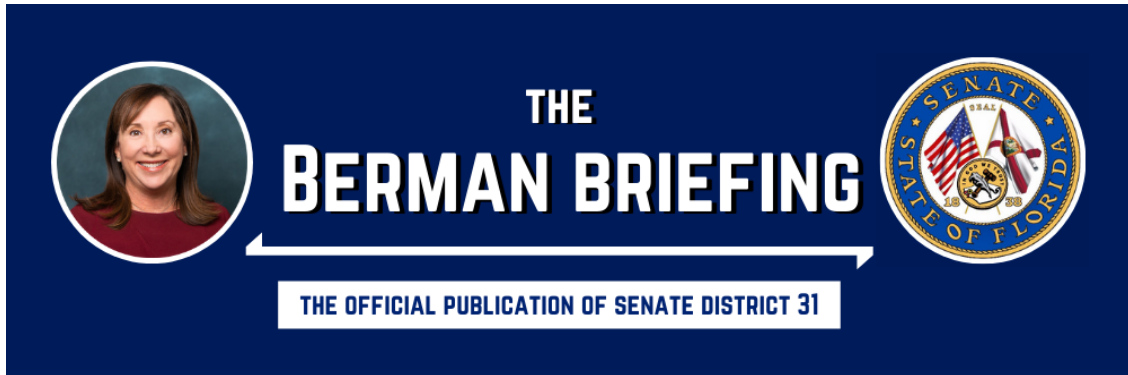


[View this email in your browser](#)



JUNE UPDATE

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Now that we're all back in the district, my office continues to remain available to you with any constituent needs you may have. We will do our best to continue providing updates to you on [COVID testing & vaccines](#) and related info as well as other pertinent items, such as unemployment assistance.

The Florida Legislature will be back in Tallahassee in late September (see committee week schedule below) for the start of the 2021-22 committee week process, which means this summer we will be researching and submitting bill ideas for review and drafting. Please feel free to reach out to my office with any ideas you may have.

If you'd like to meet with staff or myself, please also reach out to my office. I will be scheduling constituent day meetings periodically throughout the summer months. Call my office at 561-292-6014 to check in on availability.

Thank you for the continued opportunity to serve District 31 - it is truly an honor!

All the best,

John Bennis

UNEMPLOYMENT UPDATE FROM THE DEO

Florida is withdrawing from the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) payments effective June 26, 2021. Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA), Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC), and Mixed Earners Unemployment Compensation (MEUC) are set to expire on September 6, 2021.

REVIEW OF SPECIAL SESSION ON GAMING COMPACT

The Florida Legislature convened from Monday, May 17 through Friday, May 21 for purposes of ratifying the Gaming Compact between the state and the Seminole Indian Tribe of Florida. The individual bills can be found [here](#). The Gaming Compact can be found [here](#).

Enclosed below are links that relate to the impact the Gaming Compact will have on our state. What remains to be seen, but is fully expected, is a constitutional challenge. [Amendment 3](#), passed in 2018, requires the voters to decide whether or not gambling should be expanded. While the topic as a whole is very nuanced, I voted in favor of the bills as I feel, in the big picture, the state will benefit from the economic impact this deal secures. It is estimated that the compact will bring at least \$2.5 billion in revenue to our state in the first five years alone.

[FAQs on Gaming Compact](#)

[Summary of Gaming Compact](#)

Interim Committee Meeting Schedule

The Senate President's office released the Interim Committee Meeting Schedule below. The 2022 Regular Legislative Session will convene on Tuesday, January 11, 2022.

- Monday, September 20 – Friday, September 24, 2021
 - Monday, October 11 – Friday, October 15, 2021
 - Monday, October 18 – Friday, October 22, 2021
 - Monday, November 1 – Friday, November 5, 2021
 - Monday, November 15 – Friday, November 19, 2021
 - Monday, November 29 – Friday, December 3, 2021
-



Has your K-5 student fallen behind in school from the "COVID slide?"

To address learning losses felt by the pandemic, the legislature passed language this year that ***authorizes parents to retain their K-5 student in their current grade level for the 2021-2022 school year, if academic reason can be provided.***

- Parents wishing to retain their student must submit a written retention request to their school principal by June 30, 2021.
- The request will trigger a conversation between school leaders and parents to discuss retention and other supplemental support options, but the parents decision shall control.

*Contact the Office of Senator Lori Berman to learn more:
Berman.Lori@flsenate.gov*



CENSUS UPDATE

According to the Census Bureau, a formula called the 'Method of Equal Proportions' is used to determine how many congressional seats a state has. As such, Florida will be gaining a new seat - but the question remains where and how it will be drawn.

After each decennial Census the Legislature redraws the districts from which Florida voters elect their state representatives, state senators, and members of the U.S. House of Representatives.

You can read about the Florida Legislature's process and timeline [here](#).

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS SALES TAX HOLIDAY 

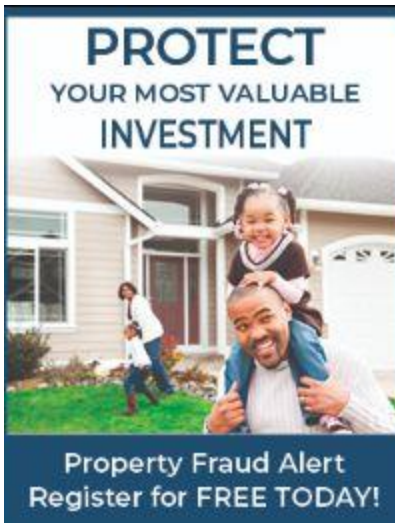
MAY 28 - JUNE 6, 2021

- \$20 OR LESS**
 - REUSABLE ICE PACKS
- \$40 OR LESS**
 - ANY SELF-POWERED LIGHT SOURCE:
 - Candles
 - Flashlights
 - Lanterns
- \$50 OR LESS**
 - RADIOS
 - Powered by battery, solar or hand-crank
 - Two-way or Weather band
 - GAS OR DIESEL FUEL TANK
 - BATTERIES:
 - A package of AA-cell, AAA-cell, C-cell, D-cell, 6-volt or 9-volt batteries
 - Excluding automobile and boat batteries
- \$60 OR LESS**
 - NONELECTRIC FOOD STORAGE COOLERS
 - PORTABLE POWER BANKS
- \$100 OR LESS**
 - TARPAULIN OR OTHER FLEXIBLE WATERPROOF SHEETING
 - GROUND ANCHOR SYSTEM OR TIE-DOWN KIT
- \$1,000 OR LESS**
 - A PORTABLE GENERATOR
 - Used to provide light or communications or preserve food in the event of a power outage

FIND A COMPLETE DISASTER SUPPLY KIT CHECKLIST AT FLORIDADISASTER.ORG/KIT

NEW - PROPERTY FRAUD PROTECTION

Did you know that scammers can potentially file fake deeds making it appear as if they own your home? A new program called "Property Fraud Alert" will hopefully stop this type of fraudulent activity in its tracks. Stay informed and sign up for alerts [here](#) to protect yourself and your home. Thank you to Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller Joseph Abruzzo for instituting this great program!



Leadership PBC: Engage Forward

Formerly called Civic Engagement Projects, Engage Forward empowers class members from the Engage program to take active roles in the community through this partnership with local nonprofit agencies. Engage Forward connects your nonprofit organization with this year's Engage Program class members to actively collaborate on finding solutions to issues facing your organization or the community you serve. Your organization (and those you serve) will be the beneficiary of this infusion of manpower, creativity, connections, and effort. These projects will be highlighted in communications and events to our alumni throughout the year. Historically, the impact of these class projects has been significant and of lasting benefit to the participating organizations.

We will begin with two virtual collaborative workshops on June 8 and June 17 to review this opportunity, best practices, and create project ideas from your supplied issues, then how to generate successful project proposals. **In order for your project to be considered for Engage Forward, at least one representative from your organization must attend one of these two workshops.** Proposals are due back to LPBC no later than June 25. Proposals will then be judged by the alumni committee to be presented to the class. The class will then select the projects that they wish to support.

PROPOSER WORKSHOPS

At least one representative from your organization is required to attend one of two virtual proposer workshops in order for your project to be considered for Engage Forward. This year's proposer workshops will be held on June 8 from 3:30pm to 5pm and June 17 from 9:30am to 11am. Register [here](#) for one of the two workshops.

ENGAGE FORWARD

by Leadership Palm Beach County

Requests for Project Proposals



Join Our Proposer Workshops

Tuesday, June 8, 2021 at 3:30 pm
Thursday, June 17, 2021 at 9:30 am

Register at www.leadershipbc.org/ef-rfp

Engage Forward connects your nonprofit organization with Leadership Palm Beach County's Engage Program class members. They will actively collaborate on finding solutions to issues facing your organization or the community you serve. Your organization (and those you serve) will be the beneficiary of this infusion of manpower, creativity, connections, and effort.

Over the years Engage Forward has worked with dozens of our county's nonprofit organizations to launch new programs, revitalize departments, create memorable events, or build social enterprise. **In order for your project to be considered for Engage Forward, at least one representative from your organization must attend one of the two workshops.** Proposals are due back to LPBC no later than June 25. To learn more about past projects the Engage Forward initiative, visit:

www.leadershipbc.org/Engage-Forward

If you have any questions, please direct them to millie@leadershipbc.org

Around 10 Volunteer Leaders 

 From the Public, Private & Nonprofit sectors

9 Month project length 

 NEW networks & resources

Positive change for your org 

Provided by

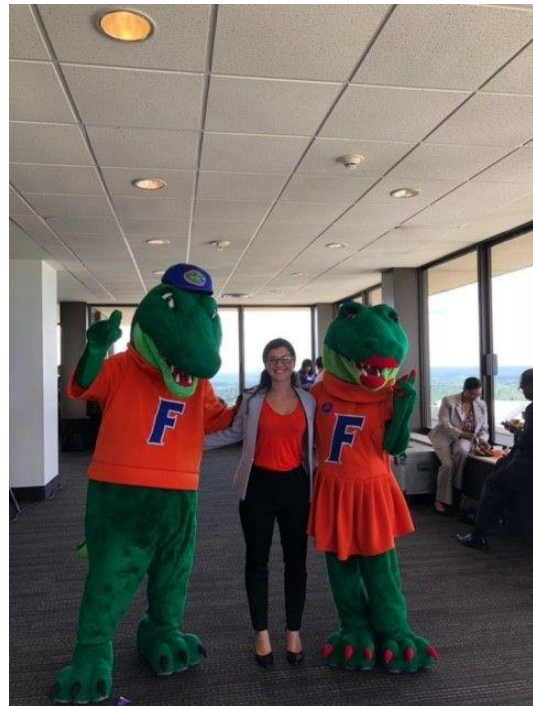

Leadership Palm Beach County

THANK YOU FROM TEAM BERMAN!

**Legislative Intern Tina Bhatt &
Legislative Assistant Hannah Gutner**

Tina Bhatt will be entering her third year at the University of Florida this fall, pursuing a major in Political Science with a minor in Business Administration and a certificate in Public Affairs. Tina is on the Executive Board of the Bob Graham Center Student Fellows, is a member of the Phi Alpha Delta pre-law fraternity and is a volunteer with the Florida YMCA Youth In Government program. Upon graduation, Tina plans to attend law school and hopes to continue to find ways to serve the community. We are so grateful to Tina's hard work and support of "Team Berman" during this legislative session!

Hannah Gutner is a 2020 graduate of the University of Florida, with a degree in Environmental Management. She has assisted our office through the pandemic, helping constituents with unemployment, COVID testing and associated needs as well as responding to inquiries about the vaccine, and so much more. We are grateful to have Hannah's support legislatively as well, where she researches and steers information to our office to assist in decision-making and communication to our constituents. We will miss you Hannah, but thank you for your service!



MEMORIAL DAY MESSAGE

Let this be a day to remember and honor those who served our great nation to protect our freedom. We are forever grateful for the ultimate sacrifice of those who have perished in service to the United States of America. May their courage and dedication never be forgotten.





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