



Legislative Session: Week Seven

Dear Friends,

This week wraps up our seventh week of the 2022 legislative session. As we enter the final two weeks of session, we will be on the floor debating numerous contested bills. The Legislature has made great progress toward finalizing joint allocations. But a nearly [\\$3.3 bottom-line difference](#) will need to be reconciled.

All

the

best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lori Berman" followed by a horizontal line.

Lori Berman



Bills/Issues to Watch

CS/CS/HB 1557: Parental Rights in Education

The Florida House voted on Thursday in favor of the bill commonly referred to as "don't say gay." Among other provisions, this legislation seeks to limit classroom discussions on sexual orientation and gender identity. It not only encourages parents to sue schools or teachers that engage in these topics but it is damaging and harmful to our students. It will pose an additional challenge for our educators, who already have heavy burdens and an inordinate amount of requirements upon them. Discrimination and hate have no place in our educational system. I spoke against this bill in the Senate Education Committee; unfortunately, it now heads to the Senate Appropriations Committee on Monday (2/28) and will likely be heard on the floor shortly thereafter. Thank you to partners such as Equality Florida and many other advocates who are fighting this very discriminatory, hateful legislation.

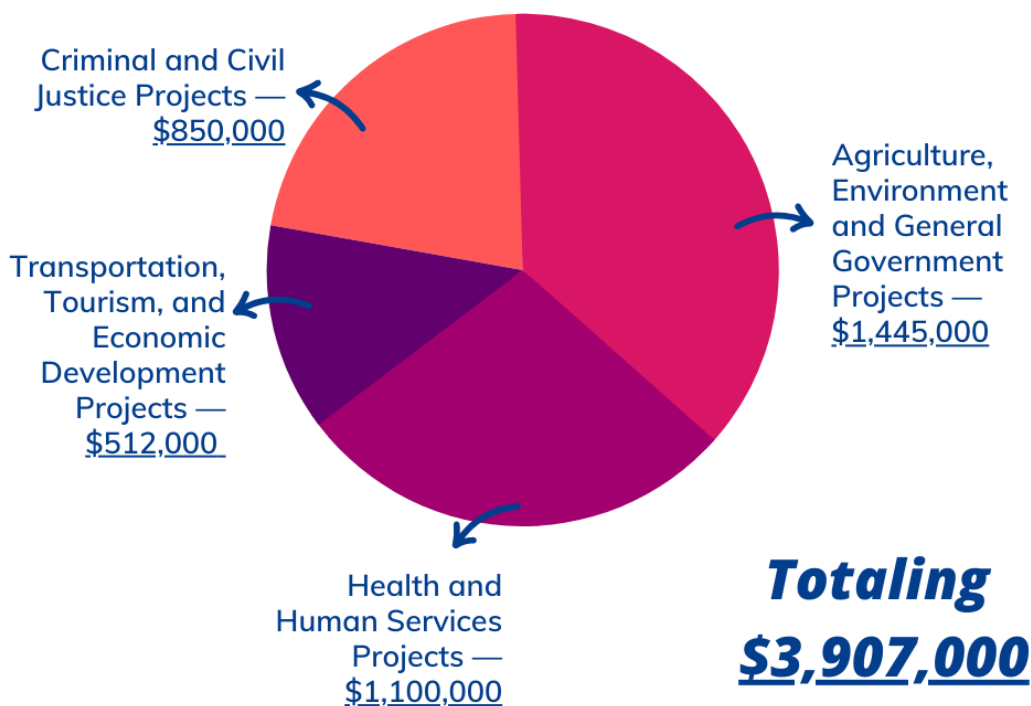
CS/SB 524: Election Administration

Another contentious bill this session seeks to create a \$2.5 million Elections

Crime Police Force, despite the fact that Florida already has a dedicated elections fraud complaint hotline, law enforcement to make arrests and State Attorneys to prosecute cases accordingly. Other needless aspects of the bill include increasing fines to third party voter registration organizations, further criminalizing those who assist voters with returning vote-by-mail ballots and other barriers intended to chill the voting process. SB 90 from 2021 is currently being litigated in court and the outcome has still not been finalized. We need not create more burdens to voting access when we have not even finalized last year's legal challenges.

Appropriations Projects Secured in SB 2500

(Funding subject to change during Conference)



Surgeon General Confirmed by the Senate

Through his confirmation process, Dr. Ladapo showed he is not the right person to lead our state as its Surgeon General. He was evasive at best and often contemptuous in answering questions regarding masks, tests and vaccines. Florida needs a well-qualified Surgeon General who follows the science and leads as a moral authority, not one who equivocates or yields to the political whims of our Governor. He was confirmed on Wednesday in a 24-15 party-line vote. To watch my debate, [click here](#).

Floridians for Reproductive Freedom Press

I stood with colleagues and advocates in support of reproductive choice at a press conference to oppose [HB 5](#), rapidly moving through the legislature. The bill passed out of the Senate Appropriations Committee earlier in the week and is expected to be heard during an upcoming floor session. As mentioned previously, the bill bans abortion, with no exception for rape or incest, after 15 weeks. This is an extreme Texas and Mississippi like bill and I am extremely concerned and disappointed that Florida has taken this on. We can only hope that our court will rule this unconstitutional.



[Read More on Press Conference](#)





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- [More than 20 lawmakers back Michael Grieco for Senate - Florida Politics](#)

Florida Politics
His Senate endorsers include **Lori Berman** of Boynton Beach, Shevrin Jones of Miami Gardens, Jason Pizzo of Miami and Tina Polsky of Boca Raton.

1 day ago

- [The doctor is in: Joseph Ladapo confirmed as Surgeon General - Florida Politics](#)

Florida Politics
Lori Berman recalled in 2020 when she asked Senators to reject the Governor's first Surgeon General, Scott Rivkees. Berman said she feared Florida ...

- [Senate signs off on Ladapo appointment | WPEC](#)

WPEC

But what he cannot and should not do is lead the Florida Department of Health.” Sen. **Lori Berman**, D-Delray Beach, said Ladapo also did not offer ...

- [Senate OKs Ladapo as surgeon general; to Dems, he's 'not the right person for the job'](#)

Florida

Phoenix

Lori Berman, a Democrat representing parts of Palm Beach County, urged colleagues to vote against Dr. Ladapo — a favorite of Gov.

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[Dr. Joseph Ladapo confirmed as Florida surgeon general along party lines - Tallahassee Democrat](#)

Tallahassee

Democrat

Lori Berman, D-Delray Beach, said during debate. "His answers were evasive at best and sometimes contemptuous when answering questions about masks ...

2 days ago

- [Climate-induced flooding: FL planning its defense but leaves causes unaddressed - Florida Phoenix](#)

Florida

Phoenix

Lori Berman, a Palm Beach Democrat, commended the legislation for broadening a 2020 law sponsored by former Sen. Jose Javier Rodriguez that was ...

- ['Ban off our Bodies': A rallying cry for reproductive freedom as 15-week abortion ... - Florida Phoenix](#)

Florida

Phoenix

Lori Berman, who represents part of Palm Beach County, was clearly upset about what's happening on the abortion front.

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