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# CAPITOL CONNECTION

News and Views from  
*Representative Trudi Williams*



Florida, District 75  
March 2007, Issue 14

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We are now in the third week of legislative session and only six more weeks remain for the Legislature to complete their work by May 4<sup>th</sup> and adjourn. Here are a few highlights from this week:

## **Property Tax Relief**

Speaker Rubio and the House of Representatives has unveiled legislation aimed at providing tax relief for Floridians, soon the Senate proposal will follow. It is too early to speculate on the final outcome of this bill, however, you can be sure that the state legislature is committed to property tax relief for the citizens of Florida.

## **Cable Franchising**

HB 529- Regulation of Communications Media Technology Services was approved by the Policy and Budget Council.

### **What does this bill do?**

- HB 529 transfers the authority to grant cable franchises from local governments to the state government (Department of State).
- This bill designates DOS as the state franchising authority and removes local government authority to negotiate cable service franchises. It also prohibits discrimination by service providers based on race or income.

### **What does this bill mean to you?**

- The state-issued certificate process will expedite competition among service providers, thereby offering more choices and lower costs to consumers.
- The bill also eliminates future "rate rebalancing"-the practice of reducing long-distance rates but in turn increasing local phone rates.
- Expedites Florida Lifeline service enrollment to provide low-cost telecommunications to needy Floridians.

## **TRUDI'S THOUGHTS...**

The Florida Legislature is discussing many important issues such as those listed above. As a legislator, it is imperative for me to received feedback from my constituents regarding these issues. The voice of the people carries the greatest weight when legislators need to make tough decisions. By sharing your thoughts with me you are playing an intricate part in the legislative process. As always, I thank you deeply for allowing me to serve as your voice in Tallahassee, and please, let me hear from you!

## **QUOTABLE QUOTES**

"The ultimate authority ... resides in the people alone." James Madison

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