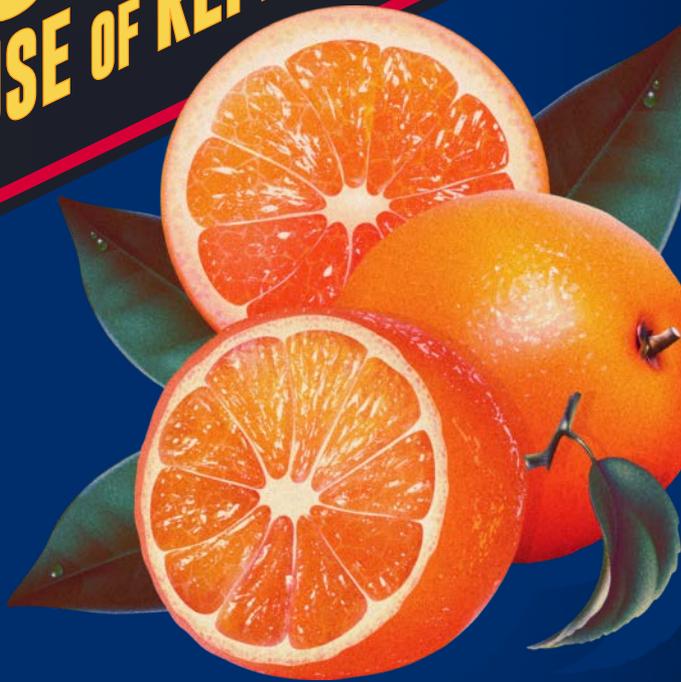


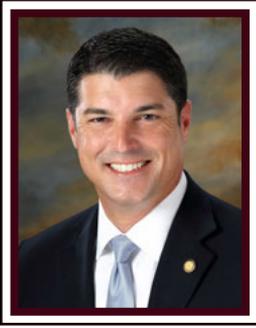


WELCOME to the FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



STEVE CRISAFULLI
SPEAKER
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

2014 - 2016



Steve Crisafulli

Speaker

House of Representatives



Dear Floridian,

On behalf of the 120 members of the Florida House of Representatives, welcome, and thank you for the honor of having the unique opportunity to serve you. Each member of the House is a citizen-legislator: men and women just like you who have diverse backgrounds, experience, and professions. We are small business owners, health care workers, teachers, farmers, retirees, and military and law enforcement officers, as well as parents and grandparents.

Although serving as a Representative is officially a part-time job, House members work year-round on your behalf. Members participate annually in the 60-day Regular Session, where we discuss and act on matters of state concern, create public policy, and pass a budget. Throughout his or her two-year term, your Representative will serve on committees and subcommittees which meet throughout the year and deal with various subject matters affecting the everyday lives of Floridians. In addition, House members spend significant time holding local legislative briefings, meeting with constituents, and working with federal, state, and local officials on issues that impact your community.

This booklet contains information on the history and development of the State of Florida and the House of Representatives, state symbols and interesting Florida facts, the structure of state government and the House, legislative sessions and the budget process, how an idea becomes a law, member demographics, and a list of legislative terms. In addition to the information provided in this book, you may also find up-to-date information on members, bills, and the legislative process at our website, www.myfloridahouse.gov, or download our free FL House App available at the Apple Store and on Google Play.

In order to do the best job we can in representing you, it is crucial that we receive input on matters you are concerned about. Contact information for each Representative can be found in this booklet, as well as on our website. Please keep in touch, and thank you for your interest in the Florida House of Representatives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "S. Crisafulli".

Steve Crisafulli
Speaker



Welcome to the Capitol

House members welcome constituents to visit the Capitol to see the legislative process in action.

Members can be reached in Tallahassee through their Capitol offices during committee meeting weeks and legislative session. All other times, members can be reached by contacting their local district offices.

Contact information for members and committees, in addition to the committee meeting schedule, can be found on the www.myfloridahouse.gov website as well as the FL House App. The FL House App is now available in the Apple Store and on Google Play. Our website allows you to search for your member based on your street address and our app allows you to automatically download scheduled committee meetings directly to your calendar.

Sessions are open to the public and may be viewed from the House Gallery, located on the 5th floor of the Capitol building, sitting just above the House Chamber.

For your convenience, meeting rooms and committee and member offices are listed on wall directories throughout the Capitol complex. These directories show an “H,” “C,” or “K” after each room number which refers to the location: the House Office Building, the Capitol, or the Knott Building. The first number of each room indicates the floor. Example: Room 231 C means the room is located on the second floor of the Capitol building.

If you visit your member in Tallahassee, hard copies of the House Calendar and the House Directory are available by visiting the Print & Graphic Services office located in Room 334 of the Capitol.



Hallway directories are placed at key locations to help visitors locate offices



Capitol History

Changes in Florida's Capitol over the years have reflected the growth of the state. In the early 1820s, legislators transferred government business from St. Augustine to Pensacola for alternating sessions. Travel was hazardous and

took almost twenty days — clearly an unsatisfactory arrangement. As a result, Tallahassee was chosen as the capital of American Florida in 1824, primarily because it was the midway point between the two principal cities.

Three log cabins served as Florida's first Capitol. In 1826, a two-story masonry building, 40' X 26', was built. It was to be the wing of a larger structure planned for the future. Although this larger portion was started, it was never completed due to financial problems.

As Florida moved toward statehood, the needs of government grew. There arose a demand for a suitable state house or public building for the use of the Territorial Legislature. On March 3, 1839, Congress appropriated \$20,000 for the erection of a new Capitol. The old structure was razed immediately, and Florida's government temporarily moved into rented quarters.

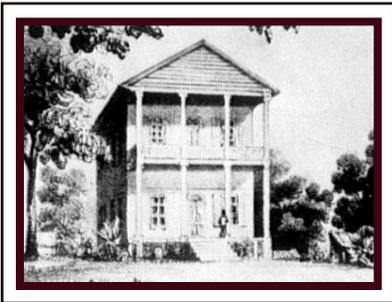
The brick Capitol was completed in 1845, just prior to the installation of the new State government. This structure remains the core of the Old Capitol to the present day.

The Capitol remained virtually unchanged during the Civil War years when Tallahassee was the only Confederate capital east of the Mississippi to avoid capture by Federal troops.

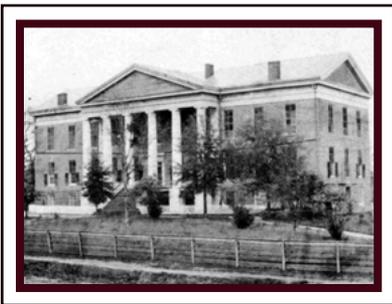
By the 1880s, Florida suffered growing



One of three cabins that served as the first Florida Capitol in 1824



The Capitol in 1830



The Capitol in 1845



Capitol History

pains caused by an economic boom and expanding population. By 1891, the Capitol needed thorough repair. The building was repainted, a small cupola was added, and plumbing was installed.



Architect Frank Milburn's original rendering for the 1902 additions of the Capitol

The first major alteration to the Capitol came in 1902 when the addition of two wings provided more room for the growing State government, and the familiar dome was added. This was the last time Florida's government operated under one roof. By 1911, State government was moving to other buildings. Further additions to the Capitol were made in 1923, 1936, and 1947.



Looking northwest at the construction of the new Capitol in 1976

Florida's population continued to grow as did its need for government services. In 1972, the Legislature authorized money for a new Capitol Complex to include House and Senate chambers and offices, along with a twenty-two story executive office building completed in 1977.

Restoration of the Old Capitol became an issue in 1978 with the then Governor Reubin O'D. Askew and House Speaker Donald Tucker favoring outright demolition. Luckily, the Old Capitol building was saved and refurbished, and reopened to the public in 1982.



View of the Historic Capitol with the new Capitol behind it from Apalachee Parkway

This article was taken from the Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources. All photos are from the Florida State Archives.

See <http://www.flheritage.com/> for more information on Florida's history.



Florida's Government

The Constitution of Florida declares that “All political power is inherent in the people.” With the passing of each election, those to be governed choose those who will lead their government.

Under its Constitution, the powers of the state government of Florida (like those of the United States and of the other American states) are divided among three branches. This division, known as the doctrine of separation of powers, is based on principles intended to protect the rights of every person.

The legislative branch is the law-making branch, setting the main policies of the government through the laws it enacts. The executive branch, headed by the Governor, sees that the laws are faithfully executed, commissions all officers of the State and counties, and transacts all necessary business with the officers of government. The judicial branch, composed of the courts, interprets the laws, makes their meaning clear when it is questioned, and, on the basis of their meaning, resolves disputes between individuals or between the State and an individual.

Although the Constitution provides for these three separate and distinct branches of government, it provides for checks and balances to prevent any one branch from becoming all-powerful. For instance, the Governor is given power to veto acts of the Legislature and the courts are given power to declare acts unconstitutional. Similarly, by amending a statute, the Legislature may revise a policy of one of the other branches. The three branches are, therefore, not wholly unconnected but are interlocked in order to give each a constitutional control over the others.



A view of the Historic and current Capitols



The Executive Branch

Governor Rick Scott is head of the executive branch of government and is commander-in-chief of all military forces of the state not in active service of the United States. The Constitution provides that the Governor shall take care that the laws be faithfully executed, commission all officers of the State and counties, and transact all necessary business with the officers of government. The Governor may also, by proclamation stating the purpose, call the Legislature into special session.

The Governor administers the executive function of state government along with the three elected Cabinet officers. The Attorney General is required to have been a member of The Florida Bar for at least five years preceding election and is the chief state legal officer and is responsible for protecting Florida consumers from various types of fraud and enforcing the state's antitrust laws. The Chief Financial Officer oversees the state's accounting and auditing functions for the state and is responsible for the licensing and oversight of insurance agents and agencies, funeral homes and cemeteries, investigating insurance fraud, and verifying workers' compensation coverage. The Chief Financial Officer also serves as the State Fire Marshal. The Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services supports and promotes agriculture, protects the environment, safeguards consumers, and ensures the safety and wholesomeness of food.

The following agencies and departments are considered a part of the executive branch: Department of Business & Professional Regulation, Department of Children & Families, Department of Citrus, Department of Corrections, Department of Economic Opportunity, Department of Education, Department of Elder Affairs, Department of Environmental Protection, Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Department of Health, Department of Juvenile Justice, Department of the Lottery, Department of Management Services, Department of Military Affairs, Department of State, Department of Transportation, Agency for Health Care Administration, Agency for Persons with Disabilities, Department of Highway Safety & Motor Vehicles, Department of Law Enforcement, Department of Revenue, Department of Veterans' Affairs, State Board of Administration, Office of Executive Clemency, and Florida Commission on Offender Review.



Governor and Cabinet: **From left to right**, Attorney General Pam Bondi, Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services Adam Putnam, Governor Rick Scott, Chief Financial Officer Jeff Atwater



The Judicial Branch



Chief Justice Jorge Labarga



Front Row: Justice Barbara J. Pariente, Chief Justice Jorge Labarga, Justice R. Fred Lewis **Back Row:** Justice Ricky Polston, Justice Peggy A. Quince, Justice Charles T. Canady, Justice James E.C. Perry

The Constitution describes the powers of the judicial branch as vested in “a supreme court, district courts of appeal, circuit courts, and county courts.”

The courts are empowered to try persons accused of a crime or to provide a legal ruling when someone seeks to recover damages for an injury caused by the wrongful act of another. The court system oversees enforcement of judicial decisions rendered.

The highest court is the Supreme Court, based in Tallahassee. It does not try cases, as such, but reviews important cases which have been tried in the lower courts and appealed. Similarly, less important cases are appealed to the District Courts of Appeal. There is a Chief Justice, selected by the six other justices of the Supreme Court. These justices are initially appointed by the Governor from a list of qualified persons submitted by the Judicial Nominating Commission. For subsequent terms, they must stand for retention at general elections. Each appellate district is represented by at least one justice.

Jorge Labarga is the Chief Justice. Other justices, in order of seniority, are Barbara J. Pariente, R. Fred Lewis, Peggy A. Quince, Charles T. Canady, Ricky Polston, and James E.C. Perry.

District Courts of Appeal

1st District
(Tallahassee)
15 judges

2nd District
(Lakeland)
16 judges

3rd District
(Miami)
10 judges

4th District
(West Palm Beach)
12 judges

5th District
(Daytona Beach)
11 judges
5 senior judges



The Legislative Branch



Steve Crisafulli, Speaker
Florida House of Representatives



Andy Gardiner, President
Florida Senate

The Legislature is composed of two chambers: a House of Representatives and a Senate. Each house biennially chooses its officers and adopts its own rules of procedure. All sessions of the House of Representatives and the Senate are open to the public. Either house of the Legislature may initiate legislation on any subject. For a bill to become a law, it must be passed by both houses in identical form.

Article III, Section 1 of the State Constitution states, “The legislative power of the state shall be vested in a legislature of the State of Florida, consisting of a senate composed of one senator elected from each senatorial district and a house of representatives composed of one member elected from each representative district.” The House has 120 members and the Senate has 40.

The Legislature meets in regular session each year as set in the Florida Constitution or established by law: In 2015, the first day of session is Tuesday, March 3. In 2016, the first day of session is January 12.



Sergeants at Arms Russell Hosford (House) and Donald Severance (Senate) drop the handkerchief signaling *sine die*, the official end of the legislative session

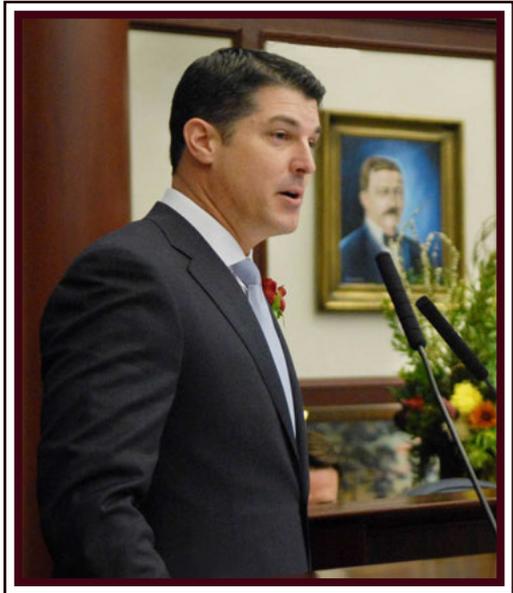


The Florida House of Representatives

The Speaker

The Speaker is a constitutional officer who leads the House for a two-year term, manages its operations, and presides over its sessions. The Speaker is elected by his/her fellow Representatives. Among the most important duties are the appointment of committee members and selection of their chairs. Chairs are key figures in the legislative process and play an important role in determining content of legislation considered by the House.

Steve Crisafulli, Speaker



The Speaker *pro tempore*

The Speaker *pro tempore* is also elected by his/her fellow Representatives. In the event of an interim vacancy of the Speaker through death, resignation, or disability, the Speaker *pro tempore* may exercise the authority of the Speaker. The Speaker *pro tempore* often presides in the Chamber when the Speaker leaves the Chair.

Matt Hudson, Speaker *pro tempore*



The Florida House of Representatives

The Leadership Offices

Both the Republican and Democratic members of the House elect their own leaders. The Republicans and Democrats have a formalized leadership structure. The Speaker appoints a Majority Leader who, along with the leader of the minority party, is expected to actively articulate his or her party's viewpoint on the House floor during sessions.

Majority Leaders

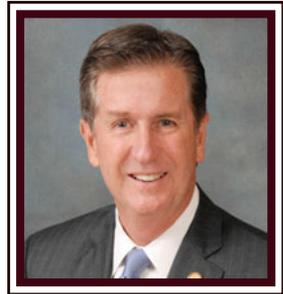
The Republican officers, in addition to the Speaker and Speaker *pro tempore*, include the Majority Leader, Deputy Majority Leader, Majority Whip, and Deputy Whips.



Dana D. Young
Majority Leader



Jim Boyd
Deputy Majority Leader
and Majority Whip



Minority Leaders

The Democratic officers include the Democratic Leader, Democratic Leader *pro tempore*, Floor Leader, Policy Chair, Policy Advisor, Democratic Whip, and Deputy Whips.



Mark S. Pafford
Minority (Democratic) Leader



Mia L. Jones
Minority (Democratic) Leader *pro tempore*



The Florida House of Representatives

Other Officers

The House has two non-member officers: the Clerk and the Sergeant at Arms. The Clerk is a constitutional officer appointed by the Speaker and serves at the pleasure of the Speaker. The Sergeant is also appointed by the Speaker.



The Clerk of the House



The Clerk is a constitutional officer responsible for keeping and publishing a correct *Journal* of House proceedings, publishing other House documents, attesting to official records, and supervising the custody of all legislation and documents of the House. The Clerk also serves as a source of proper legislative and parliamentary procedures.

Bob Ward, Clerk

513 The Capitol, 402 S. Monroe St., Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300 • Main (850) 717-5400



The Sergeant at Arms

The Sergeant at Arms is the officer responsible for security of the House and its members when engaged in their constitutional duties, property management, facilities operations and support services for the House, and other duties under the command and supervision of the Speaker of the House.



Russell Hosford, Sergeant at Arms

512 The Capitol, 402 S. Monroe St., Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300 • Main (850) 717-5700 • Fax (850) 414-6880



Member Demographics

Your elected Representatives reflect a cross section of their constituency in almost every way: occupation, age, birthplace, religion, marital status, and other information as shown in the compilations below.

Party Affiliation

Republicans	80
Democrats	39

Gender

Male	92
Female	27

Occupation*

Business.....	45
Communications.....	4
Education.....	9
Health Care	10
Law.....	33
Public Service	6
Services	30

*Some members reported more than one occupation

Religious Affiliation

Catholic.....	26
Jewish.....	8
Not Reported.....	10
Protestant.....	75

Education

AA or Some College.....	11
Bachelor's or Above	100
No College	8

Age

Under 30	4
30-39.....	30
40-49.....	32
50-59.....	30
60 and over	23

Marital Status

Married	95
Not Married	24

Children

1 Child	10
2 Children	37
3 Children	27
4 Children	8
5 Children	7
6 Children	4
7 Children.....	1
8 Children.....	2
None Reported	23

Legislative Service

Incumbents.....	92
Freshmen	27



Member Demographics

Birthplace

Alabama.....	1	New York.....	12
Alaska.....	1	Ohio.....	2
California.....	2	Pennsylvania.....	3
Florida.....	68	South Carolina.....	1
Georgia.....	2	Tennessee.....	1
Hawaii.....	1	Texas.....	2
Illinois.....	2	Washington, D.C.....	1
Indiana.....	1	Canada.....	1
Louisiana.....	1	Germany.....	1
Massachusetts.....	2	Haiti.....	1
Michigan.....	3	Jamaica.....	1
Minnesota.....	1	Not Reported.....	4
New Jersey.....	4		



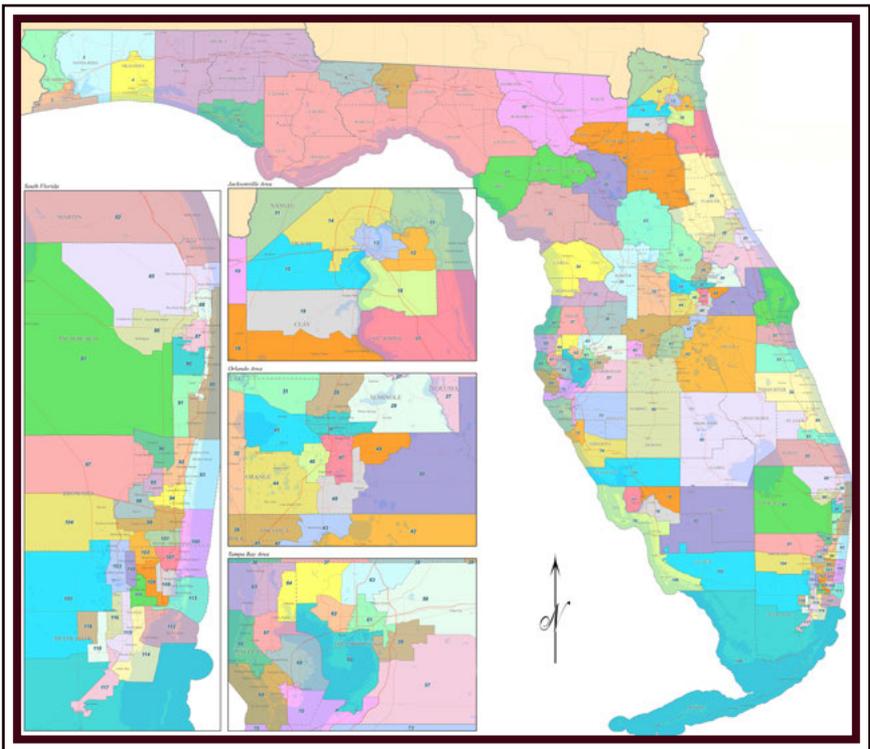
The 2014-2016 composite poster showing the members of the Florida House of Representatives



Florida House District Map

One Person, One Vote: Determining the Number of Representatives

The Florida Constitution requires the Legislature to redraw the geographic areas from which members of the House are elected in the second year following each 10-year census. It also requires there be no fewer than 80 nor more than 120 members of the House of Representatives. In addition, the United States Supreme Court has ruled that state legislative districts be as nearly equal in population as possible, adhering to the principle of one person, one vote.



For the 2012 reapportionment, the Legislature retained the number of House members at 120 and continued the single-member-district policy first adopted in 1982. To arrive at the ideal membership apportionment, the total population of Florida, 18,801,310 (2010 Census), was divided by 120, resulting in an ideal of 156,678 persons per district.



Member Index

Roman: Republican; *Italics: Democrat*

(Member - District #Page#)

Adkins - 11	19	<i>Geller - 100</i>	42	Porter - 10	18
Ahern - 66	33	Gonzalez - 74	35	Powell - 88	39
Albritton - 56	30	Goodson - 50	29	<i>Pritchett - 102</i>	43
<i>Antone - 46</i>	28	Hager - 89	39	Raburn - 57	31
Artiles - 118	48	Harrell - 83	38	<i>Rader - 81</i>	37
Avila - 111	46	Harrison - 63	32	Raschein - 120	49
Baxley - 23	22	Hill - 2	16	Raulerson - 58	31
<i>Berman - 90</i>	40	Hudson - 80	37	Ray - 12	19
Beshears - 7	18	Hutson - 24	22	<i>Rehwinkel Vasilinda - 9</i>	18
Bileca - 115	47	Ingoglia - 35	25	Renuart - 17	20
Boyd - 71	34	Ingram - 1	16	<i>Richardson - 113</i>	46
<i>Bracy - 45</i>	27	<i>Jacobs - 96</i>	41	Roberson - 75	35
Brodeur - 28	23	<i>Jenne - 99</i>	42	Rodrigues, R. - 76	36
Broxson - 3	16	Jones, M. - 14	19	<i>Rodriguez, J. - 112</i>	46
Burgess - 38	25	<i>Jones, S. - 101</i>	42	<i>Rogers - 95</i>	41
Burton - 40	26	Kerner - 87	39	Rooney - 85	38
Caldwell - 79	36	La Rosa - 42	27	<i>Rouson - 70</i>	34
<i>Campbell - 108</i>	45	Latvala - 67	33	Santiago - 27	23
<i>Clarke-Reed - 92</i>	40	<i>Lee - 84</i>	38	<i>Slosberg - 91</i>	40
Combee - 39	26	Magar - 82	38	Smith - 34	24
Corcoran - 37	25	Mayfield - 54	30	Spano - 59	31
Cortes, B. - 30	23	McBurney - 16	20	Sprohls - 65	33
<i>Cortes, J. - 43</i>	27	<i>McGhee - 117</i>	48	<i>Stafford - 109</i>	45
Costello - 25	22	Metz - 32	24	<i>Stark - 104</i>	43
Crisafulli - 51	29	Miller - 47	28	Steube - 73	35
<i>Cruz - 62</i>	32	Moraitis - 93	40	Stone - 22	21
Cummings - 18	20	<i>Moskowitz - 97</i>	41	Sullivan - 31	24
Diaz, J. - 116	47	<i>Murphy - 36</i>	25	<i>Taylor - 26</i>	22
Diaz, M. - 103	43	<i>Narain - 61</i>	32	Tobia - 53	29
Drake - 5	17	Nuñez - 119	48	<i>Torres - 48</i>	28
<i>DuBose - 94</i>	41	Oliva - 110	45	Trujillo - 105	44
<i>Dudley - 68</i>	33	O'Toole - 33	24	Trumbull - 6	17
Eagle - 77	36	<i>Pafford - 86</i>	39	Van Zant - 19	21
<i>Edwards - 98</i>	42	Passidomo - 106	44	<i>Watson, B. - 107</i>	45
Eisnaugle - 44	27	Perry - 21	21	<i>Watson, C. - 20</i>	21
Fant - 15	20	Peters - 69	34	<i>Williams - 8</i>	18
Fitzenhagen - 78	36	Pigman - 55	30	Wood - 41	26
Fresen - 114	47	Pilon - 72	34	Workman - 52	29
<i>Fullwood - 13</i>	19	Plakon - 29	23	Young - 60	31
Gaetz - 4	16	Plasencia - 49	28	District - 64	32



2014-2016 Representatives



**Clay
Ingram**
Republican
District 1
Part of Escambia
Elected in 2010



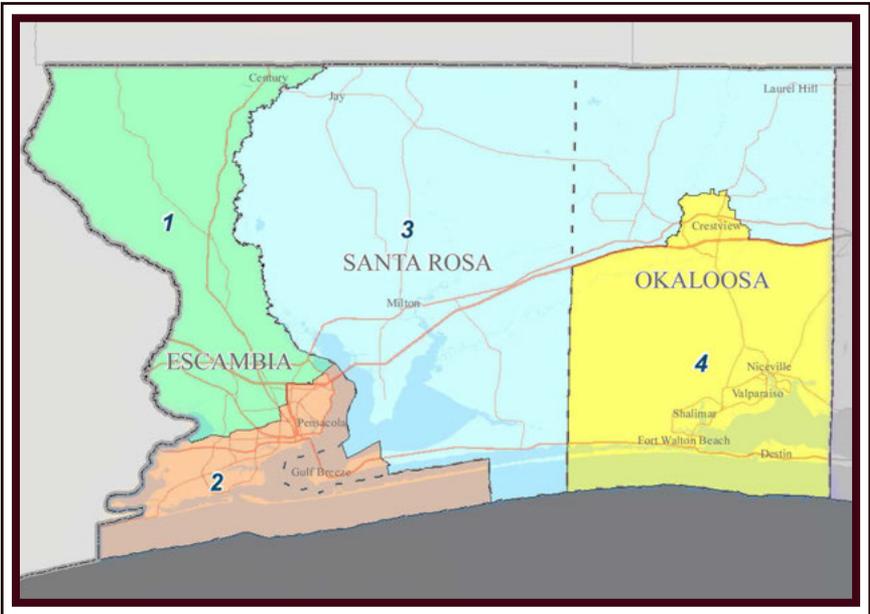
**Walter Bryan
"Mike" Hill**
Republican
District 2
Parts of Escambia, Santa
Rosa
Elected June 11, 2013



**Doug
Broxson**
Republican
District 3
Parts of Okaloosa, Santa
Rosa
Elected in 2010



**Matt
Gaetz**
Republican
District 4
Part of Okaloosa
Elected April 13, 2010



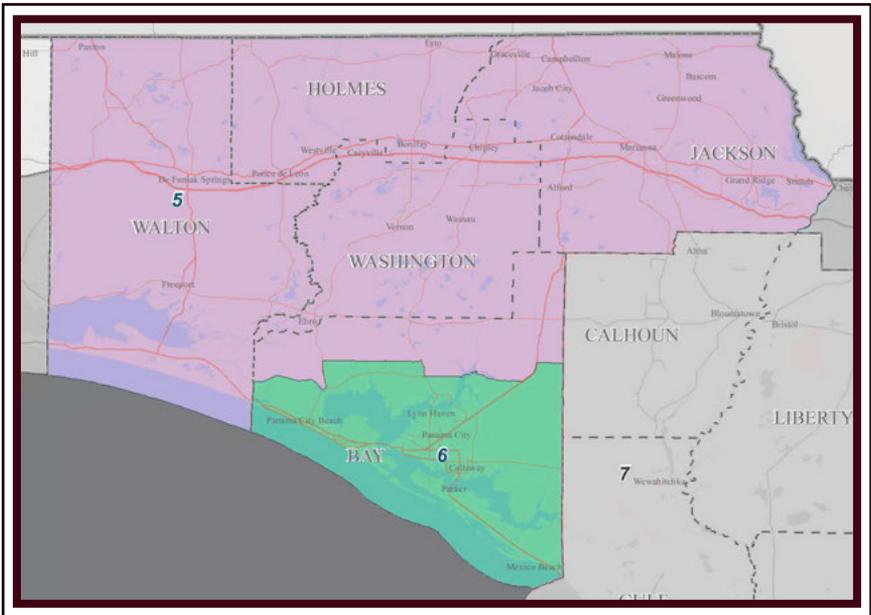
2014-2016 Representatives



Brad Drake
Republican
District 5
Holmes, Jackson, Walton,
Washington and part of Bay
Elected in 2014



Jay Trumbull
Republican
District 6
Part of Bay
Elected in 2014



2014-2016 Representatives



Halsey Beshears
Republican

District 7
Calhoun, Franklin, Gulf,
Jefferson, Lafayette,
Liberty, Madison, Taylor,
Wakulla and part of Leon
Elected in 2012



Alan B. Williams
Democrat

District 8
Gadsden and part of Leon
Elected in 2008



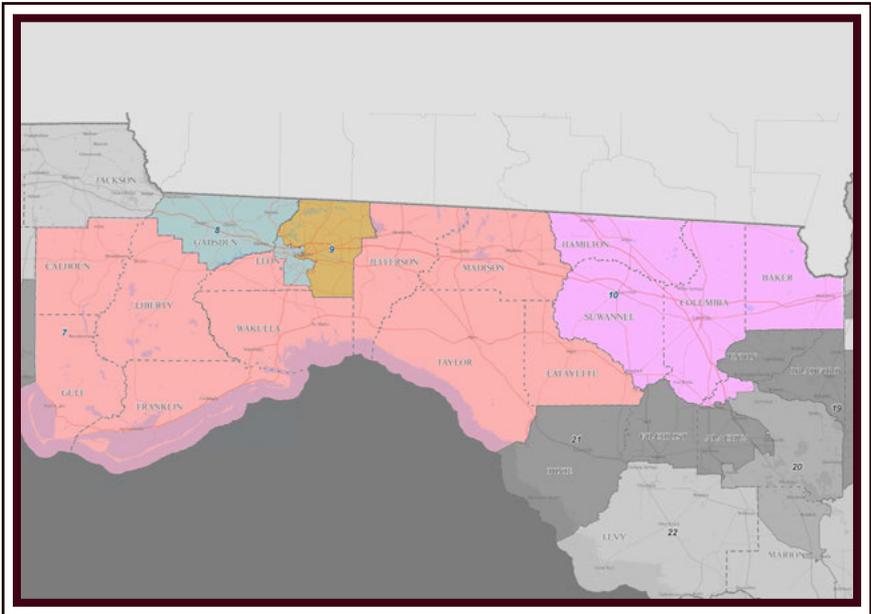
Michelle Rehwinkel Vasilinda
Democrat

District 9
Part of Leon
Elected in 2008



Elizabeth W. Porter
Republican

District 10
Baker, Columbia, Hamilton,
Suwannee and part of
Alachua
Elected in 2010



2014-2016 Representatives



Janet H. Adkins
Republican
District 11
Nassau and part of Duval
Elected in 2008



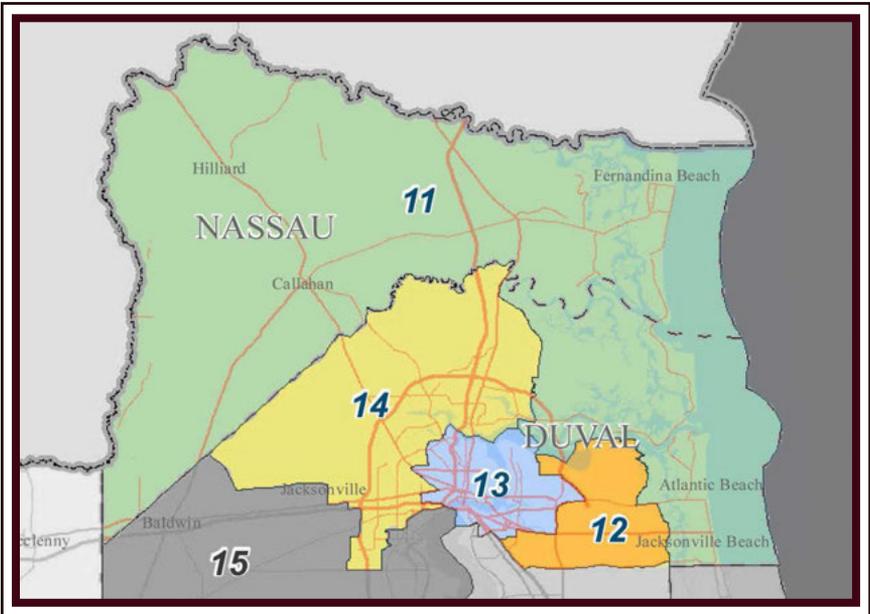
Lake Ray
Republican
District 12
Part of Duval
Elected in 2008



Reggie Fullwood
Democrat
District 13
Part of Duval
Elected February 17, 2015



Mia L. Jones
Minority Leader *pro tempore*
Democrat
District 14
Part of Duval
Elected in 2008



2014-2016 Representatives



Jay Fant
Republican
District 15
Part of Duval
Elected in 2014



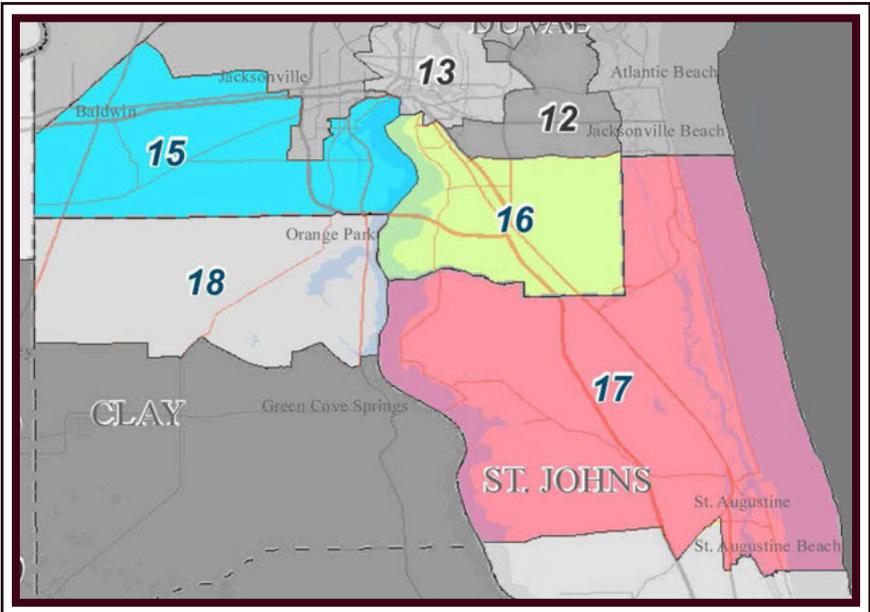
Charles McBurney
Republican
District 16
Part of Duval
Elected September 18, 2007



Ronald "Doc" Renuart
Republican
District 17
Part of St. Johns
Elected in 2008



W. Travis Cummings
Republican
District 18
Part of Clay
Elected in 2012



2014-2016 Representatives



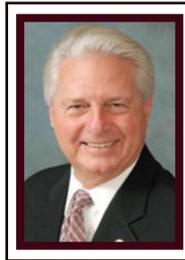
Charles E. Van Zant
 Republican
District 19
 Bradford, Putnam, Union
 and part of Clay
 Elected in 2008



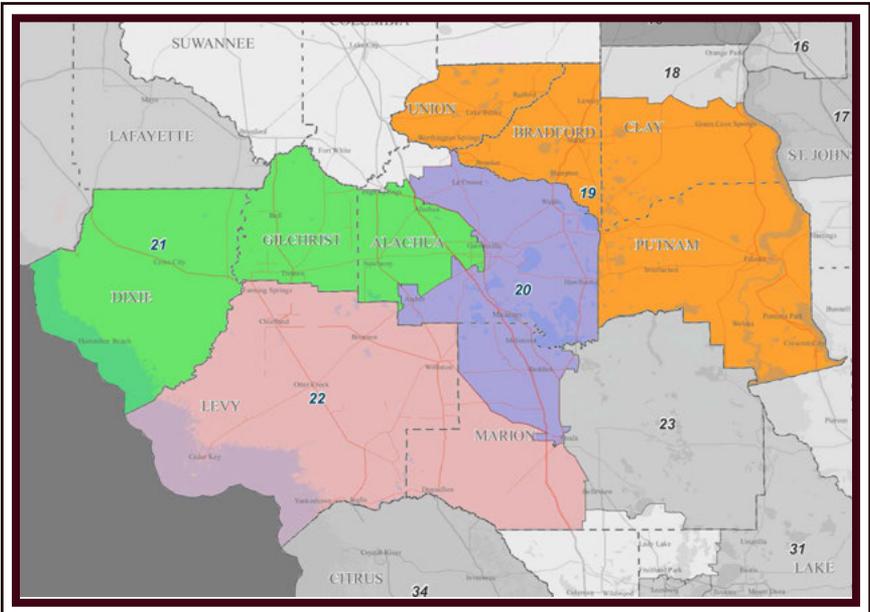
Clovis Watson, Jr.
 Democrat
District 20
 Parts of Alachua, Marion
 Elected in 2012



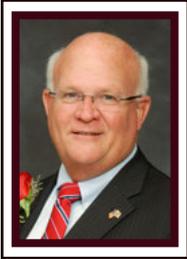
W. Keith Perry
 Republican
District 21
 Dixie, Gilchrist and part of
 Alachua
 Elected in 2010



Charlie Stone
 Republican
District 22
 Levy and part of Marion
 Elected in 2012



2014-2016 Representatives



Dennis K. Baxley
 Republican
District 23
 Part of Marion
 Elected in 2010



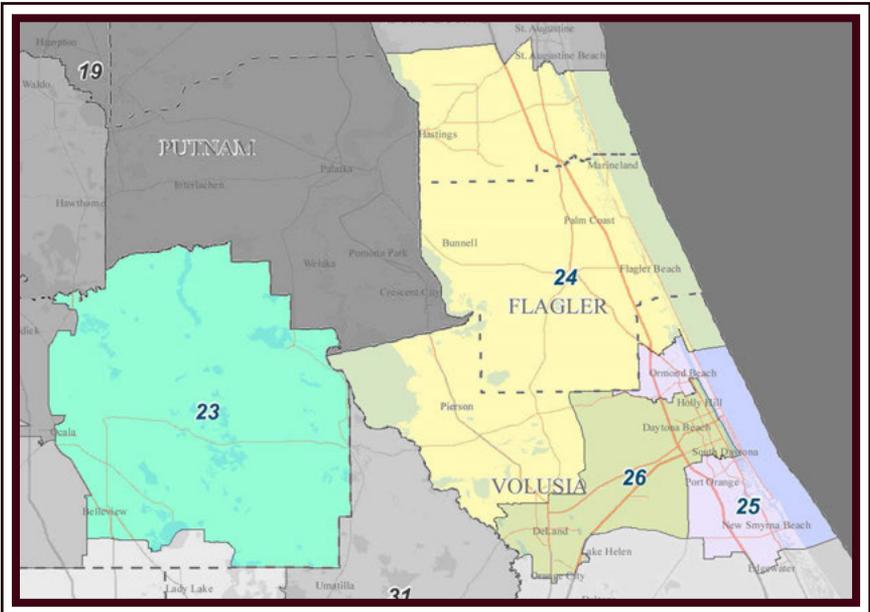
Travis Hutson
 Republican
District 24
 Flagler and parts of
 St. Johns, Volusia
 Elected in 2012



Fred Costello
 Republican
District 25
 Part of Volusia
 Elected in 2014



Dwayne L. Taylor
 Democrat
District 26
 Part of Volusia
 Elected in 2008



2014-2016 Representatives



David Santiago
Republican

District 27
Part of Volusia
Elected in 2012



Jason T. Brodeur
Republican

District 28
Part of Seminole
Elected in 2010



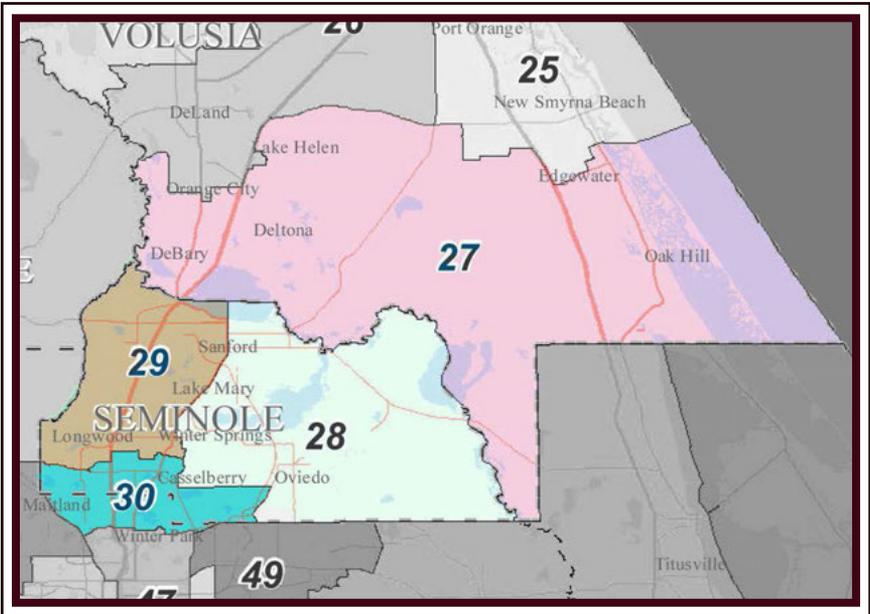
Scott Plakon
Republican

District 29
Part of Seminole
Elected in 2014



Robert "Bob" Cortes
Republican

District 30
Parts of Orange, Seminole
Elected in 2014



2014-2016 Representatives



Jennifer Sullivan
 Republican
District 31
 Parts of Lake, Orange
 Elected in 2014



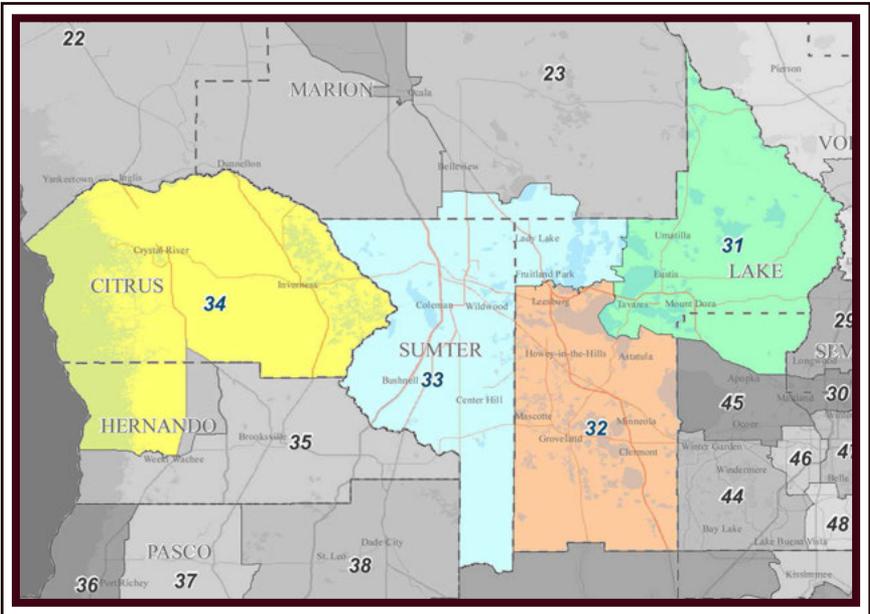
Larry Metz
 Republican
District 32
 Part of Lake
 Elected in 2010



H. Marlene O'Toole
 Republican
District 33
 Sumter and parts of Lake, Marion
 Elected in 2008



Jimmie T. Smith
 Republican
District 34
 Citrus and part of Hernando
 Elected in 2010



2014-2016 Representatives



Blaise Ingoglia
Republican
District 35
Part of Hernando
Elected in 2014



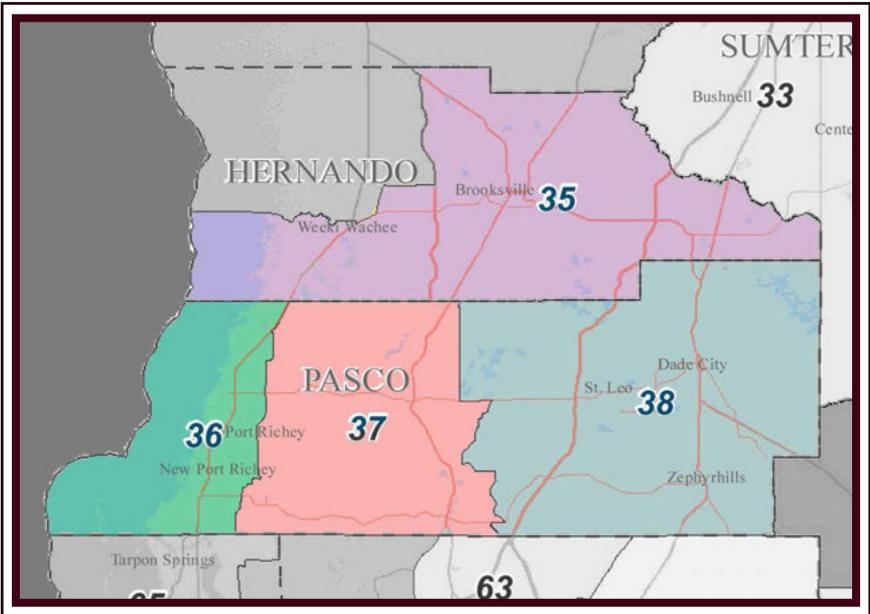
Amanda Murphy
Democrat
District 36
Part of Pasco
Elected October 15, 2013



Richard Corcoran
Republican
District 37
Part of Pasco
Elected in 2010



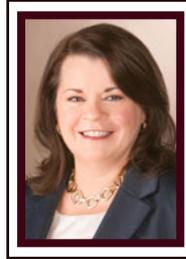
**Daniel Wright
"Danny"
Burgess, Jr.**
Republican
District 38
Part of Pasco
Elected in 2014



2014-2016 Representatives



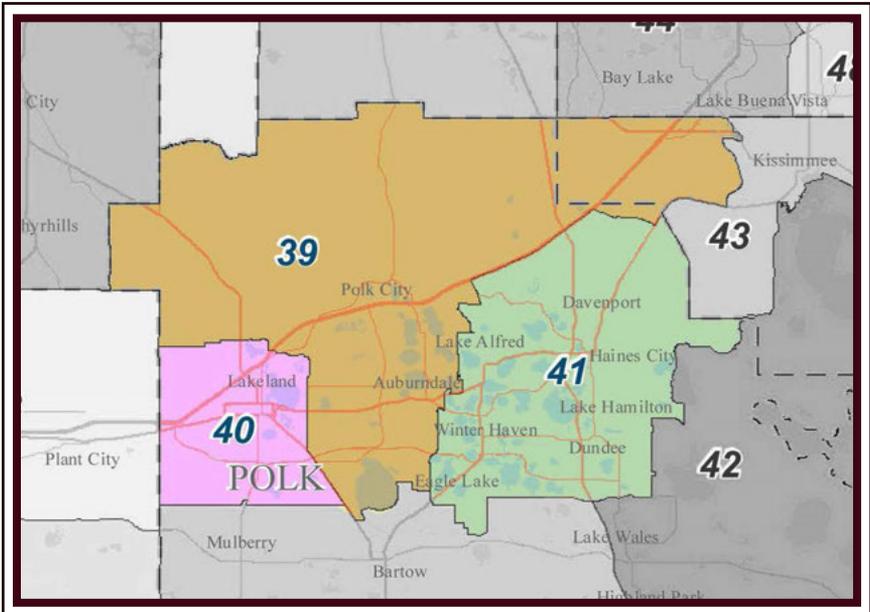
Neil Combee
Republican
District 39
Parts of Osceola, Polk
Elected in 2012



Colleen Burton
Republican
District 40
Part of Polk
Elected in 2014



John Wood
Republican
District 41
Part of Polk
Elected in 2008



2014-2016 Representatives



Mike La Rosa
 Republican
District 42
 Parts of Osceola, Polk
 Elected in 2012



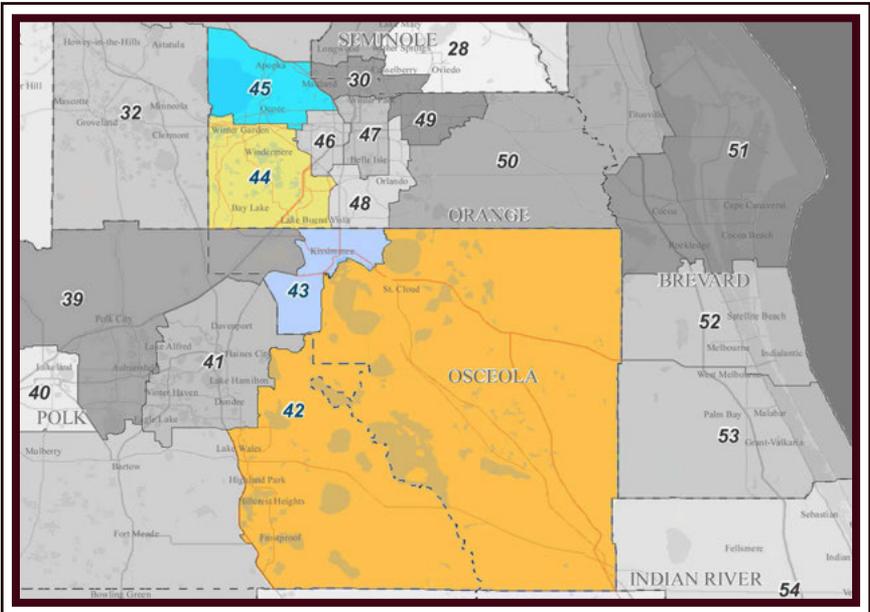
John Cortes
 Democrat
District 43
 Part of Osceola
 Elected in 2014



Eric Eisnagle
 Republican
District 44
 Part of Orange
 Elected April 8, 2014



Randolph Bracy
 Democrat
District 45
 Part of Orange
 Elected in 2012



2014-2016 Representatives



Bruce Antone
Democrat
District 46
Part of Orange
Elected in 2012



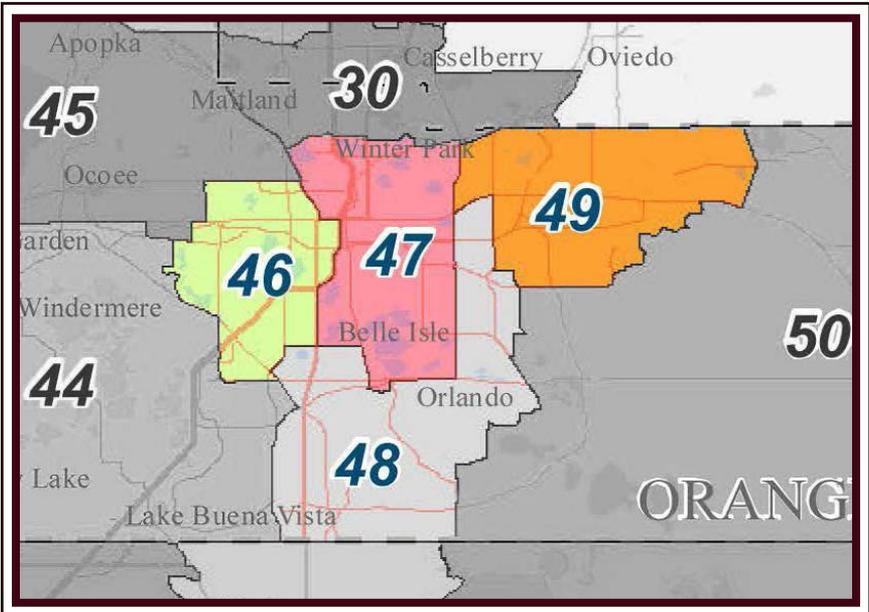
Mike Miller
Republican
District 47
Part of Orange
Elected in 2014



Victor Manuel "Vic" Torres, Jr.
Democrat
District 48
Part of Orange
Elected in 2012



Rene "Coach P" Plasencia
Republican
District 49
Part of Orange
Elected in 2014



2014-2016 Representatives



Tom Goodson
 Republican
District 50
 Parts of Brevard, Orange
 Elected in 2010



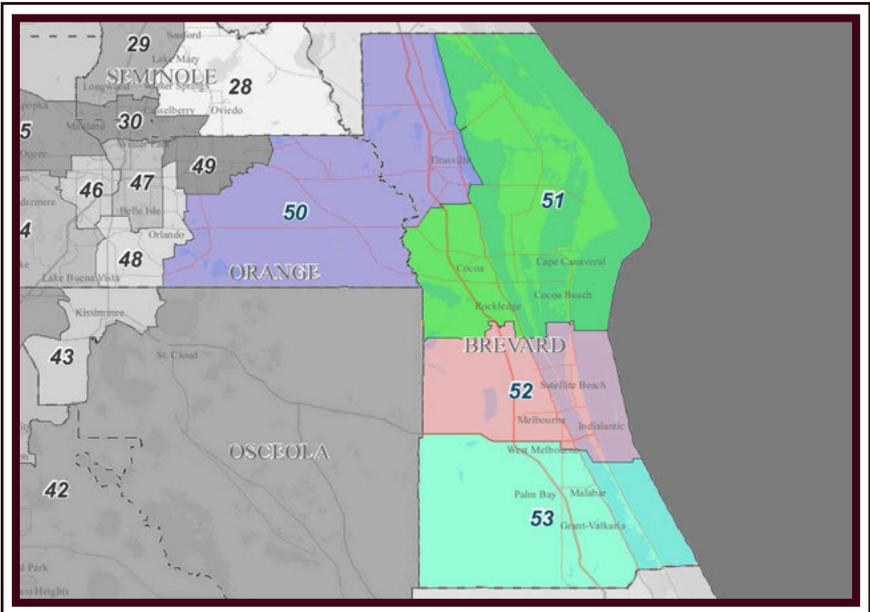
Steve Crisafulli
 Speaker
 Republican
District 51
 Part of Brevard
 Elected in 2008



Ritch Workman
 Republican
District 52
 Part of Brevard
 Elected in 2008



John Tobia
 Republican
District 53
 Part of Brevard
 Elected in 2008



2014-2016 Representatives



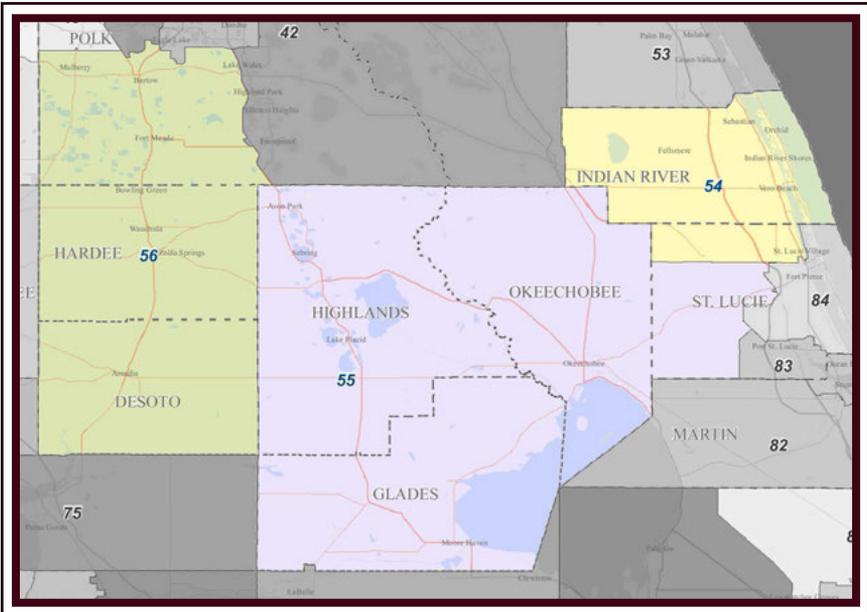
Debbie Mayfield
 Republican
District 54
 Indian River and part of
 St. Lucie
 Elected in 2008



Cary Pigman
 Republican
District 55
 Glades, Highlands,
 Okeechobee and part
 of St. Lucie
 Elected in 2012



Ben Albritton
 Republican
District 56
 DeSoto, Hardee and part
 of Polk
 Elected in 2010



2014-2016 Representatives



Jake Raburn
 Republican
 District 57
 Part of Hillsborough
 Elected in 2012



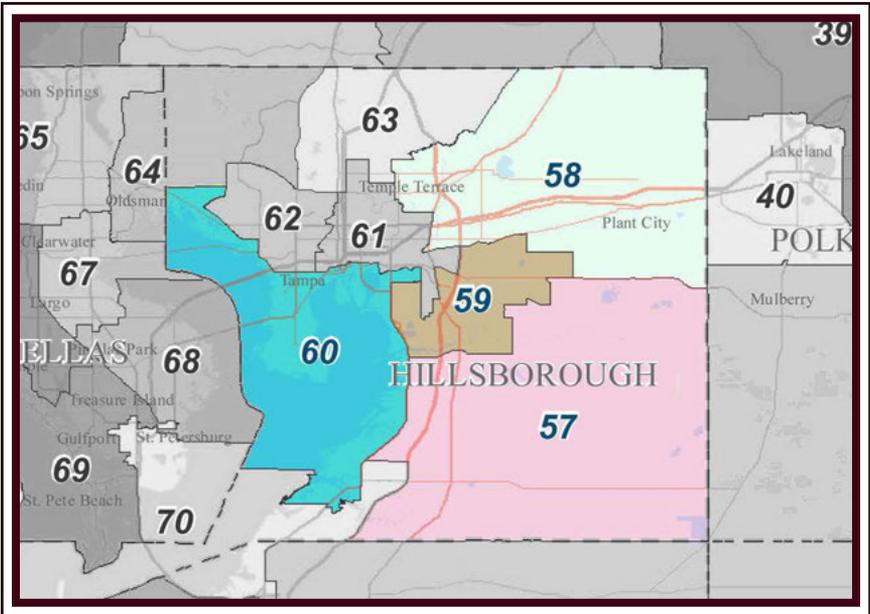
Daniel D. "Dan" Raulerson
 Republican
 District 58
 Part of Hillsborough
 Elected in 2012



Ross Spano
 Republican
 District 59
 Part of Hillsborough
 Elected in 2012



Dana D. Young
 Republican
 District 60
 Part of Hillsborough
 Elected in 2010



2014-2016 Representatives



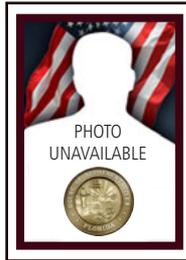
Edwin Narain
Democrat
District 61
Part of Hillsborough
Elected in 2014



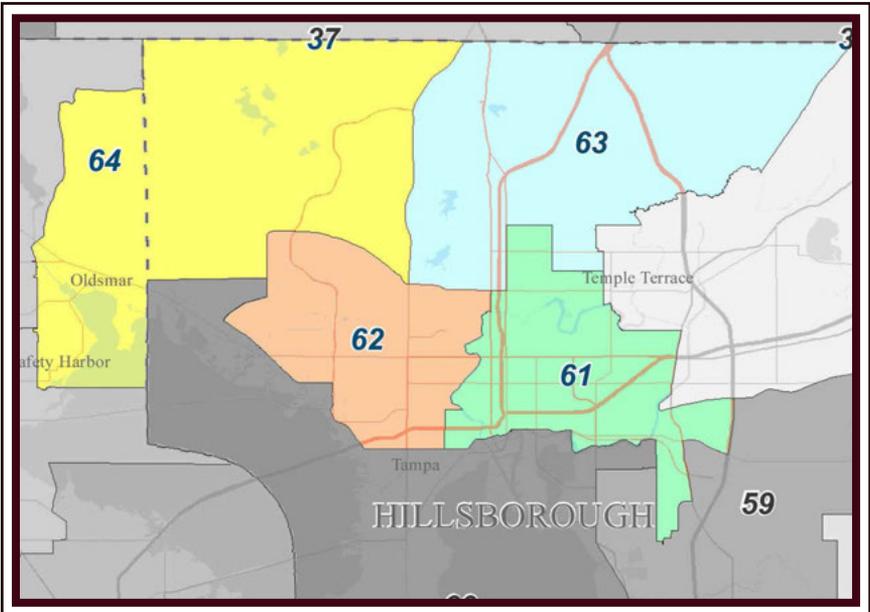
Janet Cruz
Democrat
District 62
Part of Hillsborough
Elected February 23, 2010



Shawn Harrison
Republican
District 63
Part of Hillsborough
Elected in 2014



Vacant
Pending Special Election
on April 21, 2015
District 64
Parts of Hillsborough,
Pinellas



2014-2016 Representatives



Chris Sprowls
 Republican
 District 65
 Part of Pinellas
 Elected in 2014



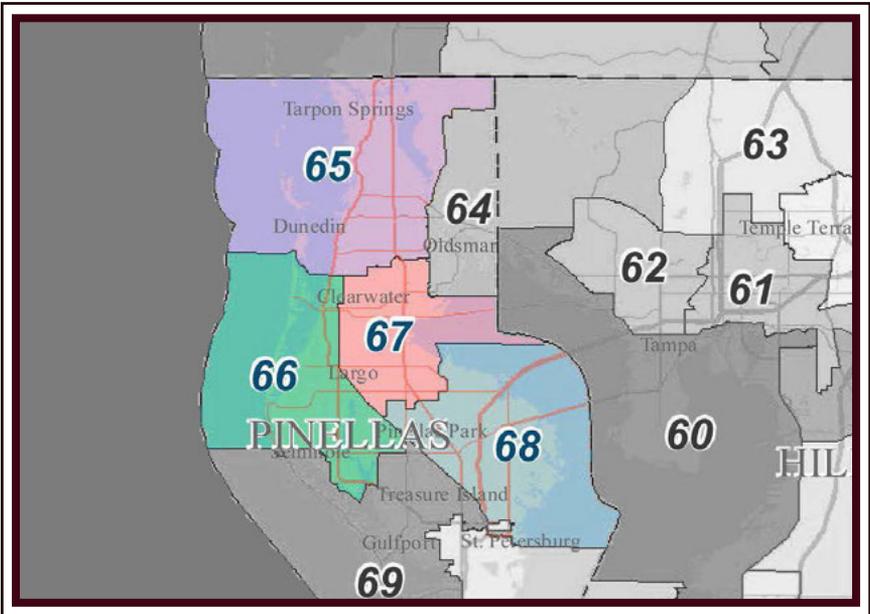
Larry Ahern
 Republican
 District 66
 Part of Pinellas
 Elected in 2010



Chris Latvala
 Republican
 District 67
 Part of Pinellas
 Elected in 2014



Dwight Dudley
 Democrat
 District 68
 Part of Pinellas
 Elected in 2012



2014-2016 Representatives



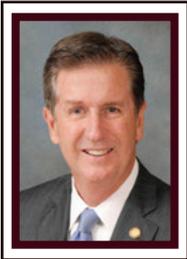
Kathleen M. Peters
Republican

District 69
Part of Pinellas
Elected in 2012



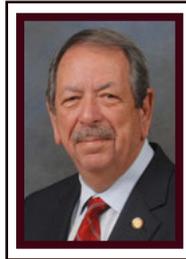
Darryl Ervin Rouson
Democrat

District 70
Parts of Hillsborough,
Manatee, Pinellas,
Sarasota
Elected April 15, 2008



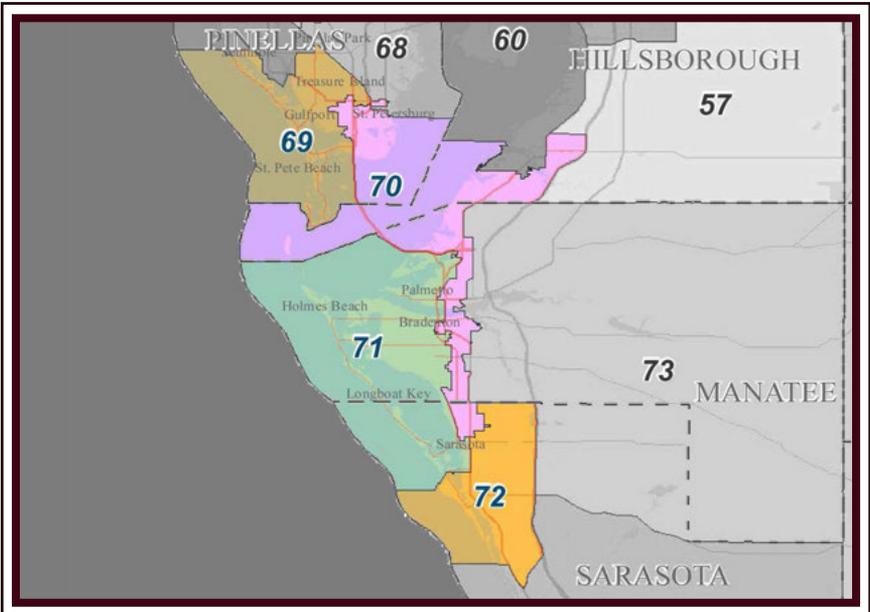
Jim Boyd
Republican

District 71
Parts of Manatee, Sarasota
Elected in 2010



Ray Pilon
Republican

District 72
Part of Sarasota
Elected in 2010



2014-2016 Representatives



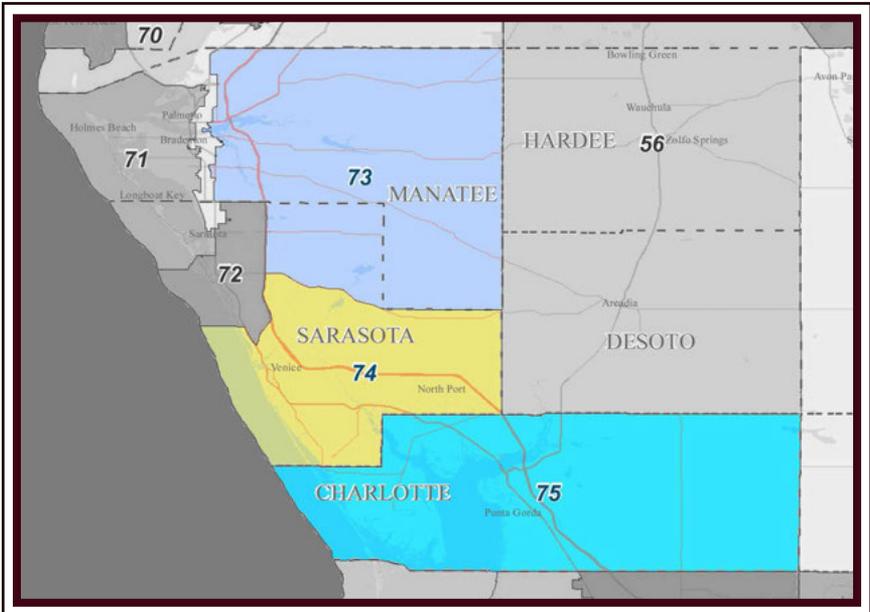
**W. Gregory
"Greg"
Steube**
Republican
District 73
Parts of Manatee, Sarasota
Elected in 2010



**Julio
Gonzalez**
Republican
District 74
Part of Sarasota
Elected in 2014



**Kenneth L. "Ken"
Roberson**
Republican
District 75
Charlotte
Elected in 2008



2014-2016 Representatives



Ray Wesley Rodrigues
Republican

District 76
Part of Lee

Elected in 2012



Dane Eagle
Republican

District 77
Part of Lee

Elected in 2012



Heather Fitzenhagen
Republican

District 78
Part of Lee

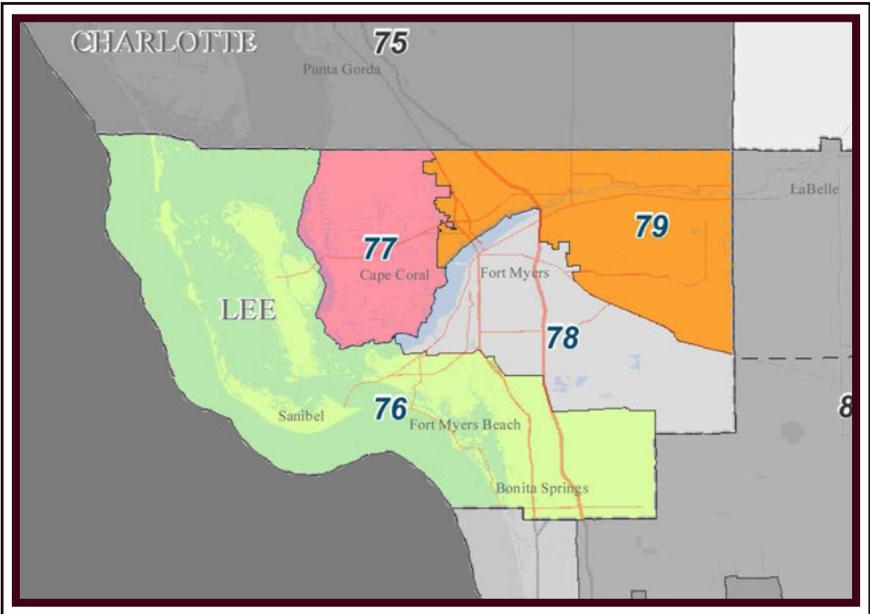
Elected in 2012



Matt Caldwell
Republican

District 79
Part of Lee

Elected in 2010



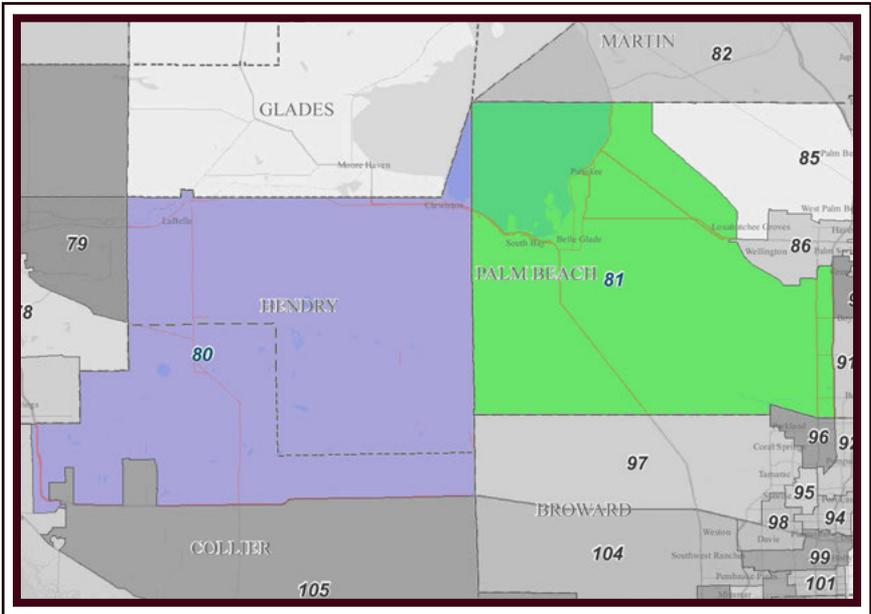
2014-2016 Representatives



Matt Hudson
Speaker *pro tempore*
Republican
District 80
Hendry and part of Collier
Elected November 20, 2007



Kevin Rader
Democrat
District 81
Part of Palm Beach
Elected in 2012



2014-2016 Representatives



**MaryLynn "ML"
Magar**
Republican
District 82
Parts of Martin, Palm Beach
Elected in 2012



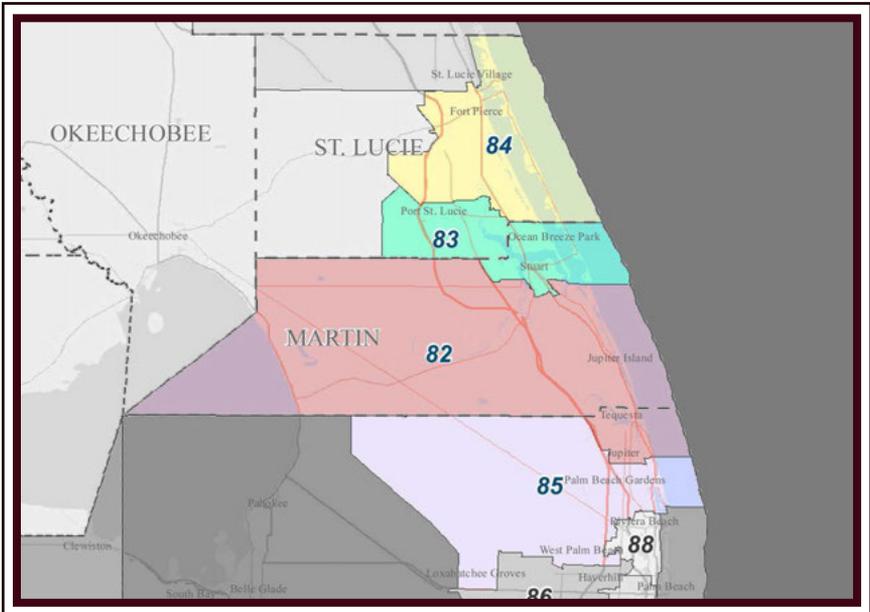
**Gayle B.
Harrell**
Republican
District 83
Parts of Martin, St. Lucie
Elected in 2010



**Larry
Lee, Jr.**
Democrat
District 84
Part of St. Lucie
Elected in 2012



**Patrick Joseph
Rooney, Jr.**
Republican
District 85
Part of Palm Beach
Elected in 2010



2014-2016 Representatives



Mark S. Pafford
Minority Leader
Democrat
District 86
Part of Palm Beach
Elected in 2008



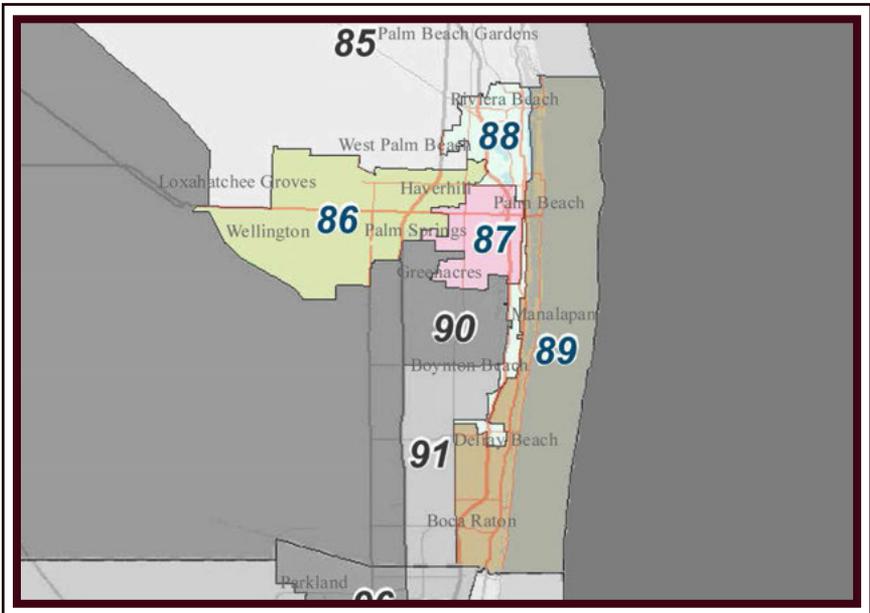
Dave Kerner
Democrat
District 87
Part of Palm Beach
Elected in 2012



Bobby Powell
Democrat
District 88
Part of Palm Beach
Elected in 2012



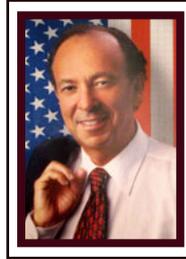
Bill Hager
Republican
District 89
Part of Palm Beach
Elected in 2010



2014-2016 Representatives



Lori Berman
Democrat
District 90
Part of Palm Beach
Elected in 2010



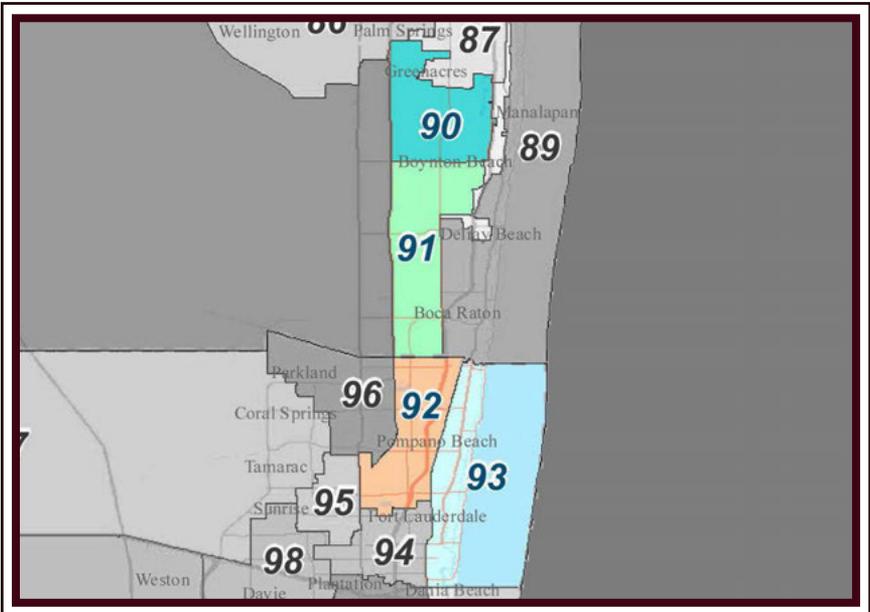
Irving "Irv" Slosberg
Democrat
District 91
Part of Palm Beach
Elected in 2010



Gwyndolen "Gwyn" Clarke-Reed
Democrat
District 92
Part of Broward
Elected in 2008



George R. Moraitis, Jr.
Republican
District 93
Part of Broward
Elected in 2010



2014-2016 Representatives



Bobby B. DuBose
Democrat
District 94
Part of Broward
Elected in 2014



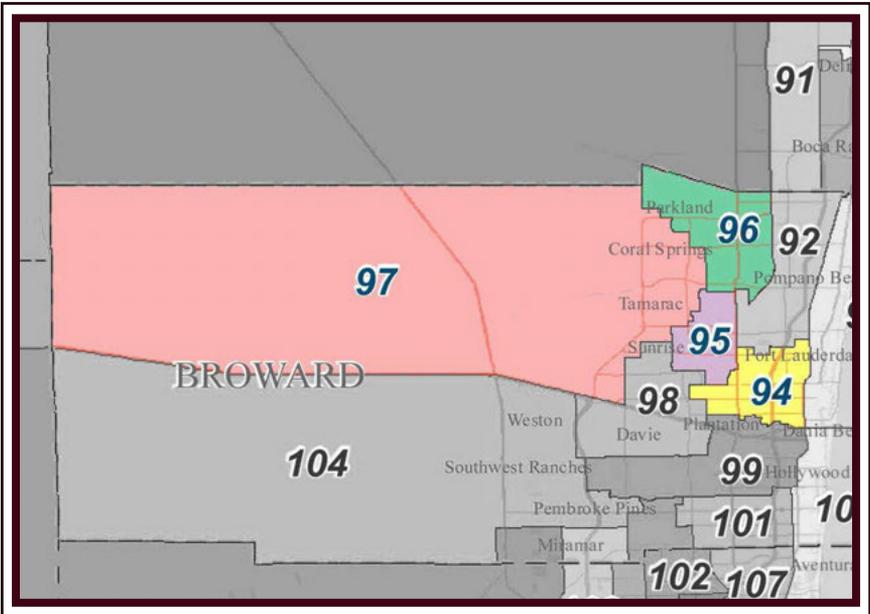
Hazelle P. "Hazel" Rogers
Democrat
District 95
Part of Broward
Elected in 2008



Kristin Diane Jacobs
Democrat
District 96
Part of Broward
Elected in 2014



Jared Evan Moskowitz
Democrat
District 97
Part of Broward
Elected in 2012



2014-2016 Representatives



Katie A. Edwards
Democrat
District 98
Part of Broward
Elected in 2012



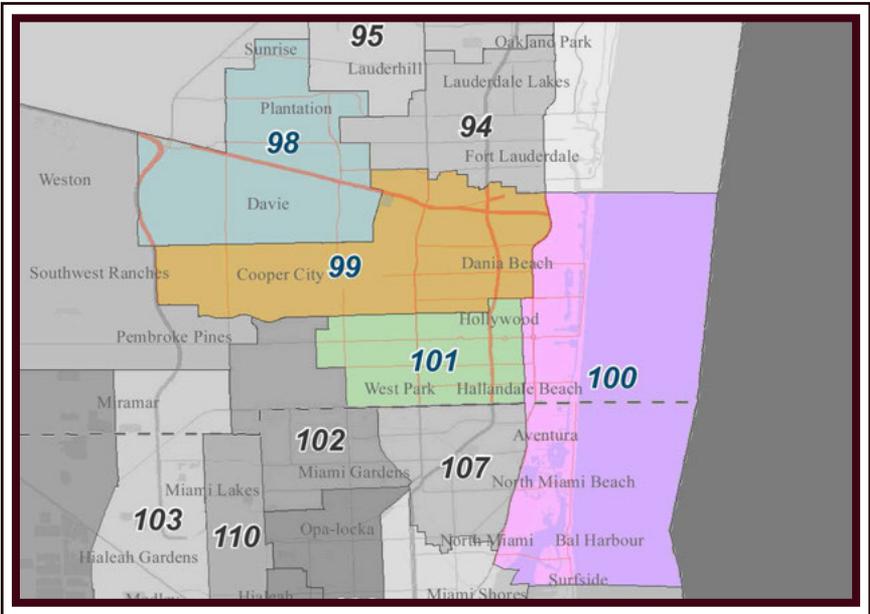
Evan Jenne
Democrat
District 99
Part of Broward
Elected in 2014



Joseph Geller
Democrat
District 100
Parts of Broward, Miami-Dade
Elected in 2014



Shevrin D. "Shev" Jones
Democrat
District 101
Part of Broward
Elected in 2012



2014-2016 Representatives



Sharon Pritchett
Democrat

District 102
Parts of Broward, Miami-Dade

Elected in 2012



Manny Diaz, Jr.
Republican

District 103
Parts of Broward, Miami-Dade

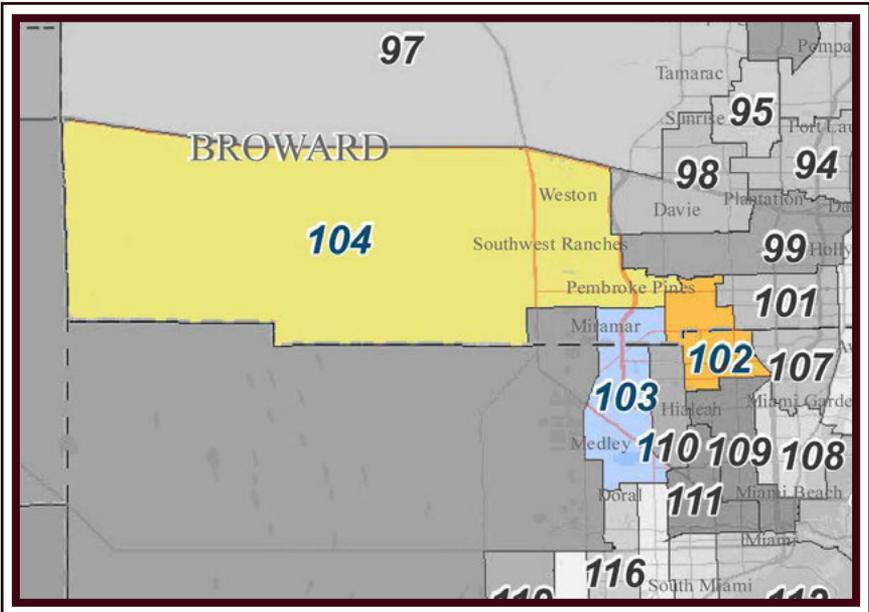
Elected in 2012



Richard Stark
Democrat

District 104
Part of Broward

Elected in 2012



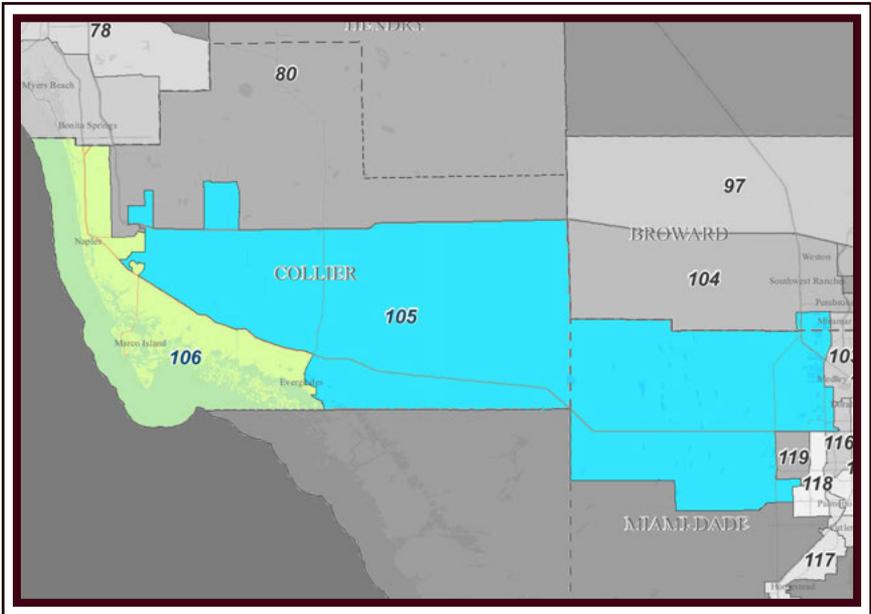
2014-2016 Representatives



Carlos Trujillo
Republican
District 105
Parts of Broward, Collier,
Miami-Dade
Elected in 2010



Kathleen C. Passidomo
Republican
District 106
Part of Collier
Elected in 2010



2014-2016 Representatives



Barbara Watson
Democrat
District 107
Part of Miami-Dade
Elected March 1, 2011



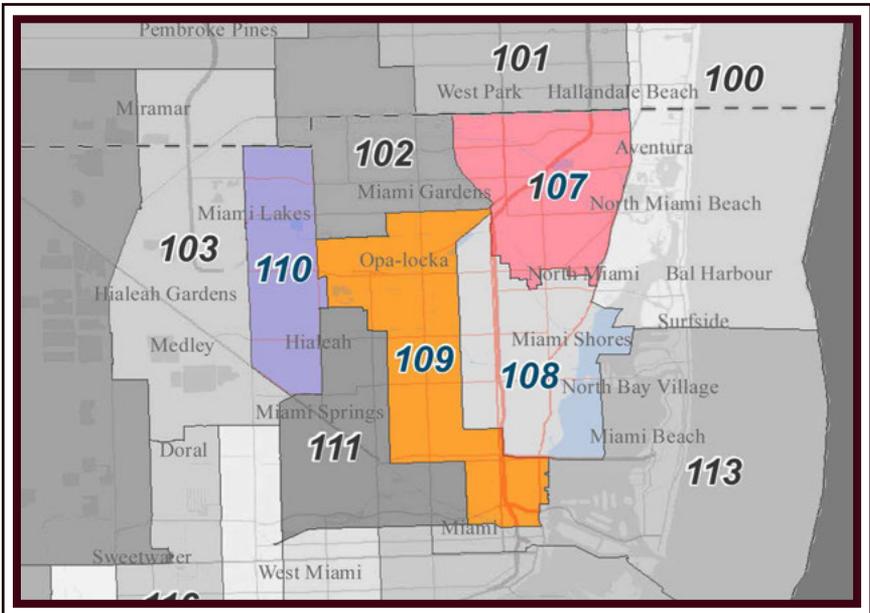
Daphne D. Campbell
Democrat
District 108
Part of Miami-Dade
Elected in 2010



Cynthia A. Stafford
Democrat
District 109
Part of Miami-Dade
Elected in 2010



Jose R. Oliva
Republican
District 110
Part of Miami-Dade
Elected on June 28, 2011



2014-2016 Representatives



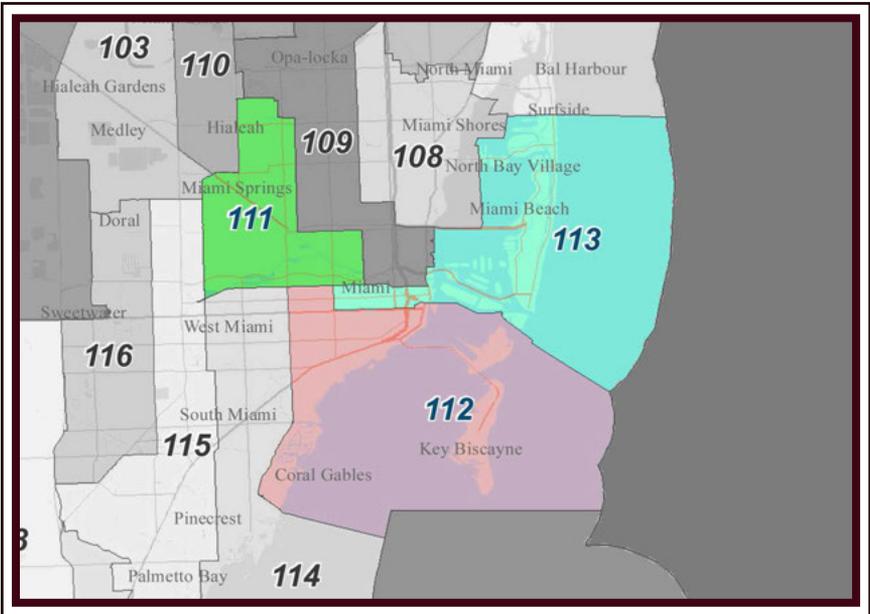
Bryan Avila
Republican
District 111
Part of Miami-Dade
Elected in 2014



José Javier Rodríguez
Democrat
District 112
Part of Miami-Dade
Elected in 2012



David Richardson
Democrat
District 113
Part of Miami-Dade
Elected in 2012



2014-2016 Representatives



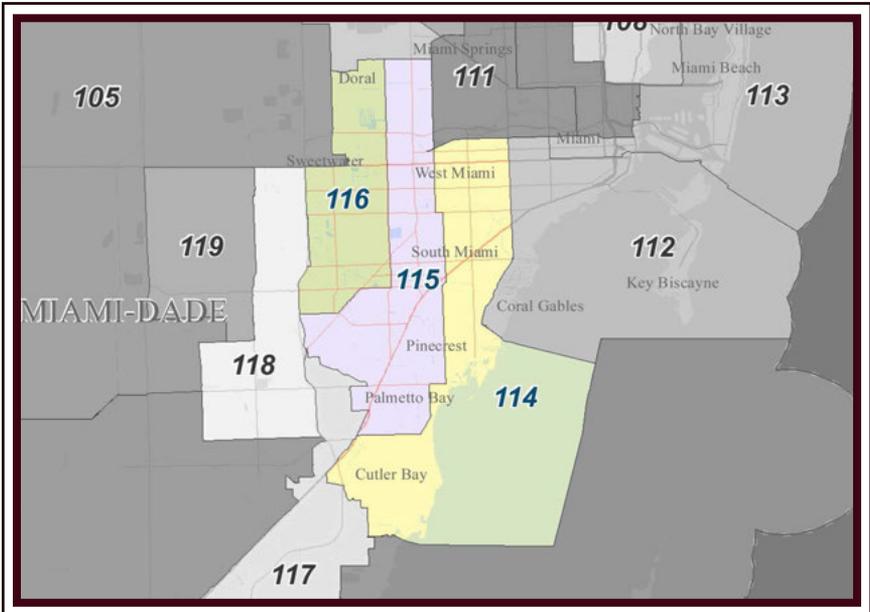
Erik Fresen
Republican
District 114
Part of Miami-Dade
Elected in 2008



Michael Bileca
Republican
District 115
Part of Miami-Dade
Elected in 2010



Jose Felix Diaz
Republican
District 116
Part of Miami-Dade
Elected in 2010



2014-2016 Representatives



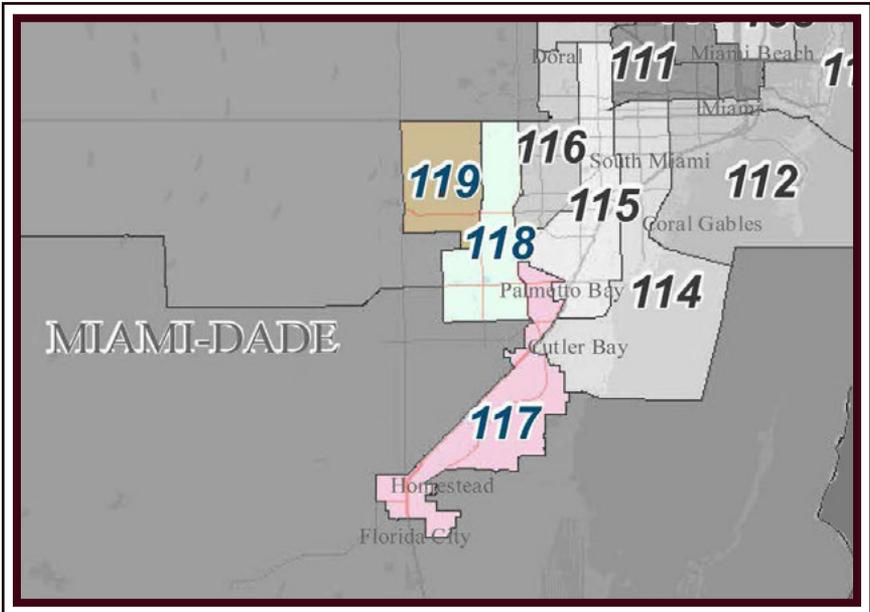
Kionne L. McGhee
Democrat
District 117
Part of Miami-Dade
Elected in 2012



Frank Artiles
Republican
District 118
Part of Miami-Dade
Elected in 2010



Jeanette M. Nuñez
Republican
District 119
Part of Miami-Dade
Elected in 2010



2014-2016 Representatives

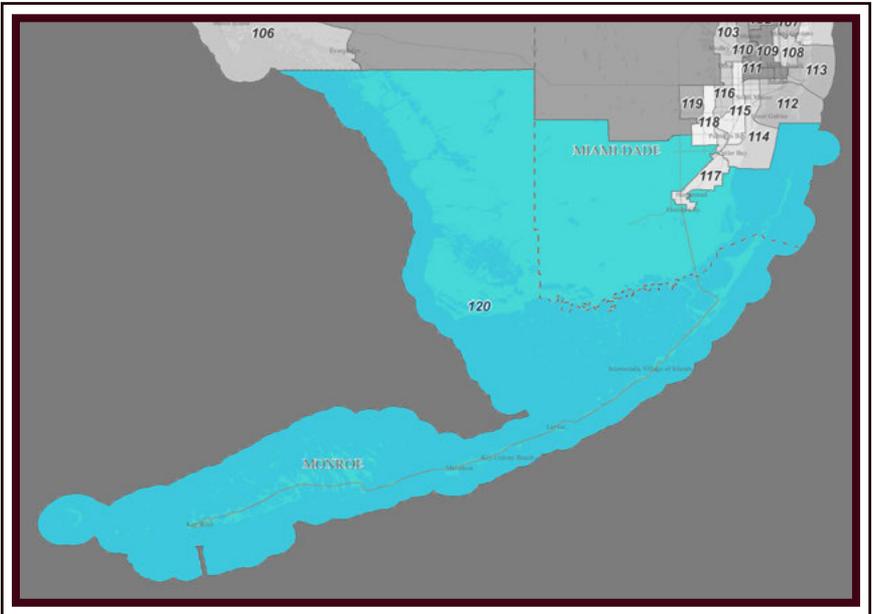


**Holly
Raschein**

Republican

District 120
Monroe and part of Miami-
Dade

Elected in 2012



About Your Representative

The Life of a Representative

Scheduling a legislator's day is complicated. During sessions, House members can work as much as an 18-hour day. In addition to a busy schedule of legislative meetings, each member frequently meets with people from his or her home district as well as with groups that are interested in particular bills. There is always a round of scheduled interim committee meetings beginning soon after the House organizes (see: Organization Session). As a visitor, keep in mind that the activity you see on the floor of the House is but a fraction of the time and effort a member of the House must devote to representing his or her constituency.

Qualifications of Representatives

The Constitution requires a Representative to be at least 21 years of age, an elector and resident of the district from which elected, and a resident of Florida for two years prior to election.

Unlike many other state and county officers, members of the Legislature take office upon election; that is, they take office at midnight on the day of the General Election.

Representatives serve two-year terms and are limited to four terms. Vacancies in legislative offices may be filled only by election.

Writing Your Legislators

If you write your member, remember to sign your name and provide your address so the legislator can respond to your letter. Printing your name will expedite a response. Most matters coming before the Legislature are well publicized in advance. To help your Representatives, write them about issues prior to the Legislature taking action. Keep in mind that committees meet to consider bills in the months before the convening of the regular session.

Contact information for writing or emailing your Representative may be found at <http://www.myfloridahouse.gov>.



The Difference in Sessions



Organization Session

The Legislature meets to elect officers and adopt its rules two weeks after the general election. This is called the Organization Session. The Constitution of the State of Florida states: “On the 14th day following each general election the legislature shall convene for the exclusive purpose of organization and selection of officers.” The Senate President and House Speaker often appoint committee and subcommittee chairs and members at this time, thereby allowing work to begin in preparation for the regular session.

Regular Session

The Legislature meets in regular session each year as set in the Florida Constitution or established by law: In 2015, the first day of session is Tuesday, March 3. In 2016, the first day of session is January 12.

A regular session may not exceed 60 consecutive days, and a special session may not exceed 20 consecutive days, unless extended beyond such limit by a three-fifths vote of each house.

Special Session

The Governor, by proclamation, may convene the Legislature in special session for a specific purpose. The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, acting jointly, may also convene the Legislature in special session.

The proclamation (known as the “call”) limits the Legislature to specific items of business. The scope of the items specified in a call is known as its “purview.” A bill must be within the purview of the call or receive an extraordinary vote to be considered in a special session.



The House Chamber

From the House gallery, the visitor sees one of the world's most modern legislative chambers. Seating of members in the Chamber is determined by the Speaker. It is traditional for the Minority Party Leader to be seated on the last row and on the aisle. Only legislators, essential staff, and a few other dignitaries are allowed in the Chamber during sessions.

Speaker's Rostrum

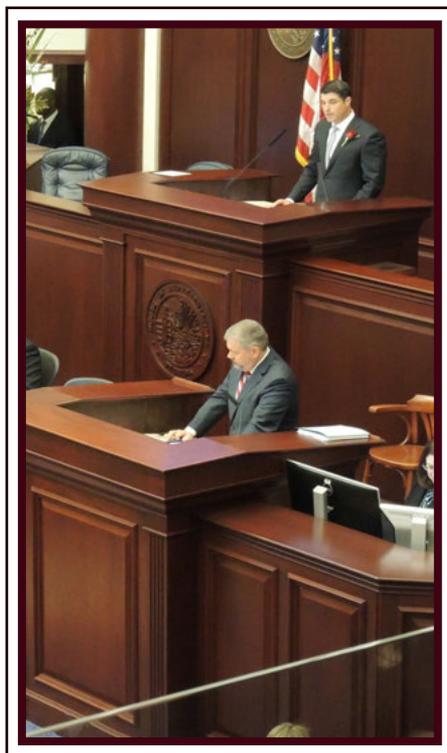
The Speaker's rostrum occupies the highest point on the floor, in recognition of the great importance accorded that office.

During Joint Sessions, the Speaker *pro tempore* and the Speaker sit to the right of the lectern; the Senate President, Governor, and Senate President Pro Tempore sit to the left of the lectern.

Clerk's Desk

Directly below the Speaker's rostrum is the Clerk's desk. There, bills and amendments are read to the House, actions are recorded, and notes are taken from which the *Journal* is compiled.

Speaker Steve Crisafulli presides at the Speaker's Rostrum with Clerk Bob Ward at the Clerk's Desk during the 2014 Organization Session



The Well

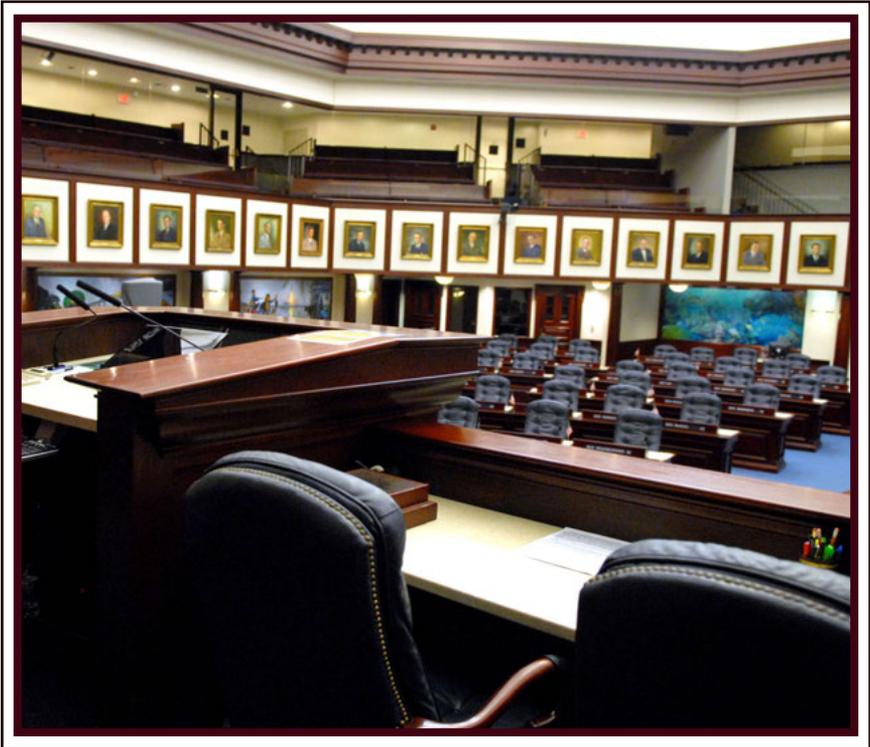
The lectern in front of the Clerk's desk is known as the well. Before microphones were installed at each desk, there was a spot on the floor of an earlier Chamber from which a member could easily be heard when addressing the House. The acoustics of this spot were said to be highly resonant, as if the member were speaking down a well. Members may ask to approach the well to address the House on a matter of particular importance.



The House Chamber

Members' Desks

Each member's desk has a panel of voting buttons, a microphone, computer network connections, and a telephone wired directly to the member's Capitol office (outside calls cannot be made). Laptop computers allow members to view amendments, bills, and Chamber activity. The numbers on the nameplates next to the members' names refer to the district from which they were elected.



A view of some of the members' desks from the Speaker's Rostrum

Pages

Toward the rear of the Chamber on either side of the door are seating areas for Pages who, at the invitation of a member, work for one week during regular sessions. Their job is to carry messages to the members and distribute papers and each is paid a small stipend. The *Journal* retains the name of each Page as an historical record of their service.



The House in Session

A daily order of business is followed each legislative day. The Regular Session order corresponds to the following list, which is set by the Rules of the House.

The Regular Session Daily Order of Business

1. Call to Order 2. Prayer 3. Roll Call 4. Pledge of Allegiance 5. Correction of the *Journal* 6. Communications 7. Messages from the Senate 8. Reports of Standing Committees and Subcommittees 9. Reports of Select Committees 10. Motions Relating to Committee and Subcommittee References 11. Matters on Reconsideration 12. Bills and Joint Resolutions on Third Reading 13. Special Orders 14. House Resolutions 15. Unfinished Business 16. Introduction and Reference

The House *Journal*

The House *Journal* is the official record of actions taken by the House and its committees and subcommittees. Among other things, it includes the titles of bills introduced, the full text of amendments considered, and a breakdown of how each Representative voted on matters taken up during floor sessions.

The *Journal* of each day's proceedings is available on the following day from the House Print & Graphic Services office (334 The Capitol) and on the Internet. Libraries, schools, and other interested groups may review the *Journal* through the My Florida House website at: <http://www.myfloridahouse.gov>.

House Calendars

Interim Meeting Calendar

When the Legislature is not in session, the Clerk publishes an Interim Calendar to inform the members and the public of legislation that will be taken up by committees and subcommittees during interim meetings.

Daily Calendars

During regular sessions, the Clerk publishes a Daily Calendar. This calendar contains a schedule of committee and subcommittee meetings and a listing of bills that will be heard by the House during floor sessions.



The Legislative Process

The Bill Process

The working draft of a legislative proposal is called a bill. This is the vehicle by which laws are created or changed. The following step-by-step description shows the path of a bill through the House (see pages 58-59 for illustration):

▶ A group of citizens meets with its Representative and requests help with a problem that requires a change in the law or creation of a new law. The Representative may then consult with committee staff on the subject and ask the House Bill Drafting Service to draft a bill for introduction to the House.

▶ The next step is filing the bill. This is the act of presenting the bill to the House. At this point, it becomes a public document and begins its official journey. After careful screening for form and checks for constitutional requirements, the bill is given a number and posted on the Legislature's website.

▶ The Florida Constitution requires each bill to be read three times by title. The first reading is generally executed by publication in the House *Journal*.

▶ The Speaker refers the bill to one or more committees or subcommittees for review. Committees and subcommittees are composed of members appointed by the Speaker. The committees and subcommittees meet to consider the bill and afford citizens a forum to express their opinions on it.

▶ After being reported favorably by all committees of reference, a bill is available for consideration during a floor session. The Rules, Calendar &



Rep. Richard Corcoran speaks from the Well during Organization Session in November 2014



The Legislative Process

Ethics Committee suggests an agenda, approved by the full House, of bills to be considered. At this stage, the bill is read a second time, explained by its sponsor, and amendments may be offered. If amendments are adopted, they accompany the bill to the Engrossing Unit in the Office of the Clerk, where they are incorporated into a new version known as the engrossed bill.



Rep. Mark Pafford, left, conferred with House Democratic Leader Perry E. Thurston, Jr., right, and Rep. James Waldman, center, while the House Appropriations Committee met in 2013

► The bill will be read a third time by title during the next day the House is in session. This is the time for debate and a final vote. If the bill passes, it is sent to the Senate by a messenger from the Office of the Clerk.

► The bill must then go through a similar procedure in the Senate. Much depends on whether there is an identical or similar Senate bill. If one exists, and the Senate bill has already been through the committee process, the bills can be paired and placed on the Senate Calendar for consideration on the floor. If there is no similar Senate bill, a House bill is referred to a Senate committee and must go through the committee and floor process. The bill can be further amended in the Senate. If this happens, the House must agree to these changes.

► Two things can happen at this point. Should the House refuse to agree to the Senate amendments and the Senate refuse to remove them, a conference committee may be appointed. A conference committee is composed of members of both houses appointed by the presiding officers to work out an acceptable



The Legislative Process

compromise. If the House agrees to the Senate amendments, the House bill is passed as amended and is sent to the Clerk's Office to prepare a final enrolled version of the bill.

► The bill is then signed by the officers of both houses and presented to the Governor, who can sign it into law, let it become law without his signature, or veto it.

The Budget Process

It is a principal responsibility of the Legislature each year to pass an appropriations bill. The executive branch then carries out the spending plans outlined in the budget.

The budget-year cycle (fiscal year) runs from July through June. By July 15, the Governor and the Legislature send agencies instructions for developing their budget requests for the coming budget year. These are due October 15. Between October and January, the Governor prepares his recommended budget. He is required by law to submit his recommendations to the Legislature at least 30 days before the scheduled annual legislative session.

Following submission of budget requests from state agencies and the Governor's recommendation, the House and Senate each begin drafting an appropriations bill.

Each house then passes its budget bill. The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House appoint a conference committee to resolve the differences between the two houses.

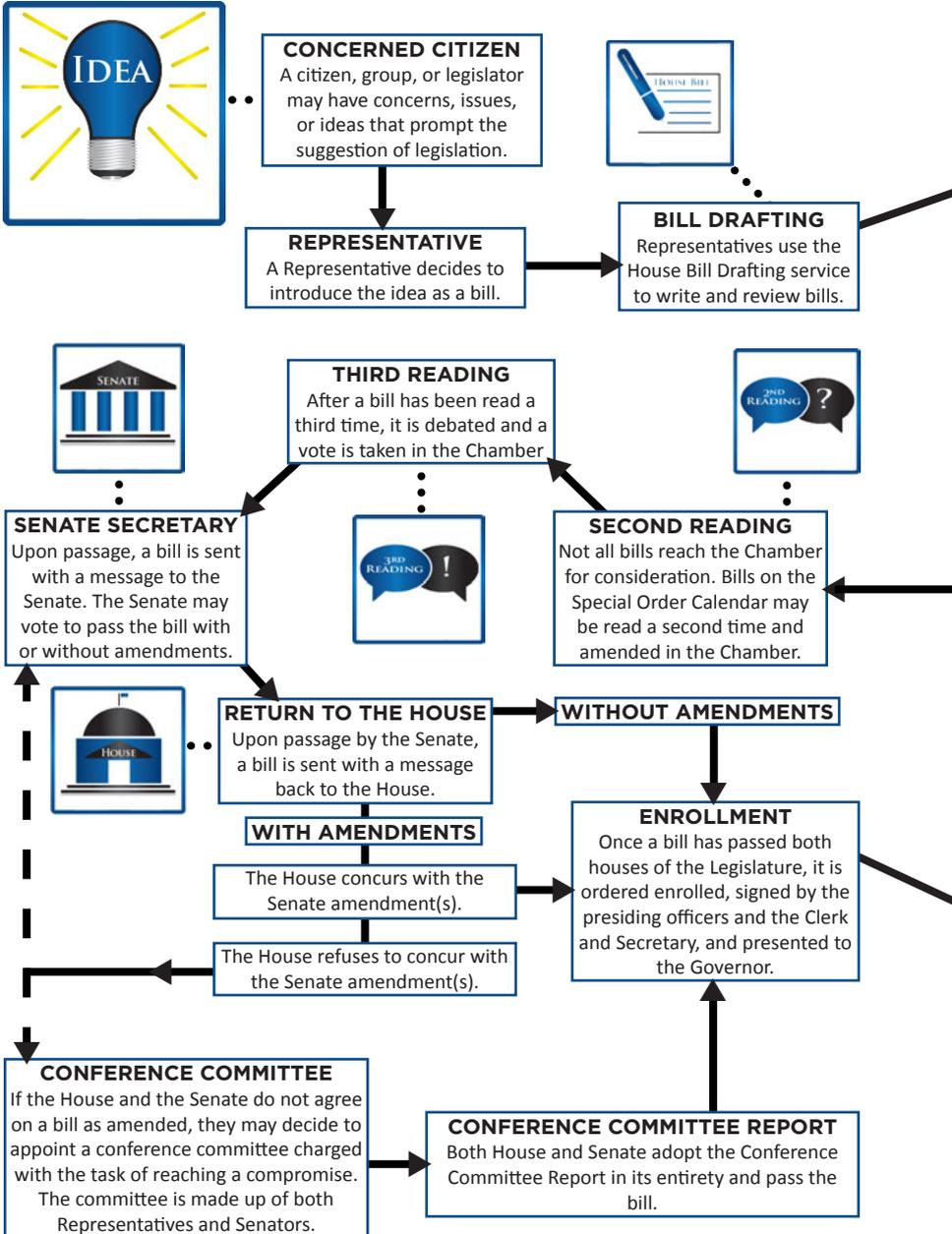
After the compromise budget is agreed to by both houses, the General Appropriations Act is presented to the Governor for approval.

The Governor can delete any specific issue the Legislature has chosen to fund by what is called a "line-item veto." If the Legislature objects to his action, it may override the veto by a two-thirds vote in each house.

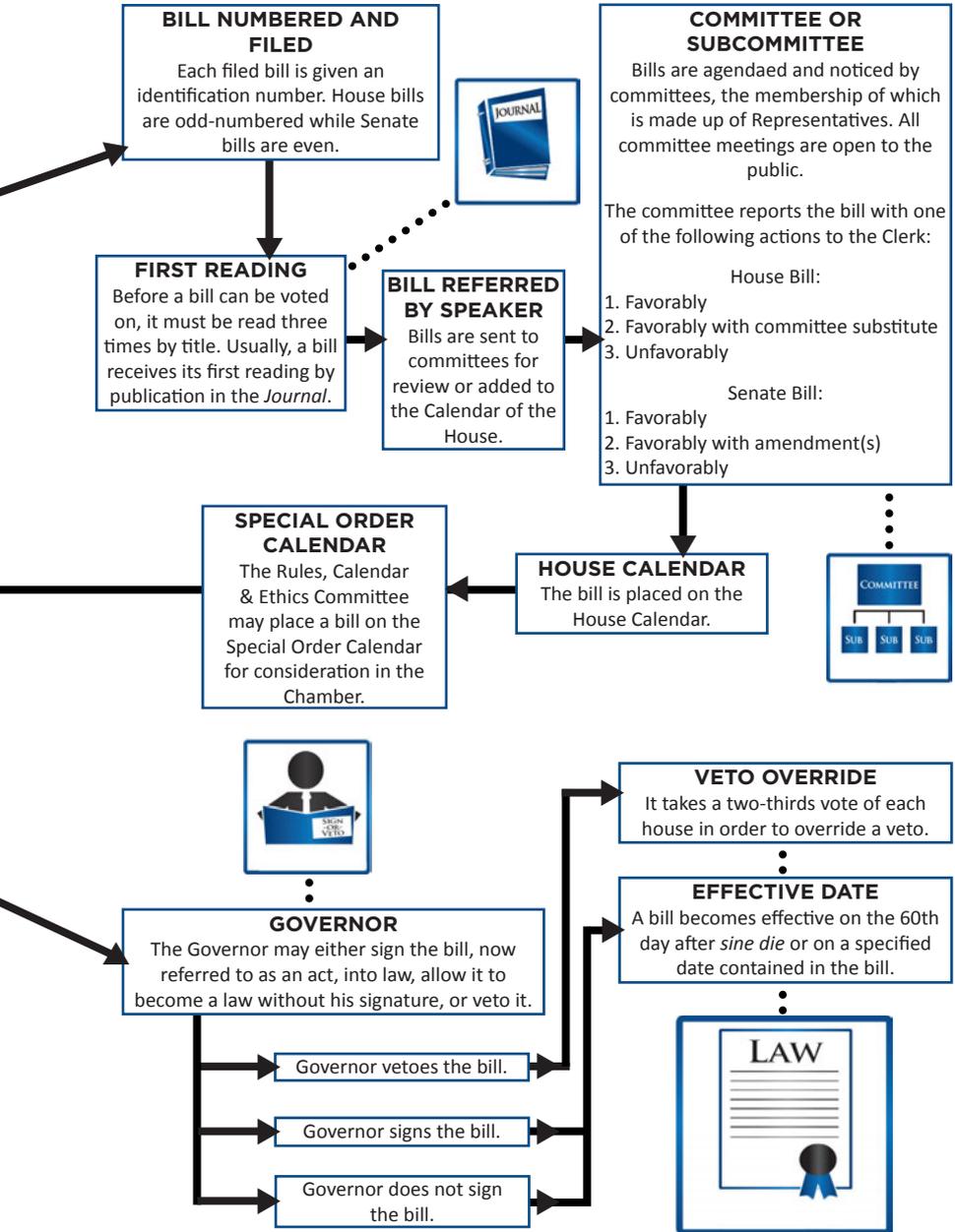
Rep. Matt Hudson questioned a presenter before the Appropriations Committee in 2013



How an Idea Becomes a Law



How an Idea Becomes a Law



Comparing the Numbers

Comparison of the Number of General and Local Bills Introduced and Passed Since 2005

- Regular Session -

Total bills introduced in Legislature
(includes companion bills)

Session Years	2005 -2006	2007 -2008	2009 -2010	2011 -2012	2013 -2014
General	4,056	4,188	4,074	3,507	3,056
Local	249	199	162	198	140
Total	4,305	4,387	4,236	3,705	3,196
<i>Acts passed</i>					
General	653	545	488	483	488
Local	115	100	66	74	50
Total	768	645	554	557	538
<i>Acts vetoed by Governor*</i>					
General	45	26	26	19	8
Local	6	2	1	3	4
Total	51	28	27	22	12
<i>Acts becoming law</i>					
General	608	519	462	464	480
Local	109	98	65	71	46
Total	717	617	527	535	526

* Does not include specific appropriation veto

Note: Does not include memorials, concurrent resolutions, joint resolutions, House resolutions, or Senate resolutions



Early Roots of the Florida House



Representatives on the steps of the Historic Capitol building in 1905

After three centuries of turbulent rule by Spain, France, and Britain, the colonies of East and West Florida were finally unified into a United States territory on July 17, 1821.

Within months, President James Monroe signed into law a bill creating a government for the newly acquired “Territory of Florida.” Under this act, the lawmaking power was vested in a Legislative Council made up of “...the Governor, and thirteen of the most fit and discreet persons of the territory.”

The Council was to have held its first meeting in Pensacola on June 10, 1822, but it was not until July 22, 42 days later, that enough members appeared to allow the Council to organize and fulfill its responsibilities.

The long delay had been caused by the squalls, calms, and the capsizing of a sloop bringing three of St. Augustine’s members to Pensacola. A fourth member perished when the ship on which he was sailing was lost at sea. With the lack of even simple roads in the territory, many opted to travel by ship from St. Augustine around the southernmost tip of Florida and then on to Pensacola.

Traveling by land may have been less hazardous, but was virtually as time-consuming. By horseback, the 400-mile trip between the two territorial capitals, St. Augustine and Pensacola, required two weeks at best.

Reaching Pensacola was not the end of the perils for the members of the new government. A yellow fever epidemic raged in August of 1822, claiming the lives of the Council President and the Chief Clerk before the surviving members decided to move the sessions to a residence some 15 miles out of Pensacola.

The early members of the Legislative Council were true pioneers who braved the wilderness to serve. Even after the distance was halved when the capital was moved to Tallahassee, travel to meetings of the Council remained a punishing ordeal.

Members of the Legislative Council were appointed by the President of the United States until 1826 when Congress passed a bill to make them elected by the people. The Governorship became an elective office only after statehood was achieved.

Agitation for a two-house Legislative Council reached a milestone in 1838



Early Roots of the Florida House

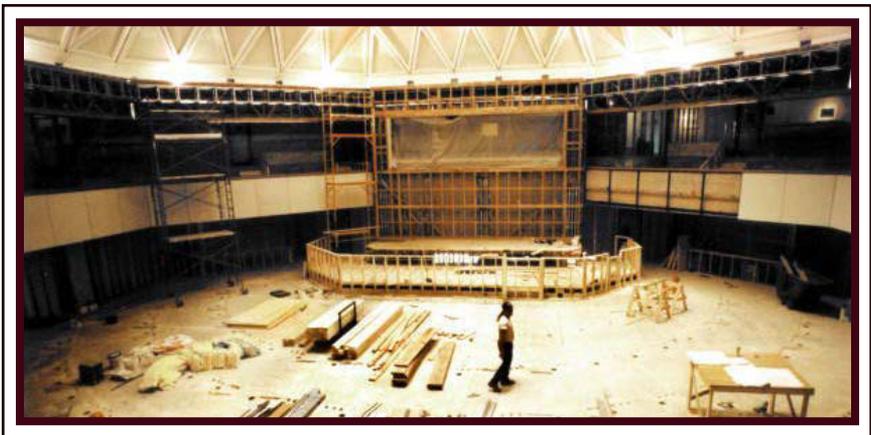
when the U.S. House of Representatives adopted a resolution by Florida's delegate, calling upon the Committee on Territories to inquire "...into the expediency of reorganizing the Legislative Council of Florida Territory, so as to give another branch to said Council, to be called a Senate." The unicameral Council became a bicameral body with President Van Buren's signature on a congressional act on July 7, 1838. The next step needed for statehood was approval of a constitution.

A Constitutional Convention was held in December of 1838 in the town of St. Joseph. The convention expedited its work by drawing language from the constitutions of several other southern states. A final proposal was completed within 37 days. The only copy of the 1838 Constitution known to exist is in the collection of the State Archives in the R.A. Gray Building.

On March 3, 1845, President John Tyler signed legislation conferring statehood upon Florida (and Iowa). The first meeting of the new state assembly was held on June 23, 1845, in the Historic Capitol, which is now across the plaza from the new Capitol.

Today's House of Representatives is the direct descendant of the Legislative Council that first assembled in Pensacola in 1822. It is a larger and more complex institution, but echoes of the customs and traditions of Florida's early territorial and state lawmaking bodies may still be observed in its proceedings.

*Drawn from the writings of John B. Phelps, Clerk of the House 1986-2006, and Allen Morris, Clerk of the House 1966-1986.



1999 House Chamber reconstruction



Memorable Years in the House

1822—The first Territorial Legislative Council made up of 13 Presidential appointees is convened on July 22 near Pensacola.

1826—Congress orders the Territory divided into 13 districts, with Floridians to elect 13 members to the existing Territorial Council.



Members of the Florida House of Representatives, 1885

1838—The Constitution of 1838 of the Territory of Florida provides for a Senate and a House of Representatives. The two houses together are known as the General Assembly.

Congress provides for a Senate of 11 members and a House of Representatives of 29 members to form an elective General Assembly.

1845—The first General Assembly under statehood convenes in Tallahassee on June 23, with 17 Senators and 41 Representatives from 20 counties.

1868—The 1868 State Constitution first refers to the lawmaking body consisting of a Senate and an Assembly as the “Legislature,” marking the first use of this term.

Republicans were elected to 37 of 53 Assembly seats and 16 of 24 Senatorial districts. There were 3 black Senators and 17 black Assemblymen.

1874—This year marks the last Republican majority until the year 1996.

1884—Fernando Figueredo becomes the first Cuban-American elected.

1885—The 1885 State Constitution replaces “Assembly” with “House of Representatives.”

1928—Edna Giles Fuller becomes the first female elected to the House. Representative Fuller is also the first female to preside over a House session.

1938—The first party caucus for designation of a Speaker is held at Moon Lake in Pasco County. G. Pierce Wood wins the nomination over LeRoy Collins, 55 to 40.



Edna Giles Fuller



Memorable Years in the House



Florida House in session, 1953

1939—The first time an electrical voting system is used in Florida during a session. It was calculated to have saved 12 days of the 60-day session for oral roll calls.

1957—Doyle E. Conner becomes the youngest person elected Speaker of the House, at age 28.

1963—Mary R. Grizzle becomes the first Republican woman elected to the

House and, in 1974, the first woman to serve as the Minority Leader *pro tempore*. In 1978, she becomes the first Republican woman elected to the Senate.

1967—After years of sparse representation in the House, Republicans gain a substantial number of seats, with 39 of the 119.

1968—Joe Lang Kershaw becomes the first black member elected to the House of Representatives since 1891.

1970—Gwendolyn “Gwen” Sawyer Cherry is elected as the first black female to serve in the House of Representatives.

1977—December 13 is the last day the House of Representatives meets in the House Chamber in the Historic Capitol. This has been the Chamber where the House has met since 1939.

1978—April 4 is the first day the House of Representatives meets in the House Chamber of the new Capitol.

1982—The 1980 Federal Census is used to establish single-member districts of the Legislature.

The first elections of single-member districts results in the election of an additional five black Representatives and two black Senators.



Florida Legislature on opening day, 1978



Memorable Years in the House

Ileana Ros is the first Cuban-American female elected to the House of Representatives.

1984—Rodolfo “Rudy” Garcia, Jr. is the youngest person elected to the House since 1950, at age 21.

Elaine Gordon is the first woman elected as Speaker *pro tempore* of the House of Representatives.

Representatives Dexter W. Lehtinen and Ileana Ros are the first two members to marry. Their engagement is announced in the House Chamber.

1986—James C. “Jim” Burke is the first black person elected to a leadership position in recent years; he serves as Speaker *pro tempore* for the 1986-1988 legislative term.

1991—Computers are installed at the members’ desks to provide text of amendments before the House, the first such system used by any state legislature.

Anne Mackenzie becomes the first woman to serve as leader of a party caucus.

1992—Florida Term Limits are adopted by the voters. The Constitutional Amendment limits terms to eight years.



President Clinton speaking in Tallahassee

Sandra Barringer Mortham becomes the first woman to serve as leader of the Republican Conference.

1995—President William Jefferson “Bill” Clinton becomes the first U.S. president in the 20th century to address the Florida Legislature.

1996—Daniel Webster becomes the first Republican Speaker of the House since 1874.

1997—Elvin L. Martinez, the longest serving member of the House at that time, resigns August 31, 1997. He served a total



Memorable Years in the House

of 26 years and 10 months (1966-1974, 1978-1997).

1998—Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, addresses a Joint Session of the House and Senate.



Christopher M. Still points out hidden 'gems' in the newly revealed mural, *In Ages Past*

2000—The House Chamber is renovated and murals by artist Christopher Still depicting Florida's history are installed.

Lois J. Frankel becomes the first woman to serve as the Democratic Minority Leader.

A special session following the General Election helps resolve the disputed presidential election between George W. Bush and Al Gore; ultimately Al Gore concedes the election.

2003—Jennifer S. Carroll becomes the first black Republican female elected to the Florida Legislature. In 2010 she becomes the first black person and the first woman to be elected Lieutenant Governor.

2006—Marco Rubio becomes the first Cuban-American Speaker of the House. He was also the first Cuban-American to serve as a Majority Leader.



Speaker Marco Rubio



Memorable Years in the House

2007—Sandra Day O’Connor, retired United States Supreme Court Justice, addresses a Joint Session of the House and Senate.

2009—Sandra “Sandy” Adams becomes the first female member to preside over the House on the opening day of a regular session, calling the House to order on March 3, 2009.

2012—Will Weatherford is elected Speaker of the House, making him the youngest presiding officer of any state at this time, at age 33.

2013—The House launches “FL House,” a mobile app for iOS and Android, allowing users to read about House members and committees, view the House Calendar, look up bills, watch live streaming video of committee meetings from the current session and access all of the House’s public guides.

2014—The Legislature votes to start the 2016 annual legislative session in January for the first time since 1991, without being in a reapportionment session.

Jennifer Sullivan becomes the youngest woman elected to the House, at age 23.

Former Majority Leader, Carlos López-Cantera becomes the first Cuban-American Lieutenant Governor.



Speaker Will Weatherford introduces and explains the many functions of the Florida House App



Did You Know?

▶ Tallahassee became the capital of the state because it was approximately midway between Pensacola and St. Augustine, the provincial capitals then existing for East and West Florida when the Territory of Florida was acquired by the U.S. from Spain by treaty approved in 1821.

▶ Jai alai was first played professionally in the U.S. in Miami in 1935.

▶ The first game of billiards played in the U.S. took place in St. Augustine in 1565.

▶ Wakulla Springs is the deepest freshwater spring in the world, 185 feet.

▶ Florida has 33 first magnitude springs, more than any other state.

▶ There are more than 200 springs in Florida.

▶ The first regularly scheduled commercial airline flight between two U.S. cities was from St. Petersburg to Tampa.

▶ The first artificial ice was made in Apalachicola by Dr. John Gorrie in 1845.

▶ The first NASA moon flight was launched from Cape Canaveral in 1969.

▶ Florida contains six reservations for two federally recognized tribes.

▶ The oldest trees in eastern North America are bald cypress in the Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary.

▶ Over 425 species, approximately half of all bird species in the U.S., can be found in Florida.

▶ Florida has more than 300 species of native trees, more than 150 species of reptiles and amphibians, approximately 80 native mammal species, and more than 200 species of freshwater fish.

▶ Ochopee, on the Tamiami Trail, is said to have the smallest post office in the U.S.

▶ Florida's first newspaper, the East Florida Gazette, was begun in St. Augustine in 1783.

▶ Florida has more swimming pools than any other state in the southeast, with more than a million residential and commercial pools.

▶ The Columbia restaurant, in Tampa's Ybor City, is one of the world's largest restaurants.

▶ The heaviest snowfalls in Florida occurred on the same date, February 13th, in 1899 and 1958.

▶ Florida has 4,510 islands of 10 acres or larger.

▶ Florida experiences more hurricanes than any other state in the U.S., most during the month of September.



Florida Facts



An aerial view of Miami Beach

Total Area—58,560 square miles

Total Land Area—54,136 square miles

Total Water Area—4,424 square miles

Rank Among States in Total Area—22nd

Coastline—1,197 statute miles

Beaches—663 miles

Longest River—St. Johns, 273 miles

Largest Lake—Lake Okeechobee, 700 square miles

Length North to South (St. Marys River to Key West)—447 miles

Width East to West (Atlantic Ocean to Perdido River)—361 miles

Highest Known Natural Point—Britton Hill (345 feet) near Lakewood in northern Walton County

Geographic Center—12 miles northwest of Brooksville in Hernando County

Population—19,893,297 according to the 2014 U.S. Census estimate

Number of Counties—67

First Colonization—In 1513, Ponce de León made landfall. In 1521, he returned to establish a colony.

Oldest Permanent Settlement—St. Augustine, established by Spain in 1565. It is the oldest continuous city in the continental United States.

Acquired by the United States—from Spain, approved by treaty in 1821

Statehood—Became the 27th state on March 3, 1845



Official State Designations

State Animal—Florida Panther

State Anthem—“Florida, Where the Sawgrass Meets the Sky”

State Beverage—Orange Juice

State Bird—Mockingbird

State Butterfly—Zebra Longwing

State Flower—Orange Blossom

State Freshwater Fish—Florida Largemouth Bass

State Fruit—Orange

State Gem—Moonstone

State Horse—Florida Cracker Horse

State Marine Mammal—Manatee

State Motto—In God We Trust

State Nickname—The Sunshine State

State Pie—Key Lime Pie

State Play—“Cross and Sword”

State Reptile—American Alligator

State Saltwater Fish—Atlantic Sailfish

State Saltwater Mammal—Porpoise

State Saltwater Reptile—Loggerhead Turtle

State Shell—Horse Conch

State Soil—Myakka Fine Sand

State Song—“Old Folks at Home” by Stephen C. Foster

State Stone—Agatized Coral

State Tortoise—Gopher Tortoise

State Tree—Sabal Palmetto Palm

State Wildflower—Coreopsis



Sabal Palmetto Palm, State Tree



Orange Blossom, State Flower



Zebra Longwing, State Butterfly



Florida Panther, State Animal



Glossary

Act—A bill passed by the Legislature.

Adjournment—A legislative house ends its business day by adjourning until a stated time on another day or until the time fixed by its rules for reconvening.

Adopted—Adoption refers to favorable action by a Chamber on an amendment, motion, resolution, or memorial. This action contrasts with passage, which refers to favorable action on a bill.

Amendment—A proposal to reword or revise a legislative measure or procedural motion.

Bill—A proposed law filed in either house of the Legislature.

Bill Number—The identifying number given by rule to each bill when filed for introduction.

Body—One house of a bicameral legislature.

Budget—The sum of expenditures authorized by the Legislature for a fiscal year.

Calendars—Provide official notification of bills to be considered, sessions, and committee meetings and hearings.

Chair—The presiding officer for a floor session, committee, or subcommittee meeting.

Chamber—The large meeting rooms in which the Senate and the House hold their floor sessions.

Clerk of the House—A constitutional officer who serves at the pleasure of the Speaker. The Clerk performs the ministerial duties and recordkeeping functions of the House.

Committee—A panel of legislators appointed by the respective presiding officers to perform specific duties.

Committee or Subcommittee Substitute—A bill that is introduced by a committee or subcommittee embracing the same general subject matter of one or more bills in possession of the committee or subcommittee.



Glossary

Daily Order of Business—The items of business and the order in which they are to be considered when a Chamber convenes a floor session.

Debate—Arguments made by legislators, during a committee meeting or session, supporting or opposing an issue.

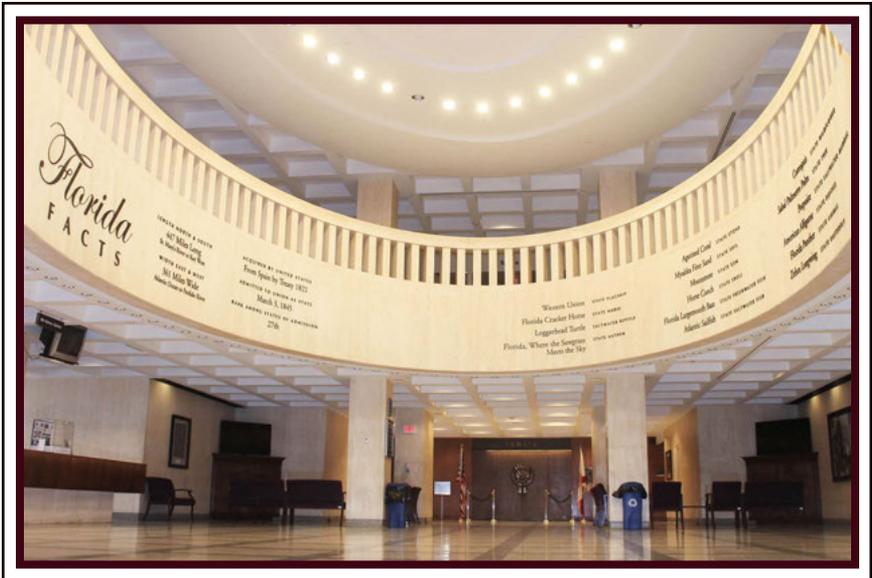
District—The area from which a State Senator, Representative, or Congressman is elected.

Effective Date—The date on which a law takes effect.

Enacting Clause—The phrase “Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida.” It is required by the State Constitution to appear in every bill immediately before the provisions that are to become law.

Engrossed Bill—The version of a measure that incorporates adopted floor amendments.

Engrossing—The process of incorporating amendments adopted by a Chamber into a new version of the bill.



A view of the 4th floor Rotunda and Senate Chamber doors, from the House side of the Capitol



Glossary

Enrolled—A measure approved by both houses and signed by the legislative officers which is sent to the Governor for action and transmittal to the Secretary of State or filed directly with the Secretary of State.

Floor—Synonymous with Chamber. Floor action suggests consideration by the entire Senate or House rather than committee action.

Florida Statutes—Compilation of general laws of the state.

Gallery—The seating area on the floor above the Senate or House Chamber where the public may observe a house in session.

House—Generally, either body or Chamber of the Legislature.

Interim—The period between the adjournment *sine die* of a regular session and the convening of the next regular session.

Introduction—The first reading of a bill which may be accomplished by publication of the title in the daily *Journal*.

Journal—The official legal record of the proceedings of the Senate or the House of Representatives.

Law—An act becomes a law when approved by the Governor or allowed by the Governor to become law without his signature by the passage of time or when the Legislature overrides the Governor's veto.

Majority Party—The political party having the most members in a house.

Message—A formal communication by one house to the other house concerning action taken on a bill.

Minority Party—The political party that has less than a majority of members in a house.

Passage—The Florida Constitution requires that each bill must receive at least a majority vote in each house. Some types of bills such as public records exemptions require an extraordinary vote.

Proclamation—The formal pronouncement issued by the Governor or jointly by the Senate President and House Speaker calling the Florida Legislature into a special session.



Glossary

President of the Senate—The presiding officer of the Senate, elected by the body at the organization session for a term of two years.

Quorum—The Constitution requires a majority of the members elected to a house to be present before a session may convene or transact legislative business.

Reading—Each bill or proposed constitutional amendment must be read by title on three separate days in each legislative house before it can be voted on final passage.

Recess—The period occurring within a legislative day when a body that has been in session temporarily suspends its proceedings.

Secretary of the Senate—The constitutional officer elected by the Senate to record its proceedings and to assist Senate members in the detailed processes of lawmaking.

Sergeant at Arms—The Chamber officer charged with enforcing the directions of the President of the Senate or the Speaker of the House of Representatives as to security and decorum in the Chamber and committee or subcommittee meetings.

Session—The term is used to refer both to a particular day's meeting of the Senate or the House and to the entire period for which the Legislature has been convened.

Sine Die—This Latin term literally means “without day.” It is the action that concludes a session of the Legislature.

Speaker of the House—The presiding officer of the House of Representatives, elected by the body at the organization session for a term of two years.

Term Limits—Constitutional limits on the number of consecutive terms a member may serve in the same Chamber.

Veto—Objection by the Governor to an act passed by the Legislature.

Vote—The constitution requires the recorded yeas and nays on final passage of legislation.

Yield—A legislator may release to another member part of the allotted time for which he or she has the floor.



TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE FLORIDA HOUSE

The Florida House Page & Messenger Program



Pages and Messengers are students who come to the Capitol and work one week during the 60-day Regular Session. Each of our 120 Representatives may sponsor one Page (ages 12-14) and one Messenger (ages 15-18).

For more information about the program or to download the application, visit:
<http://myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/PublicGuide/PublicGuide.aspx> and click on
"Pages & Messengers Program" under Just for Students.

Chamber Tours and Mock Sessions



The Florida House of Representatives offers sponsored groups House Chamber tours and Mock Sessions. A Mock Session is a one-hour program which includes a Chamber Tour and is excellent for school groups who would like to experience how a bill becomes a law.

To schedule a tour of the House Chamber, please visit:
<http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/ChamberTours/WelcomePage.aspx>

For detailed contact information and other resources:

The Florida House Website

<http://www.MyFloridaHouse.gov>

Free FL House App



