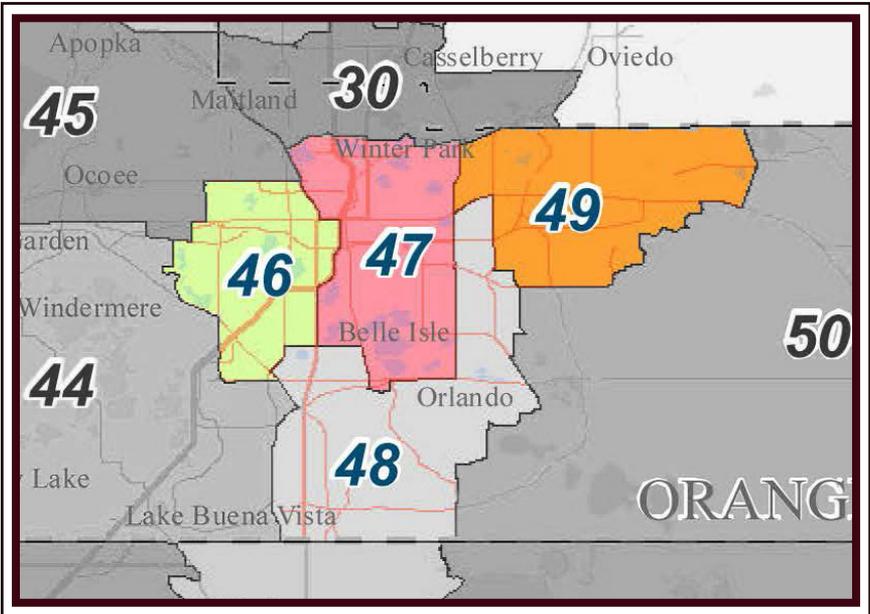
Anna V. Eskamani
Democrat
District 47
Part of Orange
Elected in 2018



Amy Mercado
Democrat
District 48
Part of Orange
Elected in 2016



Carlos Guillermo Smith
Democrat
District 49
Part of Orange
Elected in 2016



2018-2020 Representatives



**Rene
"Coach P"
Plasencia**
Republican
District 50
Parts of Brevard, Orange
Elected in 2014



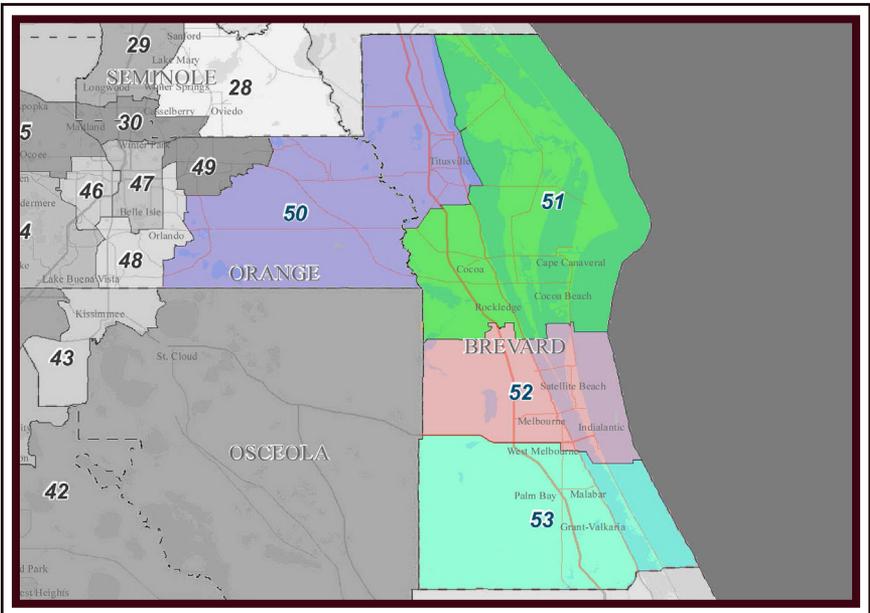
**Tyler I.
Sirois**
Republican
District 51
Part of Brevard
Elected in 2018



**Thad
Altman**
Republican
District 52
Part of Brevard
Elected in 2016



**Randy
Fine**
Republican
District 53
Part of Brevard
Elected in 2016



2018-2020 Representatives



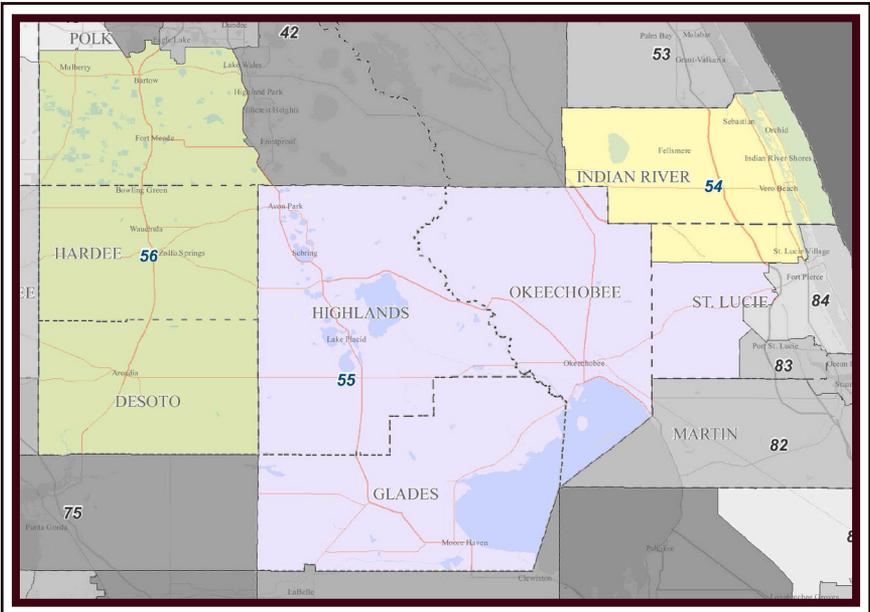
Erin Grall
 Republican
District 54
 Indian River and part of
 St. Lucie
 Elected in 2016



Cary Pigman
 Republican
District 55
 Glades, Highlands,
 Okeechobee and part
 of St. Lucie
 Elected in 2012



Melony M. Bell
 Republican
District 56
 DeSoto, Hardee and part
 of Polk
 Elected in 2018



2018-2020 Representatives



Mike Beltran
 Republican
 District 57
 Part of Hillsborough
 Elected in 2018



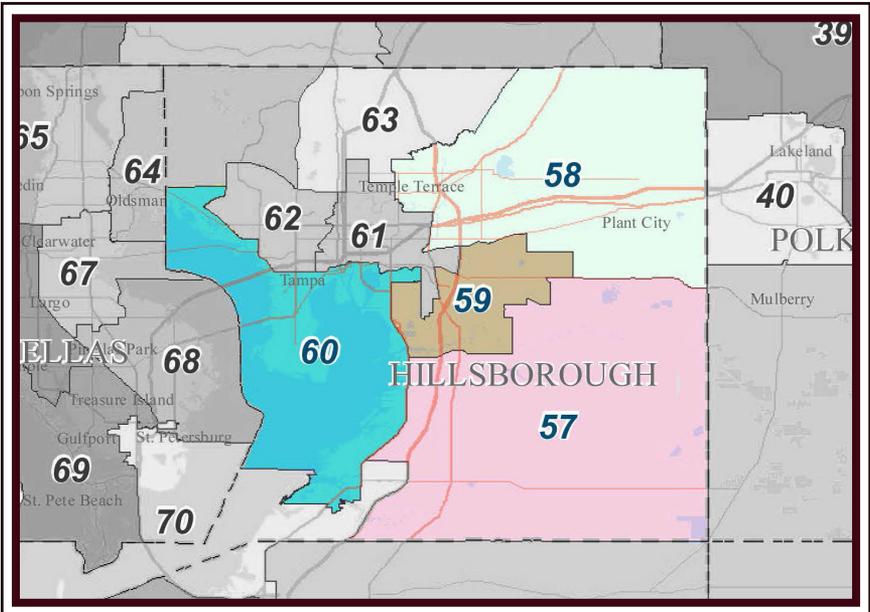
Lawrence McClure
 Republican
 District 58
 Part of Hillsborough
 Elected December 19, 2017



Adam Roger Hattersley
 Democrat
 District 59
 Part of Hillsborough
 Elected in 2018



Jackie Toledo
 Republican
 District 60
 Part of Hillsborough
 Elected in 2016



2018-2020 Representatives



Dianne "Ms Dee" Hart

Democrat

District 61
Part of Hillsborough

Elected in 2018



Susan L. Valdes

Democrat

District 62
Part of Hillsborough

Elected in 2018



Fentrice Driskell

Democrat

District 63
Part of Hillsborough

Elected in 2018

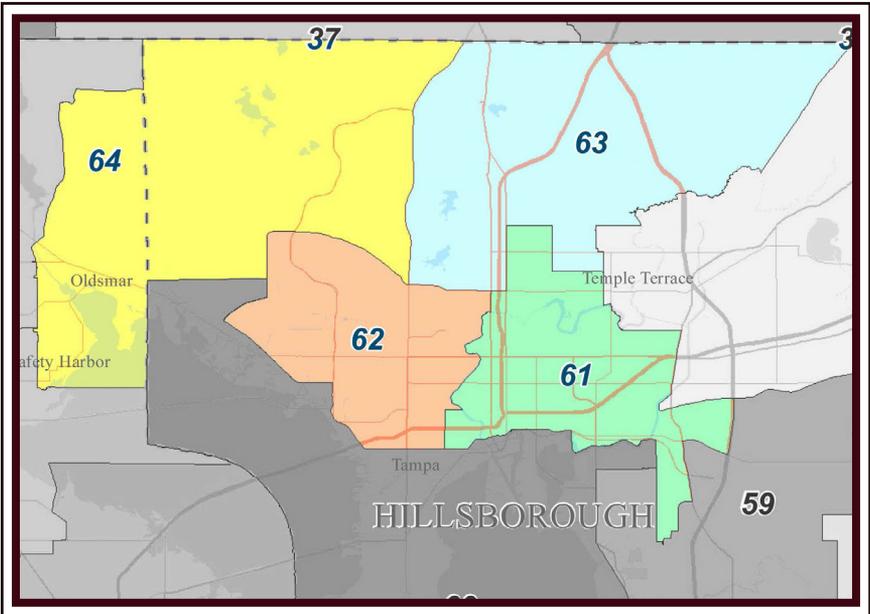


James "J.W." Grant

Republican

District 64
Parts of Hillsborough, Pinellas

Elected April 21, 2015



2018-2020 Representatives



Chris Sprowls
 Republican
 District 65
 Part of Pinellas
 Elected in 2014



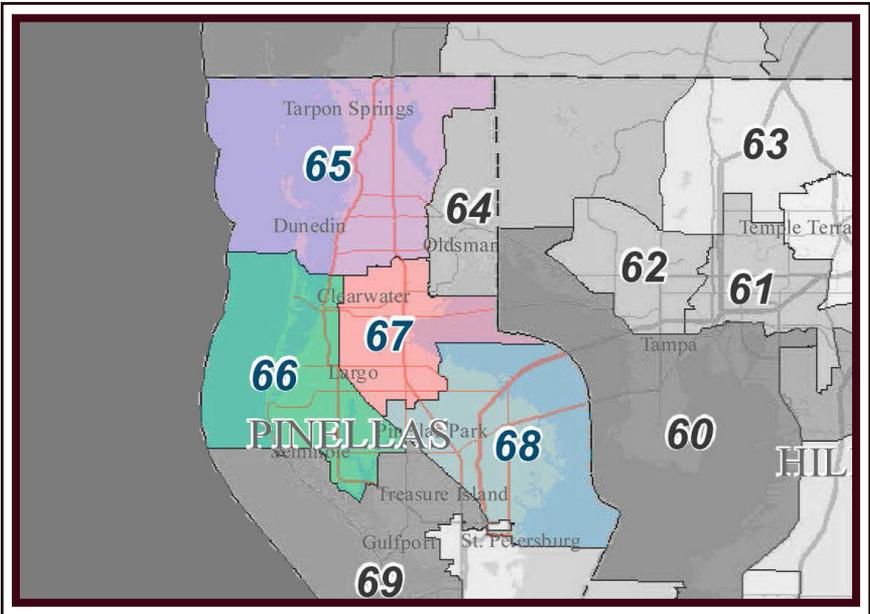
Nick DiCeglie
 Republican
 District 66
 Part of Pinellas
 Elected in 2018



Chris Latvala
 Republican
 District 67
 Part of Pinellas
 Elected in 2014



Ben Diamond
 Democrat
 District 68
 Part of Pinellas
 Elected in 2016



2018-2020 Representatives



Jennifer Necole Webb

Democrat

District 69
Part of Pinellas
Elected in 2018



Wengay "Newt" Newton

Democrat

District 70
Parts of Hillsborough,
Manatee, Pinellas,
Sarasota
Elected in 2016



William Cloud "Will" Robinson, Jr.

Republican

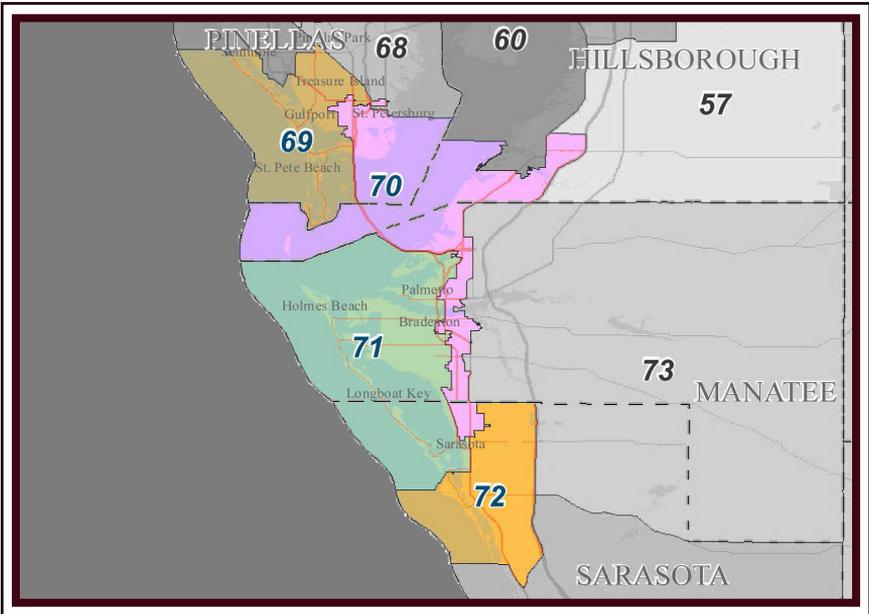
District 71
Parts of Manatee, Sarasota
Elected in 2018



Margaret Good

Democrat

District 72
Part of Sarasota
Elected February 13, 2018



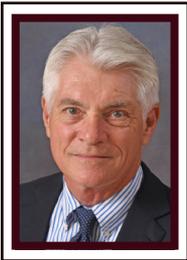
2018-2020 Representatives



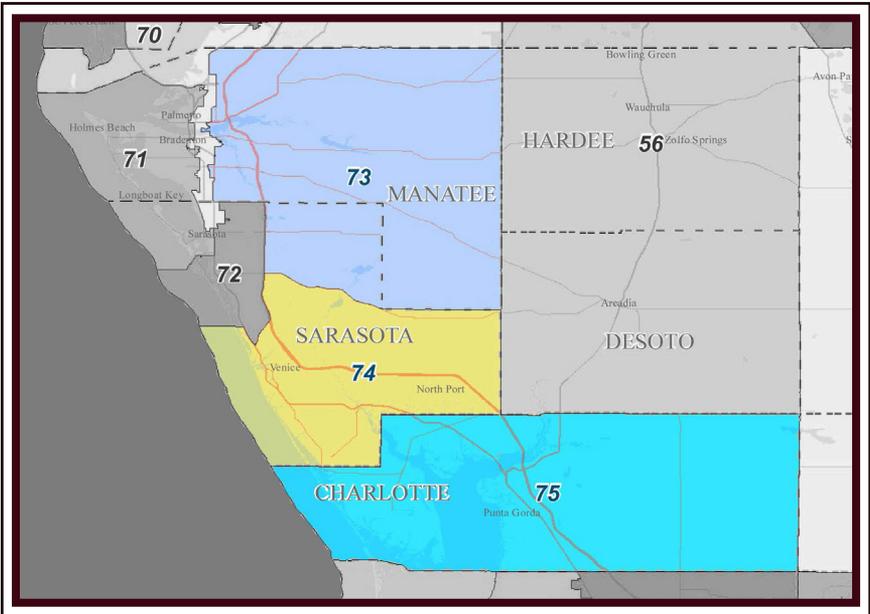
Tommy Gregory
Republican
District 73
Parts of Manatee, Sarasota
Elected in 2018



James Buchanan
Republican
District 74
Part of Sarasota
Elected in 2018



Michael Grant
Republican
District 75
Charlotte
Elected in 2016



2018-2020 Representatives



Ray Wesley Rodrigues
Republican
District 76
Part of Lee
Elected in 2012



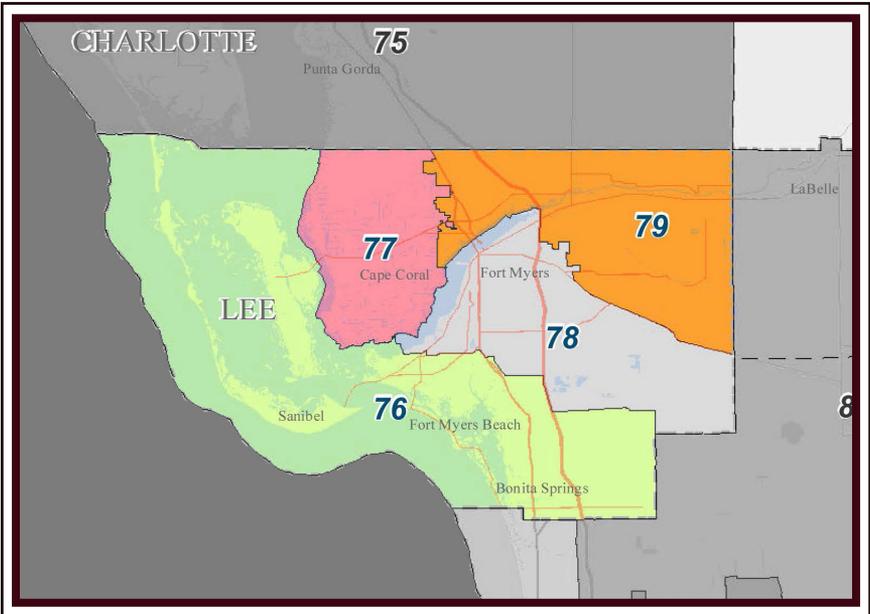
Dane Eagle
Majority Leader
Republican
District 77
Part of Lee
Elected in 2012



Heather Fitzenhagen
Republican
District 78
Part of Lee
Elected in 2012



Spencer Roach
Republican
District 79
Part of Lee
Elected in 2018



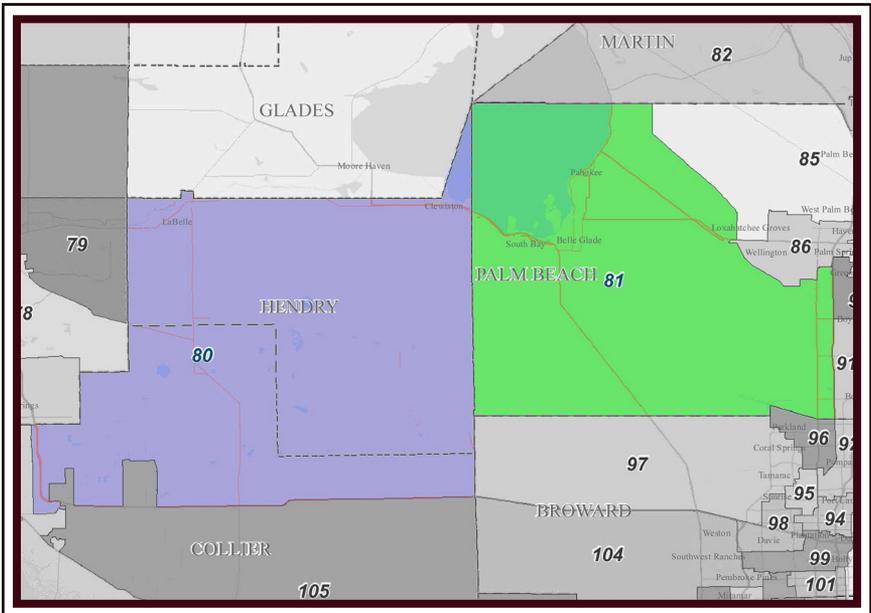
2018-2020 Representatives



Byron Donalds
Republican
District 80
Hendry and part of Collier
Elected in 2016



Tina Scott Polsky
Democrat
District 81
Part of Palm Beach
Elected in 2018



2018-2020 Representatives



**MaryLynn "ML"
Magar**
Speaker *pro tempore*
Republican
District 82
Parts of Martin, Palm Beach
Elected in 2012



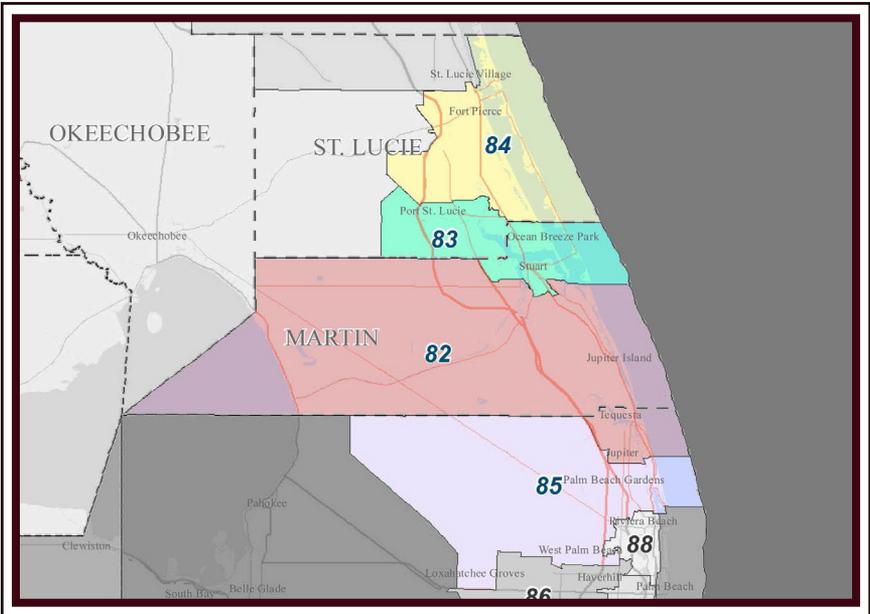
**Tobin Rogers
"Toby" Overdorf**
Republican
District 83
Parts of Martin, St. Lucie
Elected in 2018



**Delores D. "D"
Hogan Johnson**
Democrat
District 84
Part of St. Lucie
Elected in 2018



**Rick
Roth**
Republican
District 85
Part of Palm Beach
Elected in 2016



2018-2020 Representatives



Matt Willhite
Democrat
District 86
Part of Palm Beach
Elected in 2016



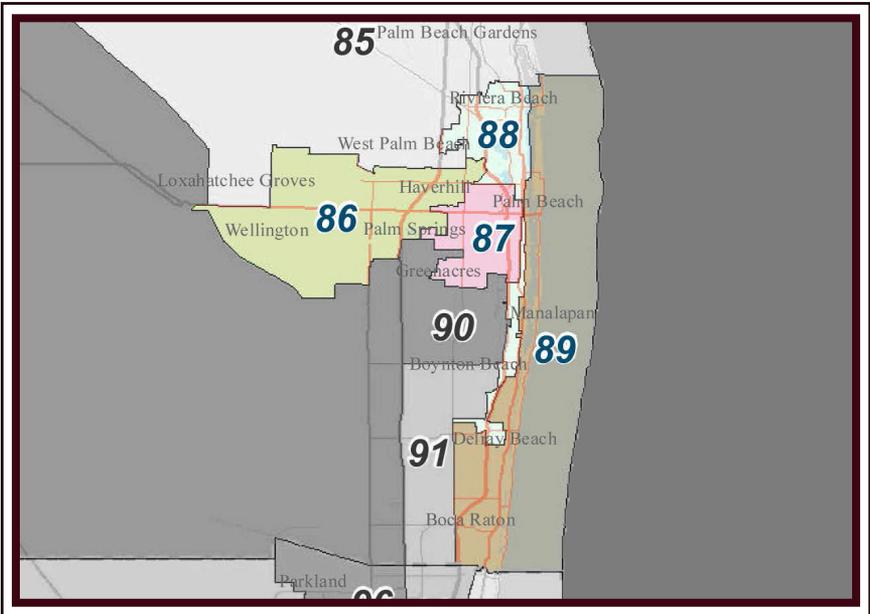
David Silvers
Democrat
District 87
Part of Palm Beach
Elected in 2016



Al Jacquet
Democrat
District 88
Part of Palm Beach
Elected in 2016



Michael A. "Mike" Caruso
Republican
District 89
Part of Palm Beach
Elected in 2018



2018-2020 Representatives



Joseph A. "Joe" Casello
Democrat
District 90
Part of Palm Beach
Elected in 2018



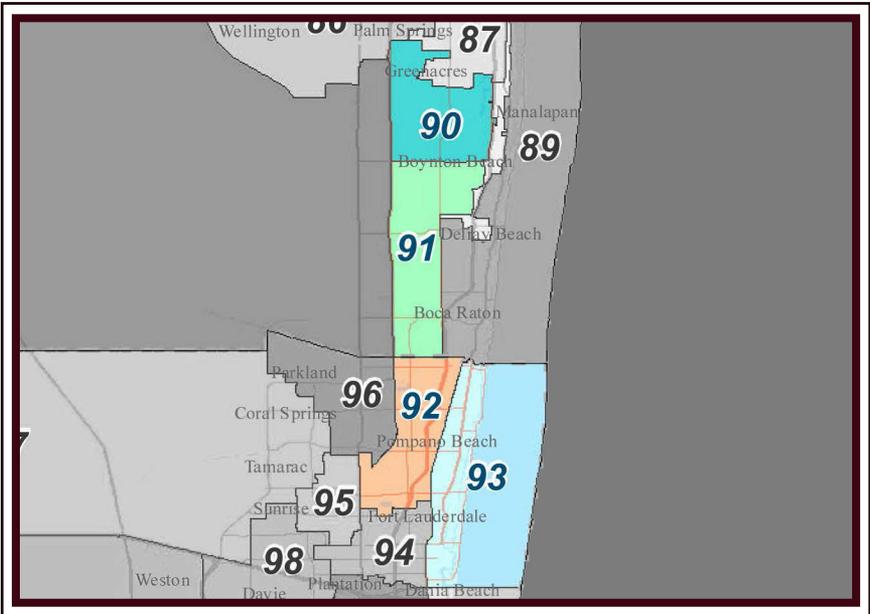
Emily Slosberg
Democrat
District 91
Part of Palm Beach
Elected in 2016



Patricia H. Williams
Democrat
District 92
Part of Broward
Elected in 2016



Chip LaMarca
Republican
District 93
Part of Broward
Elected in 2018



2018-2020 Representatives



Bobby B. DuBose
Democrat
District 94
Part of Broward
Elected in 2014



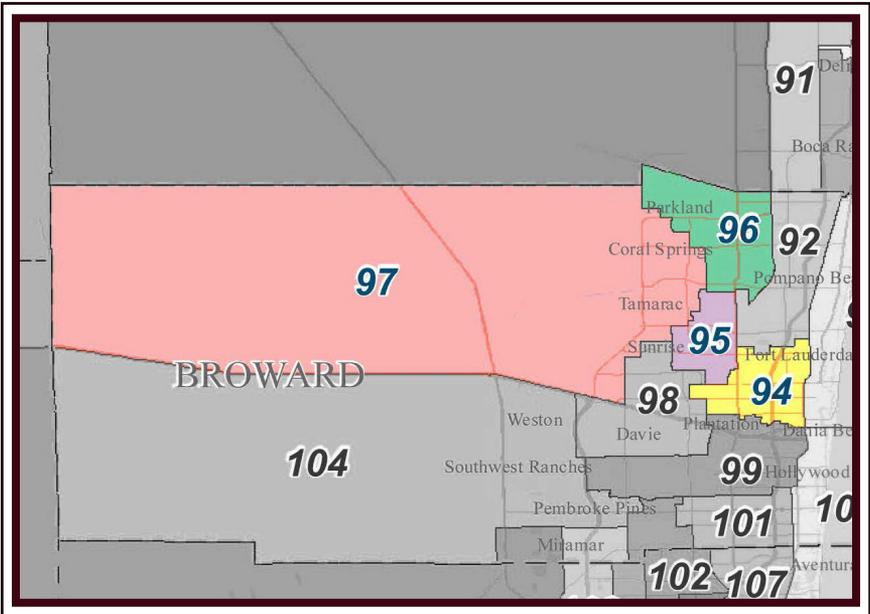
Anika Tene Omphroy
Democrat
District 95
Part of Broward
Elected in 2018



Kristin Diane Jacobs
Democrat
District 96
Part of Broward
Elected in 2014



Dan Daley
Democrat
District 97
Part of Broward
Elected June 18, 2019



2018-2020 Representatives



Michael "Mike" Gottlieb

Democrat

District 98
Part of Broward

Elected in 2018



Evan Jenne

Democrat

District 99
Part of Broward

Elected in 2014



Joseph Geller

Democrat

District 100
Parts of Broward,
Miami-Dade

Elected in 2014

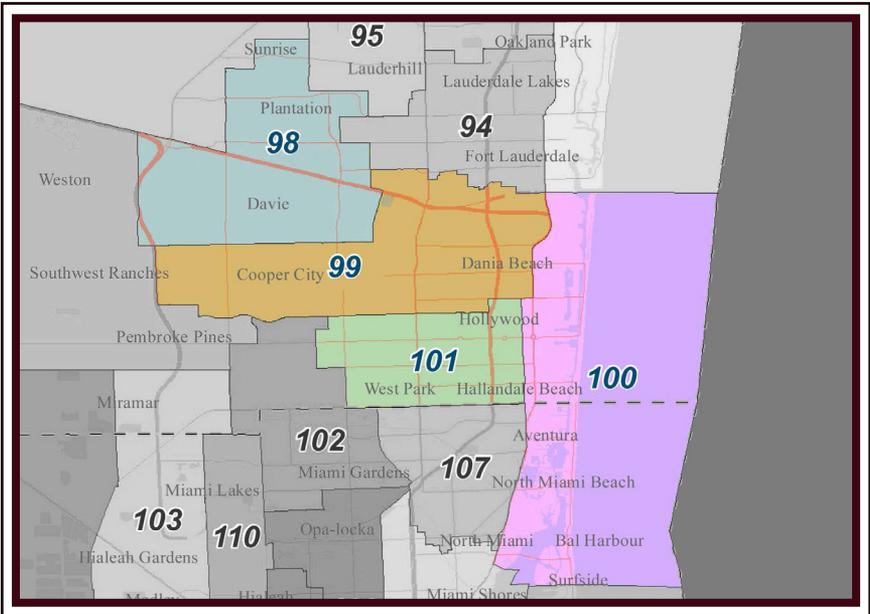


Shevrin D. "Shev" Jones

Democrat

District 101
Part of Broward

Elected in 2012



2018-2020 Representatives



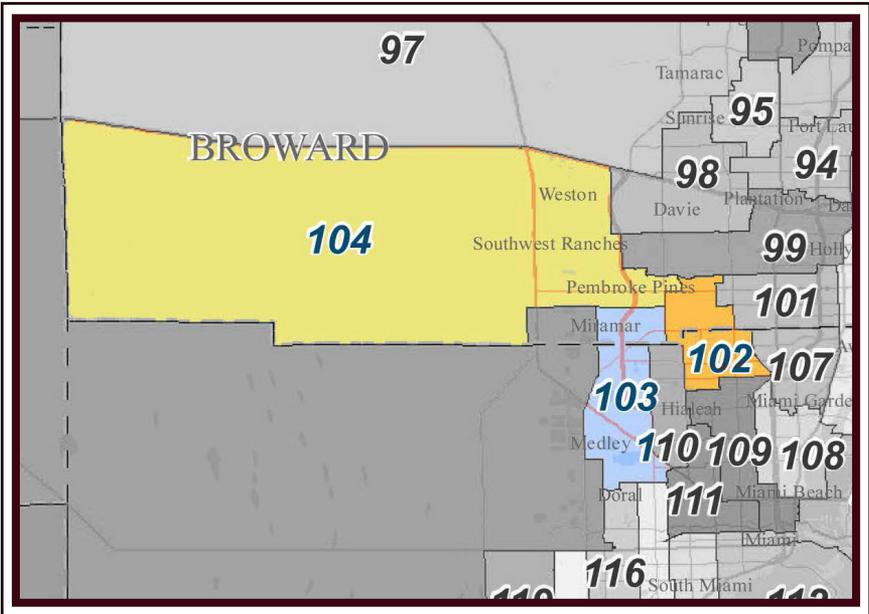
Sharon Pritchett
Democrat
District 102
Parts of Broward,
Miami-Dade
Elected in 2012



Cindy Polo
Democrat
District 103
Parts of Broward,
Miami-Dade
Elected in 2018



Richard Stark
Democrat
District 104
Part of Broward
Elected in 2012



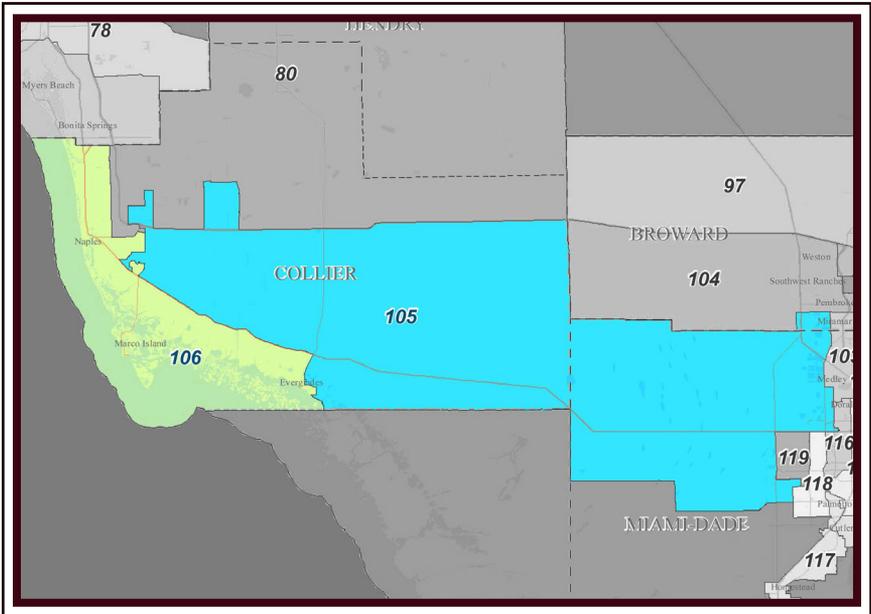
2018-2020 Representatives



Ana Maria Rodriguez
Republican
District 105
Parts of Broward, Collier,
Miami-Dade
Elected in 2018



Bob Rommel
Republican
District 106
Part of Collier
Elected in 2016



2018-2020 Representatives



Barbara Watson
Democrat
District 107
Part of Miami-Dade
Elected March 1, 2011



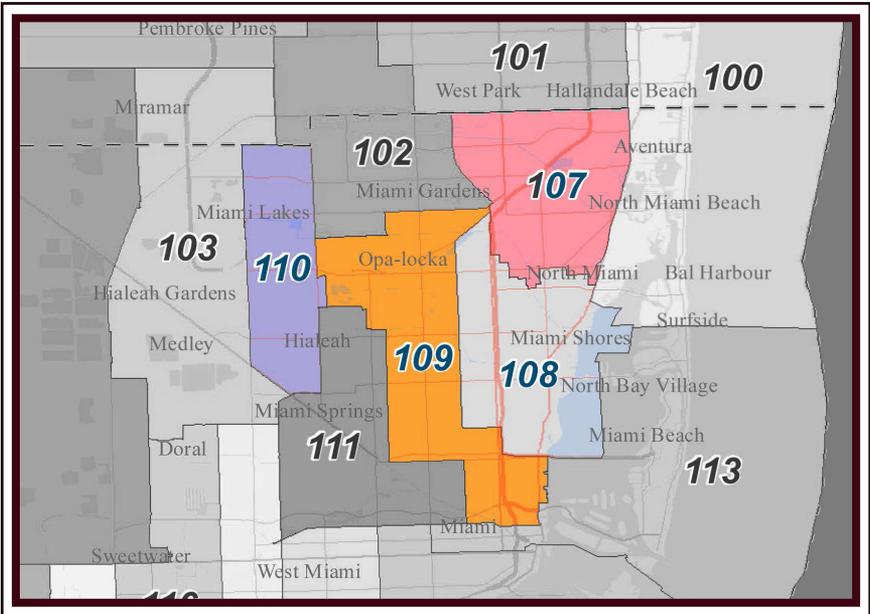
Dotie Joseph
Democrat
District 108
Part of Miami-Dade
Elected in 2018



Dr. James Bush III
Democrat
District 109
Part of Miami-Dade
Elected in 2018



Jose R. Oliva
Speaker
Republican
District 110
Part of Miami-Dade
Elected June 28, 2011



2018-2020 Representatives



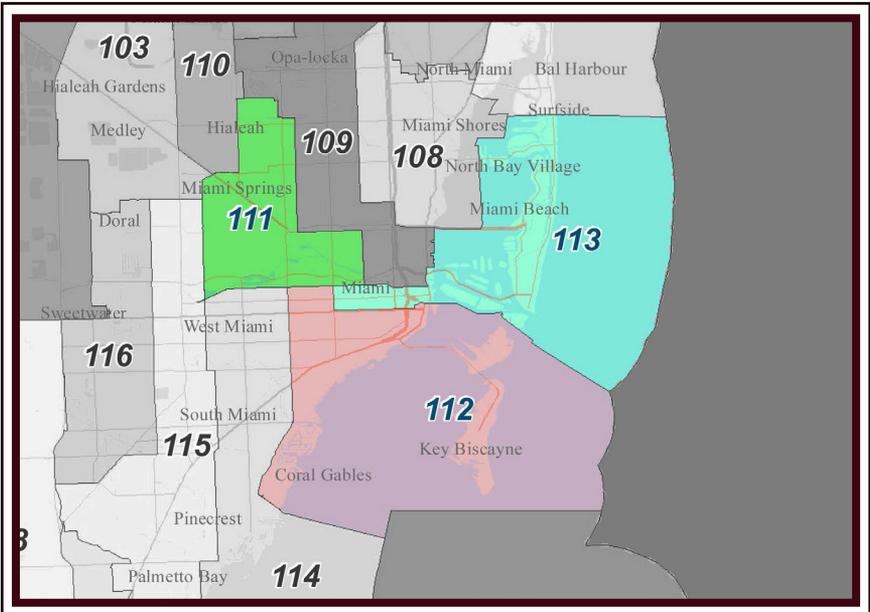
Bryan Avila
Republican
District 111
Part of Miami-Dade
Elected in 2014



Nicholas X. Duran
Democrat
District 112
Part of Miami-Dade
Elected in 2016



Michael "Mike" Grieco
Democrat
District 113
Part of Miami-Dade
Elected in 2018



2018-2020 Representatives



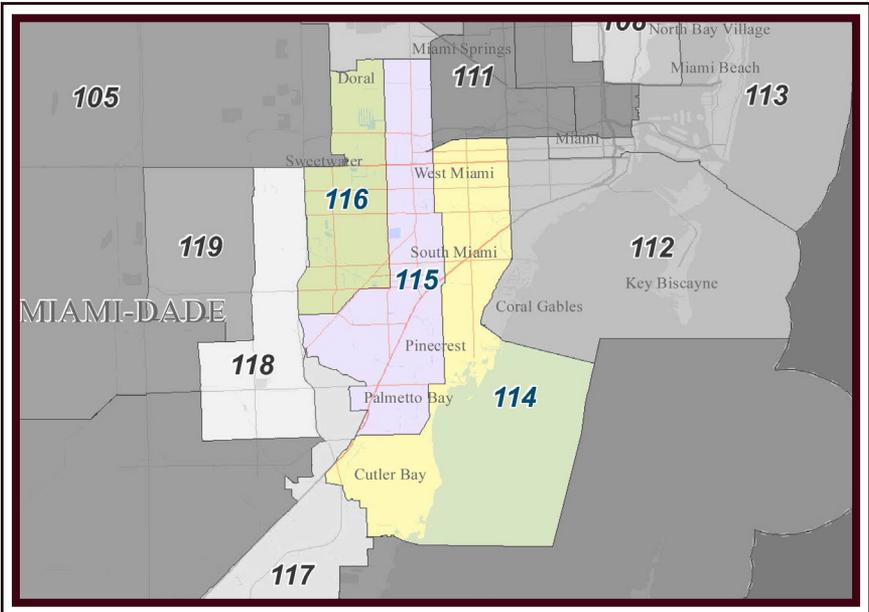
Javier E. Fernández
Democrat
District 114
Part of Miami-Dade
Elected May 1, 2018



Vance Arthur Aloupis, Jr.
Republican
District 115
Part of Miami-Dade
Elected in 2018



Daniel Perez
Republican
District 116
Part of Miami-Dade
Elected September 26, 2017



2018-2020 Representatives



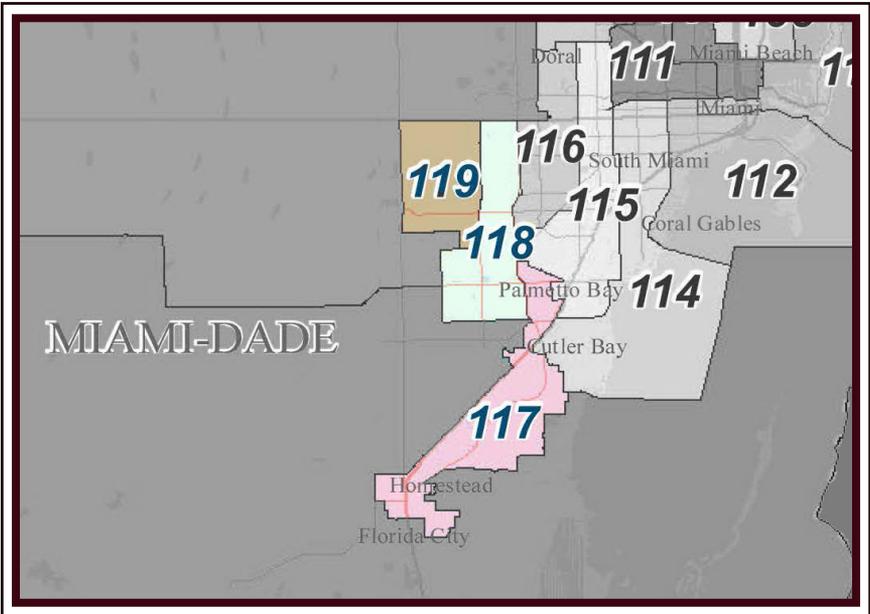
Kionne L. McGhee
Democratic Leader
Democrat
District 117
Part of Miami-Dade
Elected in 2012



Anthony Rodriguez
Republican
District 118
Part of Miami-Dade
Elected in 2018



Juan Alfonso Fernandez-Barquin
Republican
District 119
Part of Miami-Dade
Elected in 2018



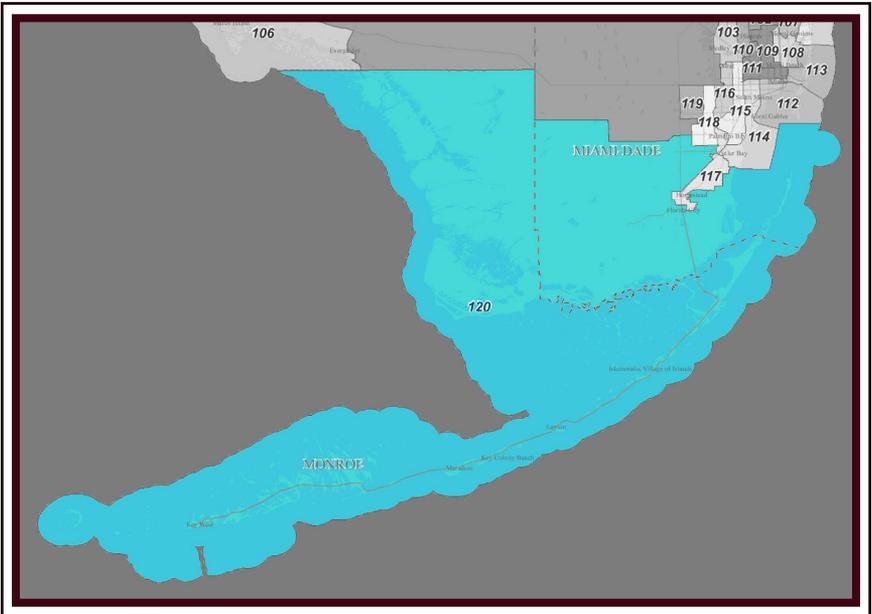
2018-2020 Representatives



**Holly
Raschein**
Republican

District 120
Monroe and part of Miami-
Dade

Elected in 2012



About Your Representative

The Life of a Representative

During legislative sessions, House members may work as much as an 18-hour day. In addition to legislative meetings, each member frequently meets with constituents from his or her home district as well as with groups that are interested in pending legislation. There are scheduled interim committee meetings that occur in the weeks leading up to Regular Session. As a visitor, keep in mind that the activity you see on the floor of the House is but a fraction of the time and effort a member of the House devotes to representing his or her constituency.

Qualifications of Representatives

The Constitution requires a Representative to be at least 21 years of age, an elector and resident of the district from which elected, and a resident of Florida for two years prior to election.

Unlike many other state and county officers, members of the Legislature take office upon election; that is, they take office at midnight on the day of the General Election.

Representatives serve two-year terms and are limited to four terms. Vacancies in legislative offices may be filled only by election.

Writing Your Legislators

If you write or email your Representative, remember to include contact information so the legislator can respond to you. Most matters coming before the Legislature are publicized in advance. To help your Representatives, write them about issues prior to the Legislature taking action. Keep in mind that committees meet to consider pending legislation in the months before the convening of the Regular Session.

Contact information for writing or emailing your Representative may be found at www.myfloridahouse.gov.



The Different Sessions



Organization Session

The Legislature meets to elect officers and adopt its rules two weeks after the general election. This is called the Organization Session. The Constitution of the State of Florida states "On the fourteenth day following each general election the legislature shall convene for the exclusive purpose of organization and selection of officers." The Senate President and House Speaker often appoint committee and subcommittee chairs and members at this time, thereby allowing work to begin in preparation for the regular session.

Regular Session

The Legislature meets in regular session each year as set in the Florida Constitution or established by law. In 2019, the first day of session was Tuesday, March 5. In 2020, the first day of session is Tuesday, January 14.

A regular session may not exceed 60 consecutive days, and a special session may not exceed 20 consecutive days, unless extended beyond such limit by a three-fifths vote of the Florida House of Representatives and the Florida Senate.

Special Session

The Governor, by proclamation, may convene the Legislature in special session for a specific purpose. The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, acting jointly, may also convene the Legislature in special session.

The proclamation (known as the "call") limits the Legislature to specific items of business. The scope of the items specified in a call is known as its "purview." A bill must be within the purview of the call or receive an extraordinary vote (80 votes—2/3 of the membership) to be considered in a special session.



The House Chamber

From the House gallery, the visitor views the House Chamber. Seating of members in the Chamber is determined by the Speaker. It is tradition for the Minority Party Leader to be seated on the last row and on the aisle. Only legislators, essential staff, and a few other dignitaries are allowed in the Chamber during sessions.

Speaker's Rostrum

The Speaker's rostrum occupies the highest point on the floor. During Joint Sessions, the Speaker *pro tempore* and the Speaker sit to the right of the rostrum; the Senate President, Governor, and Senate President Pro Tempore sit to the left of the rostrum.

Clerk's Desk

Directly below the Speaker's rostrum is the Clerk's desk. There, bills and amendments are read to the House, actions are recorded, operation of the vote board, and notes are taken from which the *Journal* is compiled.



Representative Chris Sprowls speaks from the Well during the 2018 Organization Session.

The Well

The lectern in front of the Clerk's desk is known as the well. Before microphones were installed at each Representative's desk, there was the spot on the Chamber floor from which a member could easily be heard when addressing the House. The acoustics of this spot were said to be highly resonant, as if the member were speaking down a well. Members may ask to approach the well to address the House on a matter of particular importance.



The House Chamber

Members' Desks

Each member's desk has a panel of voting buttons, a microphone, computer network connections, and a telephone wired directly to the member's Capitol office. Laptop computers allow members to view amendments, bills, and Chamber activity. The numbers on the nameplates next to the members' names refer to their district.



A view of the members' desks

Pages

Toward the rear of the Chamber on either side of the doors are seating areas for Pages who, at the invitation of a member, work for one week during regular sessions. Their job is to carry messages to the members and distribute documents. To apply to be a House Page or Messenger, visit www.myfloridahouse.gov, select the Student Resources tab partway down the page, and then click on the button that says Page & Messenger Program.



The House Chamber

In a letter prefacing the book *Our Florida Legacy: Land, Legend & Leadership*, John Thrasher (Speaker 1998-2000) explained his vision behind the renovation of the Chamber and installation of Christopher Still's historical murals.

"As I began planning for my term as Speaker, I was struck by a historical change taking place – the departure, due to term limits, of dozens of members whose decades of knowledge, experience, institutional insight and wisdom would no longer guide us in our daily business. I thought about what we could do to help members consider the past and facilitate their ability to make decisions about the future. I also thought about how we might better welcome the public to our legislative process. I set out to accomplish these things by physically changing the Chamber in which members of the Florida House of Representatives conduct their public business.

We began with a vision of being surrounded by our state's great history. We would encircle the members gathered to publicly debate, deliberate and make decisions shaping Florida's future with visual reminders of Florida's past and present.

We selected the gifted Tarpon Springs-based artist Christopher Still to complete a pictorial narrative, from the discovery of our shores and the first New World settlement to our journey to the stars from Florida's Gateway to Space. He succeeded in creating a richly symbolic account of the struggles and pioneering spirit of those who helped form this great state. The backgrounds of these remarkable paintings feature the incredible beauty of our diverse water- and landscapes, and the details provide extraordinary links across time and place."



The mural titled *To Have and Have Not* reflects the time period of the late 1800s through 1930s.



The House in Session

A daily order of business is followed each legislative day. The Regular Session order corresponds to the following list, which is set by the Rules of the House.

The Regular Session Daily Order of Business

1. Call to Order 2. Prayer 3. Roll Call 4. Pledge of Allegiance 5. Correction of the *Journal* 6. Communications 7. Messages from the Senate 8. Reports of Committees 9. Motions Relating to Committee and Subcommittee References 10. Matters on Reconsideration 11. Bills and Joint Resolutions on Third Reading 12. Special Orders 13. House Resolutions 14. Unfinished Business 15. Introduction and Reference

The House *Journal*

The House *Journal* is the official record of actions taken by the House and its committees and subcommittees. It includes the titles of bills introduced, the full text of amendments considered, and a breakdown of how each Representative voted on matters taken up during floor sessions.

The *Journal* of each day's proceedings is available on the following day from the Duplicating & Print Services office (334 The Capitol) and the My Florida House website. Libraries, schools, and other interested parties may review the *Journal* through the My Florida House website at www.myfloridahouse.gov.

House Calendars

Interim Meeting Calendar

When the Legislature is not in session, the Clerk publishes an Interim Calendar to inform the members and the public of legislation that will be taken up by committees and subcommittees during committee weeks.

Daily Calendars

During regular sessions, the Clerk publishes a Daily Calendar. This calendar contains a schedule of committee and subcommittee meetings and a listing of bills that will be heard by the House during floor sessions.

Libraries, schools, and other interested parties may review the Calendar through the My Florida House website at www.myfloridahouse.gov.



The Legislative Process

The Bill Process

The working draft of a legislative proposal is called a bill. This is the way by which laws are created or changed. The following step-by-step description shows the path of a bill through the House (see pages 58-59 for illustration):

▶ Citizens meet with their Representative and request help with a problem that requires a change in the law or creation of a new law. The Representative may then consult with House committee staff on the subject and ask the House Bill Drafting Service to draft a bill for introduction to the House.

▶ The next step is filing the bill. This is the act of presenting the bill to the House. At this point, it becomes a public document. After careful review for form and checks for constitutional requirements by the House Bill Drafting Service, the bill is given a number and posted on the Legislature's website.

▶ The Florida Constitution requires each bill to be read three times by title. The first reading is generally executed by publication in the House *Journal*.

▶ The Speaker refers the bill to one or more committees or subcommittees for review. Committees and subcommittees are composed of members appointed by the Speaker. The committees and subcommittees meet to consider the bill and afford the public a forum to express their opinions on it.

▶ After being reported favorably by all committees of reference, a bill is available for consideration by the Florida House of Representatives during a



Representative Stan McClain questions a presenter before the PreK-12 Quality Subcommittee on January 10, 2019.



The Legislative Process

floor session. The Rules Committee suggests an agenda, approved by the full House, of bills to be considered. At this stage, the bill is read a second time, explained by its sponsor, and amendments may be offered. If amendments are adopted, they are incorporated into a new version known as the engrossed bill.



Representative Erin Grall speaks during the Civil Justice & Claims Subcommittee meeting in 2017.

► The bill will be read a third time by title the next day the House is in session. This is the time for debate and a final vote. If the bill passes, it is sent to the Senate by a messenger from the Office of the Clerk.

► The bill must then go through a similar procedure in the Senate. If the Senate bill has already been through the committee process, the bills can be paired and placed on the Senate Calendar for consideration on the Senate floor. If there is no similar Senate bill, a House bill is referred to a Senate committee and must go through the Senate committee and floor process. The bill can be further amended in the Senate. If this happens, the House must agree to these changes.

► Two things can happen at this point. Should the House refuse to agree to the Senate amendments and the Senate refuse to remove them, a conference committee may be appointed. A conference committee is composed of members of both houses appointed by the presiding officers to work out a compromise.



The Legislative Process

If the House agrees to the Senate amendments, the House bill is passed as amended.

► The bill is then signed by the officers of both houses and presented to the Governor, who can sign it into law, let it become law without his or her signature, or veto it.

The Budget Process

It is a principal responsibility of the Legislature each year to pass an appropriations bill. The executive branch then carries out the spending plans outlined in the budget.

The fiscal year runs from July 1 through June 30. By July 15, the Governor and the Legislature send agencies instructions for developing their budget requests for the coming budget year. These are due October 15. The Governor is required by law to submit recommendations to the Legislature at least 30 days before the scheduled annual legislative session.

Following submission of budget requests from state agencies and the Governor's recommendations, the House and Senate each begin drafting an appropriations bill.

Each house then passes its budget bill. The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House appoint conference committees to resolve the differences between the two houses.

After the budget is agreed to by both houses, the General Appropriations Act is presented to the Governor for approval.

The Governor can delete any specific appropriation the Legislature has chosen to fund by what is called a "line-item veto." If the Legislature objects to the Governor's action, it may override the veto by a two-thirds vote in each house.



House Appropriations Chair W. Travis Cummings, District 18.



Comparing the Numbers

Comparison of the Number of General and Local Bills Introduced and Passed over the Last 10 Years

- Regular Session -

Total bills introduced in Legislature
(includes companion bills)

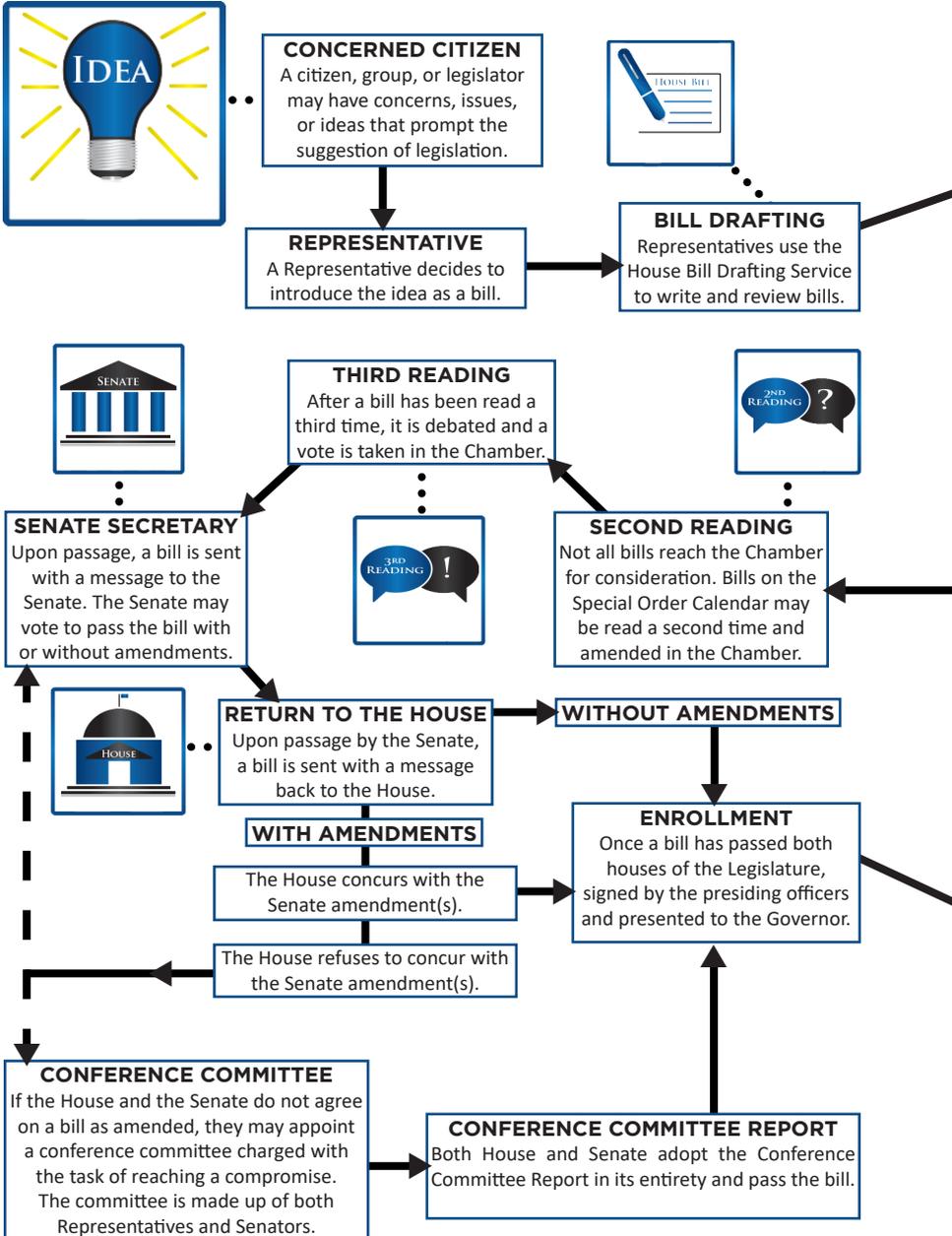
Session Years	2008 -2010	2010 -2012	2012 -2014	2014 -2016	2016 -2018
<i>Filed</i>					
General	4,178	3,599	3,136	3,078	3,260
Local	186	207	144	134	135
Total	4,364	3,806	3,280	3,212	3,395
<i>Acts passed</i>					
General	488	483	488	433	369
Local	66	74	50	66	67
Total	554	557	538	499	436
<i>Acts vetoed by Governor*</i>					
General	26	19	8	9	10
Local	1	3	4	1	3
Total	27	22	12	10	13
<i>Acts becoming law</i>					
General	462	464	480	424	359
Local	65	71	46	65	64
Total	527	535	526	489	423

* Does not include specific appropriation veto

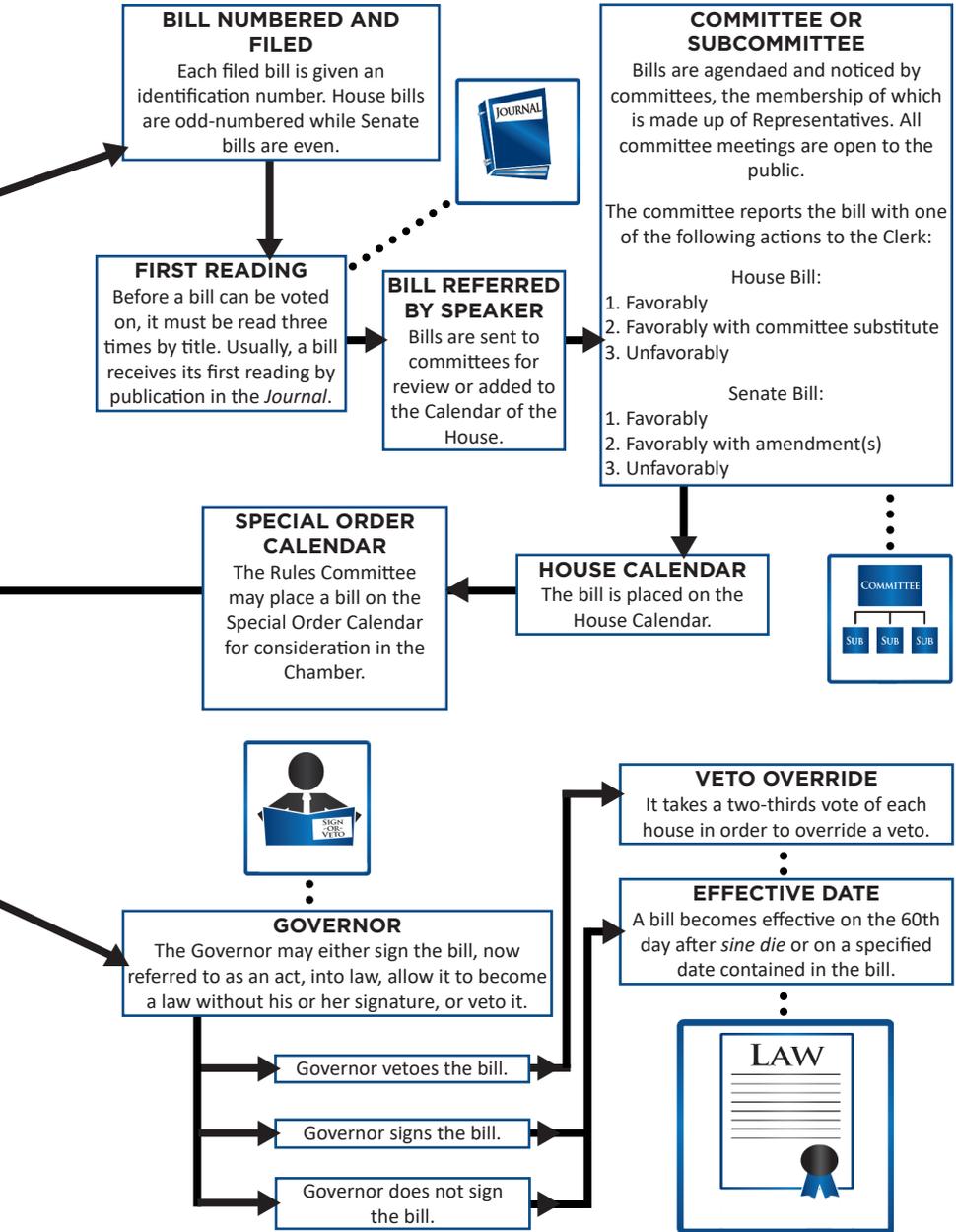
Note: Does not include memorials, concurrent resolutions, joint resolutions, House resolutions, or Senate resolutions



How an Idea Becomes a Law



How an Idea Becomes a Law



Early Roots of the Florida House



Florida House of Representatives
on the steps of the Historic
Capitol building in 1905

After three centuries of turbulent rule by Spain, France, and Britain, the colonies of East and West Florida were finally unified into a United States territory on July 17, 1821.

Within months, President James Monroe signed into law a bill creating a government for the newly acquired "Territory of Florida." Under this act, the lawmaking power was vested in a Legislative Council made up of "the Governor, and thirteen of the most fit and discreet persons of the territory."

The Council was to have held its first meeting in Pensacola on June 10, 1822, but it was not until July 22, 42 days later, that enough members appeared to allow the Council to organize and fulfill its responsibilities.

The long delay had been caused by the squalls, calms, and the capsizing of a sloop bringing three of St. Augustine's members to Pensacola. A fourth member perished when the ship on which he was sailing was lost at sea. With the lack of even simple roads in the territory, many opted to travel by ship from St. Augustine around the southernmost tip of Florida and then on to Pensacola.

Traveling by land may have been less hazardous, but was virtually as time-consuming. By horseback, the 400-mile trip between the two territorial capitals, St. Augustine and Pensacola, required two weeks at best.

Reaching Pensacola was not the end of the perils for the members of the new government. A yellow fever epidemic raged in August of 1822, claiming the lives of the Council President and the Chief Clerk before the surviving members decided to move the sessions to a residence some 15 miles out of Pensacola.

The early members of the Legislative Council were true pioneers who braved the wilderness to serve. Even after the distance was halved when the capital was moved to Tallahassee, travel to meetings of the Council remained a punishing ordeal.

Members of the Legislative Council were appointed by the President of the United States until 1826 when Congress passed a bill to make them elected by the people. The Governorship became an elective office only after statehood was achieved.

Agitation for a two-house Legislative Council reached a milestone in 1838



Early Roots of the Florida House

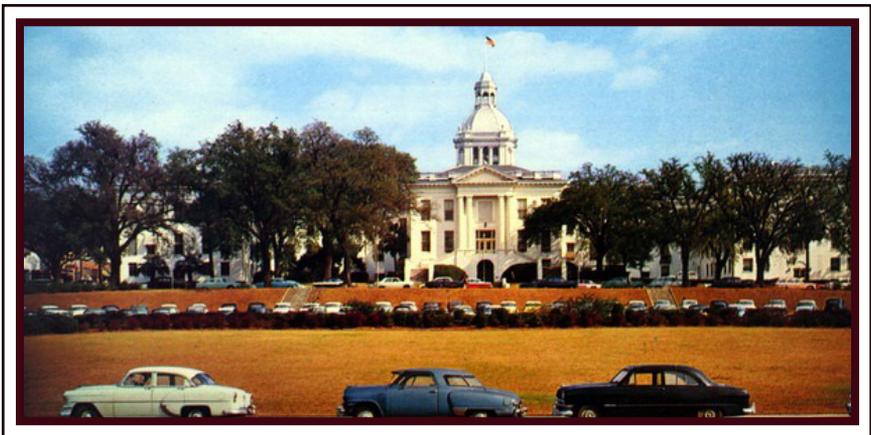
when the U.S. House of Representatives adopted a resolution by Florida's delegate, calling upon the Committee on Territories to inquire "...into the expediency of reorganizing the Legislative Council of Florida Territory, so as to give another branch to said Council, to be called a Senate." The unicameral Council became a bicameral body with President Van Buren's signature on a congressional act on July 7, 1838. The next step needed for statehood was approval of a constitution.

A Constitutional Convention was held in December of 1838 in the town of St. Joseph. The convention expedited its work by drawing language from the constitutions of several other southern states. A final proposal was completed within 37 days. The only copy of the 1838 Constitution known to exist is in the collection of the State Archives in the Robert Andrew Gray Building.

On March 3, 1845, President John Tyler signed legislation conferring statehood upon Florida (and Iowa). The first meeting of the new state assembly was held on June 23, 1845, in the Historic Capitol, which is now across the plaza from the new Capitol.

Today's House of Representatives is the direct descendant of the Legislative Council that first assembled in Pensacola in 1822. It is a larger and more complex institution, but echoes of the customs and traditions of Florida's early territorial and state lawmaking bodies may still be observed in its proceedings.

*Drawn from the writings of John B. Phelps, Clerk of the House 1986-2006, and Allen Morris, Clerk of the House 1966-1986.



1900s Florida Capitol



Memorable Years in the House

1822—The first Territorial Legislative Council made up of 13 Presidential appointees is convened on July 22 near Pensacola.

1826—Congress orders the Territory divided into 13 districts, with Floridians to elect 13 members to the existing Territorial Council.



Members of the Florida House of Representatives, 1885

1838—The Constitution of 1838 of the Territory of Florida provides for a Senate and a House of Representatives. The two houses together are known as the General Assembly.

Congress provides for a Senate of 11 members and a House of Representatives of 29 members to form an elective General Assembly.

1845—The first General Assembly under statehood convenes in Tallahassee on June 23, with 17 Senators and 41 Representatives from 20 counties.

1868—The 1868 State Constitution first refers to the lawmaking body consisting of a Senate and an Assembly as the "Legislature," marking the first use of this term.

Republicans were elected to 37 of 53 Assembly seats and 16 of 24 Senatorial districts. There were 3 black Senators and 17 black Assemblymen.

1874—This year marks the last Republican majority until the year 1996.

1884—Fernando Figueredo becomes the first Cuban-American elected.

1885—The 1885 State Constitution replaces "Assembly" with "House of Representatives."

1928—Edna Giles Fuller becomes the first female elected to the House. Representative Fuller is also the first female to preside over a House session.



Edna Giles Fuller, 1928

1938—The first party caucus for designation of a Speaker is held at Moon Lake in Pasco County.



Memorable Years in the House



Florida House in session, 1953

George Pierce Wood wins the nomination over LeRoy Collins, 55 to 40.

1939—The first time an electronic voting system is used in Florida during a session. It was calculated to have saved 12 days of the 60-day session for oral roll calls.

1957—Doyle E. Conner becomes the youngest person elected Speaker of the House, at age 28.

1963—Mary R. Grizzle becomes the first Republican woman elected to the House and, in 1974, the first woman to serve as the Minority Leader *pro tempore*. In 1978, she becomes the first Republican woman elected to the Senate.

1967—After years of sparse representation in the House, Republicans gain a substantial number of seats, with 39 of the 119.

1968—Joe Lang Kershaw becomes the first black member elected to the House of Representatives since 1891.

1970—Gwendolyn Sawyer "Gwen" Cherry is elected as the first black female to serve in the House of Representatives.

1977—December 13 is the last day the House of Representatives meets in the House Chamber in the Historic Capitol. This has been the Chamber where the House has met since 1939.

1978—April 4 is the first day the House of Representatives meets in the House Chamber of the new Capitol.

1982—The 1980 Federal Census is used to establish single-member districts of the Legislature.



Florida House on opening day, 1978



Memorable Years in the House

The first elections of single-member districts result in the election of an additional five black Representatives and two black Senators.

Ileana Ros is the first Cuban-American female elected to the House of Representatives.

1984—Rodolfo "Rudy" Garcia Jr. is the youngest person elected to the House since 1950, at age 21.

Elaine Gordon is the first woman elected as Speaker *pro tempore* of the House of Representatives.

Representatives Dexter W. Lehtinen and Ileana Ros are the first two members to marry. Their engagement is announced in the House Chamber.

1986—James C. "Jim" Burke is the first black person elected to a leadership position in recent years; he serves as Speaker *pro tempore* for the 1986-1988 legislative term.

1991—Computers are installed at the members' desks to provide text of amendments before the House, the first such system used by any state legislature.



The engagement of Representatives Ileana Ros and Dexter Lehtinen had just been announced.

They were married on June 9, 1984.

Representative Anne Mackenzie becomes the first woman to serve as leader of a party caucus.

1992—Florida Term Limits are adopted by the voters. The Constitutional Amendment limits terms to eight years.

Sandra Barringer Mortham becomes the first woman to serve as leader of the Republican Conference.

1995—President William Jefferson "Bill" Clinton becomes the first U.S. president in the 20th century to address the Florida Legislature.

1996—Representative Daniel Webster becomes the first Republican Speaker of the House since 1874.

1997—Elvin L. Martinez, the longest serving member of the House at that time, resigns August 31, 1997. He served a total of 26 years and 10 months (1966-1974, 1978-1997).



Memorable Years in the House



Artist Christopher M. Still points out hidden 'gems' in the newly revealed mural, *In Ages Past*, 1998.

1998—Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, addresses a Joint Session of the House and Senate.

2000—The House Chamber is renovated and murals by artist Christopher Still depicting Florida's history are installed.

Lois J. Frankel becomes the first woman to serve as the Democratic Minority Leader.

A special session following the General Election helps resolve the disputed presidential election between George W. Bush and Al Gore; ultimately Al Gore concedes the election.

2003—Jennifer S. Carroll becomes the first black Republican female elected to the Florida Legislature. In 2010 she becomes the first black person and the first woman to be elected Lieutenant Governor.

2006—Marco Rubio becomes the first Cuban-American Speaker of the House. He was also the first Cuban-American to serve as a Majority Leader.



Former President George H.W. Bush speaks during Governor Jeb Bush's last leadership forum in the House Chamber on December 4, 2006.



Speaker Marco Rubio, 2006



Memorable Years in the House

2007—Sandra Day O'Connor, retired United States Supreme Court Justice, addresses a Joint Session of the House and Senate.

2009—Sandra "Sandy" Adams becomes the first female member to preside over the House on the opening day of a regular session, calling the House to order on March 3, 2009.

2012—Will W. Weatherford is elected Speaker of the House, making him the youngest presiding officer of any state at this time, at age 33.

2014—Former Majority Leader Carlos Lopez-Cantera becomes the first Cuban-American Lieutenant Governor.

The Legislature votes to start the 2016 annual legislative session in January for the first time since 1991, without being in a reapportionment session.

2016—Representative Amber Mariano, District 36, becomes the youngest woman elected to the House, at age 21.

Representative Jeanette M. Nuñez, District 119, becomes the first female Hispanic Speaker *pro tempore*.

Representative Janet Cruz, District 62, becomes the first female Hispanic Democratic Leader.

The House adopts rules for the first time that require lobbyists to file an electronic notice of appearance that identifies the specific matter and each principal represented before lobbying the House on any issue.

The House adopts rules that require budget projects to be filed as individual bills in order to be included in the House budget. The bill must be filed as a standalone bill, favorably considered in committee, and offered with nonrecurring appropriation.



Did You Know?

▶ Indigenous peoples occupied what is now known as Florida for more than 13,000 years before European encounter.

▶ Florida was the first region of the United States to be visited and settled by Europeans.

▶ In 1824, Tallahassee became the capital of the state because it was approximately midway between Pensacola and St. Augustine, the provincial capitals then existing for West and East Florida.

▶ The word "Tallahassee" is of Creek derivation and is frequently translated as "old town" or "old fields."

▶ Jai alai was first played professionally in the U.S. in Miami in 1935.

▶ The first game of billiards played in the U.S. took place in St. Augustine in 1565.

▶ Wakulla Springs is the deepest freshwater spring in the world, with tunnels running to depths of 300 feet.

▶ Florida has 33 first magnitude springs (water flow of more than 100 cubic feet per second), more than any other state.

▶ There are at least 700 freshwater springs in Florida, more than can be found anywhere else in the world.

▶ The first regularly scheduled commercial airline flight between two U.S. cities was from St. Petersburg to Tampa in 1914.

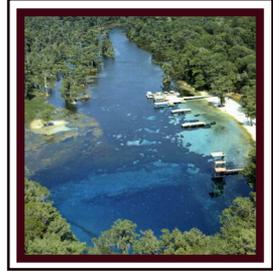
▶ The first artificial ice was made in Apalachicola by Dr. John Gorrie in 1845; he is considered the father of air conditioning and refrigeration.

▶ The first NASA moon flight was launched from Cape Canaveral in 1969.

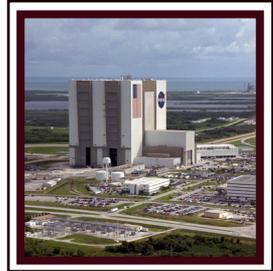
▶ Florida includes six reservations for two federally recognized Native American tribes: the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida and the Seminole Tribe Florida.

▶ The oldest trees in eastern North America are the bald cypress in the Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary.

▶ Over 425 species, approximately half of all bird species in the U.S., can be found in Florida.



Deepest freshwater springs,
Wakulla Springs



Kennedy Space Center,
Cape Canaveral



Did You Know?

▶ Florida has more than 300 species of native trees, more than 150 species of reptiles and amphibians, approximately 80 native mammal species, and more than 200 species of freshwater fish.

▶ Ochopee, on the Tamiami Trail, is said to have the smallest post office in the U.S.

▶ Florida's first newspaper, the East Florida Gazette, was begun in St. Augustine in 1783.

▶ The Columbia, in Tampa's Ybor City, is one of the world's largest restaurants.

▶ Florida has 4,510 islands of 10 acres or larger.

▶ Florida experiences more hurricanes than any other state in the U.S., most during the month of September.

▶ Florida has 3 nicknames: The Sunshine State, The Peninsula State, and The Everglades State.

▶ 42 bridges connect the Florida Keys.

▶ The highest point of elevation in Florida can be found in Walton County at 345 feet (105m) above sea level.



Seven Mile Bridge, Florida Keys

▶ Florida is one of 13 states that has more than one time zone; Florida, Michigan, Indiana, Kentucky, and Tennessee are all split between Eastern and Central time zones.

▶ The Labor Day hurricane of 1935 destroyed 38 miles of overseas railroad in the Florida Keys.

▶ The first public school in Florida was established in Tallahassee in 1852.

▶ The commander of the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASPs) during World War II was a Pensacola-born woman named Jacqueline Cochran.

▶ St. Johns River is one of few North American rivers that flow from South to North.

▶ No matter where you are in Florida, you are never more than 60 miles from the Atlantic Ocean or the Gulf of Mexico.

▶ Florida is the only state whose Constitution is reviewed every 20 years.

▶ The legislature authorized the Florida Turnpike in 1955.



Did You Know?

- ▶ The Everglades ranks third in size among United States National Parks.
- ▶ Jacksonville has the largest land area of any city in Florida (841 square miles).
- ▶ Juan Ponce de León first named Florida "The Isle of Flowers."
- ▶ In 1828, banks and insurance companies were first chartered in Florida.

- ▶ Following the panic of 1837, the Florida Constitution was amended to make it unlawful for the state to go into debt and for bankers to hold public office.

- ▶ The biggest Civil War battle that took place in Florida was the Battle of Olustee on February 20, 1864.

- ▶ The Florida Everglades is the only place on the planet where crocodiles and alligators live together.

- ▶ According to the Florida Division of Water Resources, there are approximately 30,000 lakes scattered throughout Florida.

- ▶ Walt Disney World first opened its doors to the public on October 1, 1971.

- ▶ The Three Kings Parade in Miami (started in 1972) is a Cuban-American festival that was brought about by Fidel Castro's ban on Christmas celebrations in Cuba.

- ▶ In 1949, the legislature passed laws banning livestock from highways.

- ▶ Poet James Weldon Johnson (1871-1938) was the first black Floridian admitted to The Florida Bar in 1898.

- ▶ The Pensacola Naval Air Station was established in Pensacola in 1914 with 6 airplanes, 9 officers, and 23 enlisted men.

- ▶ Less than 100 students were enrolled in the University of Florida at Gainesville for its opening semester in 1906.



The Florida Everglades



Pensacola Naval Air Station



Florida Facts



An aerial view of Miami Beach

Total Area—58,560 square miles

Total Land Area—54,136 square miles

Total Water Area—4,424 square miles

Rank Among States in Total Area—22nd

Coastline—1,197 statute miles

Beaches—663 miles

Longest River—St. Johns, 273 miles

Largest Lake—Lake Okeechobee, 700 square miles

Length North to South (St. Marys River to Key West)—447 miles

Width East to West (Atlantic Ocean to Perdido River)—361 miles

Highest Natural Point—Britton Hill (345 feet) near Lakewood in northern Walton County

Geographic Center—12 miles northwest of Brooksville in Hernando County

Population—20,984,400 according to a 2017 U.S. Census Bureau estimate

Number of Counties—67

First Colonization—In 1513, Ponce de León made landfall. In 1521, he returned to establish a colony.

Oldest Permanent Settlement—St. Augustine, established by Spain in 1565. It is the oldest continuous city in the continental United States.

Acquired by the United States—From Spain, approved by treaty in 1821.

Statehood—Became the 27th state on March 3, 1845.



Official State Designations

State Animal—Florida Panther

State Anthem—"Florida, Where the Sawgrass Meets the Sky" by Jan Hinton

State Beverage—Orange Juice

State Bird—Mockingbird

State Butterfly—Zebra Longwing

State Flower—Orange Blossom

State Freshwater Fish—Florida Largemouth Bass

State Fruit—Orange

State Gem—Moonstone

State Horse—Florida Cracker Horse

State Marine Mammal—Manatee

State Motto—In God We Trust

State Nickname—The Sunshine State

State Pie—Key Lime Pie

State Play—"Cross and Sword"

State Reptile—American Alligator

State Saltwater Fish—Atlantic Sailfish

State Saltwater Mammal—Porpoise

State Saltwater Reptile—Loggerhead Turtle

State Shell—Horse Conch

State Soil—Myakka Fine Sand

State Song—"Old Folks at Home" by Stephen C. Foster

State Stone—Agatized Coral

State Tortoise—Gopher Tortoise

State Tree—Sabal Palmetto Palm

State Wildflower—Coreopsis



Sabal Palmetto Palm, State Tree



Orange Blossom, State Flower



Zebra Longwing, State Butterfly



Florida Panther, State Animal



Glossary

Act—A bill passed by the Legislature.

Adjournment—Ends a session day's business and sets a future date and time to reconvene the next session day.

Adoption—A favorable action by a chamber on an amendment, motion, resolution, or memorial.

Amendment—A proposal to change a bill or other proposed legislation. A committee or individual representative may propose amendments.

Apportionment and Redistricting—Legislative action taken after each 10-year, or decennial, census to establish the membership size of the House and Senate and draw legislative districts to reflect population shifts as recorded by the census.

Bill—All legislation, including resolutions, memorials, or other measures, upon which a committee may be required to report. See House Rule 5.1.

Bill Number—The identifying number given each bill filed for introduction. House bills receive odd numbers, while Senate bills receive even numbers.

Body—One house of a bicameral legislature.

Budget—The totality of appropriations measures passed by the Legislature. The detailed spending plan submitted by the Governor to the Legislature which recommends monetary allocations for each of the departments of the state for the next fiscal year is also known as a "budget." Using recommendations from the Governor and individual departments, each house prepares its own version of the budget. After the budgets go through the legislative process, one final version is then presented to the Governor. See Appropriations, Implementing, and Conforming Bills.

Calendars—Provide official notification of bills to be considered, sessions, and committee meetings and hearings. Types and versions of calendars include the claim bill calendar, consent calendar, daily calendar, interim calendar, local bill calendar, special order calendar, and trust fund bill calendar.

Caucus—Members of a political party, members from a geographical area, or members allied for some temporary purpose. Legislative officers and leaders are designated and nominated within the political parties at caucus. A party's position on pending legislation is often discussed at caucus.

Chair—The presiding officer for a floor session or committee meeting.

Chamber—The large meeting rooms in which the House and the Senate hold their floor sessions. The House and Senate chambers are located on the fourth floor of the Capitol.



Glossary

Chapter Law—A bill becomes chapter law once it has been enacted and assigned an identifying number by the Secretary of State. The number indicates the year passed and the printing sequence number. For example, chapter 2000-541 represents the 541st law printed in the year 2000. Chapter laws are compiled and published annually in the Laws of Florida.

Claim Bill—A bill that presents a claim for compensation for a particular individual or entity for injuries or losses caused by negligence or error on the part of a public office or agency.

Clerk of the House—The constitutional officer who serves at the pleasure of the Speaker. The Clerk shall perform the ministerial duties assigned by the Speaker. The duties include keeping and publishing a correct journal of House proceedings; publishing other House documents; attesting to all necessary documents; and supervising the custody of all legislation, records, and documents of the House. The Office of the Clerk is a nonpartisan, nonpolitical office.

Committee—A panel of legislators appointed by the respective presiding officers to perform specific duties, such as consider legislation and conduct investigations or hearings. Types of committees include: conference committee, joint committee, select committee, standing committee, and subcommittee.

Committee Substitute—A bill offered by a committee in lieu of another bill that was originally referred to the committee for consideration; technically, it is an amendment to the original bill.

Companion Bill—Bills introduced in the House and Senate that are identical or substantially similar in wording. The use of companion bills allows bills in both bodies to move through the committee process at the same time.

Concurrent Resolution—Resolutions used to extend legislative sessions and to address legislative organization and procedures. They are also used to express the opinion of both houses.

Daily Order of Business—The items of business and the order in which they are to be considered when a Chamber convenes a floor session.

Debate—Arguments made by legislators, during a committee meeting or session, supporting or opposing an issue.

District—The area from which a state senator, representative, or member of Congress is elected. The boundaries of state legislative and congressional districts are drawn in the decennial process known as apportionment and redistricting.

Effective Date—The date on which a law takes effect.



Glossary

Enabling Legislation—A bill designed specifically to implement an adopted constitutional amendment.

Enacting Clause—The phrase, "Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida." The State Constitution requires that it preface each bill.

Engrossed Bill—The version of a bill that incorporates adopted floor amendments. The revision is done in the house of origin and engrossed under the supervision of the Clerk of the House or the Secretary of the Senate.

Engrossing—The process of incorporating amendments adopted by a Chamber into a new version of the bill.

Enrolled—A measure approved by both houses and signed by the legislative officers which is sent to the Governor for action and transmittal to the Secretary of State or filed directly with the Secretary of State.

Floor—Synonymous with Chamber. Floor action suggests consideration by the entire Senate or House rather than committee action.

Florida Statutes—Compilation of general laws of the state.

Gallery—The seating area on the floor above the Senate or House Chamber where the public may observe a house in session.

General Bill (HB, SB)—A bill of general statewide interest or whose provisions apply to the entire state.

House—Either body of the Legislature, unless capitalized. When capitalized, it refers to the House of Representatives.

House Resolution—A one-house document used for matters not involving the other house. It is often ceremonial or congratulatory in nature. Resolutions do not require the signature of the Governor and they do not become law.

Interim—The period between the adjournment *sine die* of a regular session and the convening of the next regular session.

Introduction—The first reading of a bill which may be accomplished by publication of the title in the daily *Journal*.

Joint Resolution (HJR, SJR)—A resolution used to propose amendments to the State Constitution; they are also the form of legislation used for redistricting state legislative seats.

Journal—The official legal record of the proceedings of the House of Representatives or the Senate.



Glossary

Law—An act becomes a law when approved by the Governor or allowed by the Governor to become law without his signature by the passage of time or when the Legislature overrides the Governor's veto.

Line-Item Veto—A partial veto, is the power of an executive authority to nullify or cancel specific provisions of a bill, usually a budget appropriations bill, without vetoing the entire legislative package.

Local Bill (or Special Act)—A bill that applies to an area or group that is less than the total area or population of the state.

Majority Party—The political party having the most members in a house.

Memorial (HM, SM)—A measure addressed to an executive agency or another legislative body, usually Congress, which expresses the consensus of the Florida Legislature or urges that certain action be taken on a matter within the jurisdiction of the agency or body to which it is addressed. When both houses adopt the measure, the memorial is signed by the legislative officers and transmitted to the Secretary of State for presentation to the addressee. A memorial is not subject to the approval or veto powers of the Governor, is not subject to constitutional title requirements, and does not have the effect of law.

Message—A formal communication by one house to the other house concerning action taken on a bill.

Minority Party—The political party that has less than a majority of members in a house.

Partisan—Associated or affiliated with a single political party or caucus.

Passage—Favorable floor action on a bill.

President of the Senate—The presiding officer of the Senate, elected by the body at the organization session for a term of two years.

Proclamation—The formal pronouncement issued by the Governor, or jointly by the Senate President and House Speaker, calling the Florida Legislature into a special session. It describes the subject matter and the length of the session. Also referred to as "the Call."

Proposed Committee Bill (PCB)—A draft legislative measure taken up by a committee for the purpose of considering whether to introduce it in the name of the committee.

Quorum—A majority. The Constitution requires a majority of the members elected to a house to be present before a session may convene or transact legislative business. The rules of each chamber impose the same requirement



Glossary

upon their committees. A simple majority (half of the membership, plus one) constitutes a quorum.

Reading—Each bill or proposed constitutional amendment must be read by title on three separate days in each legislative house before it can be voted on final passage. The first reading usually occurs when the bill title is published in the *Journal*, though it can also take place in the Chamber. After being favorably reported by the committee of reference, a bill is read a second time in the Chamber. During the second reading, questions may be asked and amendments considered. If amendments are adopted, the bill is engrossed. Once a bill is read a third time in the Chamber, members may debate the bill and then a vote on final passage occurs. If amendments are proposed on third reading, a two-thirds vote is required for the amendments to be adopted.

Recess—The period occurring within a legislative day when a body that has been in session temporarily suspends its proceedings.

Referendum—A vote of the electors on a specific measure presented for approval or rejection on a ballot. A referendum is required as a condition for the effectiveness of a local bill if proof of publication has not been provided.

Reviser's Bill—A bill prepared by the Division of Law Revision and Information within the Office of Legislative Services that makes grammatical, editorial, or other technical changes in the Florida Statutes for clarity and proper interpretation. It may also remove certain obsolete, inconsistent, redundant, invalid, or superseded statutes and laws or parts thereof from the official statutes.

Ruling of the Chair—A decision by the committee chair or the presiding officer concerning a question of order or procedure.

Secretary of the Senate—The constitutional officer designated by the Senate to record its proceedings and assist Senate officers, members, and staff in the detailed processes of lawmaking.

Sergeant at Arms—The Chamber officer charged with enforcing the directions of the President of the Senate or the Speaker of the House of Representatives as to security and decorum in the Chamber and committee meetings.

Session—The term is used to refer both to a particular day's meeting of the House or the Senate and to the entire period for which the Legislature has been convened. There are five types of session that may be convened: executive, extended, joint, organization, regular, and special.

Executive Session: A session excluding from the chamber or committee room all persons other than members and essential staff personnel. Section 4(b) of Article III of the State Constitution provides that the Senate may resolve itself



Glossary

into executive session for the sole purpose of considering a person's appointment to office or removal or suspension from office.

Extended Session: A regular or special session that has been prolonged beyond its allocated time in order to complete action on introduced legislation. Extension of a session requires a three-fifths vote by members in each house.

Joint Session: The annual session held the first day of a regular session in the House Chamber and attended by members of both houses, the Governor, the Cabinet, members of the Supreme Court, and invited guests. During this session, the Governor informs the Legislature concerning the condition of the state, proposes such reorganization of the executive department as will promote efficiency and economy, and recommends measures in the public interest. Joint sessions are also held on other occasions.

Organization Session: Section 3(a) of Article III of the State Constitution directs the Legislature to convene on the 14th day after the general election, solely for the purpose of organization and election of officers.

Regular Session: The annual session that begins on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in March of each odd-numbered year, and on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in March, or such other date as may be fixed by law, of each even-numbered year, for a period not to exceed 60 consecutive days. There is no limit on the subject matter that may be introduced in a regular session.

Special Session: Special sessions may be called by Proclamation of the Governor, by Joint Proclamation of the House Speaker and the Senate President, or by the members of the Legislature for the purpose of considering specific legislation and shall not exceed 20 consecutive days unless extended by a three-fifths vote of each house. In order for members of the Legislature to call a special session, three-fifths of the members of both houses must vote in favor of calling a special session.

Sine Die—Latin for without day. The motion to "adjourn *sine die*" is the last action of a session of the Legislature. Each house may adjourn on its own motion.

Speaker of the House of Representatives—The presiding officer of the House of Representatives. The Speaker of the House is elected by the full membership of the House of Representatives for a term of two years.

Technical Amendment—A non-substantive amendment used to correct errors such as spelling, numbering, incorrect coding, or directory language. The Rules Committee may make technical corrections of a purely non-substantive nature to legislative measures.



Glossary

Term Limits—The constitutional limits on the number of consecutive terms a member may serve in the same Chamber. Section 4(b) of Article VI of the State Constitution limits legislators to eight consecutive years.

Veto—An objection by the Governor to an act passed by the Legislature, which kills the act unless it is reenacted by two-thirds vote of both houses.

Vote—The formal expression of a house's decision on the final passage of legislation. The State Constitution requires that the vote of each member be entered in the *Journal*. The type of votes include:

Extraordinary Vote: A vote requiring more than a simple majority for passage. For example, it takes two-thirds of the members voting to override the Governor's veto or to move to waive the requirement for readings of a bill on separate days.

Favorable Vote: The necessary votes obtained in either house for a legislative matter to pass in that house.

Tie Vote: When an equal number of legislators vote for and against a bill, amendment, or motion. The measure dies, having failed to receive a majority vote.

Unfavorable Vote: When an issue fails to receive the necessary number of favorable votes.

Voice Vote: An orally expressed vote. When asked by the presiding officers, members respond "yea" or "nay." The presiding officer then decides which side prevailed. A voice vote is allowed on some legislative issues such as motions, amendments, and resolutions, but it cannot be used for passage of bills or joint resolutions.

Yield—When a legislator grants part of the allotted time for which he or she has the floor to another member, usually for questions or clarification of the yielding legislator's discussion.



TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE FLORIDA HOUSE

Chamber Tours and Mock Sessions



The Florida House of Representatives offers sponsored groups House Chamber tours and Mock Sessions. A Mock Session is a one-hour program which includes a Chamber Tour and is excellent for school groups who would like to experience how a bill becomes a law.

To schedule a tour of the House Chamber, please visit:

<http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/ChamberTours/WelcomePage.aspx>

**For detailed contact information and
other resources:**

The Florida House Website

<http://www.MyFloridaHouse.gov>

