
CAPITOL CONNECTION

News and Views from
**Representative Trudi
Williams**



Florida, District 75
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ON THE AGENDA

Representative Williams has put forth an ambitious agenda for the 2006 legislative session. The following is a brief synopsis of four of the six bills that Representative Williams is sponsoring:

- **Open Primary Election** – Proposes an amendment to the State Constitution to permit all electors regardless of party affiliation to vote in any primary election for an office, in the same manner as currently permitted, when the winner of the primary will be unopposed in the general election, and if the winner of the primary will be opposed in the general election by a write-in candidate only. This bill, when enacted, will close the loophole that prevents hundreds of thousands of individuals from exercising their constitutional right to vote during each election cycle.
- **Lake Okeechobee Release Advisory Commission** – The purpose of this Commission is to develop a legislative initiative similar to the Lake Okeechobee Protection Act and a report of its findings and legislative recommendations to the 2007 Legislature. The Commission's task will be to address the quality and quantity of discharges from Lake Okeechobee to the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie Rivers and Estuaries. The Commission will consist of appointees of the Governor, Speaker and Senate President, a representative from Lee and Martin Counties, an environmental and agricultural representative, and fisherman and tourism industry members.
- **Babcock Ranch** – Establishes a Commission to govern Babcock Ranch using the same principles of management as the Babcock family has for generations.
- **Gov. Bob Martinez Complex** – In honor of former Governor Bob Martinez, who founded the Department of Environmental Protection, this bill names the DEP Complex in Tallahassee after this distinguished state leader.

TRUDI'S THOUGHTS....

Over the past few months I have struggled with many important decisions, the most vital of these being which legislation I would sponsor this session. I want my policies to reflect what is most important to me and the people of southwest Florida. That is why I crafted legislation relating to Lake Okeechobee, Babcock Ranch, and open primaries. Each is an issue that I deem to be of utmost importance to our area. As the legislative session draws near, I will continue fighting to protect the things most important to us: our families, our communities and our environment. Southwest Florida's most valuable resources are its citizens and I value your feedback. I look forward to hearing from you throughout the coming months regarding these issues and any other thoughts you may have.

QUOTABLE QUOTES

“A politician thinks of the next election - a statesman, of the next generation.”
- James Freeman Clarke