

Dear Friends,

I hope you all are having a great summer and are staying hydrated during this record breaking hot weather. Please see a brief reminder to check your voter registration as you may need to re-register to vote by mail.

I would also like to highlight some bills that have taken effect this month in July. If you are able to attend a few virtual meetings focusing on property insurance, I highly encourage you to join us. These property insurance virtual meetings have been put together by members of the Senate Democratic Caucus as we look forward to addressing what is important in our state.

These last few months, I have been making a few stops around the district to get in touch with as many of you as I can so I am happy to share a few pictures of some events and meetings I have attended. Also please see some helpful information regarding Palm Beach County's Owner Occupied Housing Rehabilitation Program. And remember to keep spreading the word about the abortion access petition in Florida!

As always, if you'd like to get in touch with me and my staff directly, please send us an email at Polsky.Tina@flsenate.gov.

Respectfully,

Senator Tina Polsky

Reminder!

Check your voter registration status.

The new law does not change the process for new voter registration applications. However, applications to update an existing voter registration record will now require additional information. If you prefer to vote by mail, please request to have your vote-by-mail ballot requests renewed in order to have a ballot mailed to you.

If you do not renew a vote by mail ballot request, you will not receive a ballot for:

- Upcoming 2024 contests: presidential primaries, later primaries for state and local offices, or the November presidential election.

TO REGISTER TO VOTE, MAKE ANY CHANGES, REQUEST A BALLOT, AND CHECK ON UPCOMING MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS:

Broward County: www.browardvotes.gov (click on the vote by mail tab near the top), 954-357-8683.

Palm Beach County: www.votepalmbeach.gov (click on the voters tab at the top, then ways to vote), 561-656-6200.



Bills Effective since July 1st 2023

Below are a few bills that have been signed by the Governor and have taken effect this month. Please see below for a brief summary of each bill along with a link to read the full bill.

SB 164 (Controlled Substance Testing): This bill decriminalizes the use of fentanyl testing strips. We are experiencing a record number of deaths due to fentanyl-laced drugs and aim to prioritize harm-reduction measures to prevent further deaths. CDC data shows that opioids cause nine out of 10 teen deaths, and fentanyl is the most common opioid involved. More than 30 other states have already adopted similar laws to legalize testing strips and we are now joining them in making this effort to save lives.

I am proud to have sponsored this legislation and am grateful for all of the support I received.

Read the full bill: <https://flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2023/164>

SB 1718: Anti-Immigrant Law: This bill requires that businesses with more than 25 employees use the E-Verify system. It also provides \$12 million to the Department of Emergency Management for a migrant relocation program that expands efforts to have the State of Florida fly out immigrants from other states. Hospitals that accept Medicaid must also ask patients about their immigration status on intake forms, which will deter people from seeking care for themselves and their children.

Read the full bill: <https://flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2023/1718>

HB 543 (Permit-less Carry): This bill makes it easier to attain a firearm by eliminating extensive background checks. Additionally, any Floridian who can legally own a gun is also no longer required to undergo training to carry a firearm and will no longer need a permit to be able to carry concealed firearms (there is no limit mentioned in the bill as to how many firearms can be carried concealed on your person).

Read the full bill: <https://flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2023/543>

SB 214 (Firearm Sales): This bill prevents credit-card companies from tracking firearm and ammunition sales through a separate "merchant category code" at gun businesses.

Read the full bill: <https://flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2023/214>

HB 1069 (Don't Say Gay, part 2): This anti-LGBTQ bill expands the so-called "Don't Say Gay" law to ban classroom instruction on sexual orientation and gender identity for grade K-8.

Read the full bill: <https://flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2023/1069>

HB 1521 (Bathroom Bill): This anti-LGBTQ bill will make it a crime for a person to use a bathroom intended for the sex opposite of what they're assigned at birth.

Read the full bill: <https://flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2023/1521>

Bills Effective since July 1st 2023

SB 300 (Abortion Ban): This bill bans abortions at 6 weeks and only provides exceptions if a rape or incest victim provides documents as proof. This can be extremely traumatizing for sexual abuse survivors who are too afraid to report a crime. These exceptions for rape and incest end at 15 weeks. This legislation is currently delayed by the Florida Supreme Court.

Read the full bill: <https://flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2023/300>

SB 266 (Censoring Academic Freedom): This bill limits academic freedom and stops public universities and colleges from spending on diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Read the full bill: <https://flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2023/266>

SB 256 (Union-Busting): This bill targets public workers, cripples unions, and prevents collecting dues automatically.

Read the full bill: <https://flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2023/256>

SB 102 (Affordable Housing): Makes changes to try to expand affordable housing, including boosting funding for housing and rental programs, providing incentives for investment and encouraging mixed-use developments in struggling commercial areas.

Read the full bill: <https://flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2023/102>

HB 3 (ESG): This legislation prohibits government investment strategies that consider “environmental, social and governance,” or ESG, standards.

Read full bill: <https://flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2023/3>

HB 1 (School Vouchers): This bill expands taxpayer-funded vouchers to all Florida students by taking money away from public schools and also eliminates income-eligibility requirements.

Read full bill: <https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2023/1>

HB 389 (Feminine Hygiene Supplies): This legislation allows school districts to provide free menstrual hygiene products in schools.

Read full bill: <https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2023/389>

HB 5 (Eliminating Enterprise Florida): This bill eliminates Enterprise Florida, the state’s business-recruitment agency. Contracts and programs will be shifted to the Department of Economic Opportunity, which will be renamed the Department of Commerce.

Read full bill: <https://flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2023/5>

SB 106 (Wildlife Corridor): This bill designates \$200 million to help link hiking and biking trails, which are part of the Shared-Use Nonmotorized Trail Network, to a statewide wildlife corridor.

Read the full bill: <https://flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2023/106>

Attention Homeowners!!



FLORIDA SENATE DEMOCRATS PRESENT

PROPERTY INSURANCE VIRTUAL TOWN HALL SERIES



LAUREN BOOK
Senate Democratic Leader



JASON PIZZO
Senate Democratic Leader Pro Tempore

FEATURING:

Members of the Senate Democratic Caucus

Paul Handerhan, President of the Federal Association for Insurance Reform

Sha'Ron James, Insurance Expert & Government Affairs Consultant with Gunster Law Firm

...and more!

WEDNESDAY, JULY 26TH
6:00 PM

**Homeowners Insurance 101:
A Guide for Insurance Coverage**

THURSDAY, AUGUST 17TH
6:00 PM

**Insurance Crisis:
Is There An End in Sight?**

TUESDAY, AUGUST 22ND
6:00 PM

**Your Tax Dollars at Work:
State Resources**

WATCH AND PARTICIPATE AT:



FACEBOOK.COM/FLSENATEDEMOCRATICCAUCUS



Condominium Town Hall

This Legislative Session, the legislature passed SB 154, relating to the Safety of Condominium and Cooperative Associations. This legislation is the follow up to SB 4-D which was passed a year ago during a special session. SB 154, which was signed into law by the Governor on June 9, revises and clarifies a number of provisions from the original SB 4-D legislation.

Please do not hesitate to contact me or my staff if you would like a summary of this legislation provided to us by the Community Associations Institute - Florida Legislative Alliance.



I would like to say thank you to my colleagues Senator Pizzo and Senator Bradley for working hard on this legislation. It was an honor to join you at this town hall.



Teen Political Forum in Coconut Creek

Kids are our future!

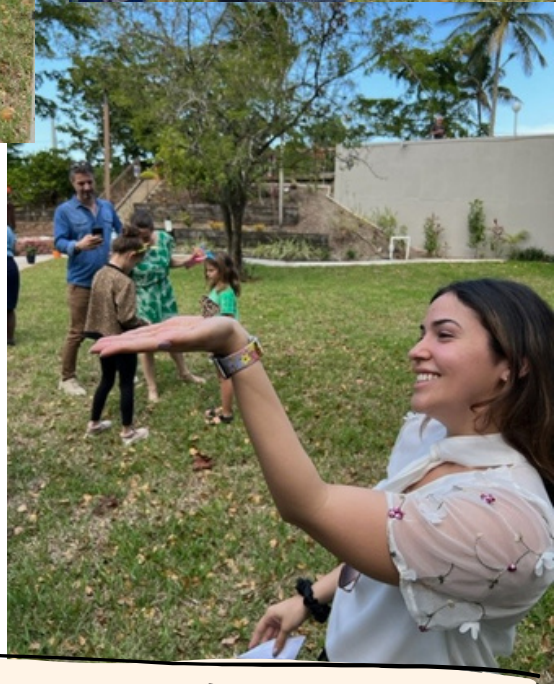
Thank you to all of the highschoolers and parents who attended.

Around the District



HCA Florida Northwest Hospital

Around the District



Mental Health Awareness and
Butterfly Release event at Faulk Center

Around the District



At the Coral Springs/Parkland Democratic Club
discussing reproductive rights.

Around the District



Coral Springs/Coconut Creek Regional Chamber breakfast and legislative update



Palm Beach County and Economic Council Legislative update

Around the District



Recognizing Juneteenth at Hughes Park in Pearl City, Boca Raton.



Legislative update with the Palm Beach County League of Women Voters



Tour of the Edward L. Myrick State Farmer's Market in Pompano Beach

Owner Occupied Housing Rehabilitation Assistance Available to Palm Beach County Residents



Palm Beach County's Department of Housing and Economic Development (HED) announces the availability of Owner Occupied Housing Rehabilitation Program assistance (Phase I), for residents age 62 and older, veterans and/or special needs applicants.

Funding will assist income eligible homeowners with substantial rehabilitation to correct code violations or incipient items that will become a code violation, eliminate housing conditions which threaten the life, health or safety of occupants, connect residents to public utilities and adapt residences to meet accessibility requirements. NOTE: If there is "unpermitted work" on the property, the property may be ineligible to receive assistance.

The online application portal will open on Monday, August 21, 2023 at 8:00am and close on Monday, September 25, 2023 at 11:59pm (or until 30 applications have been submitted). Applications must be submitted online and will be processed on a first submitted, first qualified, first served basis, subject to funding availability. Residents can apply by visiting the website at <https://pbcgov.com/HED>. NOTE: Additional program information and required documents needed are also located on the website.

MANDATORY: Before submitting an application, ALL applicants are required to attend one of the Virtual Mandatory Orientations noted below:

- Tuesday, August 8, 2023 at 10am or Thursday, August 10, 2023 @ 2pm
- Tuesday, August 15, 2023 at 10am or Thursday, August 17, 2023 @ 2pm
- Tuesday, August 22, 2023 at 10am or Thursday, August 24, 2023 @ 2pm
- Tuesday, August 29, 2023 at 10am or Thursday, August 31, 2023 @ 2pm

The Mandatory Orientation Meeting WebEx link is available by:

- Visiting the website at <https://pbcgov.com/HED> (or)
- Requesting it via email at HEDverify@pbcgov.org

For additional information, please contact:

Mortgage and Housing Investments Division at (561)233-3600
Lorell Williams at (561)233-3693 or Antoinette Prescott at (561)233-3606

GET ABORTION ACCESS ON THE FLORIDA 2024 BALLOT!



If you are registered to vote in Florida, you can download, print, and complete your own petition form!

Please click on the link below to download and fill out a form:

<https://floridiansprotectingfreedom.com/petition/>

**Mail completed petitions to:
Petition Collection
Post Office Box 4068
Sarasota, FL 34230**