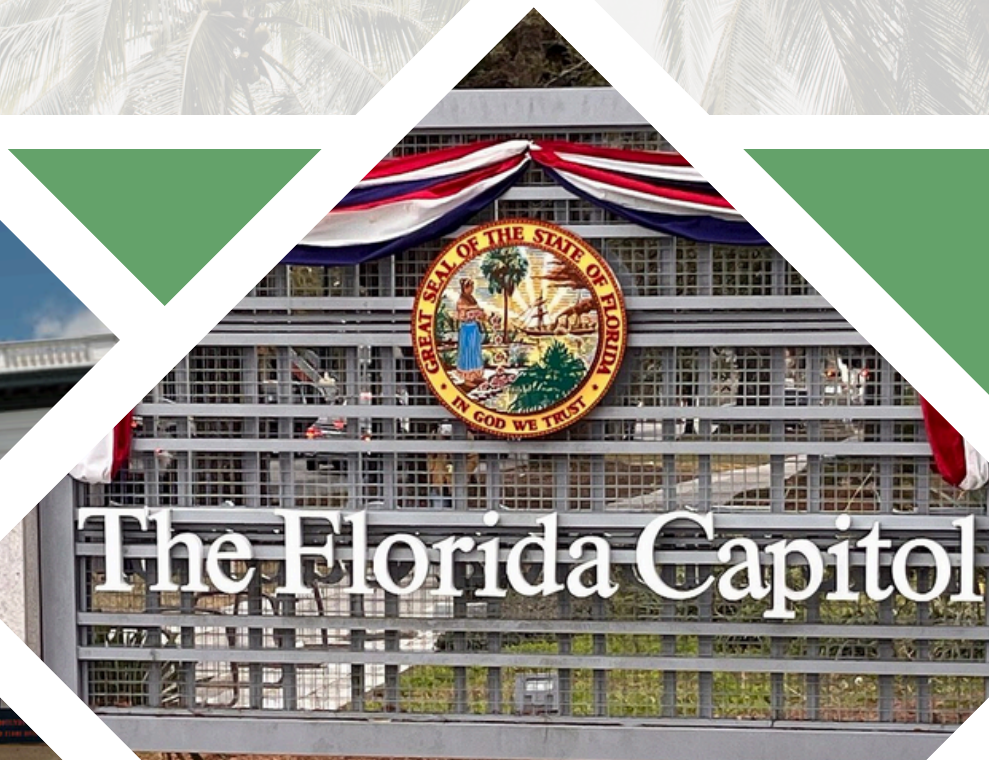




2026

LEGISLATIVE REPORT



The Florida Capitol



Welcome
TO FLORIDA'S CAPITOL

2026 DELEGATION ROSTER

▪ The Florida Senate ▪

Sen. Tina Polsky

District 30



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Committee Assignments: Appropriations Committee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development, *Vice Chair*, Appropriations, Appropriations Committee on Criminal and Civil Justice, Environment and Natural Resources, Ethics and Elections, Governmental Oversight and Accountability, Judiciary, Joint Administrative Procedures Committee, Joint Select Committee on Collective Bargaining

Sen. Mack Bernard

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Committee Assignments: Appropriations Committee on Higher Education, *Chair*, Health Policy, *Vice Chair*, Appropriations, Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services, Children, Families, and Elder Affairs, Education Postsecondary, Environment and Natural Resources, Rules

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2026 DELEGATION ROSTER

▪ Florida House of Representatives ▪

Rep. John Snyder, *Chair*

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Committee Assignments: Agriculture & Natural Resources
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Budget Committee, PreK-12 Budget Subcommittee, Joint
Legislative Budget Commission, Security & Threat
Assessment Committee, Health Care Facilities & Systems
Subcommittee

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Committee Assignments: Health Professions & Programs
Subcommittee, Democratic Ranking Member
Education & Employment Committee, Select Committee on
Property Taxes, Economic Infrastructure Subcommittee,
PreK-12 Budget Subcommittee, State Administration Budget
Subcommittee

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Committee Assignments: Joint Administrative Procedures
Committee, Select Committee on Property Taxes, State
Affairs Committee, Natural Resources & Disasters
Subcommittee, Information Technology Budget & Policy
Subcommittee, Health Care Budget Subcommittee
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Rep. Rob Long

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Health & Human Services Committee
Health Professions & Programs Subcommittee
Education Administration Subcommittee
Housing, Agriculture & Tourism Subcommittee

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Committee Assignments: Higher Education Budget
Subcommittee, Vice Chair
Housing, Agriculture & Tourism Subcommittee, Vice Chair
Commerce Committee, Joint Legislative Auditing Committee
Select Committee on Congressional Redistricting, Education
Administration Subcommittee, Intergovernmental Affairs
Subcommittee

2026 DELEGATION ROSTER

▪ Florida House of Representatives ▪

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Subcommittee, Democratic Ranking Member
Ways & Means Committee, Criminal Justice
Subcommittee, Economic Infrastructure Subcommittee
Justice Budget Subcommittee

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Committee, Student Academic Success Subcommittee
Joint Committee on Public Counsel Oversight, Health Care,
Facilities & Systems Subcommittee, Intergovernmental
Affairs Subcommittee, PreK-12 Budget Subcommittee

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Committee Assignments: Joint Administrative Procedures
Committee, Select Committee on Property Taxes, State
Affairs Committee, Government Operations Subcommittee
Agriculture & Natural Resources Budget Subcommittee,
Civil Justice & Claims Subcommittee, Education
Administration Subcommittee



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A Letter From the Chairman



It has been my honor to serve as Chair of the Palm Beach County Legislative Delegation during the 2026 Legislative Session. I am pleased to present the 2026 County Legislative Delegation Wrap-Up Report, which highlights key legislation and appropriations advanced by members of the delegation throughout the session.

I am proud of our delegation's collaborative efforts and the meaningful budget investments secured for our communities. It is a privilege to serve alongside my colleagues in representing the residents of our county, and I look forward to continuing our work together in the years ahead.

Representative John Snyder, Chairman
Palm Beach Legislative Delegation

As Chairman of the Agriculture and Natural Resources Budget, Representative Snyder oversaw the development and management of a \$6 billion budget during the recent legislative session. His priorities focused on strengthening water quality and restoration efforts, conserving and acquiring land for future generations, enhancing Florida's state parks, and advancing agricultural research and innovation statewide.

Key investments included \$100 million for Florida Forever, \$579.6 million for Everglades restoration projects, \$64.1 million for beach restoration, and \$46.5 million for improvements to Florida's state parks.

Legislative

FACT



Executive Director Report



Victoria Nowlan
Executive Director

We have composed this report to give you a comprehensive overview of the priority issues the delegation has worked on during the 2026 Legislative Session and Special Sessions. You will also find a detailed list of appropriations that the Legislature allocated to Palm Beach County, as well as those vetoed by the Governor. Our delegation members worked countless hours to bring these appropriations home.

The Delegation continues the work in the off season, with meetings, legislative updates and tours of the myriad of economic and cultural drivers that make up Palm Beach County to learn what resources we have and fight for in Tallahassee.

I would like to thank the delegation members and especially the delegation staff for their tireless work during Committee Meetings, Session and throughout the summer months. They are the hardest-working people I have met and their successes this Session reflects all their efforts. Kudos on a job well done!

I want to share a fond farewell to Senator Lori Berman and Senator Tina Polsky, both of these Senators have my utmost respect and admiration. Senator Berman ever an optimist who focused on bipartisan compromise to promote unity and Senator Polsky used her role as a sharp floor debater giving her a reputation as a fierce but pragmatic lawmaker. Neither Senator shied away for fighting for what is fair and just and their selfless devotion to public service and their constituencies has left a mark to be remembered.

Finally, I would like to thank our Delegation Chair, Representative John Snyder for his leadership over the past year and his dedication and advocacy for Palm Beach County and its residents.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Victoria Nowlan". The signature is fluid and cursive, written on a light-colored background.

Thank you,
Victoria Nowlan



Thank You For Your Service

Two members of our legislative delegation will not be returning to their elected positions next year.

Senate Minority Leader Lori Berman District 26



Years of Service

Florida House of Representatives (2010–2018), Florida State Senate (2018–2026)

Thank you, Senator Lori Berman, for your years of dedicated service to the people of Florida. Your commitment to public service, advocacy for your constituents, and efforts to improve the lives of Floridians have left a meaningful impact on our communities and our state. As you conclude your time in office, we extend our sincere gratitude and best wishes for success and fulfillment in the years ahead. It was always a pleasure to stop by and see you and your staff in the minority office. Go Team PBC!

Senator Tina Polsky District 30



Years of Service

Florida House of Representatives (2018–2020), Florida State Senate (2020–2026)

Thank you for your years of dedicated service to the people of Florida. Your passion and determination have made a meaningful difference in the lives of countless residents, and your voice has been an important one in the Florida Senate. Whether advocating for your constituents, standing up for causes you believe in, or building connections across communities, you have led with integrity and purpose. As you move on from public office, we offer our heartfelt gratitude for all you have contributed and wish you happiness, good health, and continued success in the years ahead.

Local Bills - HB 4071 & 4025



Sponsored bills by Representative John Snyder. Both bills have been signed by the Governor.

HB 4071

This bill establishes a framework for fire rescue and emergency medical services in areas annexed by Palm Beach County municipalities after January 1, 2027. Palm Beach County Fire Rescue would continue serving annexed areas for at least six years, with the annexing municipality paying the County for those services instead of property owners being taxed through the County's MSTU. The bill outlines procedures for transferring services to a municipality, requires good-faith negotiations on transition plans and costs, provides a formal dispute resolution process if an agreement cannot be reached, and exempts certain small enclave annexations from these requirements.

HB 4025

This bill transfers certain state-owned land to the Village of Tequesta to be permanently used as a public park, greenspace, and for conservation, recreation, and educational purposes. The Village must retain ownership of the property forever, and if the land is sold or otherwise disposed of, ownership automatically reverts back to the state. The bill also requires the transfer to be completed within 60 days.



Local Bill - HB 4035

Sponsored bill by Representative Jervonte Edmonds. This bill has been signed by the Governor.

This bill updates the contractor licensing process administered by the Palm Beach County Construction Industry Licensing Board. It gives the Board more flexibility in how and when licensing exams are offered, requires applicants to pass a written examination with a score of at least 75 percent, and allows oral exams for certain specialty contractor and journeyman applicants when approved by the Board.

The bill also streamlines the application review process by replacing formal investigations with a review of an applicant's qualifications, financial responsibility, education, examination results, credit history, and business reputation.

Once an applicant meets all requirements and passes the exam, the Board may move forward with issuing the appropriate contractor certification.



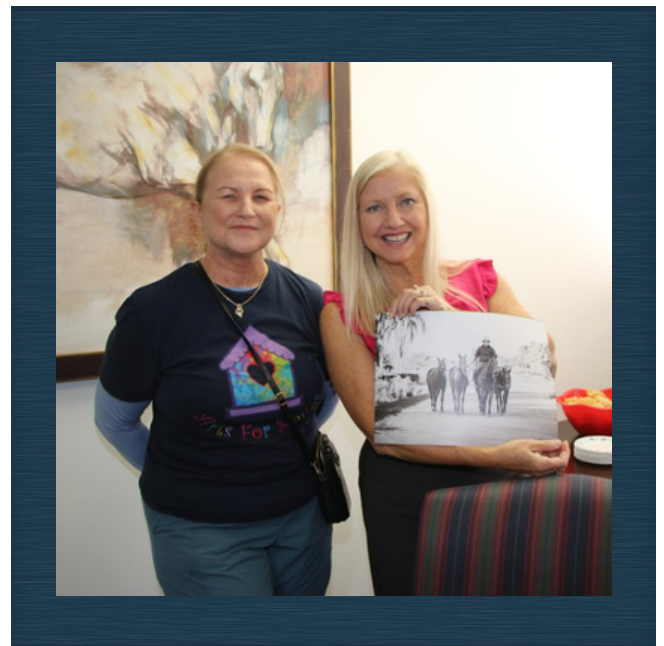
Local Bill - HB 4033



Sponsored bill by Representative Anne Gerwig.

This bill updates local regulations for family child care homes by aligning them with current Florida law and administrative rules. Instead of listing specific maximum numbers of children that may be cared for in a home, the bill defers to state-established standards for determining allowable child capacity.

As a result, family day care homes and large family child care homes in the local ordinance would be regulated according to state requirements, ensuring consistency between local and state childcare licensing standards.



Local Bills - HB 4063 & 4065

Sponsored bills by Representative Debra Tendrich.

HB 4063

This bill updates and modernizes the West Palm Beach Police Pension Fund by revising retirement eligibility requirements, pension benefit calculations, DROP participation rules, death benefits, and administrative procedures. Overall, the legislation is intended to improve pension administration, provide additional flexibility for retirees, and ensure compliance with state and federal regulations

HB 4065

This bill updates and modernizes the West Palm Beach Firefighters Pension Fund by revising retirement benefits, contribution requirements, disability and survivor benefits, investment and administrative procedures, and retirement payout options. It also updates the fund to comply with current state and federal laws, provides additional flexibility for certain retirement programs, and makes changes intended to improve the long-term administration and operation of the pension system for firefighters and their beneficiaries.



Unpassed Local Bills



Out of the 8 delegation local bills filed, there were a total of 2 that did not pass during session.

HB 4099

This bill sought to update how the South Indian River Water Control District is governed, represented, and funded. It would have expanded the governing board, changed the voting system for landowners, and set new rules for board operations and compensation. Overall, the legislation would have modernized the District's governance structure, financial procedures, and planning processes.

HB 4101

This bill would have prohibit the sale and use of fireworks in certain areas of Loxahatchee Groves while allowing limited exceptions for approved public displays and lawful agricultural uses.



Member Priority Bills

Sponsored bills by Senator Mack Bernard.

SB 272: Homestead Exemption for Persons 65 and Older

This bill would have made several changes to Florida's nursing education and licensing system, including requiring certain nursing graduates to complete remedial coursework before taking the licensing exam, creating temporary provisional licenses for recent graduates, strengthening oversight and approval requirements for nursing education programs, establishing statewide preceptorship standards, and authorizing additional inspections of nursing schools. The bill was intended to improve nursing education quality and support new graduates entering the workforce, but it did not pass during the 2026 legislative session.



Staying Informed

During the 2026 Legislative Session, Senator Bernard introduced his own property tax relief proposals. While those bills were not heard in any of the referenced committees, he later had the opportunity to vote on the property tax ballot proposal presented during the June Special Session.



SB 276: Homestead Property Tax Benefits for Long-Term Owners and Permanent Residents

This bill proposes to amend the Florida Constitution to require that certain homestead property be assessed at less than the just value when owned and used as permanent residence for 20 years or more. This amendment would also allow a 50 percent exemption of the assessed value of the property if the property is used as its owner's primary residence for 30 years or more.

CS/CS/HB 1019 / CS/CS/SB 1230: Assessment of Homestead Property

This bill seeks an amendment to the Florida Constitution that would limit the increase in the assessed value of homestead property to 150 percent of its assessed value in the preceding year if the assessed value of the said property is less than \$500,000 when there is a change of ownership.



Member Priority Bills

Sponsored bills by Senator Lori Berman.

SB 556: Requirements of a High School Diploma

Requirements for a Standard High School Diploma; Providing that students can substitute marching band experience for physical education and performing fine arts credit requirements for a standard high school diploma; providing that students with disabilities may participate in the Special Olympics to meet the physical education requirement for a standard high school diploma, etc. Laid on table, CS/HB 453 passed and signed by the Governor on 5/11/26

SB 306:

The Fostering with dignity act would have required the Department of Children and Families to give every child entering or changing foster placements a piece of luggage that becomes theirs to keep. The state would build up a luggage supply through donations and partnerships and track any time a trash bag is used instead as is often the case now.

SB 296: Victims of Domestic Violence and Dating Violence

Victims of Domestic Violence and Dating Violence; Requiring the Division of Telecommunications within the Department of Management Services to consult with certain entities to conduct a feasibility study regarding a specified alert system; providing requirements for such alert system; authorizing victims of dating violence to apply to participate in the Attorney General's address confidentiality program; requiring the Attorney General to designate certain entities to assist victims of dating violence applying to be address confidentiality program participants, etc. Signed by the Governor on 5/22/26.



"No child should ever feel as if their life belongs in a trash bag. The Fostering with Dignity Act is about showing these children that they matter, that they are valued, and that Florida stands with them as they begin a new chapter."

Senate Minority Leader
Lori Berman

Member Priority Bills

Sponsored bills by Senator Tina Polsky.

SB 460: Special Elections

The Governor must set special election dates within 14 days of a vacancy, in consultation with the Secretary of State and local Supervisors of Elections. Special elections must be held within 126 days of the vacancy, or 175 days if the election conflicts with an existing election. This is a pro-voter, pro-democracy reform. It ensures timely, fair, and secure elections—and guarantees that no community is left without representation. While this bill was heard in committee, it unfortunately did not pass this session.

Senate Bill 1192 (passed as HB 1031) Customer Service Callback Queues- Special Elections

This bill will improve service and response time by our executive agencies through the creation of a pilot program for callback queues. Under the pilot program, the Department of Commerce must use a telephone system for calls related to reemployment assistance.

SB 1022: Children's Initiatives

This bill added two additional locations, one in Broward County and one in Bay County, to the Florida Children's Initiatives statewide initiative, created to address the disparities faced by children in disadvantaged communities. It was signed and passed into law this year.

"Without a set timeline for a special election, dramatic inconsistencies in scheduling can occur. Sometimes people wonder, is it for political reasons? I think we can do a lot better."

Senator Tina Polsky



Member Priority Bills

Sponsored bills by Senator Gayle Harrell.

CS/SB 254: Nursing Education Programs

This bill would have made several changes to Florida's nursing education and licensing system, including requiring certain nursing graduates to complete remedial coursework before taking the licensing exam, creating temporary provisional licenses for recent graduates, strengthening oversight and approval requirements for nursing education programs, establishing statewide preceptorship standards, and authorizing additional inspections of nursing schools. The bill was intended to improve nursing education quality and support new graduates entering the workforce, but it did not pass during the 2026 legislative session.

CS/SB 340 / HB 303: Human Trafficking Education for Nurse Licensure

This bill requires graduates of professional and practical nursing programs to complete a two-hour human trafficking course before they are eligible to take the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX), which is required for full licensure. The requirement applies to students who apply to sit for the NCLEX on or after July 1, 2027. The course must cover the same human trafficking content currently required as continuing education for the renewal of professional and practical nursing licenses. The bill was signed into law by the Governor.

CS/CS/HB 1019 / CS/CS/SB 1230: Perfluoralkyl and Polyfluoralkyl Substances (PFAS)

This bill is also known as the "Joe Casello Act", named in honor of the late Representative Joe Casello, a retired firefighter and longtime advocate for clean water. This law addresses PFAS-containing firefighting foam, often referred to as AFFF, by phasing out its use, sale, purchase, distribution, possession, and deployment over time, while creating related inventory, disposal, grant, and enforcement provisions.

DID YOU KNOW?



Senator Harrell is a graduate of the University of Florida. If you visit the State Capitol during UF Day at the Capitol, you may spot her showing her Gator pride by trading in her signature red attire for the University of Florida's orange and blue colors!

Member Priority Bills



About Representative Emily Gregory.

Emily Gregory is the newest Member of the Palm Beach County Legislative Delegation. Representative Gregory was elected in a Special Election on March 24, 2026, weeks after the Regular Legislative Session concluded. She was formerly sworn in on April 7 with her family present during her swearing in before the House on April 28.

During Budget Special Session, Representative worked alongside fellow Delegation Members to successfully advocate on behalf of these appropriation project requests previously filed:

- RESTORE Reentry Program — \$500,000
- Lake Worth Lagoon Initiative - \$1,092,500:
- Town of Palm Beach - North Lake Way Living Shoreline— \$262,500
- Peanut Island and Lake Worth Lagoon Habitat Restoration - Palm Beach County — \$330,000

During Property Tax Special Session, Representative Gregory opposed CS/HJR 1F [Save our Homes from Excessive Property Taxes], a House joint resolution proposing a constitutional amendment to property. She proposed an amendment to CS/HB 4F (2026F) [Property Tax Administration] which sought to prohibit the use of state funds to advertise the joint resolution. Representative Gregory proposed a compromise to the House joint resolution in HJR 11F [Homestead Exemption and Public Safety Funding]. The proposed constitutional amendment passed, while the amendment and compromise legislation failed.

Member Priority Bills

Sponsored bills by Representative Jervonte Edmonds.

HB 253: Dental Care for Veterans

Expands eligibility for the Veterans Dental Care Grant Program to veterans with incomes up to 400 percent of the federal poverty level. Revises the program's purpose by specifying that it provides oral health care to veterans who reside in the state and have incomes up to 400 percent of the federal poverty level.

Rep Edmonds filed this bill because far too many Florida veterans are living with preventable dental problems that affect their health and quality of life. Florida is home to more than 1.4 million veterans, yet most do not qualify for any VA dental coverage. Without routine care, small dental issues often turn into infections, emergency room visits, and long-term health complications. Florida sees thousands of preventable dental emergencies every year, many involving veterans who simply cannot access basic services. HB 253 helps close this gap by creating a clearer path for veterans to receive the preventive care they need to stay healthy, seek employment, and live with dignity. Our veterans served us. This bill ensures we do our part to support their well-being with access to essential dental care.

HB 311: Tax Credits for Contributions to Assist Homebuyers

This bill would have created a new Workforce Homebuyer Tax Credit that provides corporate income tax and insurance premium tax credits to employers who help employees purchase homes. It establishes eligibility requirements for employers, employees, and qualifying home purchases, sets annual limits on available credits, and allows unused credits to be carried forward. The program also requires documentation of eligibility and employer contributions and is subject to a statewide funding cap. This bill was almost included in the State Tax Package but died on Second Reading Calendar.

HB 727: Instructional Personnel and School Administrator Salaries

This bill would have significantly increased teacher pay by raising the minimum base salary, providing cost-of-living and longevity increases, and addressing salary compression among experienced educators. It also required school districts to develop compensation plans and provided state support to help implement the changes. The bill died in its first subcommittee.



Member Priority Bills

Sponsored bills by Representative Debra Tendrich.

HB 277: Domestic Violence and Protective Injunctions

This bill strengthens protections for victims of domestic violence by increasing penalties for repeat domestic violence offenders, improving the enforcement and tracking of protective injunctions, and establishing a pilot program to electronically monitor certain offenders. It also requires state agencies to evaluate the effectiveness of these measures and report their findings to the Legislature. The bill was approved by the Governor on May 21, 2026, and takes effect July 1, 2026.

HB 517: Medicaid Provider Networks

This bill would have increased transparency and access within Medicaid dental care by requiring the Agency for Health Care Administration to establish network adequacy standards for prepaid dental plans and improve the accuracy of provider network information. It also would have required provider directories to indicate whether dentists are accepting new patients. The bill died in the House Rules Committee.

HB 615: Individual Education Plans

This bill enhances transparency and parental involvement in the Individual Education Plan (IEP) process by strengthening school district requirements related to eligibility, implementation, and accountability for exceptional student education services. It expands parents' access to information about their child's services, requires districts to provide orientation and ongoing resources to families, and establishes more consistent documentation and recordkeeping practices. Provisions of this bill were ultimately incorporated into HB 1279.



Member Priority Bills

Legislative Update from Representative Rob Long.



“During my first session in the Florida House, I focused on practical legislation that helps families, supports first responders, protects taxpayers, and addresses long-term environmental challenges facing Palm Beach County.”

HB 851: Autism Training for Educators

“I was proud to pass my first bill, HB 851, which is now law. The final version requires school districts to offer at least one autism-specific professional learning opportunity for instructional and school administrative personnel. As more children with autism and related disabilities are served in our public schools, educators need practical tools and training to better support them in the classroom.”

CS/HB 4071: Palm Beach County Fire Rescue MSTU

“I also co-sponsored CS/HB 4071, the Palm Beach County Fire Rescue MSTU bill, which has now been signed into law. This legislation protects continuity of fire rescue and emergency medical services when properties are annexed into municipalities. It creates a clear transition process, helps avoid service gaps, reduces the risk of duplicative spending, and ensures that public safety remains the top priority during annexation discussions.”

CS/CS/HB 1019: Joe Casello Act / PFAS Firefighting Foam

“I was proud to co-sponsor CS/CS/HB 1019, the Joe Casello Act, named in honor of the late Representative Joe Casello, a retired firefighter and longtime advocate for clean water. This law addresses PFAS-containing firefighting foam, often referred to as AFFF, by phasing out its use, sale, purchase, distribution, possession, and deployment over time, while creating related inventory, disposal, grant, and enforcement provisions.

This was especially meaningful because the AFFF/firefighting foam portion of my broader PFAS proposal was ultimately incorporated into HB 1019 and passed. It is an important public health, environmental, and first-responder safety measure, and it continues work that Rep. Casello championed for years.”

Local Appropriations

I also worked to secure important local funding priorities for Palm Beach County, including support for American Legion Post 188C in Delray Beach and Jewish Family Services’ triage line. These appropriations remain subject to the Governor’s final budget review and potential vetoes, but I will continue advocating for projects that directly serve veterans, families, and residents in our community.

Member Priority Bills

Sponsored bills by Representative Peggy Gossett-Seidman.

CS/HB 453: Requirements for a Standard High School Diploma

"I filed this bill to provide increased options for disabled students to gain their Physical Education credits and enhance their participation in High School activities. This bill ensures students with disabilities may apply their Special Olympics participation to satisfy the physical education requirement for students. I then came to the realization that students participating in marching band meet the P.E. requirement from after school practices, where they march up to 4.7 miles in one practice period carrying instruments that range from 13 to 40 pounds. Essentially, this bill is not mandatory but provides students with options. It has no fiscal, and provides oversight by Special Olympics, the high schools and parents providing authorized paperwork and consent. This bill was signed into law by Governor DeSantis."

SB 296/HB 269: Victims of Domestic Violence and Dating Violence

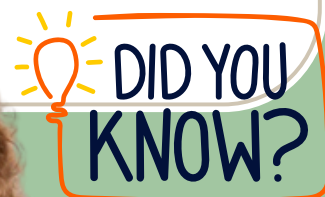
"I filed this bill to strengthen Florida's domestic violence response time during grueling times when victims have emergencies and minutes count. It provides potential victims with special phone numbers to call authorities immediately if an incident is occurring, identifying the number as a direct line to police and emergency services. Often it is difficult for a victim with a crime in progress to access a way to call for help. This gives them a method of protection and access to resources. This bill creates the HAVEN Coordinating Council to align state and local efforts, to ensure best practices for victims. This bill was signed into law by Governor DeSantis."

CS/HB 725: Political Activity at Public Institutions of Higher Education

"I filed this bill to clarify and update rules relating to political activity in public Florida institutions. It follows the policies already in place for institutions by following guidelines set forth by IRS 501(c)3 codes. This bill ensures political expression is equal for political parties of major and minor bases, and gatherings are provided on an equal basis. Student organizations and speech is protected and made equal and nonpartisan while maintaining proper boundaries so public resources are not used for partisan purposes."

This bill was not passed by the Senate but it was passed by the House.

Representative Gossett-Seidman was the first woman sportswriter in both the Big Ten, and the Palm Beach Post, covering tennis, auto racing, baseball, and football.



Member Priority Bills

Sponsored bills by Representative Kelly Skidmore.

HB 1091: Dental Screenings for K-12 Students

HB 1091 would have updated Florida law to improve K-12 student access to routine, noninvasive dental screenings by allowing passive parental consent. The bill sought to preserve parental rights through written notification and clear opt-out procedures while expanding access to preventive care that can support student health, attendance, and academic success. This legislation unanimously passed its first committee of reference in both chambers but did not move any further.

HB 1019 – “Joe Casello Act”: Cosponsored by Representative Skidmore

This bill is also known as the “Joe Casello Act”, named in honor of the late Representative Joe Casello, a retired firefighter and longtime advocate for clean water. This law addresses PFAS-containing firefighting foam, often referred to as AFFF, by phasing out its use, sale, purchase, distribution, possession, and deployment over time, while creating related inventory, disposal, grant, and enforcement provisions.

HB 319: Property Insurance Interstate Compact

HB 319 would have required the Office of Insurance Regulation to initiate the formation of an interstate compact to create a national property insurance risk pool for natural disasters. The bill sought to reduce financial risk for Florida and its residents by establishing a broader, multistate approach to catastrophe coverage, helping stabilize Florida’s property insurance market and mitigate volatility caused by hurricanes and other natural disasters. The measure aimed to promote long-term affordability and resilience for homeowners and insurers but was not taken up for a hearing during the legislative session.



Member Priority Bills

Sponsored bills by Representative Anne Gerwig.

SB 561: Educator Preparation & Certification

HB 561 reduces unnecessary barriers for teachers by streamlining certification, renewal, and reinstatement processes. It allows prior coursework and experience to count and creates more flexible pathways—helping qualified educators stay in the classroom.

HB 1347: Educator Preparation & Certification

This legislation helps address Florida's shortage of lab professionals by allowing qualified individuals with relevant education and training to more easily obtain licensure and begin performing critical medical testing.

Rep. Gerwig advocated for changes to Florida's 2026 tax relief package:

“Based on comments from my friends in District 93, I requested the school sales tax holiday to be shifted - it now starts July 20, instead of August 1. This gives families a little more time (and maybe another paycheck) to save on school supplies. It ends August 20 now but this aligns better with the shopping needs of families. Thank you to Speaker Pro Tem Duggan for that small shift for families.”

Representative Anne Gerwig

HB 733: Department of Health Package (Died in House Returning Messages)

This bill aimed to make comprehensive updates to Department of Health programs by improving oversight and streamlining regulations across multiple areas of care. The bill included enhancements to dental workforce pathways through the FRAME program, and support for early intervention services through the Early Steps autism foundation as well as infant screening for Krabbe disease and neurofibromatosis—strengthening access, accountability, and patient protections statewide.

The bill also addressed current legislation regarding the marriage between first cousins. As of now, this practice is legal in Florida – however it has become a priority of Governor DeSantis to ban said marriages across the state.



Member Priority Bills

Legislative Summary from Representative Meg Weinberger.

"This past legislative session, I was proud to champion several important pieces of legislation that focused on strengthening our communities, protecting vulnerable Floridians, and supporting the future growth of Palm Beach County and our state.

One of my top priorities was HB 919 relating to Commercial Service Airports, legislation that renames Palm Beach International Airport to President Donald J. Trump International Airport. As a proud supporter of honoring our President and Palm Beach resident, President Donald J. Trump, it was an incredible experience working together with so many local, state, and federal officials to help make this effort a reality. This legislation represents an important step in further elevating Palm Beach International Airport's national and international profile while recognizing the unique connection between President Trump and Palm Beach County.

Another priority for me was HB 1521 relating to Domestic Animals. This legislation strengthens consumer protections for families purchasing dogs by revising and clarifying the rights consumers have when an animal becomes sick or must be returned to a dealer. The bill also directs the Department of Business and Professional Regulation to establish best management practices for dog breeding in Florida, helping create stronger standards for the ethical and humane treatment of dogs throughout the state. Additionally, the bill helps raise awareness about animal cruelty and strengthens Florida's efforts to track and prevent abuse.

I was also proud to work alongside Representative Tant on HB 565, important legislation focused on strengthening services and protections through the Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD). This bill expands services available to individuals with additional disabilities while also strengthening protections for vulnerable adults by requiring Level II background screenings for all staff working in residential facilities and adult day training programs.

Protecting and properly serving our most vulnerable populations is one of the most important responsibilities we have as lawmakers, and this legislation helps ensure greater accountability and safety for the individuals and families who rely on these critical services.

Overall, this legislative session was focused on delivering meaningful results for Floridians, strengthening our communities, and continuing to build a stronger future for Palm Beach County and our state."



Appropriations List

All projects with a ~~strickethrough~~ indicate that the Governor has vetoed that project.

EDUCATION

Florida Atlantic University

Florida Atlantic University Universities - Grants and Aids	136,895,632
Florida Atlantic University Universities - Lottery Funds Palm Beach	46,809,121
Florida Atlantic University Educational Enhancement	183,704,753
Florida Atlantic University Student Financial Assistance	399,658
Florida Atlantic University Autism Centers	1,386,508
Florida Atlantic University Health Professions Training and Research Facility (HF 3165) (SF 1000)	20,000,000
Florida Atlantic University Lab Schools - Center for Educational Strategy and Innovation (HF 1016) (SF 1175).	1,500,000
Florida Atlantic University- Seatech Dania Beach Campus Seawall Repair (HF 2993) (SF 2755)	1,500,000
Florida Atlantic University for the Prepping Institutions, Programs, Employers, and Learners through Incentives for Nursing Education (PIPELINE)	2,786,646
Florida Atlantic University Max Planck Scientific Fellowship Program.....(Recurring)	889,101
Florida Atlantic University Max Planck Florida Scientific Fellows Program (MPFSFP) (HF 1258) (SF 2047) (Non-Recurring)	1,110,899
Florida Atlantic University Medical School	21,747,039

University of Florida

Biomedical Innovation and Technology - Scripps (HF 1844) (SF 2060)	6,286,607
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Palm Beach State College

Florida College System operating funds and approved baccalaureate programs	84,743,109
Palm Beach State College Florida College System – Nursing Education	2,131,701
Palm Beach State College Florida College System - Lottery Palm Beach	12,221,593
Palm Beach State College Florida College System - Program Fund Palm Beach	72,521,516
Palm Beach State College Florida College System - Student Success Incentives	1,386,337
Palm Beach State College - Work Florida Student Success Incentive	663,545
Palm Beach State College - Student Success Incentives	722,792
Palm Beach State College—Boca Raton Administration Building Remodel (HF 3289) (SF 1144)	4,800,000
Palm Beach State College Transportation Technology Expansion Project (HF 2069) (SF 1301)	1,100,000

Appropriations List

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Palm Beach Atlantic University

LeMieux Center for Public Policy (HF 1015) (SF 1683)	2,000,000
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Palm Beach County Schools K-12

P. B. Co. Public Schools K-12 FEFP Total Funds	1,753,121,21
P. B. Co. Workforce Education Programs	22,181,585
Palm Beach School Readiness Services Early Learning	79,137,577
Child Care and Development School Readiness Program Services	4,940,579
P. B. Co. Voluntary Prekindergarten	31,604,665
Discretionary Millage Equivalent Educational Fixed Capital Outlay Alachua, Bay, Broward, Escambia, Leon, MiamiDade, Palm Beach, Pasco	11,569,642
Agricultural Technology & Workforce Education Initiative (HF 2967) (SF 3279)	
Hardee, Highlands, Hillsborough, Lake, MiamiDade, Nassau, Okeechobee, Palm Beach, St. Lucie, Sumter	500,000
Busch Wildlife Sanctuary's Environmental Education Program (HF 1017) (SF 2018)	500,000
Community Partners of South Florida CentsBuilder Youth Financial Literacy Program (HF 1496) (SF 1689)	125,000
inSIGHT Through Education - Traveling Holocaust Exhibit (HF 3259) (SF 1120)	82,500
Roosevelt Elementary School Program Enhancements (HF 1833) (SF 3065)	440,000
The Center Presents Wonder Works – Florida Youth Innovation and Workforce Skills Initiative (HF 3298) (SF 3402)	881,000
Boca Raton High School Robotics Lab & Teams Expansion – Palm Beach County School District (HF 3268) (SF 3388)	350,000
Glades Workforce Expansion (HF 1778) (SF 1083)	372,867
Hate Ends Now Traveling Holocaust Cattle Car Exhibit (HF 3538) (SF 2244)	206,855

Other Education/ Workforce Education/Workforce Services

Boys & Girls Club & Teen Workforce Readiness Center of West Palm Beach (HF 1434) (SF 1690)	1,500,000
Path to College—Workforce Development & Career Readiness (HF 1511) (SF 2639)	187,500
Path to College—Workforce Development & Career Readiness (HF 1511) (SF 2639)	312,500
Goodwill Works Vocational Training for the Unemployed (HF 1566) (SF 2363)	500,000
JARC Community Works Program (HF 2079) (SF 1966)	495,000

Appropriations List

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COMMUNITY SERVICES

Community Health

H.O.W. Angel Fund: Assistance for Women with Ovarian Cancer (HF 2893) (SF 1418)	650,000
Multi-Mission Aircraft—Emergency Response Expansion for Palm Beach County (HF 1875) (SF 2356)	3,000,000
Promise Fund (HF 2243) (SF 1056)	300,000

Behavioral Health Services

Neurobehavioral Hospital - Palm Beach.	2,970,000
Alpert Jewish Family Service - Community Access Lifeline (CALL) Service (HF 1256) (SF 2150)	300,000
Alpert Jewish Family Service - Mental Health First Aid (HF 2867) (SF 2521)	500,000
Faulk Center for Counseling - Expansion of Mental Health Services for Low-Income Families (HF 3245) (SF 1053)	235,500
Gulfstream Goodwill Industries—Behavioral Health Services (HF 2319) (SF 2364)	438,992
Hanley Foundation - Casa Flores Program for Peripartum Women and Their Children (HF 1154) (SF 2064)	800,000
Jewish Family Services—Immediate Need Triage Line for Individuals and Families (HF 3763) (SF 1054)	149,420

Housing

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Palm Beach Housing for Veterans, Essential Employees and Seniors (HF 1257) (SF 1123)	250,000
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Veteran's Affairs

Hookin Veterans (SF 3763)	250,000
Veteran Suicide Prevention- Fort Freedom (HF 1532) (SF 3300)	400,000

Food, Nutrition and Wellness

ALICE Population Food Security & Care Management Program (HF 3274) (SF 2913)	250,000
Stop Food Insecurity (HF 1780) (SF 2377)	300,000

Appropriations List

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Elder Affairs

Alzheimer's Community Care Association - Critical Support Initiative*	1,000,000
Alzheimer's Community Care Association Disease Initiative	1,500,000
South Bay Senior Center Modernization Project (HF 1540) (SF 1023)	200,000
Aging in Place with Grace, By Rales Jewish Family Services (HF 3260) (SF 1022)	247,050
Holocaust Survivors Assistance Program - Boca Raton Jewish Federation	92,946

Vocational Rehabilitation

Arc of Palm Beach County - formerly known as Palm Beach Habilitation Center... (Recurring)	225,000
The Arc of Palm Beach County - Completion of Special Needs Shelter (HF 1392) (SF 3435)	1,500,000
Connections Autism School & Vocational Center Expansion (HF 1485) (SF 2365)	1,000,000
Els for Autism - Specialized Autism Recreation Complex (HF 1037) (SF 2017)	3,000,000
The IDDeal Place - Intellectually and Developmentally Disabled Permanent Housing (HF 2872) (SF 2354)	900,000
Autism Therapeutic Wellness Program (HF 3266) (SF 2036)	450,000
Behavioral Challenges Therapeutic Inclusion Program - Creating Pathways to Possibilities for Individuals with Autism, Down syndrome & Developmental Disabilities (HF 2374) (SF 1688)	250,000
Boca School for Autism: Bridge to Success (B2S) Micro-Enterprise Vocational Job Training Program (HF 3247) (SF 1039)	200,000
Els for Autism Foundation - Specialized Workforce Training Program (HF 1459) (SF 2031)	400,000
HabCenter Boca Raton - Employment and Empowerment Programs for Individuals with Disabilities (HF 3263) (SF 2112)	175,000
HabCenter Boca Raton - Employment and Empowerment Programs for Individuals with Disabilities (HF 3263) (SF 2112) FCO Facility Repairs Maintenance & Construction	37,500

Other Community Based Projects

Big Dog Ranch Rescue - Animal Abuse Hotline Pilot Program (HF 2169) (SF 2738)	500,000
CityHouse - Home and Hope Project (HF 3288) (SF 1297)	100,000
Sherman Williams American Legion Hall Post 188c Renovation and Operations Support (HF 3764) (SF 3756)	200,000
Achievement Centers: Safe and Secure Learning Environments (HF 3273) (SF 1113)	121,116
YMCAS of the Palm Beaches Community Center (HF 2870) (SF 2359)	1,500,000

Appropriations List

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PUBLIC SAFETY

Criminal & Civil Justice

Sago Palm Facility - Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT)	142,900
South Bay Correctional Facility - PILT	275,560
South Bay Correctional Facility (Salary Increases for contract officers)	563,984
Office of Criminal Conflict and Civil Regional Counsel of the First Region	19,070,977
Justice Administrative Commission for PIP Fraud (Palm Beach and other counties)	2,689,385
P. B. Co. Rape Crisis Center*	282,039
RESTORE Ex-Offender Reentry Program*	500,000
Delray Beach Rescue Drone Program (HF 3280) (SF 3401)	338,000
Greenacres Fire Rescue Protective Gear and Safety Equipment (HF 1399) (SF 1878)	340,000
Palm Beach County Fire Rescue Water Vessels for Hazard Mitigation (HF 1503) (SF 1051)	200,000
West Palm Beach Fire Department Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Package (HF 2071) (SF 2378)	163,275
City of Riviera Beach Law Enforcement Training Center (HF 2566) (SF 2368)	500,000
Lantana Police Department Emergency Operations Renovation (HF 3279) (SF 2367)	210,000
City of Palm Beach Gardens Public Safety Aerial Drone Support Project (HF 1782) (SF 2049)	62,500
North Palm Beach Police Department - Real Time Crime Center (HF 1253) (SF 2366)	100,000
Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office Forensic Genetic Testing Phase 2 (HF 1531) (SF 2061)	625,000
Wandering Rescue and Prevention Project (HF 1014) (SF 1001)	250,000
South Bay Correctional Facility Salary Increase	563,984
Boca Raton Public Safety Dock Rehabilitation (HF 3269) (SF 1157)	500,000
Urban League of Broward County, Inc. Minority Communities Crime Prevention Programs	
Broward, Duval, Hillsborough, Leon, MiamiDade, Orange, Palm Beach, Pinellas	3,179,247

Appropriations List

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Transportation/Economic Development

Delray Beach - Swinton Ave & Atlantic Ave Intersection Improvements (HF 3281) (SF 1798)	1,000,000
Downtown West Palm Beach Signalization Upgrades - Phase 3 (HF 1431) (SF 3323)	3,000,000
Highland Beach - Pedestrian Safety and Traffic Improvement Project (HF 3290) (SF 1378)	375,000
Jupiter - High Speed Rail Safety Fencing (HF 1832) (SF 2098)	50,000
Jupiter - Indiantown Road Traffic Signal Preemption (HF 1830) (SF 2147)	90,816
Jupiter - Toney Penna & Central Boulevard Intersection Improvements (HF 1831) (SF 2099)	350,000
Lake Park Traffic Safety Upgrade (HF 1630) (SF 2355)	800,000
Mangonia Park Mill and Repaving Program (HF 1348) (SF 2362)	500,000
North Palm Beach Pavement Preservation (HF 1176) (SF 2357)	100,000
Palm Beach County Park Airport (LNA) Southside Phases 3 and 4 (HF 1488) (SF 1693)	2,000,000
Palm Springs Dolan Road Safety Improvements (HF 1494) (SF 1875)	750,000
South Bay Palm Beach Road Improvements and Beautification Project (HF 2025) (SF 1025)	900,000
West Palm Beach - Old Okeechobee Rail Safety Intersection Improvements (HF 1998) (SF2361)	3,000,000
Westlake - GoWest Public Transportation (HF 1713) (SF 2059)	202,997

Transportation Work Program

Arterial Highway Construction	28,107,498
Aviation Development Grants	14,000,000
Construction Inspection Consultants	26,558,231
Highway Maintenance Contracts	16,658,428
Highway Safety Construction Grants	3,981,089
Intrastate Highway Construction	345,459,370
Preliminary Engineering Consultants	20,854,300
Public Transit Development Grants	11,703,229
Rail Development Grants	25,955,332
Resurfacing	16,889,278
Right-of-Way Land Acquisition	3,061,725
Seaport Grants	2,000,000
Toll Operation Contracts	54,546,207
Traffic Engineering Consultants	6,363,626
Transportation Planning Consultants	1,400,000
Transportation Planning Grants	4,307,605

Small County Outreach Program

Rural area of opportunity communities (Statewide)	9,000,000
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Appropriations List

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ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

Water Projects

Palm Beach County C-51 Reservoir	60,000,000
Belle Glade - H1 Basin Stormwater Improvements (HF 1774) (SF 1111)	2,259,427
Boca Raton Drinking Water Transmission and Distribution Improvements - Boca Riviera (HF 3270) (SF 1158)	375,000
Boynton Beach Water Distribution System Improvement—Bent Tree and Lime Tree Communities (HF 3287) (SF 2921)	250,000
Florida Atlantic University - Seatech Dania Beach Campus Seawall Repair (HF 2993) (SF 2755)	1,500,000
Greenacres Septic-to-Sewer Conversion (HF 1398)	500,000
Indian Trail Improvement District M-0 Canal West Levee Mitigation and Re-enforcement (HF 1777) (SF 2043)	350,000
Jupiter A1A Beach Front Drainage Improvements (HF 3294) (SF 2149)	100,000
Jupiter Alma's Place Drainage and Water Quality Improvements (HF 3291) (SF 2100)	169,100
Jupiter Alternate A1A (SR 811) - Sawfish Bay Outfall Improvements (HF 3293) (SF 2148)	125,000
Jupiter Narrows Conservation Alliance - Andrew "Red" Harris Mangrove Islands Restoration in the Jupiter Narrows (HF 2029) (SF 2145)	260,000
Jupiter Seminole Basin Water Quality Improvements (HF 3262)	241,794
Loxahatchee Groves Stormwater System Rehabilitation Phase III (HF 1772) (SF 2066)	375,000
Ocean Ridge Water Main Replacement Program (HF 1397) (SF 1082)	300,000
Palm Beach - Peanut Island and Lake Worth Lagoon Habitat Restoration (HF 3261)	330,000
Palm Beach County Australian Avenue Drainage Improvements (HF 1054) (SF 1696)	2,000,000
Palm Beach County Water Treatment Plant No. 2 Expansion (HF 1393) (SF 1698)	1,000,000
Palm Beach County Water Treatment Plant No. 8 Membrane Expansion (HF 1438) (SF 1109)	2,000,000
Palm Beach Gardens Thompson River Dredging (HF 1768) (SF 2375)	250,000
Palm Beach North Lake Way Living Shoreline (HF 3254) (SF 3509)	262,500
Palm Springs Canal 9 Sewer Force Main Replacement (HF 1492) (SF 1877)	250,000
Palm Springs Critical Facility Emergency Generators—Sewer Vacuum Stations #2 and #3 (HF 1493) (SF 1876)	250,000
Peanut Island Coast Guard Facility and Bunker Restoration (HF 1053) (SF 1695)	650,000
Riviera Beach Utility Special District - New Water Treatment Plant Construction (HF 2564) (SF 2379)	1,500,000
Royal Palm Beach Storm Drain Outfall Replacement and Reinforcement (HF 1879) (SF 2068)	112,500
Wellington Pump Station Improvements (HF 1396) (SF 1080)	650,000
Wellington Water and Sewer Extension (HF 2864) (SF 3510)	4,600,000
West Palm Beach Membrane Pilot Testing for Use of Alternative Water Supply (HF 2561) (SF 2796)	375,000
Zoological Society of Palm Beaches Habitat and Security Enhancements (HF 3267) (SF 2046)	450,000

Appropriations List

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Beach Projects

Palm Beach County Ocean Inlet Improved Beach Access (HF 3256) (SF 1081)	125,000
Mid-Town Coastal Storm Risk Management Project	3,164,935

Inlet Management Projects

Boca Raton Inlet Management Plan Implementation	531,000
Jupiter Inlet Management Plan Implementation	1,596,709
Lake Worth IMP Implementation	1,034,000

Environmental Projects

UF/IFAS Everglades Research and Education Center Outdoor Educational Pavilion (HF 1506)	1,000,000
Loggerhead Marinelifelife Center Lifesaving Water Treatment System for Sick or Injured Sea Turtles (HF 3252) (SF 2019)	1,500,000
Loxahatchee River Headwaters Invasive Exotic Plant Removal (HF 3255)	113,000

FIXED CAPITAL OUTLAY LOCAL PARKS

Jupiter Athletic Field Repairs and Restoration (HF 3292) (SF 2097)	700,000
Mangonia Park Addie Greene Regional Park Improvements (HF 1349) (SF 2381)	220,000
Pahokee Restoration Project: Demucking and Backfilling for Sustainable Park Design Phase 1 (HF 1510) (SF 2095)	950,000
West Lake Phase 1 Park Improvements (HF 1776) (SF 2142)	600,000

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Cox Science Center and Aquarium Expansion (HF 1798) (SF 2663)	3,000,000
Habitat for Humanity of Greater Palm Beach - Resilient Housing for Veterans, Essential Employees and Seniors (HF 1257) (SF 1123)	250,000
Palm Beach County - Burt Aaronson South County Regional Park Improvements (HF 1096) (SF1038)	850,000
Palm Beach County Airport Renaming (SF 3790)	2,750,000
Palm Beach County Central County Sports Field House (HF 1394) (SF 1694)	900,000
Palm Beach Gardens Economic Development Infrastructure (HF 1783) (SF 2050)	300,000
Resilient Hardening of Lake Shore Multi-Use Resource Center (HF 1512) (SF 1964)	1,000,000
YMCA of the Palm Beaches Community Center (HF 2870) (SF 2359)	1,500,000

Appropriations List

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CULTURE & FINE ARTS

Historic Properties Restoration

~~Morikami Museum and Japanese Garden Expansion—Morikami Amanohashidate Bridge
(HF1072) (SF 1024)~~ ~~500,000~~

Cultural and Museum Grants

Busch Wildlife Sanctuary, Inc.	150,000
Center for Creative Education, Inc.	150,000
Cox Science Center and Aquarium	150,000
Lynn Conservatory of Music	150,000
Norton Museum of Art, Inc.	150,000
Palm Beach Dramaworks, Inc.	150,000
Palm Beach State College District Board of Trustees	150,000
Seven Hillz Productions Foundation	20,250
The Masterworks Chorus of the Palm Beaches, Inc.	22,940

Culture Builds Florida

Elizabeth Smith - Regeneration	25,000
Etheard Joseph - ArtISts Connecting South Florida Project	25,000
Fiesta De Pueblo, Inc.	25,000
Garrett Art Foundation, Inc.	25,000
Karon Bowman - Community Wellness Mosaic: A Florida Tribute for America250	25,000
Kingsley Okonkwo - AIRBUS Reimagined	19,000
KR8TIV Justice Arts Organization	25,000
Lake Worth Cultural Renaissance Foundation, Inc.	24,400
Milagro Foundation, Inc.	24,455
Ron Garrett - Florida the Beautiful Portfolios	25,000
St. Andrew's Protestant Episcopal Church	14,500
The Unbreakable Organization	25,000
Veterans Memorial & Multicultural Histories, Inc.	25,000

Statewide Library Grants

State Library State Aid	19,454,678
Library Cooperatives	2,000,000