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# CAPITOL CONNECTION

News and Views from  
**Representative Trudi  
Williams**



Florida, District 75  
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## **HOUSE BUDGET PROPOSAL**

**Education:** The proposed House budget for PreK-12 funding is \$13.4 billion, which is a 14.5% increase from last year. The House's budget contains an increase in per-student funding, increasing this funding to a statewide average of \$6891.

**Health and Human Services:** With federal stimulus money, overall funding for health and human services programs grew by \$2.3 billion dollars from the appropriations made in the 2008-09 budget. Categories of Medicaid eligibility for Floridians were not changed or eliminated and the House proposal fully restores Medicaid services such as Medically Needy and MEDS-AD. Under the House proposal, the Department of Children and Families budget has been increased by \$42.3 million, a 1.5% increase, over the Fiscal Year 2008-09 budget.

**Natural Resources:** Recognizing that our state is facing unprecedented economic challenges, the natural resources budget focuses on the core missions of government and finding ways to make government more efficient and effective. Even in a constrained fiscal climate, this budget proposal funds Farm Share and Food Banks at \$525,000 which will help provide vital sustenance to needy Floridians. The House budget also maintains the ability to fund the Beach Restoration Program up to \$12.2 million.

**Criminal and Civil Justice:** Protecting the safety and security of its citizens continues to be the principal responsibility of government. The House proposed budget for criminal and civil justice is \$4.8 billion, including 43.9 billion in General Revenue and \$887.8 million in Trust Funds. There are also no reductions to either PACE Center for Girls or Children in Need of Services/Families in Need of Services.

## **TRUDI'S THOUGHTS**

The House today passed a \$65.1 billion budget which increases per-student funding, continues to fund health care services to those in need, and makes sure that public safety is maintained. With only two weeks left in the 2009 Legislative Session, the House and Senate will conference next week in order to reach a compromise between the House and Senate budgets. This year is especially important because the decisions made in this budget are made to help Florida's economy recover quickly and make the state better positioned than other states to benefit from the eventual turnaround in the economy. As a budget conferee, I will work with my colleagues to come to an agreement while always keeping our top priority in mind- revitalizing Florida's economy and helping create jobs for Floridians.

## **QUOTABLE QUOTES**

"The moment of victory is much too short to live for that and nothing else." Martina Navratilova

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