



### **More Work To Be Done...Focus Turns to Property Tax Relief**

Inside Florida's \$72 Billion Budget for 2007-2008; a 1% Increase from Last Year  
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### **Several Legislative Victories - No Property Tax Relief a Disappointment**

The 2007 Regular Legislative Session came to an end last week, and I am pleased to report back that there were several positive things accomplished for our community and our state. The fact that we were not able to pass meaningful property tax reform makes the session somewhat of a disappointment, but I am already back hard at work in preparation for the upcoming Special Session on Property Tax Reform in June.

Throughout the 60 day session, we worked around the clock to reach an agreement on this most critical issue for the future of our state. This is a crisis which took years to evolve and we always knew it couldn't be solved overnight. But rather than rush something together and run the risk of getting it wrong, we took the appropriate course. The Governor, House and Senate have opted to be more deliberate and focus on this single issue, and take just a little more time to carefully craft the agreed upon proposal and return to Tallahassee over the next several weeks to get the job done, rather than mix the property tax issue with the final business of regular session and make mistakes.

Everyone understands that there is only one chance

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at responsible reforms and constitutional changes - so it is necessary to get it right the first time. I remain optimistic that the final compromise legislation will deliver the needed innovative solutions to fix our system that is wrought with inequities, and get Florida back on the move.

The Governor, House and Senate have agreed to return during the weeks of May 21st, June 4th and June 12th to finish the work that we started and reach a compromise between the [House Property Tax Plan](#) for relief and reform that provides over \$40 billion in local property tax relief over the next five years, and the Senate plan which proposes \$12 billion in savings over that same time frame.

While I share your frustration as a fellow taxpayer about the extra time required to address Florida's property tax crisis, I also wanted to let you know about the real progress we made on other important issues such as passing legislation to establish a verifiable paper ballot system, increasing funding for our local public schools, and furthering Florida's commitment to alternative energy. I have included some highlights from the session, as well as some background information on our \$72 billion budget that increased less than 1% from last year.

As we enter the June 12th Special Session, our entire focus will be on property tax relief. I am confident that we will emerge with a plan that provides meaningful savings for all property owners, and comprehensive reforms to fix our broken and unsustainable system.

I won't rest until this is done.

Thanks as always for your input and thoughts on the issues that matter most. I look forward to hearing from you.

All my best,



## **Inside Florida's \$72 Billion Budget for 2007-2008; a 1% Increase from Last Year**

Florida's 2007-2008 budget totals \$71.95 billion, which is a 1% increase from last year's budget. Additionally, in response to the 2006 voter approved provision to the state constitution demanding fiscal responsibility, this year's budget does not spend any non-recurring revenues on recurring expenditures.

### **2007-2008 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS**

#### ***INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE - FLORIDA'S EDUCATION BUDGET***

- \$29.7 Billion - An increase of \$1.5 billion from last year; a 5.1% increase

**Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten:** \$376 Million Per student spending \$2,677; a 4.57% increase

**K-12 Statewide Total Spending:** \$ 19.3 Billion; \$1.24 Billion increase; a 6.84% increase  
Per Student Spending \$7,306; \$455 increase; a 6.65% increase

#### **K-12 Palm Beach County:**

Total Operating Funding \$1.27 Billion; \$60 Million increase; a 4.9% increase  
Per student spending \$7,640; \$491 increase; a 6.87% increase

#### **K-12 Broward County:**

Total Operating Funding \$1.88 Billion; \$82.2 Million increase; a 4.58% increase  
Per Student Spending \$7,362; \$457 increase; a 6.662% increase

#### **Other Education Funding:**

- Class Size Reduction: \$2.71 Billion; a \$600 Million Increase
- Teacher Merit Award Program: \$147.5 million
- Reading Initiatives: \$198.4 million; a \$10.1 million increase

#### **Community Colleges:**

- Total Spending \$1.26 Billion; a 6% increase; including a \$54.1 million increase for enrollment growth and program costs
- Broward Community College Nursing Lab Facility: \$5.9 Million  
Palm Beach Community College 5th Campus Expansion: \$5.0 Million

#### **State Universities:**

- Total Spending \$3.72 Billion; a 5.5% increase; including \$104.2 million for enrollment growth and program costs
- Centers of Excellence Research Grant Program: \$100 Million
- Florida Atlantic University/University of Miami Medical Program: \$4.7 Million
- Florida Atlantic University Harbor Branch Facility: \$30.5 Million
- Florida Atlantic University/Broward Community College Florida-Israel Institute: \$50,000

### ***ENSURING A HEALTHY FLORIDA - HEALTHCARE***

\$24.3 billion; \$500 million increase over current budget; a 2.5% increase

- \$994 million for price increases for Medicaid:
- \$55.6 million for KidCare
- \$81.2 million for enhanced payments to hospitals for charity care
- \$114 for Agency for Persons with Disabilities Waiver Utilization Funding
- \$57.9 for Statewide Tobacco Education and Prevention Program

### ***KEEPING FLORIDA ON THE MOVE - Economic Development and Transportation -***

- Economic Development Initiatives - \$462.3 million
- Affordable Housing Programs - \$391.4 million
- Cultural, Historical Funding - \$53 million
- Transportation Work Program - \$7.5 Billion
- Highway Safety Infrastructure Improvements - \$447.4 million

### ***PROTECTING AND SECURING FLORIDIANS SAFETY - \$5 billion***

- \$164 million increase for 8,000 new prison beds
- \$2.4 million for statewide Cyber Crime unit
- \$9.2 million for integrated justice systems
- \$15.1 million increase for state attorneys and public defenders

### ***PRESERVING FLORIDA'S ENVIRONMENT AND PROMOTING ENERGY INDEPENDENCE***

- \$300 million for Florida Forever Land Acquisition Program
- \$200 million for Everglades Restoration Program
- \$49 for Lake Okeechobee Clean Up
- \$30.6 million for Beach Renourishment Projects
- \$62 million for alternative energy research grants, farm to fuel initiatives and solar power incentives

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS YEAR'S BUDGET:

## [2007-2008 STATE BUDGET](#)

[5/7/07 - Legislators drum up \\$70 million for programs in Palm Beach County \(South Florida Sun-Sentinel\)](#)

[5/6/07 - PB County's haul grows to \\$475 million \(The Palm Beach Post\)](#)

### **Legislative Highlights from 2007 Session**

#### **[Hasner Legislation Divesting State Pension Funds from Iran/Sudan Passes Unanimously](#)**

[5/4/07 - Deutch, Hasner bills set national precedent requires pension funds to divest from Iran, Sudan \(The Boca Raton News\)](#)

"We cannot invest Floridians' pension funds in companies that are propping up countries that support terrorism," said House Deputy Majority Leader Hasner "We are essentially funding both sides of this war, and it's time to stop. Florida is sending more than a message - this will lead a nationwide effort."

The legislation, House Bill (HB) 703 and Senate Bill (SB) 2142, calls for the State Board of Administration and the Board of Trustees to leverage the approximately \$150 billion in Florida's pension fund by ending investment in companies doing business with the petroleum energy sector in Iran and the government of Sudan.

[5/3/07 - Florida lawmakers urge Crist to sign divestment bill \(The Miami Herald\)](#)

Rep. Adam Hasner, a House co-sponsor of the bill, said whether it does pressure companies to pull out of Iran and Sudan, it's still a matter of principle that Florida shouldn't be supporting those governments.

"Our state pension funds - the money our teachers, police and firefighters set aside for their retirement - should not be used to invest in companies that are propping up the terrorist regimes that seek our destruction," said Hasner, R-Delray Beach.

#### **[Hasner Anti-Gang Measure Passes House; Dies in Senate](#)**

[5/3/07 - EDITORIAL: Gang-busting can't wait \(The Palm Beach Post\)](#)

The Florida House unanimously passed a measure to give law enforcement new ways to combat gangs. But House Bill 1363 got nowhere in the Senate. Given the danger that the gang problem presents for this area, legislative leaders and Gov. Crist should put the measure on the agenda for the June 5 special session on property taxes.

The House bill, sponsored by Rep. Adam Hasner, R- Delray Beach, and others,

evolved considerably during the session.

[5/6/07 - PB County's haul grows to \\$475 million \(The Palm Beach Post\)](#)

The House approved a measure cracking down on gangs, but it didn't make it to the Senate floor.

Supported by Palm Beach County Sheriff Ric Bradshaw, the bill would have expanded the definition of street gangs to any group involved in organized criminal activity and would have limited contact between group members on probation.

"These gangs are a tremendous threat in our community," Hasner said. "It's not just in Palm Beach County, but it's most severe in Palm Beach County. ... They're domestic terrorists. They are truly terrorizing our neighborhoods."

[\*\*Governor Crist's Plan to Make Citizens' Insurance More Competitive Passes\*\*](#)

[5/5/07 - Legislature extends Citizens rate freeze \(Sarasota Herald-Tribune\)](#)

The House passed the bill (SB 2498) 106-10. A short time later it passed unanimously in the Senate and was sent to Crist.

The feature of the bill that will be immediately felt by the most people will extend a freeze in rates for customers of state-backed Citizens, the largest property insurer in the state.

The company's rates were frozen by lawmakers at current levels in January until the end of 2007. They will now remain at current levels until the end of 2008.

[\*\*Hasner Secures Funding for 4-Year FAU Medical School Program at Boca Raton\*\*](#)

[5/7/07 - Legislators drum up \\$70 million for programs in Palm Beach County \(South Florida Sun-Sentinel\)](#)

Florida Atlantic University hauled in \$4.7 million to expand its just-started teaching hospital from a two- year program to four years.

The teaching school, authorized in 2005, is affiliated with the University of Miami and the Boca Raton Community Hospital.

"This is going to transform health care delivery in our county and in our region," said state Rep. Adam Hasner, R-Boca Raton, who pushed for the funding.

[5/3/07 - EDITORIAL: \*FAU doctors will be in\* \(The Palm Beach Post\)](#)

One big highlight for this area in the 2007-08 state budget is full financing for the new medical school at Florida Atlantic University.

Late last year, FAU made the \$4.7 million request its priority for the legislative session. State Rep. Adam Hasner, R-Delray Beach, says the money is in the budget that awaits expected final approval by the Legislature on Friday. If the current schedule holds, the first class of 240 students will start in the fall of 2008.

### **Florida Expands Commitment to Alternative Energy - Builds on 2006 Hasner Legislation**

[5/3/07 - EDITORIAL: \*Energy\* \(South Florida Sun-Sentinel\)](#)

The energy bill running through the Florida Legislature contains a measure pushed by Rep. Adam Hasner, R- Boca Raton, mandating that by the beginning of next year, biodiesel must comprise at least 20 percent of all Florida school districts' fuel purchases. It shouldn't take long for the state to push that requirement closer to 100 percent.

[5/4/07 - \*Lawmakers pass plan to help wean Florida off of fossil fuels\* \(The Ocala Star- Banner\)](#)

Calling it a landmark for Florida, the Legislature on Thursday sent the governor a comprehensive \$62 million plan to help wean the state off imported fossil fuels and inspire industry to produce renewable alternatives.

High gas prices, national security concerns and urgent scientific reports on humanity's effect on global warming pushed Gov. Charlie Crist and state lawmakers this year to begin changing Florida's lackluster record on energy.

The House and Senate each passed the plan (HB 7123) unanimously Thursday.

### **Legislature Passes Election Reforms Including Verifiable Paper Ballots and Early Presidential Primary**

[5/4/07 - \*Florida House OKs Jan. 29 presidential primary, ends touch-screen voting\* \(South Florida Sun-Sentinel\)](#)

By the 2008 fall elections, the optical-scan devices will replace touch-screen machines in 15 counties, including Palm Beach and Broward. The \$28 million cost will be paid by the federal government.

Optical-scan machines allow voters to make marks directly on the ballot, and they produce a paper trail for recounts in disputed races.

Touch screens still can be used for early voting and by disabled voters, but the legislation calls for them to be eliminated by 2012.

Seeking to vault Florida into the forefront of the 2008 presidential race, the bill also will move the state presidential preference primary from March to Jan. 29, the same day as South Carolina's and behind only the Iowa and Nevada caucuses and the New Hampshire primary. Florida's new date allows it to bypass a dozen other states with Feb. 5 primaries, known as Super Tuesday.

### **[Gift Cards Will No Longer Have an Expiration Date](#)**

*[5/3/07 - Legislators approve ban on expiration dates, maintenance fees for gift cards \(South Florida Sun-Sentinel\)](#)*

The Legislature, with the House's unanimous endorsement Wednesday, has voted to ban expiration dates and maintenance or other fees that nibble away at the value of gift cards and gift certificates.

Florida is among 29 states this year looking at bans or restrictions on gift-card expiration dates and fees. California was the first to prohibit expiration dates in 1997.

### **[Hasner Co-Sponsors Legislation Mandating Physical Education for Elementary School Students](#)**

*[5/4/07 - Mandatory physical education measure heads to governor \(Sarasota Herald-Tribune\)](#)*

A requirement that children have at least a half-hour of physical education daily passed the House unanimously Friday and now awaits Gov. Charlie Crist's signature.

The measure (HB 967) requires a minimum of 150 minutes each week for students between kindergarten and fifth grade, and encourages middle schools and high schools to provide up to 225 minutes of P.E. weekly. It would take effect July 1 if Crist signs it.

### **[Hasner To Hold Town Hall Meeting on Briny Breezes](#)**

#### **HASNER TO HOST DCA SECRETARY THOMAS PELHAM FOR A TOWN HALL MEETING ON BRINY BREEZES**

*~Residents will have the opportunity to voice opinions, ask questions and get*

*facts~*

DELRAY BEACH - Local residents will have the opportunity to meet with Department of Community Affairs (DCA) Secretary Thomas Pelham and staff to discuss the proposed Briny Breezes redevelopment from 6pm to 9pm on May 22nd at Old School Square in downtown Delray Beach. The event, sponsored and organized by State Representative Adam Hasner, will help educate the residents of District 87 on the DCA review process as it relates to the proposed redevelopment plans of Briny Breezes.

"Florida's Growth Management Act process exists to safeguard our environment and quality of life, and the Department of Community Affairs is the state agency charged with reviewing - and approving or denying - all major changes to municipal comprehensive plans, and this process must protect and preserve the interests of all stakeholders," said Representative Hasner, Deputy Majority Leader of the Florida House of Representatives. "I have expressed my concerns over the scope of the proposed project and am pleased that the Department has accepted my invitation to travel to our community to educate all residents on the forthcoming process and answer questions."

"Although I am still in Tallahassee and focused on issues such as property tax reform, I am well aware of the challenges our community faces regarding the redevelopment of Briny Breezes," said Representative Hasner. "While as a state legislator I have no official role and no decision making authority in the DCA review process, I am watching closely to make sure this process is transparent and that determinations are made on objective criterion that are well established in Florida law as it relates to issues such as density, compatibility, environmental impacts, transportation and hurricane evacuation."

The Town Hall event will take place in the Cornell Theater at Old School Square to ensure adequate capacity for all interested residents. Attendees will have several hours to ask questions, voice concerns and review the established timelines for the review process.

"As the redevelopment of Briny Breezes is considered, it is critical that the letter of the law is followed to ensure and that any redevelopment is responsible and consistent with the character of our community," said Representative Hasner. "I will not stand for anything less - or in this case - anything more than current law allows."

***DETAILS:***

**TOWN HALL ON PROPOSED REDEVELOPMENT OF BRINY BREEZES  
FEATURING DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS SECRETARY  
PELHAM**

**LOCATION:**

Old School Square Theatre  
51 N. Swinton Avenue  
Delray Beach, FL 33444  
(561) 243-7922

**DATE:** Tuesday, May 22, 2007

**TIME:** 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

\* For more information, please contact Wendy Mortimer at (561) 279-1616.

**Rep. Hasner to join Governor Crist on trade mission to Israel**

Governor Charlie Crist has invited Rep. Hasner, and a select group of state legislators, along with Congressman Robert Wexler, to lead Florida's delegation on a high level trade mission to Israel from May 27 - June 3, 2007.

The mission will visit Tel Aviv and Jerusalem and will focus on expanding the strong business and cultural ties that unite the State of Israel and Florida. Israel boasts one of the world's most important high technology clusters, providing Florida companies and institutions a great opportunity to build mutually beneficial business relationships and strategic alliances.

During the mission, participants will have the opportunity to meet and interact with high level business and government leaders and visit various official, cultural and historical points of interest as part of the official Florida delegation.

No taxpayer funding is being used to pay for Rep. Hasner's trip.

**Important News from Around the State...**

[5/9/07 - Special session on property tax formally called \(South Florida Sun-Sentinel\)](#)

[5/6/07 - Veto likely for tiered tuition bill \(St. Petersburg Times\)](#)

[5/4/07 - Florida House OKs Jan. 29 presidential primary, ends touch-screen voting \(South Florida Sun-Sentinel\)](#)

[5/4/07 - Storm-proofing bill on track \(The Tallahassee Democrat\)](#)

[5/4/07 - Storm model raises doubts \(The Palm Beach Post\)](#)

[5/4/07 - Go to gym class; it's the law \(St. Petersburg Times\)](#)

[5/4/07 - Bill would dissolve gift card expiration \(Florida Today\)](#)

[5/3/07 - \*Lawmakers put off property tax solution until June\* \(The Miami Herald\)](#)

[5/3/07 - \*Tax squabbles lead to special session\* \(Sarasota Herald-Tribune\)](#)

[4/27/07 - \*Experts explain why gas prices are high and could go much higher\* \(Sarasota Herald-Tribune\)](#)

[4/26/07 - \*Energy bill passes house unanimously\* \(The Palm Beach Post\)](#)

[4/26/07 - \*Students get good write-up on FCAT\* \(The Palm Beach Post\)](#)

[4/26/07 - \*86% of Broward students receive passing score in FCAT writing\* \(South Florida Sun- Sentinel\)](#)

[4/24/07 - \*Bill to strengthen Citizens moves forward\* \(The Miami Herald\)](#)

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

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