



REPRESENTATIVE
OSCAR BRAYNON

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
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A NEWSLETTER FROM YOUR DISTRICT 103 STATE REPRESENTATIVE

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Oscar Braynon

2010 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF THE STATE OF
FLORIDA AND THE CITIZENS OF DISTRICT 103.

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COUNCILS/COMMITTEES:

- Governmental Affairs Policy Committee
Democratic Ranking Member
- Economic Development & Community Affairs Policy Council
- Government Operations Appropriations Committee
- Joint Administrative Procedures Committee

THIS NEWSLETTER CONTAINS IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR 2010 FLORIDA STATE LEGISLATURE, INCLUDING NEW LAWS THAT MAY AFFECT YOU!

RED LIGHT MEANS STOP!!

FAILURE TO COME TO A COMPLETE STOP MAY RESULT IN A HEAVY FINE.

Effective July 1st, 2010, HB 325 Uniform Traffic Control signed by Governor on May 13, 2010 became enforceable. Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV), counties and municipalities are authorized to use traffic infraction detectors to identify motor vehicles that fail to stop at traffic control signals steady red lights.

Once a detector is installed, a sign must be posted so motorists are aware that a detector is at a nearby intersection and will take electronic images or streaming videos of vehicles failing to stop at a red light. The Department of Transportation will be responsible for implementing requirements and standards that counties and municipalities must follow. *The fine for this infraction is \$158.*



Dear Friends and Neighbors:

Representing your interests in the Florida House of Representatives continues to be a welcomed challenge and a rewarding privilege. I appreciate your vote of confidence and I enjoy serving House District 103.

As many of you know, while much of the country is recovering from the recession, Florida continues to face many economic hurdles. Therefore, during the 2010 legislative session, my colleagues and I focused much of our attention on economic development and job creation. In addition, we confronted a number of issues important to District 103, including Florida's budget, education, and healthcare of Floridians.

I was pleased to continue to serve on the Economic Development & Community Affairs Policy Council. I also serve on the House Government Operations Appropriations committee, Governmental Affairs Policy committee and the Joint Administrative Procedures committee.

I hope you find this legislative update to be a useful source of information on the 2010 session. If you have any questions, need help with a state agency or simply want to offer your advice or opinion on the issues, I urge you to call my District office at (305) 654-7100 or send me an e-mail at Oscar.braynon@myfloridahouse.gov.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to represent you.

Sincerely,

Oscar Braynon II
State Representative, District 103





ECONOMIC GROWTH

"IT WAS IMPORTANT TO ME TO MEET THE EXPECTATIONS OF FLORIDA'S FAMILIES AND BUSINESSES WHO ASKED THE LEGISLATURE TO ENCOURAGE NEW BUSINESSES, PROMOTE JOB CREATION AND REMOVE BARRIERS TO ECONOMIC GROWTH."

I was proud this session to support new policies to promote the recovery of our state's economy. For me, job creation for Floridians was job number one.

It was important to me to meet the expectations of Florida's families and businesses who asked the Legislature to encourage new businesses, promote job creation and remove barriers to economic growth.

I supported legislation to keep Floridians working, prevent layoffs, to bring a measure of economic stability. For instance, we passed a bill on the first day of session to hold down a dramatic increase in unemployment tax rates for businesses for the next two years. These

increases would have resulted in layoffs for Floridians.

The Legislature also passed a \$200 million jobs package (over 3 years) that is designed to make Florida more economically competitive and to encourage companies to invest in our state and hire Floridians.

Throughout the session, I supported various efforts that help Florida consumers, including a reinstatement of Florida's back-to-school sales tax holiday that benefits Florida's families. The tax holiday provides a one-time, three-day sales tax holiday for clothing and other school supplies purchased from August 13-15, 2010.

These dollars belong to Florida's taxpayers who

deserve some of it back as they stretch their hard-earned dollars to ensure their children have needed school supplies. Additionally, the tax relief measure will help spur growth in our vital retail economy. This year's back-to-school tax holiday is expanded to include, among other items, pens, pencils, notebooks, notebook paper, rulers, glue, binders, lunch boxes, construction paper, markers and folders.

These are tough economic times, but we must provide for roads, bridges and courtrooms; protect our natural resources; provide for law enforcement and prisons; and fund our schools so that we may soon have a world-class education system for students and educators.

Florida Public Education Funding

INCREASE IN SPENDING DOESN'T KEEP PACE WITH EXPENSES

I believe that improving public education is the first step toward creating high-wage jobs and a quality workforce that the 21st Century economy demands. That's why I had hoped the Legislature would have made greater progress on education reforms and would have invested more in our schools.

I don't think the state budget approved by the Legislature holds education harmless. It increases the average per-student spending by a one dollar and 22 cents. School officials say their expenses, including insurance, retirement and utilities will outstrip that increase. The budget also allows for university tuition hikes of up to 15 percent, just as it cuts scholarship awards under Bright Futures.

I am particularly disappointed by the

Legislature's decision to pass Senate Bill 6, a measure that drew widespread attention and criticism from across the state for how it would have altered public school teacher benefits. Thankfully, Governor Crist vetoed this bill, which in my view, would have punished our school teachers and harmed education in our state.

Also this session, Governor Crist signed Senate Bill 4, a bipartisan measure that raises education standards and improves accountability and advances some of the reforms touted this year by some members of the Florida House Democratic Caucus. Senate Bill 4 phases out the high school Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test in math, science and writing, and it introduces end-of-course exams in Algebra 1, Geometry and Biology 1.



Florida has made great strides in improving education since voters passed the Class Size Reduction, and schools are less crowded. In 2002, the average classroom for PreK-3 was 23, today it is 16. The average classroom size for grades 4-8 was 24, today it is 19; and the average classroom for grades 9-12 was 24, today it is 22. This November, voters will be asked to revisit the class size goals. I believe that the plan going back to the voters to change the class size amendment risks unraveling the progress and weakening class-size gains.

Economic development and good government is important to the people of district 103. This past Session my colleagues and I passed three essential bills to help improve such status in the district.

CS\SB 1612\HB 1075: Office of Supplier Diversity of the Department of Management Services: Revises duties of OSD with respect to requirements for certification & recertification of minority business enterprises allowing for 100% completion online. The Governor signed this bill on 5/26.

HB 7051: Governor: Repeals Governor's authority to appoint & commission private secretary.

HB 7193: OGSR/Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program: Saves from scheduled repeal under Open Government Sunset Review Act exemption from public records requirements for records of children in Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program. The Governor signed this bill on May 7, 2010.

CENSUS 2010: THE FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES LAUNCHES WWW.MYFLORIDACENSUS.GOV.

Stand Up and Be Counted!

The countdown to July 10, the last day to be counted in the 2010 Census, is underway, and state and local officials and community leaders are working to ensure an accurate count for Florida. Conducted every 10 years, the census defines who we are as a nation. It guides critical decisions on the national, state and local levels and provides insight into population on state and local government funding and more.

With the clock ticking, the Florida House of Representatives is helping to achieve a complete and accurate count through www.myfloridacensus.gov. The website allows Floridians to share information about the census in communities throughout Florida. In turn, the Florida House of Representatives works with the U.S. Census Bureau to account for streets, neighborhoods and communities that may otherwise be missed in the 2010 Census.

By logging on to www.myfloridacensus.gov and telling us if you have been counted, you are speaking on behalf of your whole community. Every year, the federal government allocates more than \$400 billion to state and local governments based on census data. Every additional Floridian counted is worth approximately \$1,500 per year in additional federal funding. Census data also determines congressional representation and guides local decision-makers on where to build new roads, hospitals, childcare and senior citizen centers, schools and more.

Every ten years, Florida gets one chance to take a picture of your community. That snapshot determines ten years worth of investments in the future of your community. By visiting www.myfloridacensus.gov, you can help make sure that everyone in your community is represented in Florida's portrait.

