The Florida Senate

2004-2006

About the Front Cover:

An untitled work by Willie Daniels. Used with permission from the Geoff and Patti Cook collection of Highwaymen paintings.

Highwaymen is the name given to a group of African American artists who sold paintings, often from the trunks of their cars, on Florida's highways during the 1950s and 1960s. These artists painted images associated with Florida such as subtropical wilderness areas, waterscapes, backcountry marshes, and the Royal Poinciana Tree.

Images of Highwaymen paintings used in this handbook are used with permission from the Geoff and Patti Cook collection.

Included also in this handbook is a photographic tour of the Senate, showing the Senate at work.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Tom Lee

President of the Senate

Welcome to the Florida Senate – an institution with a long and distinguished reputation as the hall of deliberation and independence.

Our chamber is rich in history. Surrounding the Senators' desks are portraits of men and women who served as President of the Senate since Florida statehood in 1845. We debate important state issues under their watchful eyes.

In this Senate you are represented by fellow citizens: forty different men and women from every walk of life - teachers, lawyers, business owners, fathers and mothers; Democrats and Republicans - who have dedicated themselves to serving Florida. Though the backgrounds and experiences are varied, Senators meet on this floor as equals. While our debate may at times become passionate, there remains a strong sense of respect and collegiality for one another.

I am honored to lead this dedicated group of Senators for the next two years as we tackle important issues such as growth management, higher quality education, health care reform, and responsible budgeting practices.

It is my hope that you will become involved in the legislative process by contacting your Senator with suggestions and ideas. Your participation is vital to the success of our representative government.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to serve,

Tom Lee
President of the Florida Senate

THE FLORIDA SENATE

When the first Senate was convened on January 7, 1839 — six years before Florida became a state — no business could be transacted because only seven of the sixteen Senators were present. There was no quorum of Senators for three of the first four days, and it was not until the fifth day of the first session that Territorial Governor Richard Keith Call addressed the Senate and the House of Representatives in joint session.

Since the beginning days, the Senate has evolved into a highly organized, smoothly functioning legislative body that meets annually to conduct the people's business. The year-round staff conducts vital research and prepares for the legislative sessions.

"Once a Senator, always a Senator" is a catchy phrase of good fellowship that conveys something of the philosophy of the Senate.

The Florida Senate today has 40 members, each elected from a single-member district and each representing approximately 400,000 Florida citizens. Each Senator is elected for a four-year staggered term. He or she may be elected for more than one term, but may not seek reelection if he or she has served for eight consecutive years (see Article VI, Section 4, State Constitution). The Constitution of the State of Florida specifies that Senators must be at least 21 years of age, must be registered voters, must be residents of the district from which they are elected, and must have resided in Florida for two years prior to their election.

While members of the other branches of government work full time in public service, the Legislature maintains its identity as the "citizen" branch. Almost all of the Senators are occupied in a business or profession when they are not carrying out their legislative duties.

The 2004-2006 Senate membership includes 31 men and 9 women. There are 26 Republicans and 14 Democrats whose professions or occupations include law, medicine, banking, business, agriculture, and industry. The average Senator is about 51 years old, is married, and has children. Thirty-one of the Senators have college degrees and 15 have held other public offices before they were elected to the Senate. Thirty-four Senators served in the House of Representatives prior to their election to the Senate. Others have served in local governments. The Senate is presided over by a President elected by the members of the Senate. Also elected is the President Pro Tempore. The President for the 2004-2006 term is Senator Tom Lee from Brandon. The President Pro Tempore is Senator Charlie Clary from Destin.

Additional information on these officers and the other members of the Senate is contained on the following pages of this handbook. The handbook also further outlines and describes the Senate, its operations, and its relationship to the House of Representatives and the other two branches of Florida government.

PRESIDENT OF THE FLORIDA SENATE

Tom Lee

Republican, District 10

The Senate President is a constitutional officer who leads the Florida Senate for a two-year term. The President, who is elected by members of the Senate, manages the operations of the Senate and presides over its sessions. The President's many duties include: selecting a Majority Leader, appointing Senators to standing Senate committees, appointing committee chairs, and appointing citizens to a variety of boards and commissions.

Vice President, Sabal Homes of Florida, Inc. **born** January 21, 1962 in San Antonio, Texas. Moved to Florida in 1969 **education** Hillsborough Community College, A.A., 1982; University of Tampa, B.S., Business, 1984 **children** Regan, Brandon **legislative service** elected to the Senate in 1996, reelected subsequently **religious affiliation** Catholic **recreation** golf, travel **addresses** (district) P.O. Box 2743, Brandon 33509; 915 Oakfield Drive, Suite E, Brandon 33511 (Tallahassee) 312 Senate Office Building 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100; 409, The Capitol 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 **telephones** (district) 813/744-8683 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5072, 850/487-5229.

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

Charlie Clary

Republican, District 4

Architect **born** June 24, 1950 in Crestview **education** Auburn University: B.A., Architecture, Environmental Design, 1977 **wife** Beth Graham of Ft. Walton Beach **children** Joanna, Laura **legislative service** elected to the Senate in 1996, reelected subsequently; Majority Whip, 2001-2002 **military service** U.S. Navy: Submarine service, 4 years active and 2 years inactive **religious affiliation** Baptist **recreation** fishing, pen and ink sketching, photography **addresses** (district) 1241 Airport Road, Suite A, Destin 32541; FSU-Panama City Campus, 4750 Collegiate Drive, Panama City 32405 (Tallahassee) 404 Senate Office Building 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 **telephones** (district) 850/833-9159 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5009.

The role of the President Pro Tempore is defined by the President and the Senate Rules. Additionally, he or she may preside over sessions during the absence of the President.

MEMBERS OF THE FLORIDA SENATE

JD Alexander
Republican, District 17
Majority (Republican) Whip

Citrus grower **born** July 16, 1959 in Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. Moved to Florida in 1961 **education** University of Florida, B.S., Agriculture, 1981 **wife** Cindy Monroe of Augusta, Georgia **children** Britton, Keaton **legislative service** elected to the Senate in 2002, reelected subsequently; House of Representatives, 1998-2002 **historical** Ben Hill Griffin, Jr., grandfather, Florida House of Representatives 1956-1963, Senate 1965-1968 **religious affiliation** Presbyterian **addresses** (district) 122 East Tillman Ave., Suite 1, Lake Wales 33853 (Tallahassee) 405 Senate Office Building 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 **telephones** (district) 863/679-4411 or 800/444-9747 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5044.

Nancy Argenziano
Republican, District 3

State Senator **born** January 1, 1955 in Brooklyn, New York. Moved to Florida in 1971 **education** Broward Community College, pre-veterinary medicine; Gold Coast Real Estate School, Florida Real Estate License, 1986 **child** Joseph Hall **legislative service** elected to the Senate in 2002, reelected subsequently; House of Representatives, 1996-2002 **religious affiliation** Catholic **recreation** freshwater fishing, mountain climbing, hiking, kayaking **addresses** (district) 1120 North Suncoast Boulevard, Crystal River 34429 (Tallahassee) 311 Senate Office Building 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 **telephones** Statewide: 1/866/538-2831 (district) 352/860-5175 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5017.

Dave Aronberg
Democrat, District 27

Attorney **born** May 4, 1971 in Miami **education** Harvard University: B.A., 1993; J.D., 1996 **legislative service** elected to the Senate in 2002, reelected subsequently **religious affiliation** Jewish **recreation** golf, exercise, guitar, driving back and forth on State Road 80 **addresses** (district) 3900 Woodlake Boulevard, Suite 301, Greenacres 33463; 2120 Main Street, Suite 206, Fort Myers 33901 (Tallahassee) 220 Senate Office Building 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 **telephones** (district) 561/433-2627 or 239/338-2646 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5356.

Jeffrey H. (Jeff) Atwater
Republican, District 25

Banking **born** April 8, 1958 in St. Louis, Missouri. Moved to Florida in 1962 **education** University of Florida, Finance, 1981; M.B.A., 2002 **wife** Carole Funkhouser of Topeka, Kansas **children** Amy, John, Amanda, Courtney **legislative service** elected to the Senate in 2002, reelected subsequently; House of Representatives, 2000-2002 **historical** Napoleon B. Broward, Great-grandfather, Governor of Florida, 1905-1909 **religious affiliation** Catholic **recreation** golf, tennis **addresses** (district) 824 US Highway 1, #210, North Palm Beach 33408 (Tallahassee) 212 Senate Office Building 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 **telephones** (district) 561/625-5101 or 954/847-3518 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5100.

Carey Baker
Republican, District 20

Owner, The A.W. Peterson Gun Shop **born** March 16, 1963 in Eustis **education** Lake Sumter Community College, 1981-1982 **wife** Lori Matchett of Leesburg **children** Leighton Lee, Caroline Leigh **legislative service** elected to the Senate in 2004; House of Representatives, 2000-2004 **historical** Leighton L. Baker, father, Florida House of Representatives 1962-1964, was the first Republican elected to any office in Lake County since Reconstruction **military service** Florida Army National Guard 1981-present; Currently serving as a First Sergeant; Operation Iraqi Freedom Veteran **religious affiliation** Methodist **recreation** basketball, hunting, reading **addresses** (district) 301 West Ward Avenue, Eustis 32726-4024 (Tallahassee) 308 Senate Office Bulding 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 **telephones** (district) 352/742-6490 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5014.

Michael S. (Mike) Bennett
Republican, District 21

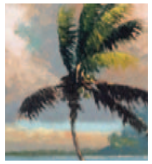
Electrical Contractor **born** January 1, 1945 in Brainard, Minnesota. Moved to Florida in 1955 **education** Drake University: B.A., 1975; M.B.A., 1976 **wife** Diane M. (Dee) of Des Moines, Iowa **legislative service** elected to the Senate in 2002, reelected subsequently; House of Representatives, 2000-2002 **military service** U.S. Navy, 1963-1967, 4 Tours Vietnam **recreation** fishing, golf **addresses** (district) Wildewood Professional Park, Suite 90, 3653 Cortez Road West, Bradenton 34210 (Tallahassee) 216 Senate Office Building 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 **telephones** (district) 941/727-6349 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5078.

Larcenia J. Bullard
Democrat, District 39

Housewife **born** July 21, 1947 in Allendale, South Carolina. Moved to Florida in 1980 **education** Nova University, M.S., 1991; Antioch University, B.A., 1973 **husband** State Representative Edward (Ed) Bullard of Nassau, Bahamas **children** Vincent, Dwight, Edwina **legislative service** elected to the Senate in 2002, reelected subsequently; House of Representatives, 1992-2000 **historical** First female to be elected in Florida House District 118 **religious affiliation** Baptist **recreation** reading, swimming, traveling, skating, pinochle, card playing, collecting butterfly-shaped objects **addresses** (district) 8603 S. Dixie Highway, Suite 304, Miami 33143 (Tallahassee) 218 Senate Office Building 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 **telephones** Statewide: 1/866/234-3734 (district) 305/668-7344 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5127.

Walter G. (Skip) Campbell, Jr.
Democrat, District 32
Minority (Democratic) Leader Pro Tempore

Attorney **born** November 12, 1948 in Rockaway Beach, New York. Moved to Florida in 1961 **education** St. John Vianney Seminary, A.A., 1968; University of Florida: B.A., 1970; J.D., 1973 **wife** Lynn Satin of Miami Beach **children** Christina, Daniel **legislative service** elected to the Senate in 1996, reelected subsequently; Minority (Democratic) Caucus Chair, 2002-2004; Democratic Whip, 1998 **religious affiliation** Catholic **recreation** golf, flying **addresses** (district) 10094 McNab Road, Tamarac 33321 (Tallahassee) 414 Senate Office Building 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 **telephones** (district) 954/346-2813 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5094.



Lisa Carlton
Republican, District 23

Co-owner/manager cattle and citrus business **born** May 7, 1964 in Sarasota County **education** Stetson University, B.A., Sociology, 1986; Mercer University School of Law, J.D., 1989 **husband** Robert (Rob) Robinson of Lake Wales **children** Carlton Elaine, Mabry Robert, Savell Louise **legislative service** elected to the Senate in 1998, reelected subsequently; House of Representatives, 1994-1998 **historical** Mabry Carlton, Jr., father, Sarasota County Commissioner, 1980-1989; Mabry Carlton, Sr., grandfather, Hardee County Tax Assessor for 18 years; Doyle E. Carlton, great-uncle, Florida Senator: 1917, 1919, Florida Governor: 1929-1933; Doyle E. Carlton, Jr., uncle, Florida Senator: 1953, 1955, 1957, 1959, 1965, 1966; Fran Carlton, cousin, Florida Representative: 1976-1988 **religious affiliation** Baptist **recreation** tennis **addresses** (district) 2127 S. Tamiami Trail, Osprey 34229-9695 (Tallahassee) 412 Senate Office Building 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 **telephones** District-wide: 1/888/349-3042 (district) 941/486-2032 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5081.

Lee Constantine
Republican, District 22

Real Estate Consultant and Broker **born** November 6, 1952 in Wilmington, Delaware. Moved to Florida in 1958 **education** University of Central Florida: B.A., Communications, with honors, 1974, Florida State Council of Student Body Presidents, Chair 1973-1974 **legislative service** elected to the Senate in 2000, reelected subsequently; House of Representatives, 1992-2000 **religious affiliation** Catholic **recreation** beach volleyball, snow skiing, charitable activities **addresses** (district) 378 Centerpointe Circle, Suite 1268, Altamonte Springs 32701-3442 (Tallahassee) 320 Senate Office Building 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 **telephones** (district) 407/331-9675 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5050.

Victor D. Crist
Republican, District 12

President of Metropolitan Communications Inc. **born** June 21, 1957 in New Orleans, Louisiana. Moved to Florida in 1968 **education** St. Petersburg Junior College, A.A., 1980; University of South Florida, B.A., Communications with Minor in Business Administration and graduate studies in Communication, 1980-1983 **legislative service** elected to the Senate in 2000, reelected subsequently; House of Representatives, 1992-2000 **historical** Son of a retired U.S. Military Officer; descendant of U.S. President Zachary Taylor **religious affiliation** Presbyterian **recreation** nonprofit organizations, performing arts, traveling, boating, water sports, bicycling, home projects, gardening, music **addresses** (district) 11961 N. Florida Avenue, Suite B, Tampa 33612 (Tallahassee) 208 Senate Office Building 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 **telephones** (district) 813/975-6658 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5068.

M. Mandy Dawson
Democrat, District 29
Minority (Democratic) Caucus Chair

Consultant/Legislator **born** July 18, 1958 in Fort Lauderdale **education** Florida A&M University; Barry University, B.S., Social Work **children** Shatereas, Colongie, Ashley; grandchild: Jalen Omari Weems **legislative service** elected to the Senate in 1998, reelected subsequently; House of Representatives: 1992-1998; Freshman Majority Whip, 1992 **historical** First woman elected to the Florida Senate from Broward County; First black woman elected to the Florida Legislature from Broward County **religious affiliation** Baptist **recreation** traveling, reading, swimming, writing short stories for children **addresses** (district) 33 N.E. 2nd Street, Suite 209, Ft. Lauderdale 33301-1033 (Tallahassee) 410 Senate Office Building 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 **telephones** Statewide: 1/877/632-9766 (district) 954/467-4317 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5112.

Alex Diaz de la Portilla
Republican, District 36

Political Consultant, Winning Strategies, Inc. **born** August 25, 1964 in Miami **education** University of Miami **wife** Claudia Davant of Columbia, South Carolina **legislative service** elected to the Senate January 25, 2000, reelected subsequently; President Pro Tempore, 2002-2004; House of Representatives, 1994-2000 **historical** Angel Pio de la Portilla, grandfather, (deceased), mentor and inspiration for social and political involvement; paternal great-grandfather served in Cuban Senate, while two of his sons served simultaneously in the Cuban House of Representatives; maternal great-grandfather served as Cuban Minister of Justice (Attorney General); long family history of political and civic involvement in Cuba and the United States, including brothers Renier, former Florida State Representative; and Miguel, former Miami-Dade County Commissioner **religious affiliation** Roman Catholic **recreation** reading, traveling, bicycling **addresses** (district) 1555 S.W. 8th Street, Miami 33135-5218 (Tallahassee) 314 Senate Office Building 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 **telephones** (district) 305/643-7200 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5109.

Paula Dockery
Republican, District 15

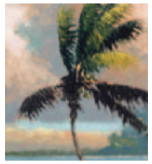
Reinsurance, citrus, and cattle **born** June 6, 1961 in Queens, New York. Moved to Florida in 1968 **education** University of Florida: B.A., Political Science, 1983; M.A., Mass Communications, 1987 **husband** C.C. (Doc) of North Carolina **legislative service** elected to the Senate in 2002, reelected subsequently; Majority (Republican) Whip, 2002-2004; House of Representatives: 1996-2002, appointed as Majority Whip for 1998-2000 legislative sessions **religious affiliation** Catholic **recreation** fishing, hiking, traveling, volleyball **addresses** (district) Post Office Box 2395, Lakeland 33806-2395 (Tallahassee) 326 Senate Office Building 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 **telephones** Statewide: 1/866/248-6487 (district) 863/413-2900 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5040.

Mike Fasano
Republican, District 11

Associate Vice President, Morgan Stanley/ Investments **born** June 11, 1958 in Long Island, New York. Moved to Florida in 1971 **education** St. Petersburg Junior College, 1987-1990 **legislative service** elected to the Senate in 2002, reelected subsequently; House of Representatives: 1994-2002; Majority Leader, 2000-2001; Majority Floor Leader, 1998-2000; Majority Whip, 1996-1998 **religious affiliation** Catholic **recreation** golf, tennis **addresses** (district) 8217 Massachusetts Avenue, New Port Richey 34653-3111 (Tallahassee) 310 Senate Office Building 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 **telephones** Statewide: 1/800/948-5885 (district) 727/848-5885 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5062.

Rudy Garcia
Republican, District 40

Businessman **born** April 15, 1963 in Miami **education** Miami-Dade Community College **legislative service** elected to the Senate in 2000, reelected subsequently; House of Representatives: 1984-1988, 1989-2000; Cuban-American Caucus, Chair, 1991-1992 **historical** Youngest elected member to the Florida House of Representatives, 1984 **religious affiliation** Catholic **recreation** fishing, sailing, diving, reading, cycling, motorcycling **addresses** (district) 7475 West Fourth Avenue, Hialeah 33014-4327 (Tallahassee) 302 Senate Office Building 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 **telephones** (district) 305/364-3191 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5106.



Steven A. Geller
Democrat, District 31

Attorney **born** November 4, 1958 in Bronx, New York. Moved to Florida in 1965 **education** Florida State University: B.A., 1979; J.D., 1982 **wife** Laurel Leffler of West Palm Beach **children** Marc Isaac, Benjamin Jacob **legislative service** elected to the Senate March 17, 1998, reelected subsequently; House of Representatives: 1988-1998; Deputy Majority Leader, 1992 **religious affiliation** Jewish **addresses** (district) 400 South Federal Highway, Suite 204, Hallandale Beach 33009 (Tallahassee) 406 Senate Office Building 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 **telephones** (district) 954/893-5089 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5097.

Mike Haridopolos
Republican, District 26

College Professor, Author **born** March 15, 1970 in Huntington, New York. Moved to Florida in 1990 **education** Stetson University, B.A., 1992; University of Arkansas, M.A., 1993 **wife** Stephanie Bressan, M.D., of Ft. Lauderdale **children** Alexis, Hayden **legislative service** elected to the Senate March 25, 2003; House of Representatives, 2000-2003 **religious affiliation** Baptist **recreation** golf, NASCAR **addresses** (district) 2955 Pineda Causeway, Suite 215, Melbourne 32940-7307 (Tallahassee) 318 Senate Office Building 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 **telephones** (district) 321/752-3131 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5056.

Anthony C. (Tony) Hill, Sr.
Democrat, District 1
Minority (Democratic) Lead Whip

Service Employees International Union (SEIU) 1199/Florida Community Organizer **born** September 9, 1957 in Jacksonville **education** Lincoln University, 1975-1977; Edward Waters College, 1995, Honorary Doctorate; National Labor College, 2001, B.A., Labor Studies **children** Anthony C. Jr., Cicely, Tiffany **legislative service** elected to the Senate in 2002, reelected subsequently; Minority (Democratic) Floor Leader, 2002-2004; House of Representatives, 1992-2000 **military service** U.S. Army, 1977-1983, Baumholder, West Germany, two honorable discharges **religious affiliation** Baptist **recreation** youth track coach, track **addresses** (district) 5600 New Kings Road, Suite #5, Jacksonville 32209-2146 (Tallahassee) 213 Senate Office Building 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 **telephones** Statewide: 1/866/867-0289 (district) 904/924-1646 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5024.

Dennis L. Jones, D.C.
Republican, District 13

Chiropractic Physician **born** April 5, 1941 in Erie, Pennsylvania. Moved to Florida in 1950 **education** St. Petersburg Junior College; Lincoln Chiropractic College, D.C., 1963 **wife** Susan Davis, Ph.D., of Brandon **children** Rod, D.C., Jill (deceased); grandchildren: Jacob, Jaxon **legislative service** elected to the Senate in 2002, reelected subsequently; Majority (Republican) Leader, 2002-2004; House of Representatives: 1978-2000; Speaker Pro Tempore, 1998-2000 **historical** Aaron Arnold, great-great-grandfather, Circuit Judge of Kane County, Pennsylvania, 1840s **religious affiliation** Methodist **recreation** boating, fishing, traveling **addresses** (district) 8940 Seminole Boulevard, Seminole 33772 (Tallahassee) 222 Senate Office Building 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 **telephones** (district) 727/549-6411 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5065.

James E. (Jim) King, Jr.
Republican, District 8

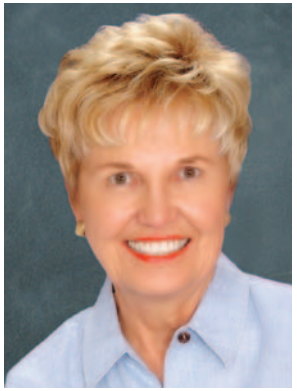
Owner, Personnel Recruiting, Temporary Help, Employee Leasing, Consulting, and Testing Firms **born** October 30, 1939 in Brooklyn, New York. Moved to Florida in 1945 **education** St. Petersburg Junior College, A.A., 1959; Florida State University: B.S.B.A., 1961; M.B.A., 1962 **wife** Linda Braddock of Orange Park **children** Monta Michele, Laurie Anne **legislative service** elected to the Senate March 9, 1999, reelected subsequently; Senate President, 2002-2004; Majority Leader, 2000-2002; House of Representatives: 1986-1999, Majority Leader, 1996-1998; Minority Floor Whip, 1988-1990; Duval Delegation Chair, 1992 **military service** U.S. Coast Guard, 1962-1968 **religious affiliation** Episcopal **recreation** scuba diving, boating, sport fishing, and gardening **addresses** (district) Suite 108, 9485 Regency Square Boulevard, Jacksonville 32225-8145 (Tallahassee) 416 Senate Office Building 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 **telephones** (district) 904/727-3600 or 888/861-9761 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5030.

Ron Klein
Democrat, District 30

Attorney **born** July 10, 1957 in Cleveland, Ohio. Moved to Florida in 1985 **education** Ohio State University: B.A., Political Science, 1979; Case Western Reserve University, J.D., 1982 **wife** Dori Dragin of Cleveland, Ohio **children** Brian, Lauren **legislative service** elected to the Senate in 1996, reelected subsequently; Minority (Democratic) Leader, 2002-2004; Minority (Democratic) Whip, 1998; House of Representatives, 1992-1996 **religious affiliation** Jewish **recreation** tennis, racquetball, water sports, camping **addresses** (district) 3333 South Congress Avenue, Suite 305A, Delray Beach 33445 (Tallahassee) 420 Senate Office Building 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 **telephones** (district) 561/274-4777 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5091.

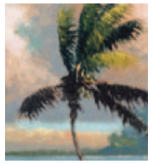
Alfred (Al) Lawson, Jr.
Democrat, District 6

Insurance Agent; President, Lawson and Associates, Inc. (Marketing Firm) **born** September 21, 1948 in Tallahassee **education** Florida A&M University, B.S., 1970, Student Government; Florida State University, M.S.P.A., 1973 **wife** Delores J. Brooks of Tallahassee **children** Alfred J. III, Shani A. **legislative service** elected to the Senate in 2000, reelected subsequently; House of Representatives, 1982-2000 **religious affiliation** Episcopal **recreation** basketball, reading, gardening **addresses** (district) 20 East Washington Street, Suite E, Quincy 32351 (Tallahassee) 210 Senate Office Building 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 **telephones** (district) 850/921-6620, 850/921-8446 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5004.



Evelyn J. Lynn
Republican, District 7

Legislator, Consultant, Retired Educator **born** February 2 in Astoria, New York. Moved to Florida in 1960 **education** Queens College, B.A.; Stetson University, M.A.; University of Florida, Ed.D. **children** Karen Jans, Robert Grimm; grandchild: Sara Jans **legislative service** elected to the Senate in 2002, reelected subsequently; House of Representatives, 1994-2002 **religious affiliation** Methodist **recreation** travel, watercolor, reading **addresses** (district) 140 South Atlantic Ave., #201, Ormond Beach 32176 (Tallahassee) 324 Senate Office Building 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 **telephones** Statewide: 1/866/831-2665 (district) 386/676-4000 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5033.



Gwen Margolis
Democrat, District 35
Minority (Democratic) Caucus Policy Committee Co-Chair

Realtor and Developer **born** October 4, 1934 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Moved to Florida in 1960 **education** Temple University, 1952-1954; University of Tampa; Dade Junior College, special real estate and appraisal courses **children** Edward, Ira, Karen, Robin; grandchildren: Sarah, Jeffery, Jordan, Leah, Jarred, Daniel, Ariel **legislative service** elected to the Senate, 1980-1992, Senate President, 1990-1992; reelected to the Senate in 2002, reelected subsequently; House of Representatives, 1974-1980 **historical** First woman to serve as President of the Florida Senate **religious affiliation** Jewish **addresses** (district) 1005 Kane Concourse, Suite 205, Bay Harbor Island 33154 (Tallahassee) 214 Senate Office Building 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 **telephones** (district) 305/993-3632 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5121.

Lesley (Les) Miller, Jr.
Democrat, District 18
Minority (Democratic) Leader

Executive, Tampa General Hospital **born** April 21, 1951 in Tampa **education** University of South Florida, B.A., 1978, President of Student Government, student on Florida Board of Regents **wife** Gwendolyn M. (Gwen) Martin of Tampa **children** Le'Jean M., Lesley J. III, Arthur, Kent **legislative service** elected to the Senate in 2000, reelected subsequently; Minority (Democratic) Leader Pro Tempore, 2002-2004; Democratic Whip, 2001-2002; House of Representatives: 1992-2000; Democratic Leader, 1998-2000 **military service** U.S. Air Force, 1971-1974 **religious affiliation** Baptist **recreation** reading, singing, traveling **addresses** (district) P.O. Box 5993, Tampa 33675-5993; 2109 Palm Avenue, Suite 302, Tampa 33605-3620 (Tallahassee) 228 Senate Office Building 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 **telephones** Statewide: 1/866/254-6892 (district) 813/272-2831 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5059.

Durell Peaden, Jr.
Republican, District 2

Physician (retired) **born** August 24, 1945 in DeFuniak Springs **education** Tulane University, New Orleans, B.A., 1968; Universidad Autonoma de Guadalajara, Mexico, M.D., 1973; Jones School of Law at Faulkner University, Montgomery, J.D., 1987 **wife** Nancy Green of DeFuniak Springs **children** Durell III (Trey), Tyler, Taylen **legislative service** elected to the Senate in 2000, reelected subsequently; House of Representatives, 1994-2000 **historical** John Wilkinson, cousin: Legislative Council House, Santa Rosa, 1844: House, Santa Rosa, 1848-1850, 1860. John Wilkinson, Jr., cousin: House, Santa Rosa, 1885: Senate, District 1, 1889. A.J. Peaden, cousin: House, Santa Rosa, 1905, 1907, 1909; R.W. Peaden, cousin, House, District 2, 1972-1976; John W. Kennedy, grandfather, Okaloosa County Commission Chair **religious affiliation** Methodist **addresses** (district) 598 North Ferdon Boulevard, Crestview 32536-2753; 744 E. Burgess Road, Unit E-103, Pensacola 32504 (Tallahassee) 306 Senate Office Building 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 **telephones** (district) 850/689-0556, 850/484-9898 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5000.

Bill Posey
Republican, District 24

Realtor **born** December 18, 1947 in Washington, D.C. Moved to Florida in 1956 **education** Brevard Community College, A.A., 1969 **wife** Katie Ingram of Rockledge **children** Pam, Cathi; grandchildren: Billy Carson, Clarke Carson, Katie Householder **legislative service** elected to the Senate in 2000, reelected subsequently; House of Representatives, 1992-2000 **religious affiliation** Methodist **recreation** stock-car racing, coaching youth athletics **addresses** (district) 1802 South Fiske Boulevard, Suite 108, Rockledge 32955-3007 (Tallahassee) 316 Senate Office Building 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 **telephones** (district) 321/690-3484 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5053.

Ken Pruitt
Republican, District 28

Real Estate; State Certified Water Well Contractor **born** January 24, 1957 in Miami **education** Indian River Community College, Water and Wastewater Treatment Certification, 1984; TREEO Center - University of Florida, Water Distribution Certification, 1987 **wife** Aileen Kelly **children** Kenneth Jr., Steven, Ashley, Michelle, Mark **legislative service** elected to the Senate in 2000, reelected subsequently; House of Representatives, 1990-2000 **religious affiliation** Disciples of Christ **recreation** Civil War history **addresses** (district) 1850 SW Fountainview Boulevard, Suite 200, Port St. Lucie 34986-3443 (Tallahassee) 400 Senate Office Building 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 **telephones** (district) 772/344-1140 or 561/747-6922 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5088

Nan Rich
Democrat, District 34

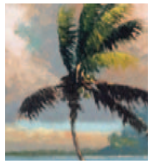
Legislator **born** February 9, 1942 in New York, New York **education** University of Florida 1959-1961 **husband** David of Newark, New Jersey **children** Laurie Rich Levinson, Larry, Marcie, Jennifer **legislative service** elected to the Senate in 2004; House of Representatives, 2000-2004 **religious affiliation** Jewish **recreation** hiking, horseback riding, travel, cooking **addresses** (district) 777 Sawgrass Corporate Parkway, Sunrise 33325-6256 (Tallahassee) 226 Senate Office Building 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 **telephones** (district) 954/747-7933 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5103.

Burt L. Saunders
Republican, District 37

Attorney, of Counsel, Gray Robinson, P.A. **born** November 7, 1948 in Hampton, Virginia. Moved to Florida in 1978 **education** University of South Florida, B.A., Physics, 1969-1972; William and Mary Law School, J.D., 1975; University of Miami Law School, LL.M., Ocean and Coastal Law, 1978-1979 **wife** Dr. Lillian Love of Whaleyville, Maryland **children** Frank, Jonathan, Matthew **legislative service** elected to the Senate in 1998, reelected subsequently; House of Representatives, 1994-1998 **religious affiliation** Jewish **recreation** backpacking, snow skiing, hiking **addresses** (district) 3301 E. Tamiami Trail, Administration Building, Suite 304, Naples 34112-4902 (Tallahassee) 418 Senate Office Building 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 **telephones** (district) 239/417-6220 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5124.

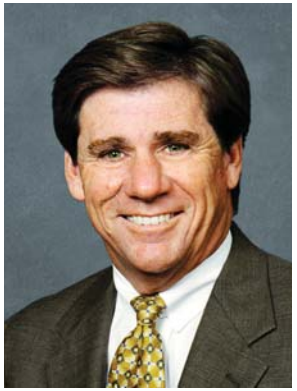
Jim Sebesta
Republican, District 16
Majority (Republican) Whip

Real Estate/Broker/Developer **born** August 24, 1935 in Pontiac, Illinois. Moved to Florida in 1959 **education** Loyola University, Chicago, B.Sc.; DePaul University, M.B.A., Florida Metropolitan University, Doctor of Humane Letters, Honorary Ph.D., 2001 **wife** Jean **children** Jim, Anne Comber, Steve, Mike, Bob, John **legislative service** elected to the Senate in 1998, reelected subsequently; Majority (Republican) Whip, 2002-2004 **military service** U.S. Navy Reserve (8 years) **religious affiliation** Catholic **recreation** family time, fishing, golf **addresses** (district) Gateway Corporate Center, 9887 4th Street North, Suite 319, St. Petersburg 33702 (Tallahassee) 322 Senate Office Building 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 **telephones** Hillsborough County: 813/221-6044 (district) 727/563-0377 or 727/217-7088 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5075.



Gary Siplin
Democrat, District 19

Attorney **born** October 21, 1954 in Orlando **education** Johnson C. Smith University, B.A., Political Science; University of Pittsburgh, M.A., Public & International Affairs; Duquesne University, J.D. **wife** Victoria Pierre **children** Gary Jr., Angelika, Joshua, Jacobe **legislative service** elected to the Senate in 2002, reelected subsequently; House of Representatives, 2000-2002 **religious affiliation** Baptist **recreation** sports, dancing **addresses** (district) 1436 North Pine Hills Road, Orlando 32808 (Tallahassee) 205 Senate Office Building 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 **telephones** (district) 407/297-2071 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5190.



Rod Smith
Democrat, District 14
Minority (Democratic) Caucus Policy Committee Co-Chair

Attorney **born** November 15, 1949 in Southwest City, Missouri. Moved to Florida in 1954 **education** University of Tulsa, B.A., Political Science, 1971; University of Florida, College of Law, J.D., with honors, 1974 **wife** DeeDee Cain of Alachua **children** Alison, Jesse, Dylan **legislative service** elected to the Senate in 2000, reelected subsequently; Minority (Democratic) Caucus Policy Committee Co-Chair, 2002-2004 **religious affiliation** Baptist **recreation** golfing, fishing, hunting **addresses** (district) 4131 Northwest 28th Lane, Suite 4, Gainesville 32606 (Tallahassee) 202 Senate Office Building 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 **telephones** District-wide: 1/866/778-2300 (district) 352/375-3555 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5020.

J. Alex Villalobos
Republican, District 38

Attorney **born** November 2, 1963 in Miami **education** University of Miami, B.A., 1985; Florida State University, J.D., 1988 **wife** Barbara **child** Katharine **legislative service** elected to the Senate in 2000, relected subsequently; Majority (Republican) Leader, 2004-May 1, 2006; Majority (Republican) Whip, 2001-2002; House of Representatives: 1992-2000; Cuban-American Caucus Chair, 1995-1996, Vice Chair 1993-1994 **religious affiliation** Catholic **recreation** tae kwon do, fishing, hunting, skiing **addresses** (district) 2350 Coral Way, Suite 202-A, Miami 33145-3500 (Tallahassee) 330 Senate Office Building 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 **telephones** (district) 305/222-4160 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5130.

Daniel Webster
Republican, District 9
Majority (Republican) Leader

Owner, Webster Air Conditioning and Heating, Inc. **born** April 27, 1949 in Charleston, West Virginia. Moved to Florida in 1956 **education** Georgia Tech, B.S.E.E., 1971 **wife** Sandy Jordan of Orlando **children** David Lee, Brent Alan, Jordan Daniel, Elizabeth Anne, John Elliott, Victoria Suzanna **legislative service** elected to the Senate in 1998, reelected subsequently; House of Representatives, 1980-1998: Minority Floor Leader, 1982-1984; Minority Whip, 1988-1990; Republican Leader Pro Tempore, 1992-1994; Republican Leader, 1994-1996; Speaker of the House of Representatives, 1996-1998 **religious affiliation** Baptist **addresses** (district) 315 S. Dillard Street, Winter Garden 34787 (Tallahassee) 408 Senate Office Building 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 **telephones** (district) 407/656-0066 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5047.

Frederica S. Wilson
Democrat, District 33
Minority (Democratic) Whip

Executive Director, Office of Alternative Education and Dropout Prevention, Miami-Dade County Schools **born** November 5, 1942 in Miami **education** Fisk University, B.S., 1963; University of Miami, Master's Degree **children** Mrs. Nicole St. Hilaire, Lakesha, Paul **legislative service** elected to the Senate in 2002, reelected subsequently; Minority (Democratic) Whip, 2002-2004; House of Representatives, 1998-2002; **religious affiliation** Episcopal **addresses** (district) 18425 N.W. 2nd Avenue, Suite 310, Miami 33169 (Tallahassee) 224 Senate Office Building 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 **telephones** (district) 305/654-7150 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5116.

Stephen R. Wise
Republican, District 5

Educator **born** December 11, 1941 in Canton, Ohio. Moved to Florida in 1959 **education** Florida Southern College, B.S., 1963; Middle Tennessee State University, M.Ed., 1968; University of Alabama, Ed.D., 1970 **wife** Kathryn (Kathy) Beeman of Melbourne **children** Kelly Anne Legg, Tara Elizabeth Thompson **legislative service** elected to the Senate September 25, 2001, reelected subsequently; House of Representatives, 1988-2000 **religious affiliation** Baptist **recreation** swimming, tennis **addresses** (district) 3520-2 Blanding Boulevard, Jacksonville 32210-5253; (Tallahassee) 413 Senate Office Building 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 **telephones** Statewide: 1/866/365-2124 (district) 904/573-4900, 904/573-4901 (Tallahassee) 850/487-5027.

SECRETARY OF THE SENATE

At its organization session every two years, the Senate elects a Secretary of the Senate pursuant to the Constitution of the State of Florida. This non-member constitutional officer publishes the journal and the calendar, keeps all Senate records, and authenticates each act and resolution passed by the Senate.

Other operations within the Secretary's Office include: bill and amendment filing, duplication and distribution of documents, recording of actions taken by the Senate, and the performance of support services for the Senate. Special chamber computer programs, such as the vote system and the Chamber and Committee Automation System, are designed and operated by the Secretary's Office.

As liaison to the Office of Legislative Information Technology Services, the Secretary serves as the Senate coordinator for the development and maintenance of computer applications used by Senate staff as well as for investment in and allocation of hardware and software resources. The Secretary's Office maintains Senate information included on the Florida Senate's official website and on the Legislature's Online Sunshine homepage.

The Secretary speaks to various visiting civic and student groups during the year. The Secretary's Office hosts numerous mock sessions throughout each year. Staff and facilities are provided for the YMCA Youth Legislature, Boys State, Girls State, the Silver-Haired Legislature, and others.

Faye W. Blanton
Secretary of the Senate

born November 9, 1946 in Tallahassee **education** Jones Business College, Jacksonville, 1967 **Married** Edwin F. "Ed" Blanton of St. Petersburg **children** Wade, Doug and Laurel McDaniel; Garrett and Travis Blanton; **grandchildren** Zachary Gillis; Davis and Taylor McDaniel; Megan and Garrett Blanton, Jr.; and Kai Blanton **legislative service** elected Secretary of the Florida Senate, November 1996, and reelected subsequently. Secretary and Parliamentarian of the 1997-1998 Florida Constitution Revision Commission; Assistant Secretary of the Senate, 1984-1996; Assistant to the Secretary, 1974-1984; staff, the 1977-1978 Florida Constitution Revision Commission; Assistant to the Director of Management and Staff, 1972-1974; staff assistant in the Governmental Efficiency Committee, 1970-1972; lecturer on the legislative process; facilitator for mock sessions for civic, student, international, private groups; an Advisor and Counselor for Girls State, Boys State, the YMCA Youth Legislature, and the Silver-Haired Legislature **highlights** First woman elected Secretary of the Florida Senate for a two-year term **religious affiliation** Baptist **recreation** gardening, walking, reading **address** Suite 405, The Capitol 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 **telephone** 850/487-5270.

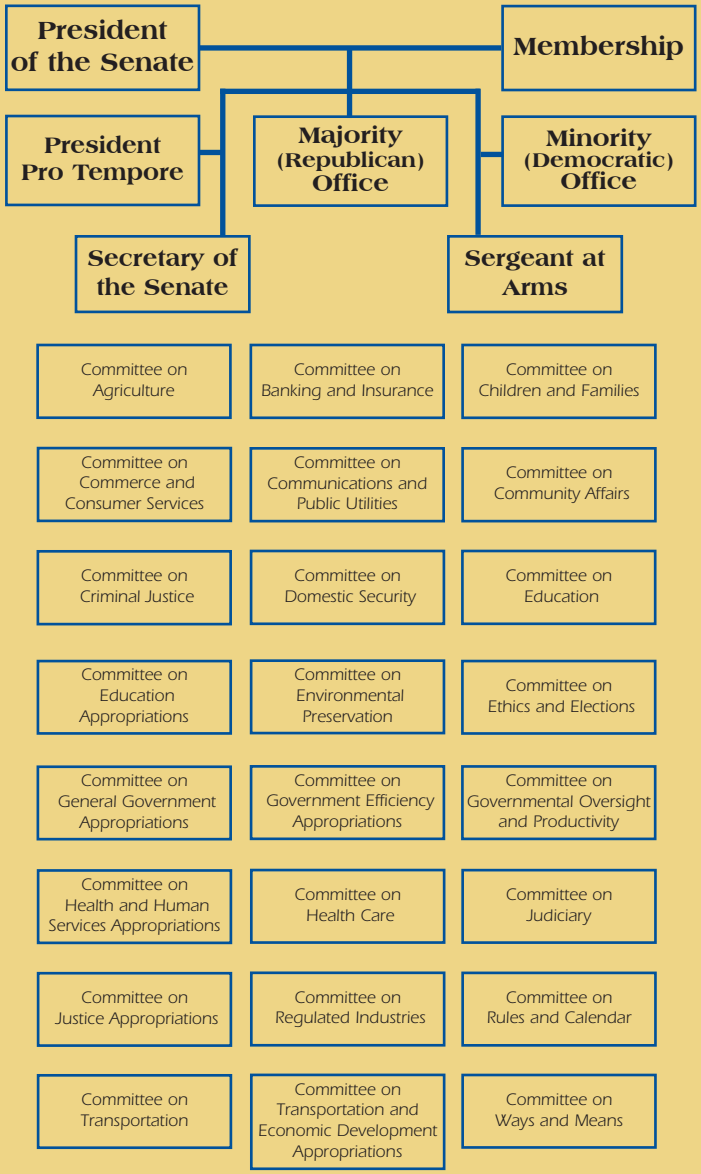
SERGEANT AT ARMS

The President appoints a Sergeant at Arms who attends the Senate during its sessions; maintains order under the direction of the President; executes the commands of and serves Senate process as directed by the President of the Senate and by the Senate; has charge of all property of the Senate to the extent as is delegated to the Sergeant at Arms by the President; has general charge of the security of the Chamber, committee rooms, and gallery of the Senate and maintains order therein in cooperation with the Division of Capitol Police; and has general supervision of the doorkeepers and maintenance staff.

Donald Severance
Senate Sergeant at Arms

born September 24, 1954 in Live Oak **education** Suwanee High School; Tallahassee Community College; Lively Law Enforcement Academy; U.S. Marshal's State and Local Court; Non-commissioned Officer's School/Florida National Guard **wife** Sherry Gregg of Tallahassee **child** Chelsey **legislative service** Sergeant at Arms, 1999-present; Senate Deputy Sergeant at Arms, 1998-1999; National Legislative Services and Security Association, 1994-present; NLSSA 3rd Trustee, 1999-present; NLSSA Chairman, Region 4, 1997-1999 **military service** Florida National Guard, 1972-1994 **religious affiliation** Baptist **recreation** hunting, fishing, softball **address** Suite 403, The Capitol 404 South Monroe Street, 32399-1100 **telephone** 850/487-5224.

SENATE ORGANIZATION



THE FLORIDA SENATE
2004-2006

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

TOM LEE

The Secretary's Desk

Lee (R)
District 10
Brandon
President

King (R)
District 8
Jacksonville

Lawson (D)
District 6
Tallahassee

Peaden (R)
District 2
Crestview

Clary (R)
District 4
Destin
President Pro Tempore

Pruitt (R)
District 28
Port St. Lucie
Rules Chair

Hill (D)
District 1
Jacksonville

Argenziano (R)
District 3
Crystal River

Wise (R)
District 5
Jacksonville

Lynn (R)
District 7
Ormond Beach

Baker (R)
District 20
Eustis

Sebesta (R)
District 16
St. Petersburg

Smith (D)
District 14
Gainesville

Crist (R)
District 12
Tampa

Miller (D)
District 18
Tampa
Minority Leader

Webster (R)
District 9
Winter Garden
Majority Leader

Villalobos (R)
District 38
Miami

Fasano (R)
District 11
New Port Richey

Jones (R)
District 13
Seminole

Dockery (R)
District 15
Lakeland

Campbell (D)
District 32
Tamarac

Klein (D)
District 30
Delray Beach

Haridopolos (R)
District 26
Melbourne

Posey (R)
District 24
Rockledge

Constantine (R)
District 22
Altamonte Springs

Alexander (R)
District 17
Winter Haven

Siplin (D)
District 19
Orlando

Bennett (R)
District 21
Bradenton

Carlton (R)
District 23
Osprey

Atwater (R)
District 25
Palm Beach Gardens

Garcia (R)
District 40
Hialeah

Bullard (D)
District 39
Miami

Saunders (R)
District 37
Naples

Diaz de la Portilla (R)
District 36
Miami

Rich (D)
District 34
Weston

Aronberg (D)
District 27
Greenacres

Dawson (D)
District 29
Ft. Lauderdale

Geller (D)
District 31
Hallandale Beach

Wilson (D)
District 33
Miami

Margolis (D)
District 35
Miami Beach

SECRETARY OF THE SENATE

Faye W. Blanton

SERGEANT AT ARMS

Donald Severance

CONTACTING YOUR SENATOR

Your Senator is interested in hearing your opinions concerning the issues on which he or she will vote. This section will provide you with guidelines on how to approach legislators and how best to express your ideas so that they will be read, or listened to, and understood.

Most people communicate with their Senator by letter (increasingly by email), but you can also try to speak directly with him or her by telephone or even in person. No matter which method you choose, the same guidelines apply:

- Know your subject matter well, and have data to back up your point of view.
- Inform yourself about the full name and address of your Senator and about the positions he or she has taken on the issues that concern you.
- Do not use form letters; instead, if you are working from a form letter, rewrite the essential points in your own words.
- If you represent others from your community, formally or even informally, indicate that to the Senator.
- Be brief and to-the-point in your presentation. Attach supporting data or documents and refer to them in your cover letter.
- Be courteous.
- Be completely fair in your presentation of the facts.
- If you are interested in a specific bill, refer to that bill by its number. You can find out this information by accessing the Senate's homepage at www.flsenate.gov or by calling the Division of Legislative Information Services at 1-800-342-1827. Note that Senate Bills use even numbers and House Bills use odd numbers.
- Always provide your address (street and/or email) and your telephone number so that your Senator or his or her staff assistants can contact you for further data or discussion.
- If you are going to meet personally with your Senator, prepare carefully for the meeting and be on time. If he or she asks you for more information than you have brought with you, be prompt in responding to the request.

You can build an effective relationship with your Senator on a series of issues and make considerable contributions to the process of creating public policy. Your Senator will be grateful for your participation.

COMMITTEE TESTIMONY

You may want to keep track of your bills as they proceed through the legislative process. To find out which committees your bills have been assigned to, access the Florida Senate's homepage (www.flsenate.gov), contact your Senator's office, or call the Division of Legislative Information Services (1-800-342-1827).

You may have an opportunity to appear before a committee that is hearing the bill by contacting the committee as soon as the bill has been referred to the committee. The committee's chair controls his or her committee's agenda and schedules the bills.

If your bill is scheduled for a public hearing, keep these guidelines in mind:

- When signing up to testify on a bill, the committee may require you to present written testimony for distribution to committee members and staff. Written testimony should be submitted to the appropriate office at least 24 hours prior to the scheduled committee hearing.
- Generally, each committee chair follows the order of the bills listed on the agenda.
- Prepare your oral testimony in advance and be brief unless asked to elaborate.
- Be specific and to-the-point regarding the bill you are testifying on.
- Be prepared to answer questions from committee members on your testimony or on the position you have taken on each bill. If you do not know the answer to a question, just say so.

THE SENATE CHAMBER

The Senate Chamber, also known as the "floor," is the room on the fourth floor of the Capitol where Senators debate the merits of proposed legislation. The current chamber is the fourth used since the first session of the Senate was called to order in 1839. The first session held in this chamber occurred in 1978.

On the floor above the chamber is the gallery. Citizens may sit in the gallery to observe the Senate in session. From the gallery, attention is drawn to the rostrum where the President is presiding.

The President occupies the "chair," pacing the flow of legislation, deciding who will speak, and ruling on parliamentary disputes. The President may call on other Senators to preside while he or she works out the details of legislative proposals.

The portraits hanging below the gallery commemorate past Presidents of the Senate. After each President's term, a portrait is painted and hung in this area. The portraits are arranged in chronological order with the most recent one on the presiding officer's right. Each time the newest one is added, the oldest one is taken down and moved to the Historic Capitol, keeping 100 years of past Presidents on display in the "new" chamber. The Chamber and Committee Automation System, designed to display amendments and information on bills, allows Senators the flexibility of accessing legislative information from their Tallahassee offices and in the Senate Chamber on their laptop computers.

In front of the President's rostrum is the Secretary's "desk," which is staffed by the Secretary of the Senate. Legislative business is not properly before the Senate until it is "on the desk." Clerks at this desk read the bills and

amendments before the body and record Senate actions. These actions are published in the Journal, the official record of Senate proceedings. A Senator who wishes to "approach the well" to make a speech speaks from one of the reading podiums at the Secretary's desk.

Voting boards on each side of the chamber record a member's green "yea" or red "nay" vote. (The amber lights you see next to some names indicate that the Senator wants a "page" to deliver a message or retrieve a file from his or her office.) The voting boards also display the number of the bill or amendment being debated and other information related to the proceedings. Electronic voting was first used in the Senate in 1966, and now nearly all votes are recorded electronically.

The seating arrangement in the chamber is determined by the President. At one time, the chamber desk was a member's only desk. Members' secretaries sat beside them in the chamber, even during sessions. Now adequate office space is provided for the Senators and their staff; telephones at each chamber desk provide direct communication with the staff. Today, only members of the Senate and designated staff members are allowed in the chamber while the Senate is in session. Certain present and past state officials and guests invited by the President may also enter the chamber during a session. All men in the chamber must wear coats and ties.

Senators are addressed by their district number when they are recognized to speak. Custom decrees that a Senator may not be addressed as a gentleman or lady. He or she is "the Senator from the fifth," for example, but never "the gentleman or lady from the fifth." During debate, the members are always formally addressed as "Senator," not by their given names.

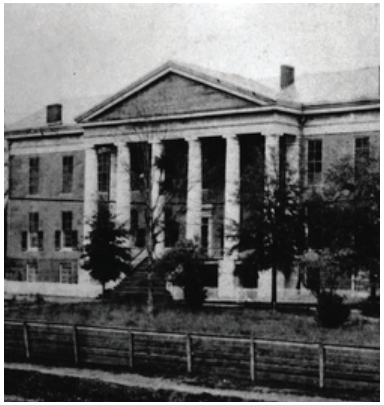
Just above the main entrance is the press gallery, where members of Florida's press corps report Senate actions. The remainder of the gallery is open to the public at all sessions, except that a portion of the gallery is usually reserved for the Senators' families and other sections are often reserved for visiting students.

Robotic cameras from the Florida Channel are positioned in the chamber to provide live, televised coverage of all Senate sessions. Each weekday evening during the session, The Florida Channel and Florida's public television affiliates broadcast "Capitol Update," a live half-hour news program explaining and analyzing each day's most significant legislative developments. The broadcasts are funded by the Legislature, but all editorial content is determined by the group of professional journalists who produce the programs. Florida's legislative telecasts were used as a model for a similar system installed in 1979 in the U.S. House of Representatives. In addition, live and unedited feeds of some legislative events can be found at www.wfsu.org.

PRESIDENTS OF THE SENATE

1824 Capitol

1839 Capitol



1845 Capitol

Session	President
Statehood	
1845	James A. Berthelot
1846	Dennitt H. Mays
1847	Daniel G. McLean
1848-1849	Erasmus D. Tracy
1850-1853	Robert J. Floyd
1854-1855	Hamlin V. Snell
1856	Philip Dell
1858-1859	John Finlayson
1860-1861	Thomas Jefferson Eppes
1862-1863	Enoch J. Vann
1864	Abraham K. Allison
From 1865 through 1887, the Lt. Governor served as President.	
1865-1868	William W. J. Kelly
1868-1870	William H. Gleason
1870	Edmund C. Weeks
1871-1873	Samuel T. Day
1873-1874	Marcellus L. Stearns
1877-1879	Noble A. Hull
1881-1885	L.W. Bethel
1885-1887	Milton Mabry

1891 Capitol

1910 Capitol

1924 Capitol

Session	President
1889*	Patrick Houstoun
1889	Joseph B. Wall
1891	Jefferson B. Browne
1893	William H. Reynolds
1895	Frederick T. Myers
1897	Charles J. Perrenot
1899	Frank Adams
1901	Thomas Palmer
1903	Frank Adams
1905	Park M. Trammell
1907	W. Hunt Harris
1909	Frederick M. Hudson
1911-1912	Frederick P. Cone
1913	Herbert J. Drane
1915	Charles E. Davis
1917-1918	John B. Johnson
1919	James E. Calkins
1921	William A. MacWilliams
1923	Theo. T. Turnbull

* Extraordinary Session

1936 Capitol

1950 Capitol

1978 Capitol

Session	President
1925	John S. Taylor
1927	Samuel W. Anderson
1929	Jesse J. Parrish
1931	Patrick C. Whitaker
1933	Truman G. Futch
1935	William C. Hodges
1937	D. Stuart Gillis
1939	J. Turner Butler
1941	John R. Beacham
1943	Philip D. Beall
1945	Walter W. Rose
1947-1948	Scott Dilworth Clarke
1949	Newman C. Brackin
1951	Wallace E. Sturgis
1953	Charley E. Johns
1955-1956	W. Turner Davis
1957	William A. Shands
1959	Dewey M. Johnson
1961-1962	W. Randolph Hodges
1962-1963	F. Wilson Carraway
1965	James E. Connor

1989 Capitol

2004 Historic Capitol

2004 Current Capitol

Session	President
1967	Verle A. Pope
1968-1970	John E. Mathews, Jr.
1970-1972	Jerry Thomas
1972-1974	Mallory E. Horne
1974**	Louis de la Parte
1974-1976	Dempsey J. Barron
1976-1978	Lew Brantley
1978-1980	Philip D. Lewis
1980-1982	W.D. Childers
1982-1984	N. Curtis Peterson, Jr.
1984-1986	Harry A. Johnston II
1986-1988	John W. Vogt
1988-1990	Bob Crawford
1990-1992	Gwen Margolis
1992-1993	Ander Crenshaw
1993-1994	Pat Thomas
1994-1996	James A. Scott
1996-1998	Toni Jennings
1998-2000	Toni Jennings
2000-2002	John M. McKay
2002-2004	James E. "Jim" King, Jr.
2004-2006	Tom Lee

** As President Pro Tempore, served as Acting President from July 1, 1974 when President Horne resigned until November 6, 1974

Capitol photos from 1824-1989 courtesy of the Florida State Archives

SENATE PAGE PROGRAM

You can be a part of history! The Senate Page Program gives Florida students the rare opportunity to observe and participate in the legislative process.

During regular sessions of the Legislature, participating students come to Tallahassee for one week to work in the Senate Chamber, distribute materials, and deliver messages to Senators and staff. Each Senator may sponsor up to four pages (ages 15-18). Senators may also submit applications for alternate pages, who serve on an as-needed basis.

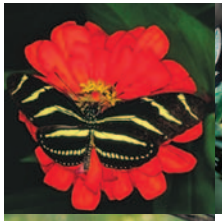
Sponsoring Senators give an application to the students they wish to sponsor. Senators submit completed applications by the first of February of each year. The Office of the Senate President schedules each page for one week of service during the upcoming session. Professional dress is required.

Pages receive a minimum-wage stipend for participating in the program. Students are expected to provide their own transportation, housing, and meals while in Tallahassee.

During each week of session, pages discuss the legislative process and participate in a "mock session." Students act as Senators, debating and voting on bills. Other educational opportunities and Capitol tours are planned during session.

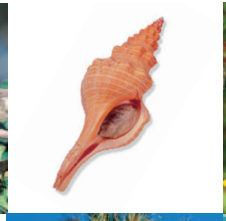
OFFICIAL STATE DESIGNATIONS

Butterfly: *Zebra Longwing*



Bird: *Mockingbird*

Shell: *Horse conch*



Wildflower: *Coreopsis*

Animal: *Florida panther*

Beverage: *Citrus sinensis (orange juice)*

Tree: *Sabal Palmetto palm*

Marine mammal: *Manatee*

Air fair:	Central Florida Air Fair
Freshwater fish:	Florida largemouth bass
Gem:	Moonstone
Pageant:	"Indian River"
Play:	"Cross and Sword"
Reptile:	American alligator
Rodeo:	Silver Spurs Rodeo
Saltwater fish:	Atlantic sailfish
Saltwater mammal:	Porpoise
Stone:	Agatized coral

Photos courtesy of the Florida State Archives

THE FLORIDA SENATE – HOW AN IDEA BECOMES A LAW

LEGISLATOR, CITIZEN or group suggests legislation

SENATOR decides to introduce bill

BILL DRAFTING SERVICE either writes bill or reviews for style

BILL FILED WITH SECRETARY, numbered, printed

FIRST READING by publication in Journal. President refers to committee(s)

COMMITTEE HEARING(S)
Bill Reported,
1. favorably
2. favorably, with amendment(s)
3. favorably, with committee substitute

4. unfavorably

CALENDAR
Rules Committee sets Special Order Calendar for Chamber consideration

CHAMBER
Special Order Calendar bill read second time, may be amended, debated

CHAMBER
Third Reading
roll call vote on passage; engrossed, if amended

If passed, delivered to HOUSE CLERK

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

BILL READ FIRST TIME
Speaker assigns to committee(s)

COMMITTEE HEARING(S)
Bill Reported,
1. favorably
2. favorably, with amendment(s)

3. unfavorably

SECOND READING
bill read, may be amended

THIRD READING
bill read, debated, roll call vote on passage

Return to SENATE
without amendment(s)

with amendment(s)

SENATE

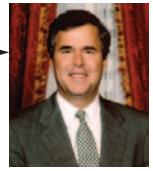
TO SENATE ENROLLING (as act)

TO SENATE ENGROSSING

SENATE concurs

SENATE refuses to concur

TO SENATE ENGROSSING



TO GOVERNOR

signs act

without signature

vetoes

TO SECRETARY OF STATE

two-thirds vetoes in each house overrides veto

BECOMES EFFECTIVE on 60th day after adjournment sine die or on specified date or upon Governor's signature

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE
HOUSE members — SENATE members
(majority of each must agree to report)

HOUSE and SENATE adopt conference report in its entirety, pass bill

A simplified chart showing the route a bill takes through the Florida Legislature. Bills may originate in either house. This bill originated in the Senate.

Prepared by the Office of the Secretary of the Senate

THREE BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT

Florida's Constitution, in the traditional American pattern of "separation of powers," divides state government into three separate and independent branches. This division of powers creates a system of "checks and balances" ensuring that all three branches properly perform their constitutional duties in the administration of state affairs. Tallahassee is the seat of Florida's state government.

THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

The Governor and the Cabinet: Attorney General Charlie Crist, Commissioner of Agriculture Charles H. Bronson, Governor Jeb Bush, and Chief Financial Officer Tom Gallagher

The Florida Constitution vests the supreme power of the state in the Governor and provides that he or she shall ensure that the laws are faithfully executed. It provides for a Lieutenant Governor to be elected in a joint candidacy with the Governor. The Lieutenant Governor works with the Governor and performs such duties pertaining to the office of the Governor as assigned by the Governor, or as otherwise provided by law. The Constitution also provides that the Governor shall be assisted by an elected Cabinet consisting of an Attorney General, Chief Financial Officer, and a Commissioner of Agriculture.

The Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and members of the Cabinet are elected to four-year terms. They take office on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in January following their election in November of non-presidential election years. The Governor may succeed himself or herself in office unless he or she has served more than six years in two consecutive terms. Cabinet members may not seek re-election if by the end of their current term they will have served in that office for eight consecutive years.

THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

The Supreme Court. Back row: Justice Raoul Cantero III, Justice Fred Lewis, Justice Peggy Quince, and Justice Kenneth Bell. Front row: Justice Charles Wells, Chief Justice Barbara Pariente, and Justice Harry Lee Anstead.

The Judicial Branch interprets the law and applies the Constitution. Florida's court system consists of a series of circuit and county courts, district courts of appeal, and the state Supreme Court.

County courts preside over criminal trials of misdemeanors and some civil cases. They also have the power to issue warrants of arrest. There is one county court located in each of Florida's 67 counties. The number of judges in each county court varies with the population and caseload of the county. County judges are elected to four-year terms.

Circuit courts are located in each of Florida's 20 judicial circuits. Some circuits contain only one county, but most are multi-county. The circuit courts are at the top of the trial system, and they also hear limited appeals from county courts. Circuit judges are elected by the voters of the circuits to serve six-year terms.

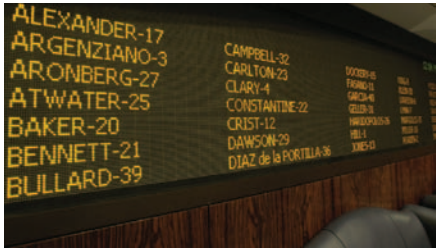
The District Courts of Appeal are intermediate appellate courts that receive most of the appeals from trial courts. There are five judicial districts in Florida, with courts located in Tallahassee, Lakeland, Daytona Beach, West Palm Beach, and Miami. Appointed by the Governor to serve in each district court, these judges must be reconfirmed by the voters every six years.

The Supreme Court is at the top of Florida's court system and is the final state court of appeal. The Supreme Court determines the constitutionality of statutes, has the authority to issue advisory opinions to the Governor, and has administrative responsibilities over all lower courts. There are seven Supreme Court justices, each appointed by the Governor and retained by a popular vote every six years.

THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

The Legislative Branch has exclusive law-making power and determines the general policies by which the problems of society are to be met. It may delegate limited rulemaking power to some executive agencies.

Composition and organization. The Constitution of the State of Florida requires that members of the Legislature be elected at the general election



in November of even-numbered years. Florida's Legislature is composed of two houses, the Senate and the House of Representatives. Each house is the sole judge of the qualifications and elections of its members and has the power to choose its own officers and establish its own rules of procedure. All legislative sessions are open to the public, except when appointments or suspensions of public officials are considered in executive session. Either house of the Legislature may initiate legislation on any subject.

The State Constitution provides that the Legislature shall be apportioned into 30 to 40 senatorial districts, and 80 to 120 representative districts. The 1972 Legislature established 40 Senate districts and 120 House districts. Senators serve four-year terms and representatives serve two-year terms. While a legislator may be elected for more than one term, he or she may not seek reelection if at the end of his or her current term he or she has served for eight consecutive years.

Reapportionment and Redistricting. During the 2002 Regular Session, the Florida Legislature realigned districts to account for Florida's two new seats in the United States Congress and for uneven population growth during the past decade among Florida Senate and House of Representatives districts.

Legislative sessions. Two weeks after each general election, the Legislature convenes for the exclusive purpose of organization and election of officers. No legislation is considered during the organization session.

Regular sessions of the Legislature begin on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in March in odd-numbered years and continue for 60 consecutive days, which may be extended by a three-fifths vote of each house. The Legislature may change its convening date in even-numbered years, but generally the date remains the same as in odd-numbered years, except once every 10 years when the Constitution requires the Legislature to reapportion the state's voting districts. Special sessions may be called by the Governor, or may be convened by joint proclamation of the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. Special sessions may not exceed 20 days, unless extended by a three-fifths vote of each house. Each "call" for a special session outlines the business to be considered. The Senate may resolve itself into executive session to consider appointment to or removal from public office, even when the House of Representatives is not meeting.

Rules. During the organization session, each house adopts its rules of procedure to be followed for the next two years. The rules provide for orderly proceedings and determine how each house will conduct its business.

Committees. A committee functions to study, research, and plan solutions to "people problems." The Senate and House rules provide for certain standing committees, special or select committees, and subcommittees. The presiding officers name the chairs and members of all committees.

Bills are assigned to one or more committees for study. Committees may hold public hearings where committee members hear sponsoring legislators and others who are interested in the bill. The committee may vote to recommend the bill favorably; favorably, with a committee substitute; unfavorably; or favorably with amendments to be considered when the bill is debated on the floor by the respective house.

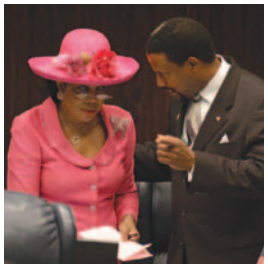
When the Senate and House are unable to agree on the final content of a bill, it goes to a conference committee. This committee, composed of members of both houses, tries to resolve the differences between the Senate and House versions of a bill.

Other committees commonly used are joint committees, which are composed of members from each house, and select committees, which are usually appointed to make recommendations on special or unique problems.

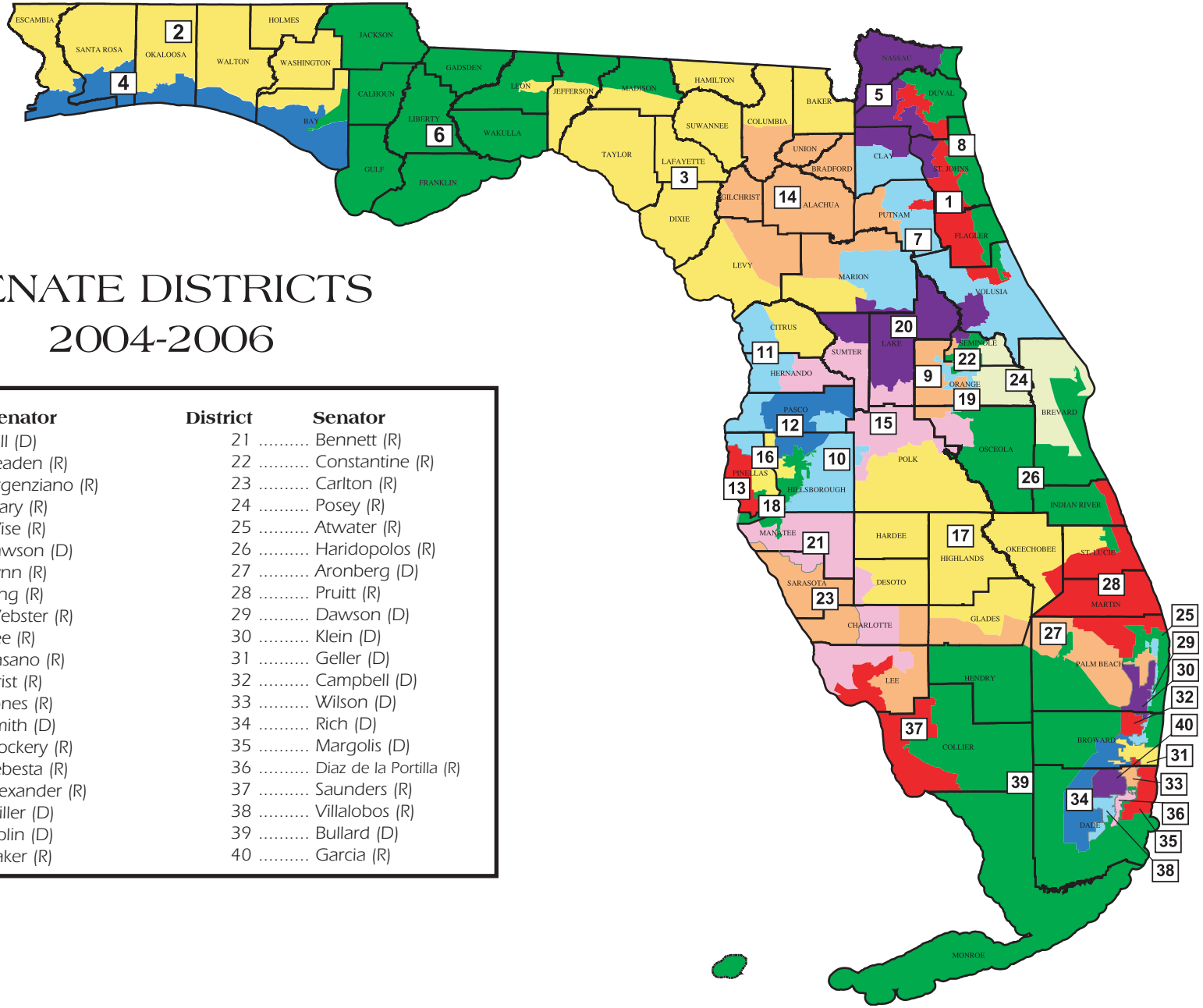
Lobbying. A lobbyist is anyone who tries to influence legislation. Unless exempt, all persons who seek to influence legislation must register with the Division of Legislative Information Services before they begin lobbying. Every lobbyist must also state any direct business association or partnership with any current member of the Legislature and make periodic reports on moneys spent lobbying.

Journals and Calendars. The Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House each publish daily journals and calendars during the legislative session. Each journal details the proceedings on the floor, committee reports, and related actions of the previous day. The calendar is a schedule of business to be taken up that day and the next two days, including committee meetings and bills to be considered.

Forms of legislation. Legislative proposals may be in the form of bills, resolutions, concurrent resolutions, joint resolutions, or memorials. A bill is a proposed law, and it may be either a general bill or a local bill. A general bill would have a general impact within the state; a local bill would affect only a particular county, city, or town named in the bill. A majority vote is required to pass a bill unless otherwise provided in the Constitution. Companion bills are often used as a timesaving device. These are identical bills introduced in both houses, which allow simultaneous committee study in each body. The appropriations bill is one of the most important bills considered by the Legislature. This bill is the state's budget and it specifies the amount of money available to various state agencies during the next year. The appropriations bill follows the same course as other general bills, but because it is difficult to get both houses to agree on all items in the bill, a conference committee is usually appointed to resolve the differences.



Senate District Map



SENATE DISTRICTS 2004-2006

District	Senator	District	Senator
1	Hill (D)	21	Bennett (R)
2	Peaden (R)	22	Constantine (R)
3	Argenziano (R)	23	Carlton (R)
4	Clary (R)	24	Posey (R)
5	Wise (R)	25	Atwater (R)
6	Lawson (D)	26	Haridopolos (R)
7	Lynn (R)	27	Aronberg (D)
8	King (R)	28	Pruitt (R)
9	Webster (R)	29	Dawson (D)
10	Lee (R)	30	Klein (D)
11	Fasano (R)	31	Geller (D)
12	Crist (R)	32	Campbell (D)
13	Jones (R)	33	Wilson (D)
14	Smith (D)	34	Rich (D)
15	Dockery (R)	35	Margolis (D)
16	Sebesta (R)	36	Diaz de la Portilla (R)
17	Alexander (R)	37	Saunders (R)
18	Miller (D)	38	Villalobos (R)
19	Siplin (D)	39	Bullard (D)
20	Baker (R)	40	Garcia (R)

GLOSSARY OF LEGISLATIVE TERMS

Act. A bill passed by the legislature.

Adjourn. To end a legislative session, a day's session, or a committee meeting.

Adopt. To vote to accept.

Amendment. A proposal to change the original terms of a bill.

Bicameral. Consisting of two houses. All states have bicameral legislatures except Nebraska, which has only one house (unicameral).

Bill. A draft of a proposed law.

Budget. A bill that states how much money will be spent on government programs and services.

Calendar. List of bills awaiting action.

Chair. A legislator who presides over a committee meeting or a session.

Chamber. Also known as the "floor," it is the room in which the Senate or the House of Representatives meets.

Clerk of the House of Representatives. The person elected by the House of Representatives to assist the members of the House in the detailed processes of enacting laws and to record that history.

Committee. A group of Senators or Representatives appointed by the presiding officer to consider important issues and to report its recommendations for action by the body that originated it.

Constitution. The written instrument, embodying the fundamental principles of the state, that establishes power and duties of the government and guarantees certain rights to the people.

Constituent. A citizen who resides in the district of a legislator.

Convene. To meet in formal legislative session.

Debate. To argue the merits of a bill, for and against.

Decorum. Appropriate behavior and conduct.

District. That area of the state represented by a legislator, determined on the basis of population.

Gallery. The seating area for visitors located above the chambers (on the fifth floor of the Capitol).

Governor. The highest ranking state official.

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

Law. The final product of the legislative process. It is the end result of the introduction of a bill, its passage by both houses, its approval by the Governor (or the overriding of his veto by the legislature), and its recording by the Secretary of State.

Majority party. The political party having greater than a majority of seats in a house.

Minority party. The political party having fewer than a majority of seats in a house.

Motion. A proposal, usually oral, made to the presiding officer and relating to procedure or action before a legislative body.

Oath of Office. An oath or vow taken by a public official prior to taking up his or her official duties.

Order of Business. The defined routine of procedure in the legislative body each day. It can be deviated from only by waiver of the rules.

Passage. Favorable action on a measure before the legislature.

President of the Senate. The presiding officer of the Senate. He or she is designated as President by the majority party in caucus and then elected by the full membership of the Senate for a term of two years.

President Pro Tempore of the Senate. Literally, president "for a time." He or she performs specified duties as prescribed by the Senate Rules or the Senate President.

Quorum. The number of members required for the conduct of business.

Repeal. The removal of a provision from the law.

Roll call. To determine a vote on a question by the taking of names in favor of and opposed to.

Rules. Provisions for the procedure, organization, officers, and committees of each house of the legislature.

Secretary of the Senate. The person elected by the Senate to assist Senate officers, members, and staff in the detailed processes of enacting laws and to record that history.

Sergeant at Arms. The person in each house who is responsible for the security of the legislative house and the maintenance of that house's property.

Session. The period during which the legislature meets.

Sine die. Refers to final adjournment of a legislative session. The term is sometimes used to denote the ceremony involving the dropping of white handkerchiefs which symbolizes the end of a regular session.

Speaker of the House of Representatives. The presiding officer of the House of Representatives. He or she is designated as Speaker by the majority party in caucus and then elected by the full membership of the House for a term of two years.

Veto. Return by the Governor to the legislature of a bill without his or her signature; the veto message from the Governor usually explains why he or she thinks the bill should not become a law.

Vote. A decision on a question, either affirmative or negative.

Florida in the 109th Congress

Sidewalk view of the Florida House

Washington, D.C. is the seat of the nation's government. The names and addresses of Florida's representatives in the legislative branch may be found on a separate page in many Florida telephone directories.

Further information on each Member of Congress may be found at the official websites for The United States Senate (www.senate.gov) and The United States House of Representatives (www.house.gov).

United States Senate

View of the Capitol

The Senate is composed of 100 Members, two from each state, elected by the people pursuant to the 17th Amendment to the United States Constitution. A Senator must be at least 30 years of age, have been a citizen of the United States for nine years, and, when elected, be a resident of the state from which the Senator is chosen. The term of office is six years, and one-third of the total membership of the Senate is elected every second year. The terms of both Senators from a particular state are so arranged that they do not terminate at the same time. Of the two Senators from a state serving at the same time, the one who was elected first (or if both were elected at the same time, the one elected for a full term) is referred to as the "senior" Senator from that state. The other is referred to as the "junior" Senator. Senators Bill Nelson and Mel Martinez represent Florida in Washington.

United States House of Representatives

The House of Representatives is composed of 435 Members elected every two years from among the 50 states, apportioned according to their total populations. Today there is one representative for approximately every 646,952 residents, a much larger figure than the 30,000 residents the Constitution of the United States originally required for a Congressional district.

A Representative must be at least 25 years of age, have been a citizen of the United States for seven years, and, when elected, be a resident of the state in which the Representative is chosen.

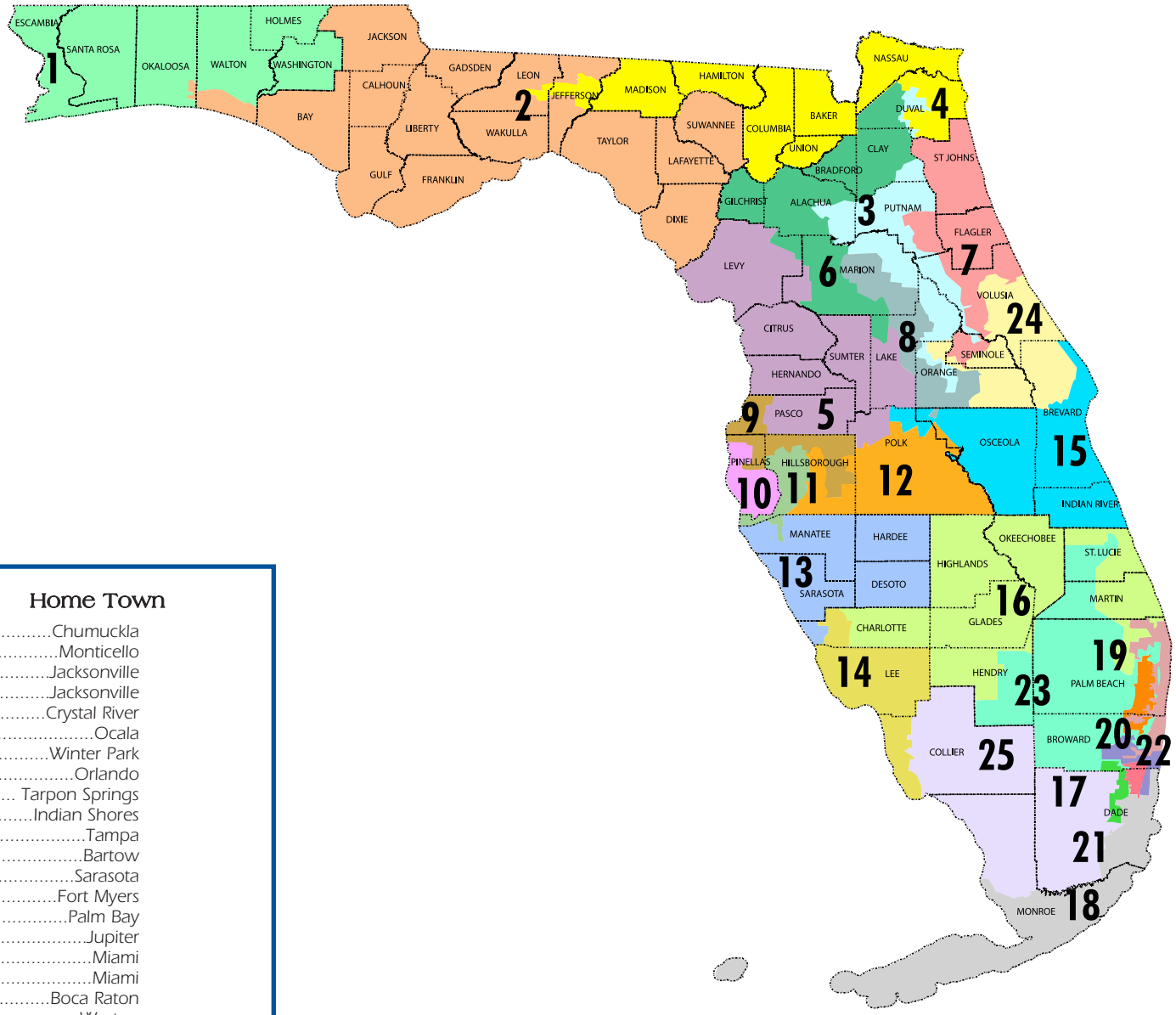
In addition to the Representatives from each of the states, there is a Resident Commissioner from the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and Delegates from the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, and the Virgin Islands. The Resident Commissioner and the Delegates have most of the prerogatives of Representatives, with the important exception of the right to vote on matters before the House.

Under the provisions of Section 2 of the 20th Amendment to the United States Constitution, Congress must assemble at least once every year, at noon on the third day of January, unless by law it appoints a different day. A Congress lasts for two years, commencing in January of the year following the biennial election of Members, and is divided into two sessions.

Unlike some other parliamentary bodies, both the Senate and the House of Representatives have equal legislative functions and powers (except that only the House of Representatives may initiate revenue bills), and the designation of one as the "upper" House and the other as the "lower" House is not appropriate.

The United States Constitution authorizes each House to determine the rules of its proceedings. Pursuant to that authority, the House of Representatives adopts its rules on the opening day of each Congress. The Senate, which considers itself a continuing body, operates under standing rules that it amends from time to time.

The chief function of Congress is the making of laws. In addition, the Senate has the function of advising and consenting to treaties and to certain nominations by the President. In the matter of impeachments, the House of Representatives presents the charges – a function similar to that of a grand jury – and the Senate sits as a court to try the impeachment. Following a presidential election, both Houses meet in joint session on the sixth day of January, unless by law they appoint a different day, to count the electoral votes.



District	Name	Home Town
1	Jeff Miller	Chumuckla
2	Allen Boyd	Monticello
3	Corrine Brown	Jacksonville
4	Ander Crenshaw	Jacksonville
5	Ginny Brown-Waite	Crystal River
6	Cliff Stearns	Ocala
7	John L. Mica	Winter Park
8	Ric Keller	Orlando
9	Michael Bilirakis	Tarpon Springs
10	C. W. Bill Young	Indian Shores
11	Jim Davis	Tampa
12	Adam H. Putnam	Bartow
13	Katherine Harris	Sarasota
14	Connie Mack	Fort Myers
15	Dave Weldon	Palm Bay
16	Mark Foley	Jupiter
17	Kendrick B. Meek	Miami
18	Ileana Ros-Lehtinen	Miami
19	Robert Wexler	Boca Raton
20	Debbie Wasserman Schultz	Weston
21	Lincoln Diaz-Balart	Miami
22	E. Clay Shaw, Jr.	Ft. Lauderdale
23	Alcee L. Hastings	Miramar
24	Tom Feeney	Oviedo
25	Mario Diaz-Balart	Miami

DID YOU KNOW . . . .

- The current Senate Chamber, first used in 1978, is the fourth chamber used since the first session of the Senate was called to order in 1839.
- Florida has had six Constitutions since it became a state. The first Constitution was drafted in Saint Joseph, now known as Port St. Joe. Presently Florida is governed by the Constitution of 1968, as subsequently amended.
- Florida's first Legislative Council, which was supposed to meet in Pensacola on June 10, 1822, did not meet until 44 days later due to hazardous and time-consuming travel.
- Tallahassee was named the state capital in 1824 by Florida's first territorial governor, William P. DuVal.
- The total land area of Florida is 54,252 square miles. The total water area is 4,308 square miles.
- In 1824, three log cabins were erected in Tallahassee to accommodate the Legislative Council. This was Florida's first Capitol.
- In the 1890s, several efforts were made to move the state capital from Tallahassee. Choices included Jacksonville, Ocala, and St. Augustine.
- After the last attempt to move the capital, Florida's fourth and present Capitol was officially opened on March 31, 1978, by Governor Reubin Askew.
- The word "Tallahassee" is of Creek derivation and is frequently translated as "old town" or "old fields." The name may have been taken from the Seminole Indians who occupied the area.
- Construction of Florida's fourth and present Capitol required 3,700 tons of structural steel and 2,800 tons of reinforcing steel.*
- The present Capitol contains 25,000 cubic feet of concrete, the equivalent of 16 football fields, each one foot thick.*

Photo of Seminole Woman Tommy Jumper "Squirrel" courtesy of the Florida State Archives

- Florida has been home to such famed writers as Ernest Hemingway, Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings, and Tennessee Williams.
- In 1990, Senator Gwen Margolis of Miami became the first woman in Florida's history to be elected to serve as President of the Senate.
- Toni Jennings was the first Senator in Florida to be elected President of the Senate for two consecutive terms, presiding from 1996-2000. In 2003, she was chosen by Governor Jeb Bush to become Florida's first female Lieutenant Governor following the resignation of Frank Brogan.
- The first reusable spacecraft, the space shuttle Columbia, was launched on its maiden voyage on April 12, 1981.
- The State saltwater fish, the Atlantic sailfish, resembles a torpedo when swimming, and can reach speeds of 60 mph.
- Juan Ponce de Leon came ashore on the northeast coast of Florida sometime between April 2 and April 8, 1513. He called the area la Florida, in honor of Pascua florida ("feast of the flowers"), a popular celebration held in Spain around Easter.
- The 1868 Constitution provided the Seminole Tribe was entitled to a member in the House and the Senate.
- When Florida was granted statehood on March 3, 1845, its population was 59,721.
- Snow fell in Dade County on January 20, 1977.
- Dr. John Gorrie of Apalachicola patented the process of making ice artificially in 1851.
- The Buckman Act of 1905 consolidated the state's institutions of higher learning into three: the University of Florida at Gainesville, the Florida State College for Women, and the Florida Agricultural and Mechanical College for Negroes at Tallahassee.
- Explorer I, the free world's first earth satellite, was placed in orbit from Cape Canaveral in 1958.

Photos of the Hemingway home and the Space Shuttle are courtesy of the Florida State Archives

- Making frozen concentrates of citrus juices became a major industry in 1950.
- In 1937, Amelia Earhart took off from Miami for an around-the-world flight and was never seen again.
- The first commercial airline service between two U.S. cities was established between St. Petersburg and Tampa in 1914.
- Six student athletes from Florida universities have won the Heisman Trophy between 1966 and 2004.
- The unified government of Florida was established March 30, 1822, when President Monroe signed into law the act which provided for a Governor and a Legislative Council of 13 citizens. Florida was the 27th state to be admitted to the United States (March 3, 1845).
- Founded in 1973 by Rhea Chiles as Florida's "embassy" in our nation's capital, Florida House is owned by the people of the state of Florida. Florida is the only state to have such a facility. It enjoys approximately 10,000 visitors a year. Florida House serves as "home base" for tourists as well as the business community. (www.flahouse.org)
- In anticipation of statehood, 56 commissioners elected from Florida's 20 counties gathered at Saint Joseph, now known as Port St. Joe, to draft a constitution. The convention lasted from December 3, 1838, until January 11, 1839.
- The capital is the city or town that is the seat of government in a state or nation. The capitol is the building in which the state legislature meets.
- "Stormsong", the 50-foot long pod of leaping dolphins in front of the Capitol, is made of stainless steel and recycled aluminum and weighs 8,000 pounds (four tons).
- The Florida quarter was released by the U.S. Mint as part of its 50 State Quarters Program in 2004.

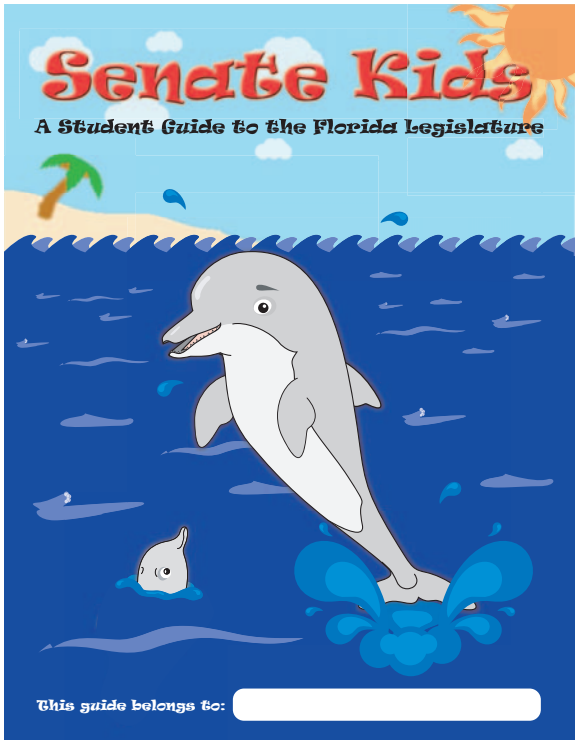
* Selected items were taken from The Florida Handbook, 1997-1998 by Allen Morris, published by The Peninsular Publishing Company, Tallahassee, FL.

Photos of the football players and the orange are courtesy of the Florida State Archives

Hey Kids, visit us on the web!

We have games, puzzles, fun facts, and more about our state.

www.flsenate.gov



This Internet site introduces younger Floridians to the Florida Senate. Designed to be educational, it appeals to children of all ages. This site is easily accessed (interface is not browser specific) and low-resolution graphics allow for ease of use. Senate Kids is always under construction. Keep checking for new features.

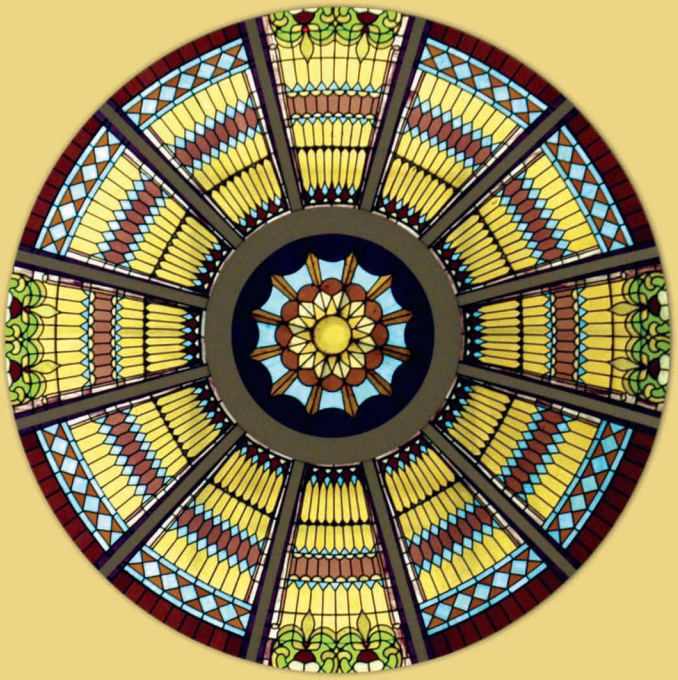
Notes

About This Handbook

This Florida Senate Handbook is published by the Secretary of the Senate. It is distributed free of charge to Capitol visitors and other interested Floridians to enhance their knowledge and understanding of Florida's government, and particularly, the Florida Senate.

Faye W. Blanton
Secretary of the Senate

Visit the Florida Senate's homepage:
http://www.flsenate.gov



The 1902 Historic Capitol Art Glass Dome