

December 4, 2020

**FLORIDA
CHAMBER**
Political Operations

The Florida Situation Report

Securing Florida's Future

Florida's Political Insights, Analysis, and Highlights

Welcome to the Florida Situation Report. Each month, the Florida Chamber political team constantly analyzes new voter registration trends, changes to House and Senate districts, and voter behavior as we work to recruit and elect pro-jobs candidates to Secure Florida's Future. Please share this report with your management team and send us a note if you have questions, perspectives, or recommendations.

- The Florida Chamber congratulates Senate President Wilton Simpson and Speaker Chris Sprowls! Over the past several weeks, both incoming presiding officers have made incremental announcements regarding the upcoming session; including Committee Chair assignments and rules changes. The committee meeting schedule can be found [here](#).
- Florida Free Enterprise Fund, a newly launched Florida Chamber initiative aimed at recruiting and electing pro-jobs candidates and advancing pro-Florida issues, invites your company to join to help Secure Florida's Future. E-mail ncatroppo@flchamber.com to get involved today.
- Moving into the 2022 Election Cycle, The Florida Institute for Political Leadership (FIPL) is partnering with local chambers of commerce and hosting virtual candidate schools on how to run a winning local political campaign. With many local elections in the coming years, we're working with local chambers of commerce to help educate local business leaders about local opportunities to serve. [Click here to register and learn more](#).
- Learn about legislative candidates and make decisions on how your company can strategically make political contributions by joining the Florida Chamber Political Institute (FCPI). [Learn more here](#).
- Keep up-to-date on COVID-19 and Florida's economy by checking out [The Florida Scorecard](#) and visiting the Florida Chamber [Resource Center](#).

Chamber Members can access exclusive political intel here:

Chamber Member's Only Access

Florida: Behind The Numbers

ANALYSIS BY CHAMBERHUB | The Florida Chamber's Voter File

SPECIAL EDITION - ORGANIZATION SESSION

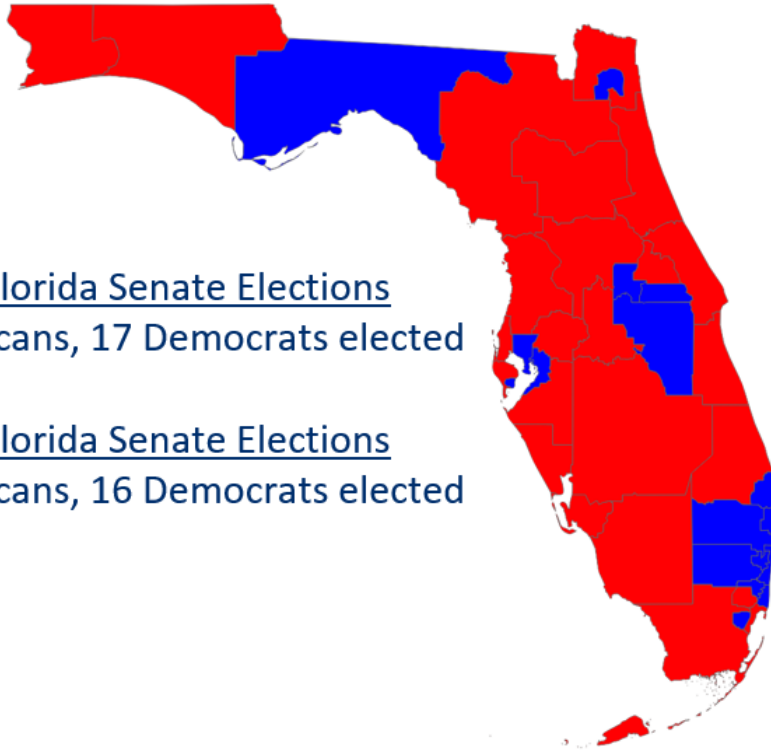
Organization Session Recap

The Florida House and Florida Senate conducted their biennial, and largely ceremonial, Organization Session on Tuesday. This mini session is constitutionally required to be held 14 days after the General Election for the purpose of organization and selection of officers. Due to COVID-19 public health and safety protocols (see the [Senate Memo](#) and [House Guide](#) outlining each chamber's measures), the day felt very different than years' past. However, during the designation speeches and subsequent media availabilities of House Speaker Chris Sprowls and Senate President Wilton Simpson, several priorities and policy items were discussed in varying levels of detail. Here are links to each presiding officers' full remarks ([Sprowls Remarks](#); [Simpson Remarks](#)) and their individual media availabilities ([Sprowls Presser](#); [Simpson Presser](#)). For a recap and analysis of what was said about these policy items, the impact on the business community, and how you can get involved in driving the business community's annual competitiveness agenda, [click here](#).

2021 Committee Weeks Announced

This year there will be no December committee weeks, and updated COVID-19 safety guidelines will be ready by December 30 for the five interim committee weeks in January and February. The full 2021 interim committee meeting schedule can be found [here](#). The regular 2021 Legislative Session will convene on Tuesday, March 2, 2021.

Florida Senate
Congratulations Senate President Wilton Simpson
24-16 Republican Majority; Republicans Gain 1 Seat



2018 Florida Senate Elections
23 Republicans, 17 Democrats elected

2020 Florida Senate Elections
24 Republicans, 16 Democrats elected

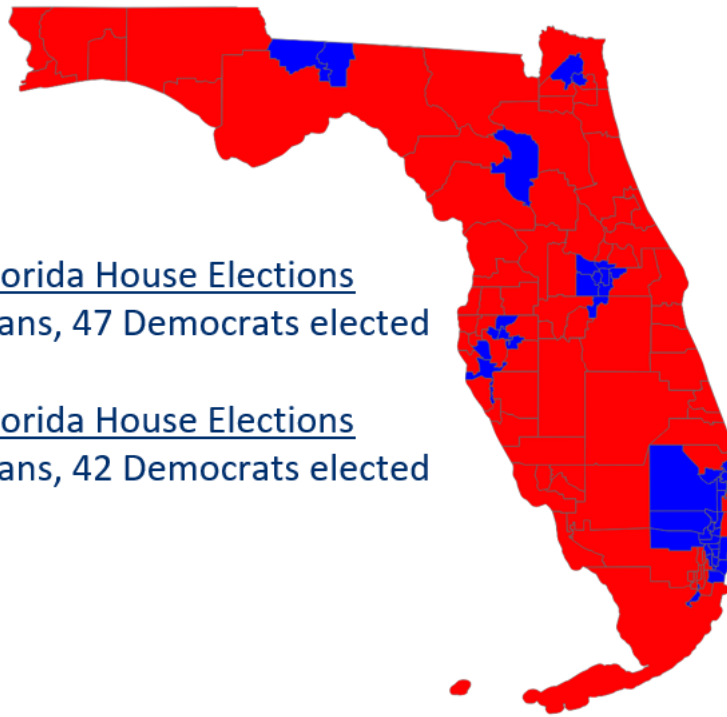
The Big Picture: Following the election in November, certain leadership appointments for the 2020-2022 Legislative Term were announced for both the Florida Senate and the Florida House. In the Senate, Senator Aaron Bean has been nominated by President Wilton Simpson to serve as the Senate President Pro Tempore, Senator Debbie Mayfield as Republican Majority Leader, and Senator Kathleen Passidomo will serve as the Rules Chair.

On Wednesday, Senate President Wilton Simpson announced the Senate's 2020-2022 committee chair and vice chair assignments. In his [memorandum](#) to Senators, President Simpson noted the addition of a Select Committee on Pandemic Preparedness and Response, which aligns with the creation of a similar committee in the House. The full list of 2020-2022 committee chairs and vice chairs can be found [here](#).

Yesterday, President Simpson released committee assignments through the following [memorandum](#). The complete list of committee compositions can be viewed [here](#).

Senate President Simpson also released changes to the [Senate rules](#). A [summary of changes](#) accompanied the rules primary change of note was to permit the President to authorize a recessed committee meeting to reassemble on the same day at another place and time to consider items not reached on the original notice. The rule change further permits the President to allow an authorized recessed meeting to convene and continue to meet past 6:00 p.m. This could portend some late evenings during the 2021 session.

Florida House of Representatives
Congratulations Speaker Chris Sprowls
78-42 Republican Majority; Republicans Gain 5 Seats



2018 Florida House Elections

73 Republicans, 47 Democrats elected

2020 Florida House Elections

78 Republicans, 42 Democrats elected

The Big Picture: In the House, Representative Bryan Avila will serve as the Speaker Pro Tempore, alongside the following [House Leadership](#) team including full committee chairs. Speaker Chris Sprowls also announced changes to the House Committee Structure, which can be viewed [here](#). Speaker Sprowls has hinted that full committee and subcommittee assignments would be announced in mid-December.

Speaker Sprowls has released the new Rules and procedures of the Florida House of Representatives. The House [memo](#) and [graphic](#) highlight a few of the changes including an increase in the House Member bill limit from 6 to 7 bills; pushing the House Bill Drafting deadlines to January 19, 2021, for a member's first two bills, and January 29, 2021, for the remainder; and prohibiting the funding of an appropriations project at less than 50% of the requested amount. More details are covered in [The Guidebook on Changes to the House Rules](#) and in [House Resolution 1-O](#) which contains the complete set of Rules for the 2020-2022 term.

From the Campaign Trail

Moving to 2022 - Florida Faces Redistricting Cabinet and Legislative Races on the Ballot

The Big Picture: With the Florida legislature set to redistrict legislative boundaries, 2022 will see all 40 Senate and 120 House seats redrawn and up for election. This is in addition to the Governor, Attorney General, CFO, and Commissioner of Agriculture. At the federal level, Florida will have a U.S. Senate race and with potentially picking-up 2 more congressional seats, 29 congressional races.

[Join the Florida Chamber's Free Enterprise Fund - a non-partisan fund that works to support campaigns who promote and believe in free enterprise and job creation. A membership in the Florida Chamber Free Enterprise Fund is reserved for political donors at the \\$10,000 level or above.](#)

Spotlight

ICYMI: Legislature Eyes COVID Liability Protections

As reported by *WCJB* in Gainesville, Carolyn Johnson, Policy Director, shared the Chamber's priority that the legislature act on protections and

The Florida Scorecard

In the Florida Chamber Foundation's *By The Numbers Series*, Chief Economist Dr. Jerry Parrish provides a monthly economic briefing.

The Money Race

Out of State Money Poured into Florida Elections

The 2020 Election saw an unprecedented amount of spending by out of state anti-business groups spending hundreds of millions of dollars in Florida. Mike Bloomberg spent more than \$36 million through his super PAC, Independence USA, in Florida between the months of September and November. While Forward Majority spent tens of millions of dollars attempting to flip the state senate and state house in Florida. Florida is the ultimate prize for out of state donor groups looking to change legislatures and cabinets and that spending will increase as Florida heads into 2022.

It's funding like this that makes our efforts that much more important. The clock is now ticking to the 2022 Election so we need you to get involved now. To learn more and make a contribution with a Florida Chamber Political Committee, click the link below.

[Learn More and Contribute](#)

Social Media Toolkit

Tweet Suggestions:

Congratulations to the @FLSafetyCouncil for being named an @NSCSafety state chapter!

The @FLChamber is gearing up for the 2022 Election! Register your local chamber to host a #FIPL training today by [clicking here!](#) #FlaPol

The @FLChamber is pushing for COVID liability protections as we head into session. These protections are needed now! #FlaPol



What's Next: Upcoming Calls, Webinars, and Events

REGISTER NOW:

[Florida Chamber of Commerce Transportation, Growth, and Infrastructure Summit - December 8-9](#)

[Florida Chamber Economic Outlook and Jobs Solution Summit - January 28, 2021](#)

[Florida Chamber Safety Council Annual Conference and Expo - March 29-31, 2021](#)

To learn more, run for office, or help the Florida Chamber, please contact:

Nick Catroppo, Vice President of Political Operations
O: 850-521-1298 | C: 352-587-4122 | E: ncatroppo@flchamber.com

Marian Johnson, Executive Director, Florida Chamber Political Institute
O: 850-521-1241 | C: 850-212-7073 | E: marianjohnson@flchamber.com

Andrew Wiggins, Senior Director of Political Affairs and Coalition Advocacy
O: 850-521-1240 | C: 850-251-3244 | E: awiggins@flchamber.com

