



THE MAYFIELD MINUTE

Volume 2, Issue 18

July 12, 2010

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Jobs & The Economy</i>	1
<i>Double Dipping</i>	2
<i>Deepwater Horizon</i>	2

Vero Beach Office:

1053 20th Place
Vero Beach, FL 32960
(772) 778-5077

Tallahassee Office:

317 House Office Building
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399
(850) 488-0952

Toll Free Numbers:

Phone – (866) 857-7289
Fax – (888) 544-0393



Florida's Old and New Capitols

Floridians are facing one of the most difficult economic climates of our time. Over the past two years, I have listened to the concerns of many constituents who are worried about getting the economy turned around.

With the state facing huge budget shortfalls, the Legislature worked this past Session to come up with innovative ideas to grow the economy and put Floridians back to work.

-Rep. Debbie Mayfield

JOBS & THE ECONOMY

Our top priority in the Legislature this year was recharging Florida's economy and helping put Floridians back to work. Throughout this year's Legislative Session, we stayed focused on our responsibility to Florida's families and businesses. We took important steps forward to incentivize new businesses, stimulate job creation and remove barriers to economic growth in Florida.

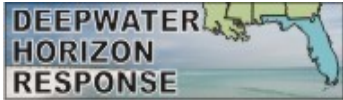
On the first day of session, we passed legislation that will help keep Floridians working, prevent layoffs, bring a degree of economic certainty to help create new jobs and foster economic growth in Florida. The bill we passed holds down dramatic increases in unemployment tax rates for businesses for the next two years, increases that would have occurred otherwise and likely resulted in layoffs for Floridians. I felt it is better for Florida employers to use their dollars to keep Floridians working rather than be forced to lay off employees in order to afford a higher unemployment tax bill.

We passed a \$203 million jobs package (over three years) for Floridians designed to make our state more economically competitive and encourage companies to invest in our state and hire Floridians. To encourage companies to hire Floridians who have been out of work, we provided tax credits to help make it easier to get Floridians back to work. To help thousands of Floridians who will be impacted by the ending of NASA's Space Shuttle program, we authorized \$29.8 million for infrastructure improvements to attract aerospace industry jobs and to help workers in need of retraining. We also funded an attractive incentive package to bring the film and entertainment industry to Florida, to help make Florida more competitive for the jobs this industry creates.

There is no doubt in anyone's mind that Florida is facing one of the worst economies in memory. We took a long-term view toward restoring Florida's economy this year. We continued to work to get Floridians back to work and prepare for a future that will once again place Florida among the top states in economic growth and prosperity in America.

Should you have any state constituent issues, please do not hesitate to contact Heather Dean in my Vero Beach office at (772) 778-5077.

Click a Logo



Technology Corner:

Twitter

I will be posting updates on Twitter and you can stay up to date by following me at



Session Live:

You can follow daily events in the House of Representatives at www.myfloridahouse.gov.



DOUBLE DIPPING BILL

Among a number of bills that took effect on the first of July, one long-awaited measure will finally begin saving taxpayers' money. Passed in 2009, House Bill (HB) 479, puts an end to a practice known as "Double Dipping," which refers to a practice by some state employees who retire, then return only 30 days later to the same job earning their state salary in addition to pension and benefits. Many times individuals receive a lump sum payout in the hundreds of thousands of dollars as well.

This is a common sense measure that closes a loop hole which allowed some people to take advantage of Florida's Retirement System at the expense of taxpayers. A non-partisan study commissioned by the Florida Division of Retirement projects a savings of \$127 million this year for Florida taxpayers by ending double dipping. The popular bill passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 93-23.

ATLANTIC HEALTHCARE TOUR



Thank you to Edwin Rojas, the employees and residents of Atlantic Healthcare in Vero Beach for allowing me to tour this great facility last month!

DEEPWATER HORIZON

As your State Representative, I continue to monitor the environmental impact of the Deepwater Horizon incident in the Gulf of Mexico as well as BP's activities in the clean up efforts. I participate regularly in briefings on the status of both cleanup and containment efforts. Additionally, although we hope that the Treasure Coast will not be affected directly by the spill, state, county and local officials have taken pro-active measures to ensure that the Treasure Coast is prepared in the event our beaches and wildlife are impacted.

To find out more of the daily activities of the Department of Environmental Protection, click on the Deepwater Horizon logo above. If you are interested in learning more about volunteer efforts, or to volunteer, I encourage you to visit www.volunteerflorida.com. Lastly, Indian River County's Emergency Management Division's website provides answers to Frequently Asked Questions on Tarballs, Daily Status Updates, contact information for the Florida Oil Spill Information Line, as well as a link to register to help. See the following link to visit their website: http://www.irces.com/Emergency_Management_Division/Index.htm