



THE MAYFIELD MINUTE

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Florida's Old and New Capitols

Greetings from Tallahassee! Things have been pretty hectic up here since the start of the New Year. With a special session and committee weeks already behind us, we're gearing up to start the Regular 2009 Legislative Session. This session I will work hard to represent the constituents of District 80 and to make sure that their voices are heard here in Tallahassee. This newsletter will be published weekly and will keep you updated on the issues important to our district and to the State of Florida.

-Rep. Debbie Mayfield



Wayne, Laura, Loy, and Joe Schasane with Rep. Mayfield in the chamber of the House of Representatives in Tallahassee

COMMITTEE WEEKS

House committee weeks are an important part of the legislative process. During this time the committees meet to discuss the issues that they will be focusing on throughout the session. Here are a few of the things that were worked on in committee weeks this year:

In the last two months every council and committee has reviewed their areas of the budget to eliminate unnecessary spending and to try to make our government as

efficient as possible. This work will help us as we prepare to make difficult budget decisions and balance Florida's budget.

The core missions of state agencies are being evaluated to ensure that their current operations comply with their original purpose. This is crucial, because if we want to be able to invest in what is important, we have to be willing to stop spending on what is not.

As a member of the House Governmental Affairs Pol-

icy Committee, I voted and helped to approve HJR 81, which would allow Florida voters to end public financing, or "welfare for politicians," in statewide political campaigns. Since 1998, taxpayers have paid over \$20 million to finance these campaigns.

"During these hard economic times, the financing of state campaigns should not be on the backs of our citizens."

- Rep. Debbie Mayfield

If you have any issues, questions, or concerns, please feel free to contact our district secretary, Bethany Fretwell, at (772) 778-5077 or toll-free at (866) 957-7289.

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



2009 REGULAR SESSION

Our 2009 Legislative Session will be starting this Tuesday, March 3rd. During this up-and-coming session my committees are bringing many important issues to the table:

In the Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Committee we have been asked to review the permitting process within various agencies and to look for ways to streamline the process and remove duplicative efforts by multiple agencies.

Within the Governmental Affairs policy Committee we are reviewing the Florida retirement system and looking for ways to eliminate problems within the system, including the abuse of the DROP Program.

In the State Universities and Private Colleges Committee we are considering a possible tuition increase within our state university system.

"With the state budget in its current condition, if we want our universities to offer the best education possible, we have to look for ways to ensure that they are adequately funded."

-Rep. Debbie Mayfield



Members of the FL Engineering Society visiting Representative Mayfield in Tallahassee

FCAT SCIENCE BILL– HB 543

House Bill 543, the Educational Assessment Bill, nicknamed the "FCAT Science Bill" will eliminate the mandatory 11th grade FCAT science test by the 2011-2012 school year and replace it with an end of course biology examination. The results of this test count towards the school's overall grade.

To replace the FCAT Science test, the Commissioner of Education will select a nationally developed biology test to be administered at the end of a regular high school biology course. Successful completion of this test will be required for graduation and students' scores will be factored into their comprehensive course grades.

THE CLASS SIZE RESOLUTION– HJR 919

House Joint Resolution 919, sponsored in the House by Rep. Will Weatherford, is a combined effort between the Florida House of Representatives and the Florida Senate. This resolution will give Florida voters the chance to change an amendment added to the Florida constitution in 2002 that limits class sizes in PreK-12th grade.

If passed, this resolution will switch the restrictions from a maximum number of students allowed per teacher to an average number of students allowed per teacher per school. By doing this, we will maintain a small average class size while saving the \$850,000 that would be needed to meet the strict per-teacher maximums required by next year. Representative Mayfield is a co-sponsor and supports this legislation.

PLEASE TELL US YOUR PRIORITIES

Name:
Address:
Email Address:

For each question below, circle the number to the right that best fits your 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