



On The Move...Highlights from Week One of the 2007 Legislative Session

Palm Beach County Days *Rocks* Tallahassee!
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Palm Beach County *Rocks* Tallahassee Again

The 2007 Legislative Session is now officially under way. We have many tough challenges ahead and I am looking forward to tackling the important issues during the next 60 days.

The first week of session is always marked by the annual Palm Beach County Days and this year over 400 local leaders made the journey to Tallahassee. It is always great to have our friends and neighbors visit the Capitol and engage in the legislative process.

My new office as Deputy Majority Leader was a very busy place during the first couple of days with so many familiar faces stopping by to say hello, or to offer input on pending legislation (and also to eat a homemade cookie or two baked by my outstanding staff!)

As the old saying goes, "all politics is local," and seeing so many people from back home reminds me of how every decision we make in Tallahassee impacts our local community.

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Here are some of the highlights from the week -

I visited with dozens of students, faculty, alumni leaders and board members from FAU to discuss important education issues, as well as the \$4.7 million investment that I am championing to create the four year medical school program in Boca Raton that will ultimately produce 64 physicians a year. Along with the planned Schmidt Medical Center at FAU, this new medical school will transform the delivery of healthcare and improve access to quality care for our region.

I met with teachers like Kathi Gundlach to discuss our shared passion for improving our schools; visited with the Newmarks from the influential Voters' Coalition; discussed issues important to the business community with Troy McLellan and Joe Pores from the Boca Chamber; spoke about property tax reform with John Hallman and the members of FreedomWorks; gathered with Armand Nault, Edgar Burroughs, Ernie George and the many police and firefighters about public safety; and chatted with mayors and city commissioners to discuss issues of local concern. A special thanks to Delray Beach Mayor Jeff Perlman who is leaving office this month due to term limits – he has been a great leader and will be missed.

Perhaps the best part of this year's event was seeing so many new faces making their first trip to Tallahassee. Like Marjorie Waldo, the principal of the Delray Beach Youth Vocational Charter School, who is working tirelessly to make a difference for her students. And Yolette Bonnet, and the team at FoundCare, who find a way to provide access to quality healthcare for so many in need of support.

Whether you traveled to Tallahassee or not, I thank you for engaging in the issues that matter most. You know that my door is always open to listen to your ideas, thoughts and concerns on issues important to our community and our state.

All my best,



Palm Beach County Days *Rocks* Tallahassee!



FoundCare Visits Tallahassee for Palm Beach County Days!

From Left to Right: Jim Sugarman, Yolette Bonnet, Rep. Hasner, W. Trent Steele & Stephanie Moreau

House Unanimously Passes Four Bills to Protect Children and Families; Anti-Murder Act heading to Governor Crist for Signature

During the first week of session, the Florida House of Representatives unanimously passed four bills that focus on protecting Florida's children and families. These public safety measures address real threats to Florida's families and send the tough message that we will take tough action to protect Florida's children from violent criminals and sexual predators. House Bills 41, 593 and 697 were all measures included in [100 Innovative Ideas for Florida's Future](#).

Representative Hasner is a Co-Sponsor of all four legislative measures:

[House Bill 29](#)

The "Anti-Murder Act" provides grounds for refusing bail, revoking probation and increasing minimum sentences for violent felony offenders who violate their probation.

House Bill 41

Expands the Jessica Lunsford Act for dangerous sexual offenders by increasing minimum sentencing requirements for repeat sexual offenders and increases penalties for certain sexual offenses based on prior convictions.

House Bill 573

The "Cybercrimes Against Children Act of 2007" increases the penalties for sexual predators using the internet and provides law enforcement and social networking websites with additional tools to protect children.

House Bill 697

Expands the list of offenses for which conviction would require collection of DNA evidence from the offender.

Property Tax Relief Remains Job One - House Republican Proposal Provides Immediate Relief and Comprehensive Reform

Everyone agrees that our current property tax system is unsustainable. Whether it is due to the inequities in the system, the fact that people are trapped in their home or that the property tax burden is shifted to non-homesteaders and commercial properties, Florida's families and Florida's businesses can not continue to incur the increases.

House Republicans have unveiled a bold, two phased proposal that will provide immediate relief to all property owners as well as comprehensive reforms that require voter approval. Part one would roll back total local government property tax revenues to 2001 levels and allow for inflationary growth to the current year. By establishing a revised millage rate, this would result in nearly a 20% tax cut for all homesteaders, non-homesteaders and commercial property owners this year. This legislative action would take effect and would result in nearly \$6 billion of tax relief for all property taxpayers while limiting future local government property tax collections.

The innovative proposal to transform Florida's property tax system would require a special election in November 2007. Voters would be asked whether they support eliminating ALL property taxes on ALL homesteaded properties and in place, increasing the sales tax 2.5 cents to fund local government services. This elimination of property taxes on primary residences would resolve the current

inequity problems, as well as the lack of portability, while a constitutional cap on increases in property taxes for commercial and non-homesteaded properties will prevent future shifts of the tax burden.

The House Republican proposal delivers on the promise of immediate relief for everyone and comprehensive reform to fix a broken system. Timid tweaks to the status quo are not going to be sufficient to solve this problem.

We are still awaiting the announcement of a tax relief plan from the House Democrats, as well as a proposal from the Florida Senate. It is important that we all work together, regardless of party affiliation, and the House Republican proposal is an excellent starting point for consideration of solutions. During the next few weeks, we look forward to a healthy debate on this issue and we welcome all ideas that will provide immediate relief and address the current property tax crisis.

I will continue to work throughout the Legislative Session to ensure that all Floridians receive meaningful tax relief sooner rather than later.

If you support the elimination of property taxes on homestead properties please visit www.nomorepropertytax.com to sign the petition.

Hasner Leads Effort for Tough Anti-Gang Measures

Ideas 44 and 45 from the 100 Innovative Ideas for Florida's Future Introduced by Hasner and other Legislative Leaders

When we traveled the state, the people told us that street gangs were a growing threat to the safety and security in our communities. These gangs are no longer the Sharks and Jets from Westside Story; these gangs are sophisticated, they are organized and they are dangerous.

We listened, and now we are taking action by introducing legislation to empower local law enforcement with the tools to do their job effectively. This is not just a problem that recently "popped up" in Boynton Beach. It is happening all over the state and it has finally reared its ugly head in our backyard. We must change the laws to reflect that these gangs are a clear and present danger and we must arm our police and prosecutors with the tools they need to get the job done. We can not allow these gangs to become the domestic terrorists that they are threatening to be.

Highlights of Legislation -

[House Bill \(HB\) 1363](#) will make it easier for law enforcement and prosecutors to combat gang activity by expanding the definition of street gangs under the current statute to any group involved in organized criminal activity. It would also

make it easier to enforce current laws against recruiting others to such activities.

The bill would limit contact between group members while on probation and make it a felony to make use of any form of electronic communication to intimidate, harass, advertise the presence of a criminal group or promote unlawful activity. It also encourages the FDLE to maintain an organized crime member database accessible by local law enforcement which will aid in the statewide effort to cut down gang activity.

Additionally, by broadening the definition of gangs, the bill makes it easier for victims of criminal activity to pursue civil remedies.

Adam Hasner...In the News

[3/10/07 - EDITORIAL: Development \(South Florida Sun-Sentinel\)](#)

In their arrogance, they tried to circumvent the process by asking legislators to kill the road extension as part of the annexation bill. But Rep. Adam Hasner, R-Delray Beach, and Sen. Jeremy Ring, D-Parkland, restored reason to the mix, filing clean annexation bills and saying it's up to DCA to decide what roads get built.

[3/10/07 - Florida Not Alone In Tax Woes \(The Tampa Tribune\)](#)

Hasner said the concern over property taxes in Florida is homegrown, which will make it easier for motivated lawmakers to reach a solution.

"Ours comes from the people," he said. "The most important thing for us, the guiding principal, is that we provide immediate and meaningful tax relief and that we also accomplish comprehensive reform to address the fact that our system is currently broken and unsustainable."

[3/10/07 - House tax-relief bill likely to force service cuts \(The Miami Herald\)](#)

Rep. Adam Hasner, a Delray Beach Republican who represents part of Broward, said that defending spending increases just isn't acceptable when residents and business owners have seen their property taxes double in the past couple of years.

"We're of the opinion that the government should only spend what the people can afford and not a penny more," Hasner said. "My view is it really doesn't matter where the counties claim the money is going if the people can't afford to pay for it."

[3/10/07 - Pleas on property taxes get cool House reception \(The Palm Beach Post\)](#)

But Rep. Adam Hasner, R-Delray Beach, said that the so-called "unfunded mandates" account for \$33.8 million in Palm Beach County, or less than 1 percent of the county's budget.

"Unfunded mandates really are not, as some would like to make it seem, the thing that's going to break the county's back," he said.

[3/9/07 - Counties Defend Use of Revenue \(The Tampa Tribune\)](#)

Further, "Counties can come up with all the information they want demonstrating where the money's going; the fact is, the people of the state of Florida can't afford to pay for it," said House deputy majority leader Adam Hasner, R-Delray Beach.

"That's why we need immediate and meaningful tax relief."

[3/8/07 - Counties Fight Back \(Capitol News Service\)](#)

"Governments should only spend what the people can afford, and not a penny more," said House Deputy Majority Leader Adam Hasner, (R) Delray Beach. "It really does not matter where the counties claim the money is going if the people can't afford to pay for it."

[3/7/07 - Proposals designed to crack down on growing gang violence \(Bradenton Herald\)](#)

"We cannot allow these types of gangs to become the domestic terrorists that they are becoming," said state Rep. Adam Hasner, R-Delray Beach.

[3/7/07 - Boca legislator won't run for Republican nomination for Congress \(South Florida Sun-Sentinel\)](#)

Tallahassee – Despite efforts by national, state and local Republicans to woo him into running, state Rep. Adam Hasner, R-Boca Raton, said Tuesday evening he's decided not to run for Congress next year.

[3/4/07 - State wields bigger budget to push energy efficiency \(The Palm Beach Post\)](#)

"We want to do everything possible to encourage people to use more energy-efficient technologies," said Rep. Adam Hasner, R-Delray Beach. "Energy-efficient products such as refrigerators and light bulbs need to become a part of everyday life in Florida."

Important News from Around the State

[3/9/07 - Counties protest House's tax cut concept \(The Miami Herald\)](#)

[3/9/07 - House, Senate Dates For Presidential Primary Differ \(The Tampa Tribune\)](#)

[3/7/07 - Crist outlines ambitious tax cuts, consumer programs, but how will he pay? \(South Florida Sun-Sentinel\)](#)

[3/5/07 - Insurers poised to lower rates \(The Miami Herald\)](#)

Governor Crist's State of the State Address

[3/7/07 - Text of Gov. Crist's speech \(St. Petersburg Times\)](#)

Governor Charlie Crist's 2007 State of the State Speech

Thank you. Thank you very much.

Good morning. Mr. President, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Chief Justice and members of the Court, members of the Cabinet, the Legislature, honored guests, and my fellow Floridians across our state. Good morning to you all.

It is a privilege to be here this morning for the first time as your new Governor. But in many ways, for me this is a homecoming...

Political advertisement paid for and approved by Adam Hasner, Republican for State Representative - District 87.

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