
CAPITOL CONNECTION

News and Views from
**Representative Trudi
Williams**



Florida, District 75
March 2009, Issue 31

KEY LEGISLATION: Protection of Workers Rights

This week, the Governmental Affairs Policy Committee passed House Joint Resolution (HJR) 1013, a constitutional amendment to protect Floridians' right to a secret ballot. While politicians in Washington are trying to deny union workers the right to a secret ballot, we are working to make sure that Floridians' rights are protected. This pro-worker protection proposal is designed to help voters remain free of fear of intimidation and retribution in the election process. Harassment and intimidation is wrong whether it is coming from a union boss or a management boss. With a secret ballot, Florida's workers are the boss.

STATE BUDGET

The Revenue Estimating Conference is meeting today, March 13th to release their revenue projection for the current and coming fiscal years. It comes as no surprise to Floridians that state economists are likely to note that the state's fiscal situation has slipped and the state budget is expected to face a shortfall this coming year. The practical impact for Legislators is that the state's budget deficit for the coming year is expected to grow in excess of \$6 billion. Because of the continued decline in revenues, the Governor's original budget proposal- based off of previous revenue estimates that are now out of date- is now billions of dollars out of balance and is no longer a viable option for consideration by the Legislature. The best way to improve the state's budget outlook is to help improve the budgets of Florida's families. To that end, the House of Representatives will continue to focus on our top priority - revitalizing Florida's economy and helping create jobs for Floridians.

TRUDI'S THOUGHTS

We expect a sobering economic forecast from the state's Revenue Estimating Conference, fittingly on Friday the 13th. In this light, my House colleagues and I are more committed than ever to rolling up our sleeves and continuing to work hard on crafting a responsible budget that reflects Florida's economic realities without raising taxes on Florida's families. We understand that it is bad economic policy to raise taxes during a recessionary period. Just as important, your elected representatives have an obligation to clean up government's house before they ask any more from any Floridian's house

QUOTABLE QUOTES

"To educate a man in mind and not in morals is to educate a menace to society".
Theodore Roosevelt