



THE MAYFIELD MINUTE

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Much has happened since I was elected to serve you as the Representative from District 80. With these trying economic times, the Legislature has been called into session three times in the past 12 months.

Within this issue, I will update you on what has happened during the recent interim committee weeks as well as inform you of what to expect from the 2010 Regular Session.

-Rep. Debbie Mayfield



Rep. Mayfield speaking on the House floor.

VERO BEACH ELECTRIC UTILITY UPDATE

I want to take this opportunity to update you on the Indian River County Legislative Delegation meeting which took place on Tuesday, January 26th. First, thank you to all of those that supported the local legislation at the meeting. I am happy to report that the local bill won by a majority vote.

As with most situations there are some who disagree with me and that is to be expected. But, I feel very strongly that we must continue our efforts to ensure all utility customers receive the representation they deserve. This local bill will bring greater consumer protection in terms of rates and oversight of the current City Utility system.

To read about Tuesday’s delegation meeting click on the following link:

[Mayfield Bill for Oversight of Vero Utility Passes First Test](#)

I would also like to commend Dr. Stephen Faherty and Glenn Heran for all of their time and effort in helping to inform the public about this issue. Again, I appreciate your support. Now on to Tallahassee!



Florida’s Old and New Capitols

2009 Budget Summary

- Increased per-student funding for our K-12 schools to \$6873
- Worked to stimulate economic recovery with \$30 million for first-time Homebuyers
- Protected services and provider rates for Florida's developmentally disabled
- Maintained our commitment to restoring the Everglades with continued funding
- Invested in the future of Florida's economy by increasing funding for state universities
- Provided \$13.5 million in the Quick Action Closing Fund to attract new companies to Florida
- Prioritized public safety by protecting funding for vital probation and security officers who work with offenders



2010 BUDGET PREVIEW

We struggled to meet the challenges of this year, but that does not mean that we should stop trying to find meaningful ways to save money for the taxpayers. The numbers don't look much better for the upcoming session, so we must stay committed to looking for ways to continue to reform the system.

So that's why this year I anticipate that the Florida House will again look for ways to create a more efficient government. We will be taking a hard look at the state's agencies to see what can be done to cut costs and improve accountability.

It's not about bigger government or smaller government. It's about a smarter government that is focused on finding common sense solutions to the problems we face.

Fiscal responsibility and spending reform is not an option; it is a requirement. We can no longer afford to fund projects that have outlived their usefulness, or exist only to serve the needs of some special interest. One of the BIG questions for this upcoming session is going to be: would you rather raise taxes, or drill for oil and gas? I can tell you I do not want to raise taxes.

As the House carefully studies the issue of drilling we will be taking a hard look to ensure that any proposal to explore for energy off our coast is conducted in a manner that is far enough, clean enough and safe enough so that it will continue to protect our state's environmental treasures without impacting our important tourism economy.

Oil and natural gas production from nearby land or direct from Florida's shallow waters could generate public revenues of between \$2.3 billion and \$12 billion a year - without raising new taxes. With the highest standards in the world applied, Florida can play a key role in America's energy independence, while employing American men and women in well paying jobs in Florida and elsewhere. Additionally, this will also help to protect our troops, our coastline and status as the leading economy in the world.

It is no secret that -just like Florida families and businesses-our state government is facing difficult budgetary challenges. Reviewing our options for responsible and safe energy exploration could help in our economic recovery by creating jobs as well as generate new revenues for important services such as education funding, health care and next generation renewable energy technologies.

The Florida Legislature has maintained a balanced budget by reducing spending nearly \$6 billion over the past two years. We have made tough decisions, and understanding the challenges we face we are prepared to make them again.

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

THE FLORIDA OFFICE OF
Economic Recovery

www.flarecovery.com

For more detailed information on state agencies, please check out the official State of Florida website!
www.myflorida.com



SPECIAL SESSION

While I am not pleased with the current stimulus spending plan from Washington or with the lack of results we've seen, Washington did make certain dollars available for transportation and rail. Some have suggested that these dollars need to be rejected. While I recognize that viewpoint, it is also important to note that these dollars are going to be spent regardless of whether or not Florida rejects them. Our choice is to either turn our backs on those funds and watch them be sent to the 26 other states that are actively competing for those dollars, or make sure Florida is competitive for those available resources.

Building public infrastructure is a core function of government, and rail is an innovative, energy efficient, clean form of transportation. Under this plan, we are able to invest in Florida's transportation future without raising taxes and using only existing revenues. If we were going to try to alleviate congestion through building more roads in Central Florida, building an additional lane on I-4 in each direction over the same 61 miles would cost \$7.5 billion dollars.



Rep. Gary Aubuchon gestures as he fielded questions and defended HB1B, a measure which proposes enlarging Florida's state-wide passenger rail system

The proposed SunRail project is a partnership between the federal government, Florida Department of Transportation and local governments. We have been able to leverage our state's financial investment into a 3 to 1 match. These matching dollars are not federal stimulus dollars.

This legislation will also allow county or city governments to use some of their state and federal transportation dollars for commuter rail if it is in the best interest to their community, but does not pass along any unfunded mandates from the state. Moving forward today with this proposal is important for Florida's transportation future and is a good investment, especially since taxes are not being raised to make it happen.

All Floridians have experienced the impact of the current economic downturn and the possibility that tougher times are still ahead. That's why restoring Florida's economy is a top priority for the Florida House of Representatives. To that end, we remain focused on our goal to recharge our state's economy and help create jobs in the private sector for Floridians.

To view
Governor Crist's
2010 Budget
Recommendations,
visit
[www.thepeoplesbudget.
state.fl.us](http://www.thepeoplesbudget.state.fl.us)

Should you have
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MAYFIELD VISITS PARK PLACE

I recently had the opportunity to visit Park Place in Sebastian, FL. During my visit, I was able to update the residents on issues dealing with community associations and mobile homes.

As far as specific legislation dealing with community associations there are two bills which have been filed already HB 419 & HB 115. Both bills provide various provisions relating to disputes, powers, and duties of HOA's. I was pleased to let the residents know that I have signed on as a cosponsor to both of these bills.



HB 115 which is currently in Civil Justice & Courts Policy Council would require the Dept of Business & Professional Regulation to enter an order permanently revoking the license of community association manager under certain circumstances. It also seeks to create a "Home Court Advantage Dispute Resolution Act" which would provide regulatory provisions for mediation and arbitration of disputes in HOA's.

Likewise, HB 419 creates a complaint form for members of an HOA to use to let the state know about problems with HOA's. This bill would also update HOA law to include cooperative consumer protections.

I enjoyed my visit with the residents and will be sure to keep them informed on these issues as the 2010 Legislative Session begin in March.

RIVERSIDE THEATRE RECEIVES GRANT

Riverside Theatre made an application to the Culture Builds Florida grant program and I was very happy to support them in their efforts to attain funding in the amount of \$25,000.

The educational and outreach arm of Riverside, Riverside Children's Theatre last year served a diverse constituency of over 18,500 children and their families in Indian River and the surrounding counties.

The programs of Riverside Children's Theatre are noted for their emphasis on availability and affordability, and they truly live up to their motto of "Where Every Child is a Star."

Funding from Culture Builds Florida will assist Riverside Children's Theatre in making programs accessible to working families, as the after school enrichment programs will take place at local schools so the parents will not have to provide transportation for their children.

Riverside Theatre is a vital part of the cultural fabric of our community and I am happy that they were approved for the grant!

Children's
RIVERSIDE THEATRE
Theatre, Dance, Music, and Video Education

