

President Tom Lee

Elected to the Senate in 1996 during his first run for public office, Senator Tom Lee represents Senate District 10, which includes portions of Pasco County, Polk County, and Hillsborough County. In November 2004, after only eight years in the Senate, he was elected unanimously by his colleagues to serve as the 81st President of the Florida Senate.

President Lee brings to the Senate years of experience in the business world. He currently serves as Vice-President of Sabal Homes, a family-owned and operated homebuilding company. His legislative service reflects the same values that have made him successful in his company – that government should be run like a business with a solid financial plan and long-range fiscal goals. In keeping with those principles, he authored and successfully passed the “Government Efficiency Task Force” made up of public and private sector leaders, to review Florida’s service delivery systems and evaluate government programs to ensure we are making the best use of every taxpayer dollar.

President Lee is always mindful that the Senate’s actions today will impact all Floridians tomorrow. Accordingly, he successfully advocated for a comprehensive update of Florida’s Growth Management laws – the first such revision in over 20 years. Through his leadership Florida has modernized laws that encourages better planning for local communities and requires needed infrastructure to be in place before expansion is approved. Additionally, he directed more that \$8 billion over the next ten years to fund the backlog of need in Florida’s schools, roads, and water supplies.

President Lee has been a passionate advocate for transforming the way business is done in the halls of government. In 2003, President Lee boldly took on the challenge to bring political fundraising out of the shadows and into the sunshine by imposing a legislative rule requiring members of the Senate to post their political fundraising activity on a public website within ten business days.

In 2005, President Lee championed the passage of what has been widely characterized as one of the toughest ethics laws in the nation. Senate Bill 6B prohibits all gifts to legislators and

legislative staff and requires all lobbying firms to report compensation on a quarterly basis. The bill, which has been hailed as “ground-breaking” and “historic,” was the product of many months of research and negotiation. It reflects Senate President Lee’s belief that elected leaders should be accountable to the people, and that democracy endures when people have confidence in their government.

President Lee has long maintained a strong commitment to his local community. His involvement includes serving as the President of the Greater Brandon Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, serving as a trustee on the Brandon Regional Hospital Board of Directors, and serving as a member of the Hillsborough Community College Foundation Board of Directors.

Born in Texas, Senate President Lee moved with his family to Brandon, Florida, when he was 7 years old. He graduated from Brandon Senior High School, earned an Associate of Arts at Hillsborough Community College , and a Bachelor of Science at the University of Tampa. He currently resides in Brandon with his two young children, Regan and Brandon Lee.

January 2006