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Legislative Session: Week Nine

Dear Friends,

Today is our 60th and typically, final, day of the annual legislative session. However, the 2022-23 budget was not finalized in time for the 72 hour "cooling off" period to vote today, so the Legislature will return on Monday for its final budget vote. No other policy matters will be taken up as of midnight tonight (Friday, March 11). In the coming weeks, I will be bringing my annual "good, bad and ugly" comprehensive legislative update. Stay tuned.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Lori Berman' followed by a horizontal flourish.

Lori Berman



Municipal Elections

Congratulations to all of the winners in Tuesday's elections!

Over 60,925 ballots were cast in Palm Beach County's municipal elections Tuesday, representing a 17% voter turnout rate. We are proud to have newly-elected State Representative Jervonte Edmonds of House District 88, Mayor Ty Penserga in Boynton Beach, and dozens of new city, town, village commissioners, and councilmembers in over 19 cities throughout Palm Beach County. I look forward to working with all of them. For a list of elections results, click [here](#).

Run-offs in many cities will be held on Tuesday, March 22. For more information about where and when to vote in the run-off election in your city, check out the [PBC SOE's website](#).

SB 1518

Lactation Space



Passed the Senate Floor

- Requires all county courthouses to dedicate a lactation space
- Provides a hygienic, shielded space for attorneys, jurors, courthouse staff, and patrons to nurse or pump



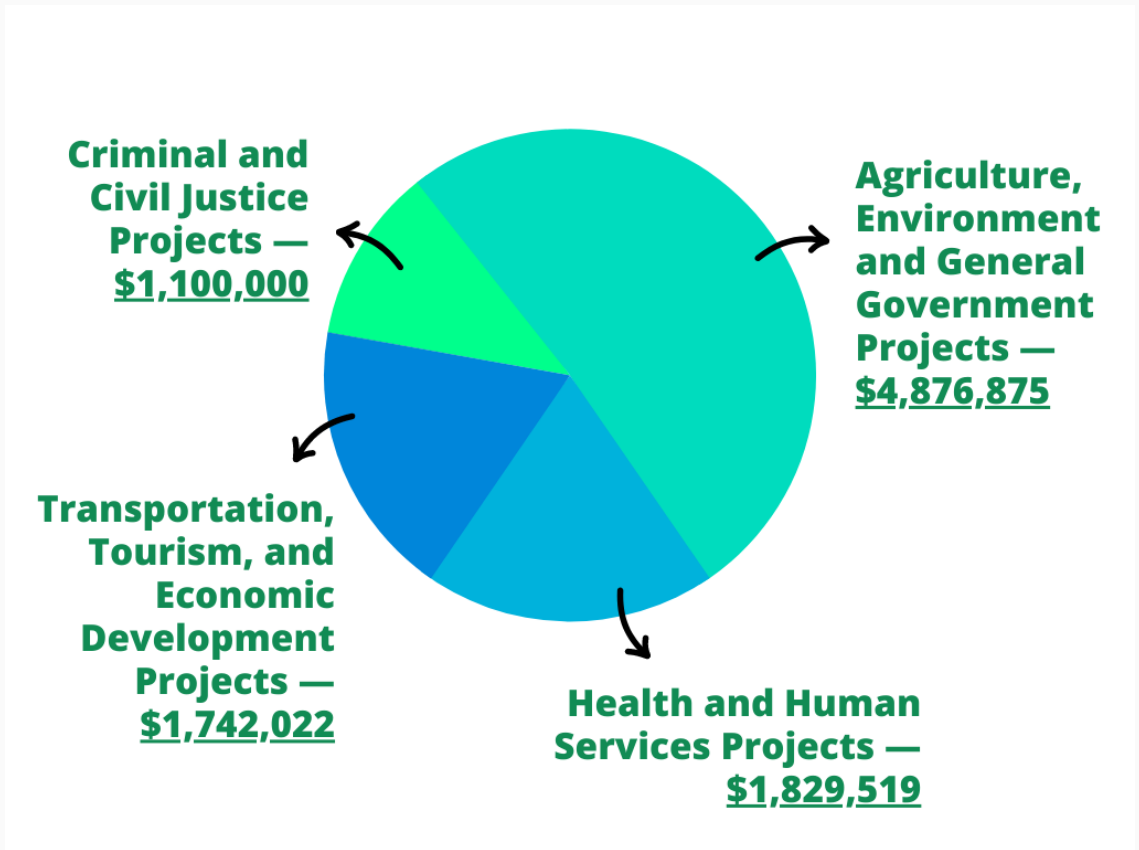
It was fitting that on [International Women's Day](#) (Tuesday, March 8) the Senate passed my legislation to require all county courthouses to provide a lactation space for breastfeeding mothers. [SB 1518](#) prioritizes the health and welfare of Florida's working families and recognizes the health, economic impact and contribution of working mothers.

Senator Berman's Appropriations Projects

Secured in the General Appropriations Act

Senator Berman secured a total of [\\$9,548,416](#) in the state budget for special projects in our community. These projects will go far in improving water quality, improving infrastructure in our district, and expanding

social services offered by our non-profits. However, some of these items may be subject to the Governor's line-item veto.



Additional Bills Passed in Final Week of Session

CS/HB 7: Individual Freedom (Anti-WOKE Act)
DeSantis' bogus Anti-WOKE Act was drafted from a Trump Executive Order, the same EO that was ruled too vague and unconstitutional by a federal court. Regrettably, following hours and hours of questions and debate on a bill that will be struck down upon passage - your tax dollars at work - the bill passed on _____ party _____ lines.

CS/CS/SB 1796: Dissolution of Marriage
The perennial bill addressing alimony passed this week. Most concerning to

me, as in previous iterations, is the 50/50 timesharing between parents. This is not always in the best interests of the child and is cause for great worry, especially in contentious divorce and custody battles. I urge people to call the Governor's office to veto this bad bill.

SB 1808: Immigration Enforcement

Another bill that is a solution in search of a problem seeks to tamp down on federal immigration law. Immigration issues are typically under the purview of our federal government but this bill aims to target transportation companies (in particular, airlines) that bring undocumented citizens into Florida. This legislation could pose a threat to migrants already in Florida whose visas have expired or those who have applications for asylum pending. With the war in Ukraine ongoing, we need to be especially sensitive to our immigrants.





Thank you to our Senate Page, Jacqueline Fake, for representing District 31!

Lori Berman
Daily update · March 11, 2022
NEWS

Florida lawmakers back the creation of an election crimes investigative office -
KUOW
KUOW

Florida lawmakers have sent to Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis legislation that would create a dedicated investigative unit for alleged election ...

Florida lawmakers are poised to pass a bill that would create an -
KAKE

Who proposed the bill? DeSantis announced the proposal for an election police force in November, as supporters of Donald Trump pushed to investigate ...

Florida GOP lawmakers pass bill to limit discussion of race - The Public's
Radio : RIPR

The Public's Radio

The Republican-dominated Florida Legislature has given Gov. Ron DeSantis another victory in what some call his political culture war.

[Bill to create Florida resiliency office goes to DeSantis - Tampa Bay Times](#)

Tampa Bay Times

Lori Berman, D-Delray Beach, said the resiliency office needs to do more than “remedy the problems” of rising seas. “I do think we need to address ...

[Senate votes to formalize response to rising seas as Democrats see missed opportunity](#)

Florida Politics

Lori Berman stood on the chamber floor to make the case for a more ambitious proposal. “I do think we need to address the reason why we have to ...

[Florida lawmakers are poised to pass a bill that would create an election police force. What ... - WRAL](#)

WRAL

Lori Berman said last Friday ahead of the bill's passage in the state Senate. Berman, who is a member of the Senate Committee on Ethics and ...

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