



THE MAYFIELD MINUTE

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Florida's Old and New Capitols

Greetings from Tallahassee! During the recent Special Session, we in the legislature were given the enormous task of meeting our constitutional obligation to balance the budget. My colleagues and I worked very hard these past two weeks to reduce spending and utilize available reserve funds. As Special Session comes to an end, I am going to continue to keep my focus on what is best for our families and get our economy going again in the right direction.

-Rep. Debbie Mayfield

SPECIAL SESSION BUDGET POINTS

We all know these are tough times in our state, but our first mission in the Legislature is getting Florida's economy moving again. Here are some of the important issues discussed during the Special Session in regards to the budget.

Education – I understand the importance of a strong education system for the students, teachers and families of our state. All deductions were targeted to minimize the direct impact on students and classrooms.

Transportation – During this Special Session, as part of our budget balance reduc-

tions we did not make any reductions to transportation work program categories and we did not transfer any transportation revenues to General Revenue.

Health Care – Within the health care budget, we examined our priorities and gave greatest weight to funding direct, critical services to Florida's most vulnerable citizens. This budget prioritized services to our most vulnerable and ensures that Medicaid eligibility and services were not impacted.

Environment – In deciding to freeze the Florida Forever program, we did not eliminate our

commitment to land acquisition. There is still \$50 million available to already in-progress restoration projects. Protecting Florida's environment is important, but it was realistic to prioritize essential health services, education and public safety over this program.

With a slowing economy and less revenues, common sense and fiscal reality dictates that we balance our budget with significantly less revenues that we had just a few months ago. We must continue to focus on doing what is best for Florida's families.

"We're doing exactly what Florida's families are doing – spending less because we have less to spend."
- Representative Debbie Mayfield

For more detailed information on legislative issues, please check out the Florida Legislature's website!
www.myfloridahouse.gov



2009 REGULAR SESSION

The House of Representatives has just finished with a Special Session to fill a \$2.3 billion hole in Florida's budget. But the 2009 Regular Session is just around the corner.

The House Councils and Committees will continue to conduct meetings until February 19th and then the first day of Session will be March 3, 2009.

There are many issues that will be in the spotlight during the up and coming session. We will continue to focus on getting Florida's economy moving again by evaluating state programs and services to ensure that they are being run in the most cost efficient manor.



The House Chamber Floor during the 2009 Special Session A.

"Getting Florida's economy moving again is not a partisan issue. We must continue to work together to focus on solutions to the challenges we face." - Representative Debbie Mayfield

HOUSE COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

The House of Representatives will continue to meet in the interim for committee meeting to prepare for the 2009 Regular Session.

February 2–5

February 9–12

February 16–19

The 2009 Regular Session will begin on March 3, 2009 and is scheduled to end on May 1, 2009.

CONSTITUENT SERVICES

Do you have a problem with a state agency? Or are you just not sure of the procedure with dealing with an issue?

Please feel free to contact our offices for any type of assistance. We are there to help direct you to the appropriate person or get you past an automated response. Please call Bethany Fretwell in our district office with your concerns. She can be reached at (772) 778-5077 or (866) 957-7289.

SHARE WITH US YOUR CONCERNS

Name:
Address:
Email Address:

For each question below, circle the number to the right that best fits you opinion on the importance of the issue. Use the scale below to match your opinion.

Issues	Not at all	Not very	No Opinion	Somewhat	Extremely
Education	1	2	3	4	5
Economy	1	2	3	4	5
Insurance Reform	1	2	3	4	5
Property Taxes	1	2	3	4	5
Health Care	1	2	3	4	5
Environment	1	2	3	4	5
Economic Incentives	1	2	3	4	5
Immigration	1	2	3	4	5
Florida Retirement System Reform	1	2	3	4	5

Please return your responses to:

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Or feel free to email your responses to Debbie.Mayfield@myfloridahouse.gov