



Small Business Council Quarterly Meeting

May 25, 2021



Glenda Hood

Chair, Small
Business Council

Founder, Hood
Partners, LLC

March 30– Small Business Council Agenda

- I. Welcome and Agenda Preview
- II. Workforce Shortages Discussion
- III. Florida's Economic Outlook
- IV. Legislative Session Updates
- V. Q&A
- VI. Florida Chamber Updates



Mark Wilson

—
President & CEO

Florida Chamber of
Commerce

mwilson@flchamber.com

DEO “Return to Work” Initiative

- On May 12, DEO Secretary Eagle, business owners and industry leaders announced Florida’s Return to Work initiative.
- With 461,900 open jobs in Florida, work search requirements will be reinstated June 1.



Above: DEO Executive Director Dane Eagle
Right: FCC Foundation Economist Dr. Jerry Parrish



A Return to Normal Requires a Return to Work

CNN politics The Biden Presidency Facts First US Elections

LIVE TV Edition ▾

Florida becomes the 23rd GOP-led state to end \$300-a-week pandemic unemployment benefits



By [Tami Luhby](#), CNN

Updated 12:52 PM ET, Mon May 24, 2021

Florida Chamber of Commerce President and CEO, Mark Wilson said, “The decision to end Florida’s participation in the FPUC program is essential to keeping Florida’s economic momentum going that Governor DeSantis has had such a big role in creating. Florida currently has more than 450,000 jobs available throughout the state. This single action will help fill thousands of these vacancies and aid in ending the worker shortage throughout the state.

FLORIDA

FEDERAL PANDEMIC

UNEMPLOYMENT

COMPENSATION

PAYMENTS WILL EXPIRE

ON JUNE 26, 2021

Additional federal benefit programs will continue
through September 6, 2021



Dr. Jerry Parrish

Chief Economist and
Director of Research

Florida Chamber
Foundation

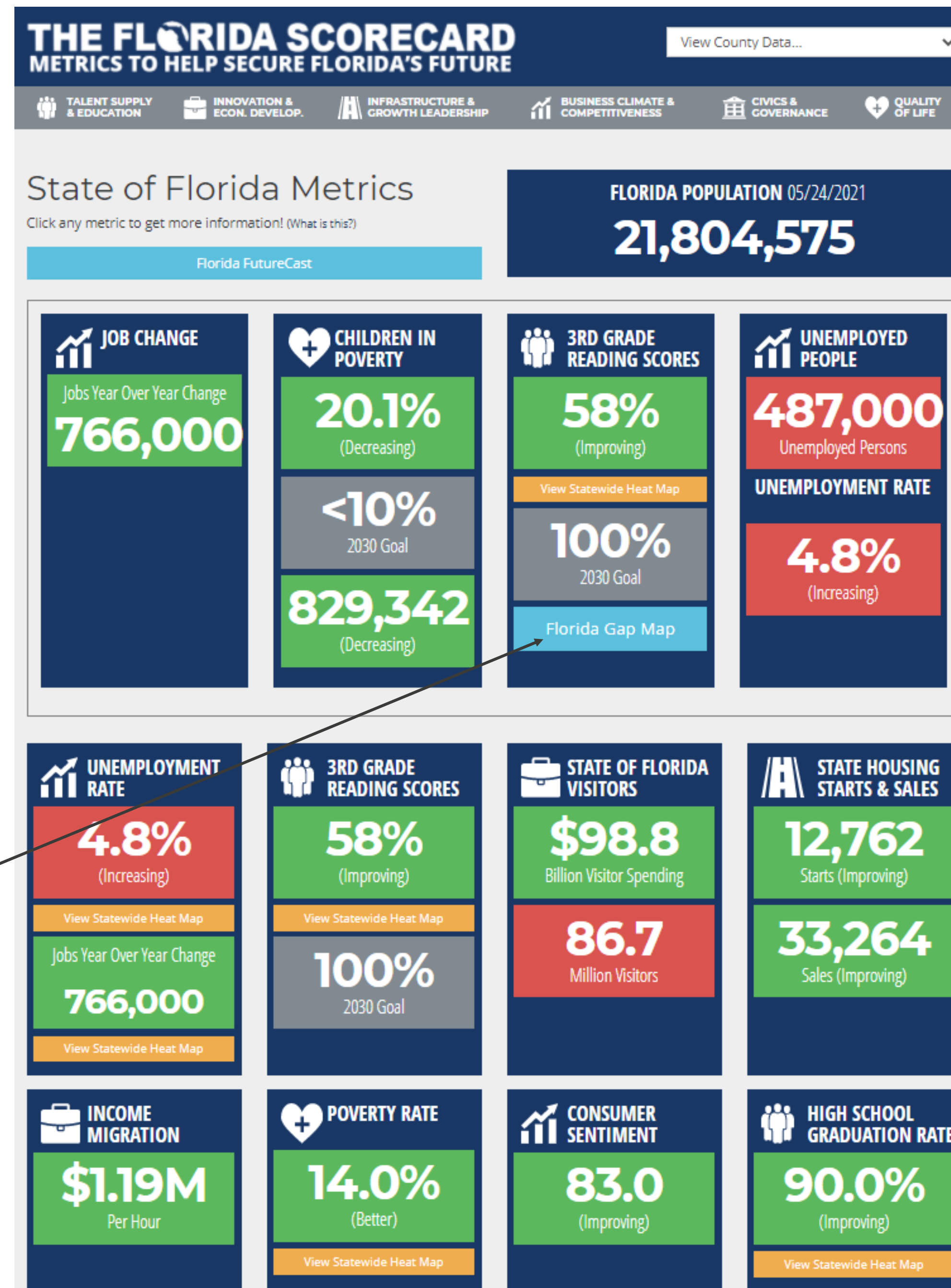
jparrish@flfoundation.org

www.theFloridaScorecard.org

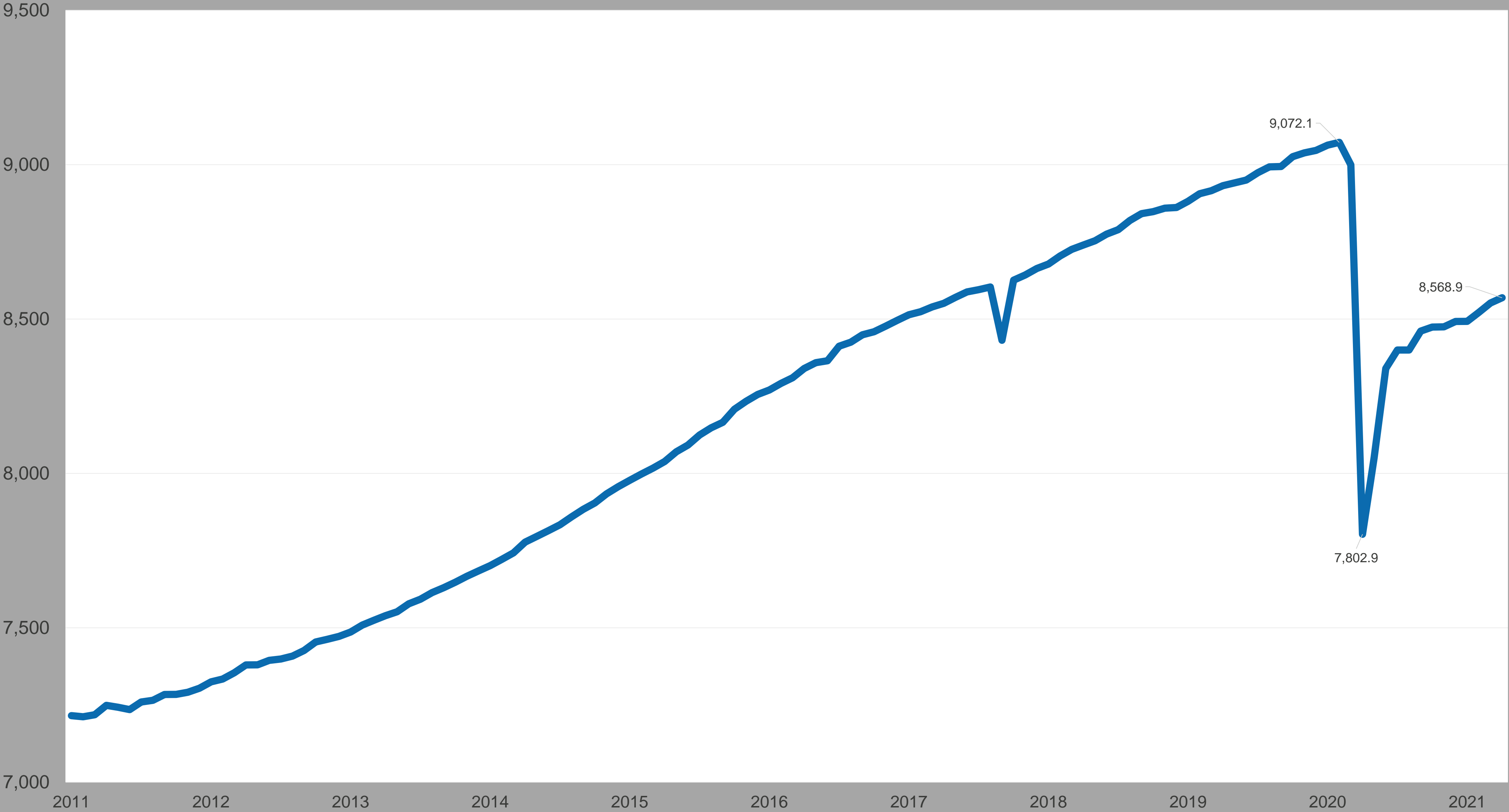
Retired COVID-19 tiles

New Economic Data Tracker
available for embedding in
websites

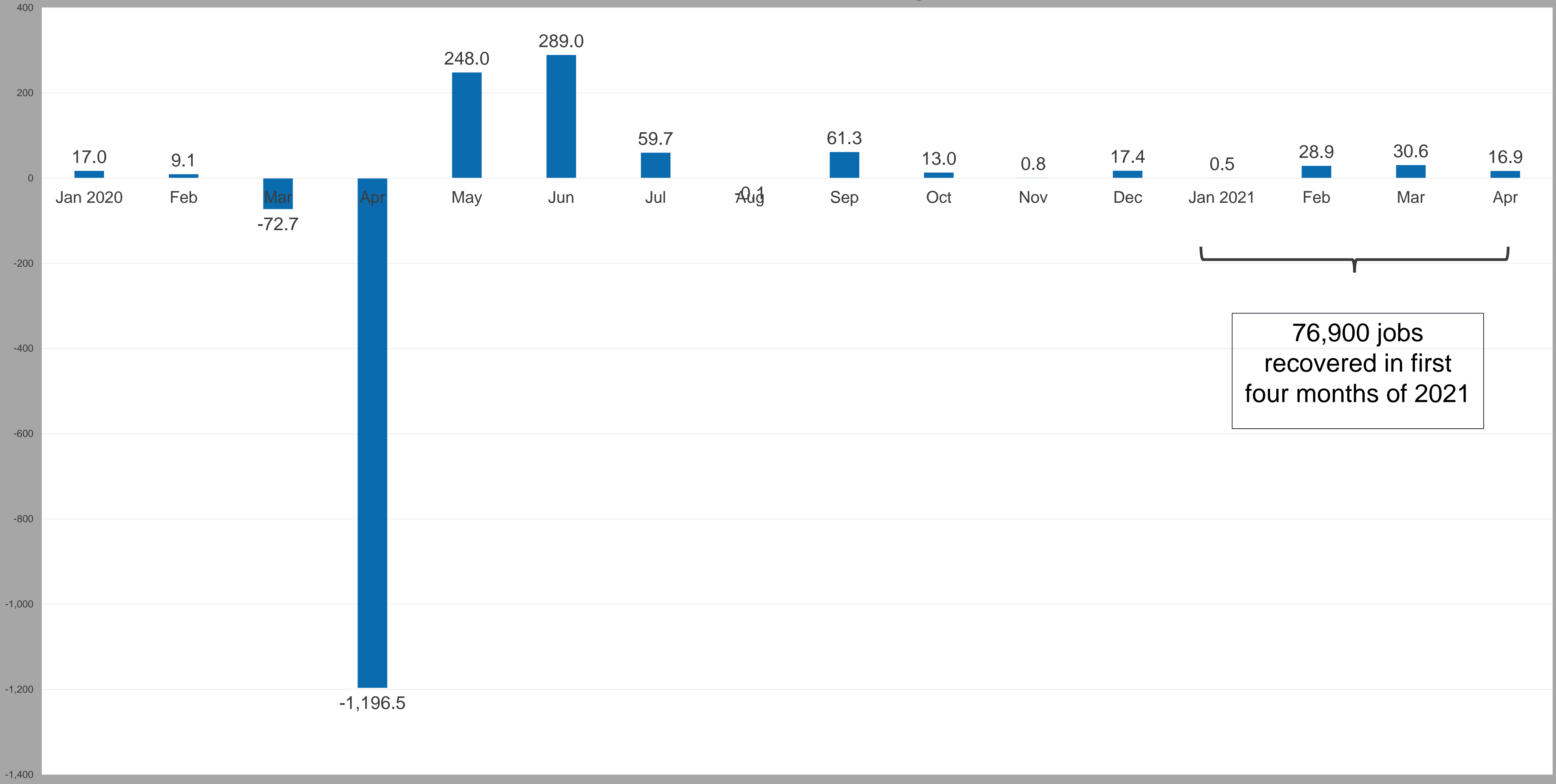
Direct link to Florida Gap Map



Florida non-farm Jobs, seasonally adjusted (thousands)



Month over month Job Changes (thousands)



76,900 jobs
recovered in first
four months of 2021

Job Loss by Category: February 2020 to April 2021

Industry	Job Change (000)	Percent of Industry
Total – All Industries	-503.2	-5.5%
Leisure & Hospitality	-267.1	-20.9
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	-63.2	-3.5%
Education & Health Services	-42.3	-3.1%
Professional & Business Services	-23.1	-1.6%
Information	-9.3	-6.7%
Construction	-8.9	-1.5%
Manufacturing	-8.3	-2.1%
Financial Activities	-1.7	-0.3%

Job Changes

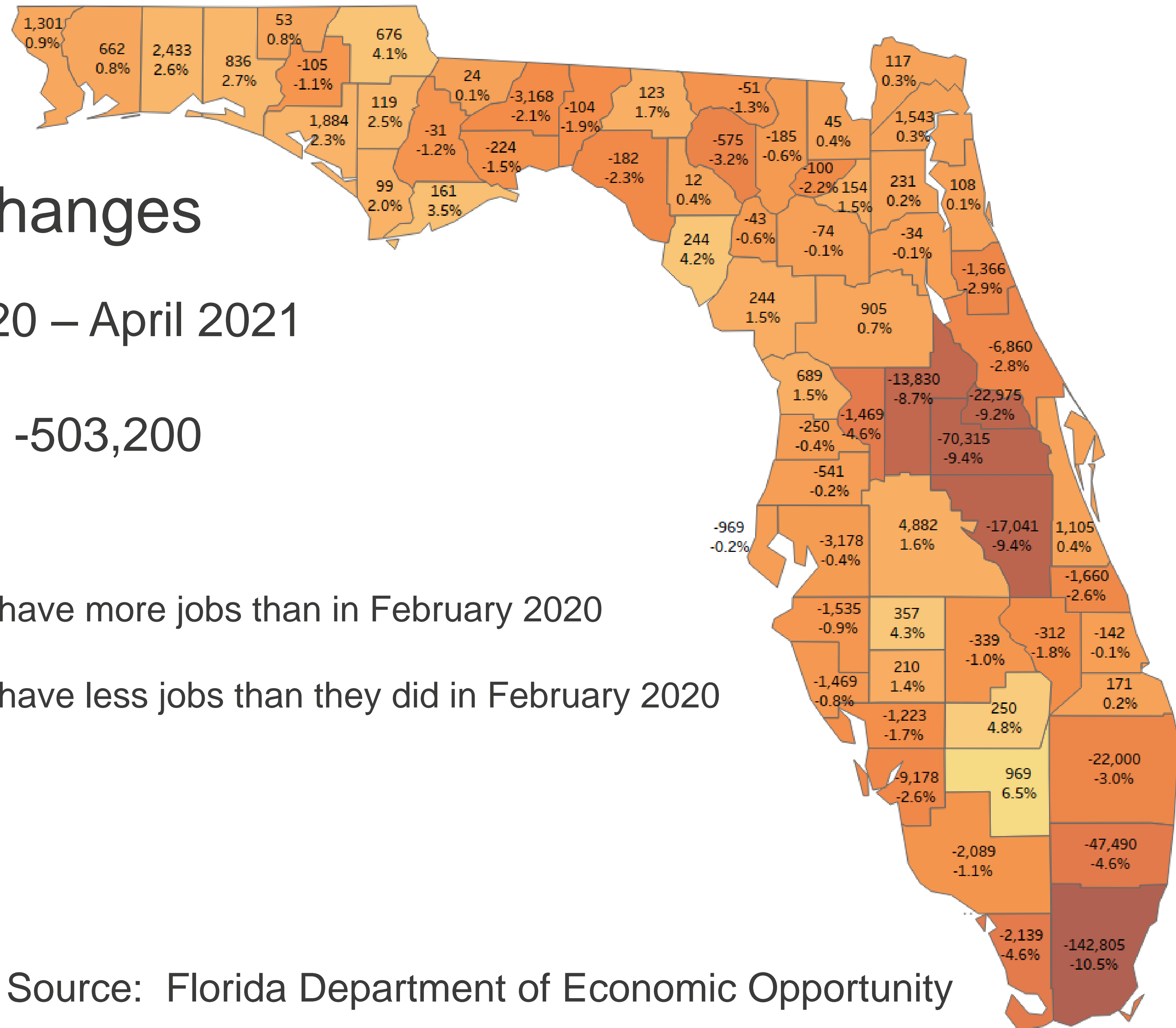
February 2020 – April 2021

Florida: -503,200

30 Florida counties have more jobs than in February 2020

37 Florida counties have less jobs than they did in February 2020

Data Source: Florida Department of Economic Opportunity





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Senator Jim Boyd

- Senate District 21- Hillsborough & Manatee Counties
- Business Owner- Insurance Industry
- Chair, Senate Banking & Insurance Committee
- Sponsored SB 76- Property Insurance Reform
- Florida Chamber Distinguished Advocate in 2013, 2016, 2017 & 2021
- Lifetime “A” Grade on Florida Chamber Report Card





Frank Walker

Vice President of
Governmental Affairs

Florida Chamber of
Commerce

fwalker@flchamber.com

Florida Business Agenda: 2021 Session Update

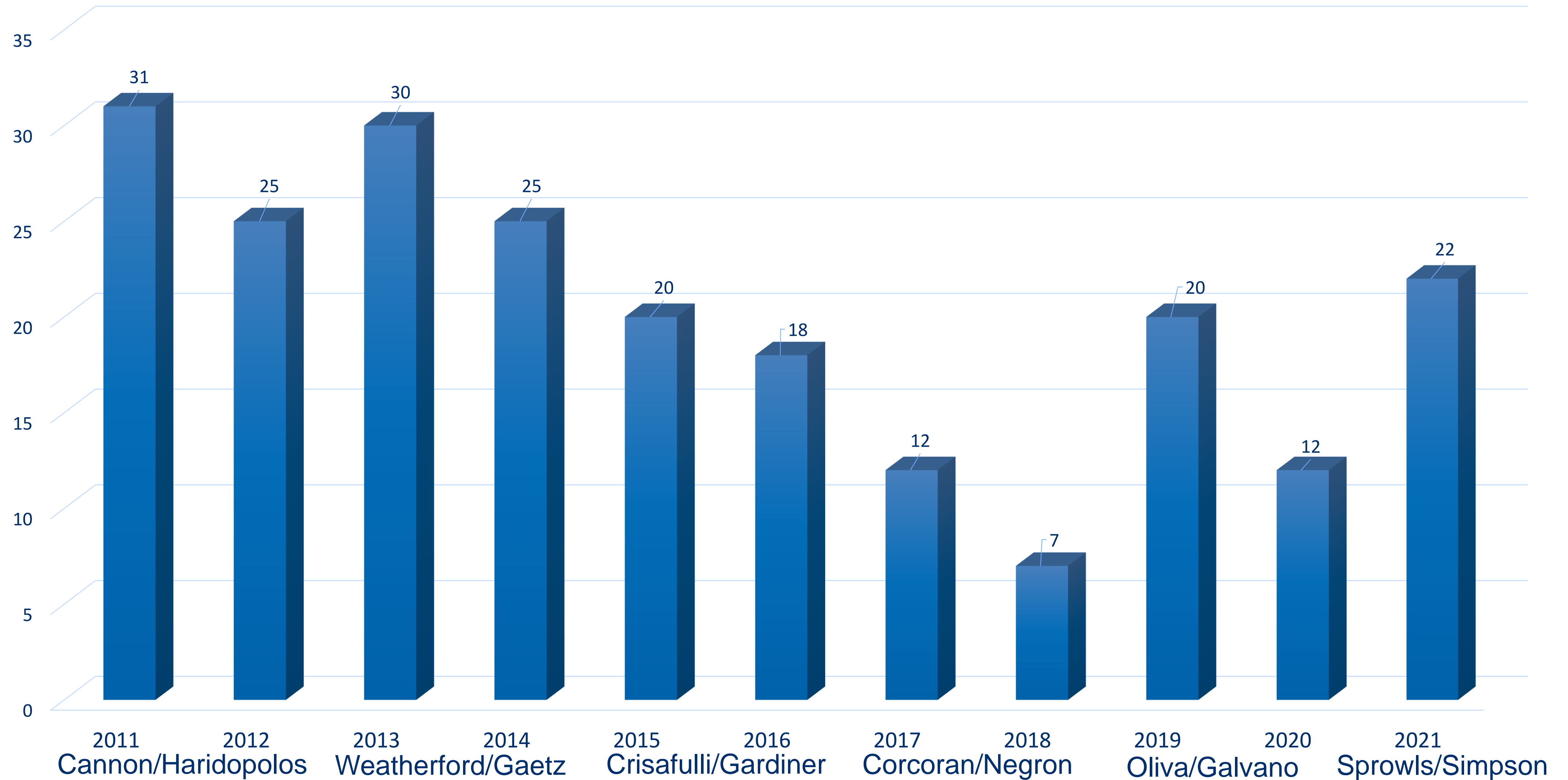


2021 Session by the Numbers

By the Numbers (as of May 10):

- Committee Weeks (January 11 – February 19)
- Session (March 2 – April 30)
 - 160 Legislators
 - House- R: 78 (+5), D: 42 (-5)
 - Senate- R: 24 (+1), D: 16 (-1)
- \$101.5B State Budget (\$2.74B COVID Gap) (\$10.2B Federal Support TBD)
- Bills Filed/Passed: 3,096
 - FBA Bills Passed 22
 - Anti-Business Bills Defeated 18
- Bills Signed by Governor: 26
 - FBA Bills Signed by Governor 6
- Florida Chamber testified 123 times
- Sent 167 Your Vote Matters Letters
- 4,931 Votes Scored
- 265 Florida Chamber meetings with legislators

Priority Bills/Policies: A Historical Perspective



Pre-Session Priorities

Every Session:



Specific for 2021:

1. COVID-19 liability protections for businesses
2. COVID-19 liability protections for HC entities
3. Major Lawsuit Abuse Reform
4. Main Street Fairness/Online Sales Tax Reform
5. Property Insurance Reform
6. Mitigate Unemployment Tax Increases
7. Business Rent Tax
8. Infrastructure Investments
9. Talent/Workforce Development

Top Priority = 1st Bill of 2021 Signed

COVID-19 Liability Protections

- Businesses
- Healthcare Providers



SB 72 signed into law March 29, 2021.



Ron DeSantis signs bill protecting Florida businesses, health care centers from 'frivolous COVID-19' lawsuits

March 30, 2021

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis on Monday signed a bill that aims to protect Florida businesses and health care centers from coronavirus-related lawsuits.

SB 72 specifies requirements for lawsuits alleging virus-related damages and will "deter unfounded lawsuits against individuals, businesses, health care providers, and other entities while allowing lawsuits deemed credible to proceed.

"Today I was pleased to sign SB 72 to protect Florida's businesses and health care providers against frivolous COVID-19 lawsuits," the Republican governor, who was one of the first state leaders to completely open his state amid the pandemic, leaving regulatory decisions up to local leaders and individual entities, tweeted Monday.

He added that the legislation "protects the livelihoods of Floridians."

The law notes that health care workers "must be able to remain focused on serving the health care needs of their respective communities and not on the potential for unfounded lawsuits."

Similar language in the bill, backed by the Florida Chamber of Commerce, applies to businesses and other entities. The legislation adds that while certain legal actions "may seem reasonable" amid COVID-19, people "may attempt to construe these actions differently in hindsight when calm is restored."

"One of our top priorities since day one of the pandemic, with your signature, [Florida]'s job creators no longer have to fear frivolous lawsuits as we continue relaunching [Florida]'s economy," the state's Chamber of Commerce tweeted Monday.

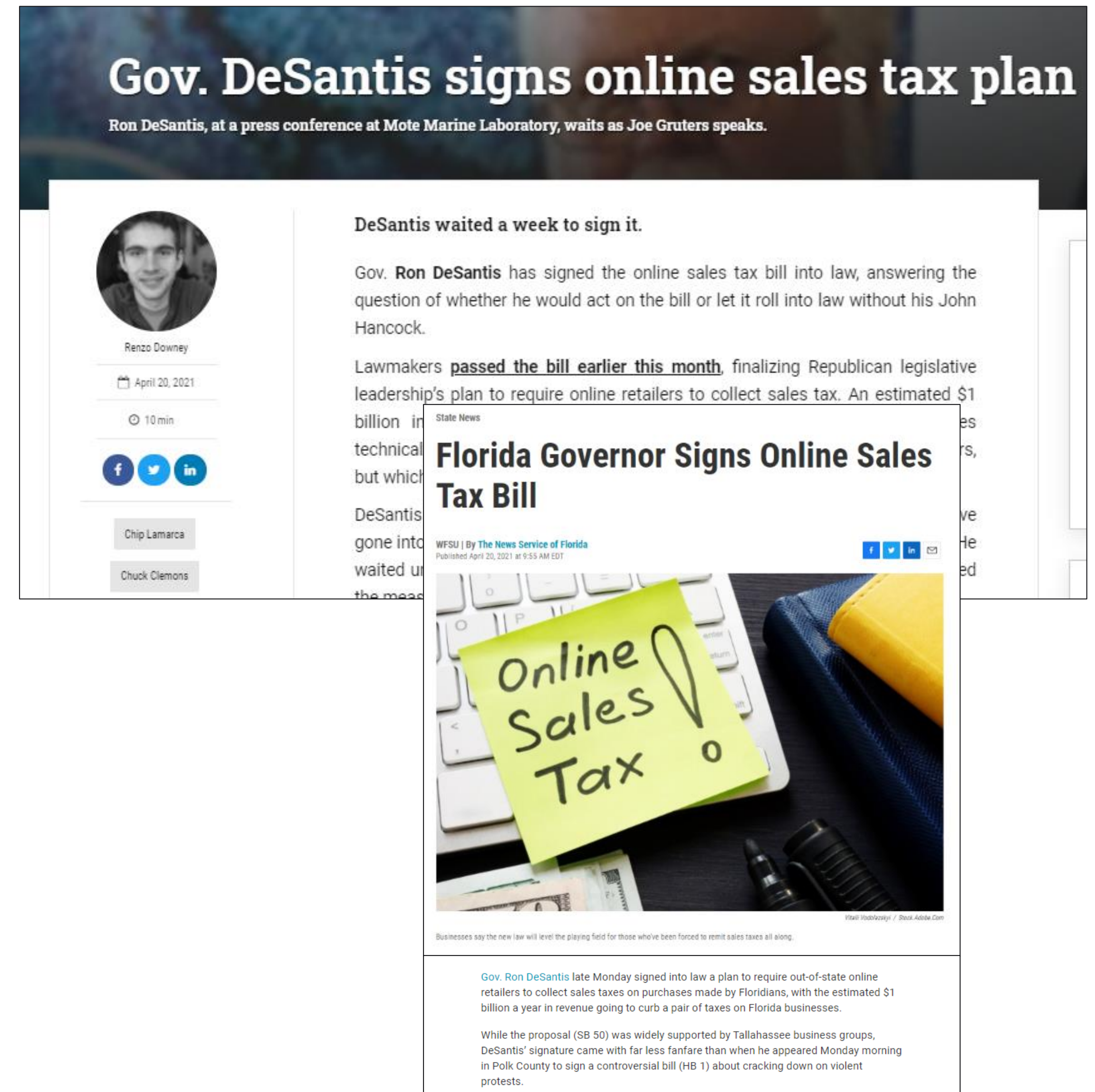
Under SB 72, Floridians cannot bring lawsuits against business, health or government entities if a judge determines that the establishment conducted "a good faith effort to substantially comply with authoritative or controlling government-issued health standards" at the time of an alleged incident.

Second Priority = 2nd Bill of 2021 Signed

SB 50

- Online Sales Tax Reform
- \$713 Million Unemployment Trust Increased Stopped
- FL-Only Business Rent Tax Reductions

“The bill not only levels the playing field between online retailers and main street businesses but keeps Florida competitive by offering much needed tax relief by replenishing the unemployment compensation trust fund and reducing the ‘Florida-only’ business rent tax,” **Florida Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Mark Wilson** said in a statement after the bill passed. - *Florida Politics, Orlando Sentinel, Sun Sentinel, Tallahassee Democrat, Daytona Beach News-Journal, WJCT*



Talent and Workforce Development for More Prosperous Tomorrow



Talent
Supply &
Education

*Improving Florida's
talent pipeline for a
better workforce*



Quality of
Life & Quality
Places

*Championing
Florida's quality
of life*

✓ HB 419: Early Learning and Early Grade Success

- Representative Erin Grall and Senator Gayle Harrell

✓ HB 7011: Student Literacy

- Representative Vance Aloupis and Senator Ana Maria Rodriguez

✓ HB 7045: School Choice

- Representative Randy Fine and Senator Manny Diaz

✓ SB 366: Apprenticeship and Pre-Apprenticeship Training

- Senator Travis Hutson and Representative Joe Harding

✓ HB 1349: Economic Self-Sufficiency

- Representative Vance Aloupis and Senator Keith Perry

Long-Term Infrastructure Investments for Growing State



✓ SB 1954: Flooding and Sea-level Rise Resilience

- Senator Ray Rodrigues and Representative Demi Busatta Cabrera

✓ HB 1289: Autonomous Vehicles

- Representative Fiona McFarland and Senator Jeff Brandes

✓ SB 2516: Water Storage North of Lake Okeechobee

- Senator Jason Brodeur and Appropriations Committee

✓ HB 839: State Preemption of Energy Infrastructure Regulation

- Representative Tom Fabricio and Senator Travis Hutson

✓ Budget Wins

- Transportation
- Water / Environment
- Resiliency
- Workforce Housing

Bettering FL's Business Climate



✓ SB 76: Property Insurance Reform

- Senator Jim Boyd and Representative Bob Rommel

✓ SB 88: Right-to-Farm

- Senator Jason Brodeur and Representative Jay Williamson

✓ SB 1890: Constitutional Amendment Reform

- Senator Ray Rodrigues and Representative Bobby Payne

✓ HB 7061: Tax Package

- Representative Bobby Payne and Senator Ana Maria Rodriguez

Anti-Biz Bills Defeated



• 18 Bills Defeated

Examples:

✗ Data Privacy Private Right of Action

✗ Employer Mandates

✗ Tax Increases

✗ Full M-CORES Repeal

✗ Preemptions Repealer Bills

Florida legislature partially repeals M-CORES toll projects

MAY 5, 2021 • Tyson Fisher | f t in ✉

By a nearly unanimous decision, the Florida legislature partially repealed M-CORES, a controversial project that would have installed toll roads on three corridors in the Sunshine State.

On April 27, the Florida House passed [SB100](#) with a 115-0 vote. The bill repeals parts of Florida Statute 338.2278, which enacts the Multi-use Corridors of Regional Economic Significance program, more commonly known as M-CORES. In March, the Senate passed the bill 39-1, with Sen. Janet Cruz, D-Tampa, being the lone vote against. The bill now sits on Gov. Ron DeSantis' desk awaiting his signature.

However, the bill does not completely eliminate the three corridor projects. M-CORES established toll roads on the following corridors:

- **Suncoast Connector**, extending from Citrus County to Jefferson County.
- **Northern Turnpike Connector**, extending from the northern terminus of the Florida Turnpike northwest to the Suncoast Parkway.
- **Southwest-Central Florida Connector**, extending from Collier County to Polk County.

Unfinished Business for 2022

VISIT FL Sunset Repeal

Lawsuit Abuse Reform

Paycheck Protection

Pension Reform

QTI

And more...

Largest Budget in State History

\$101.5 Billion

\$6.7 Billion of \$10.2 Billion in Federal Funds

Annual Budget Highlights:

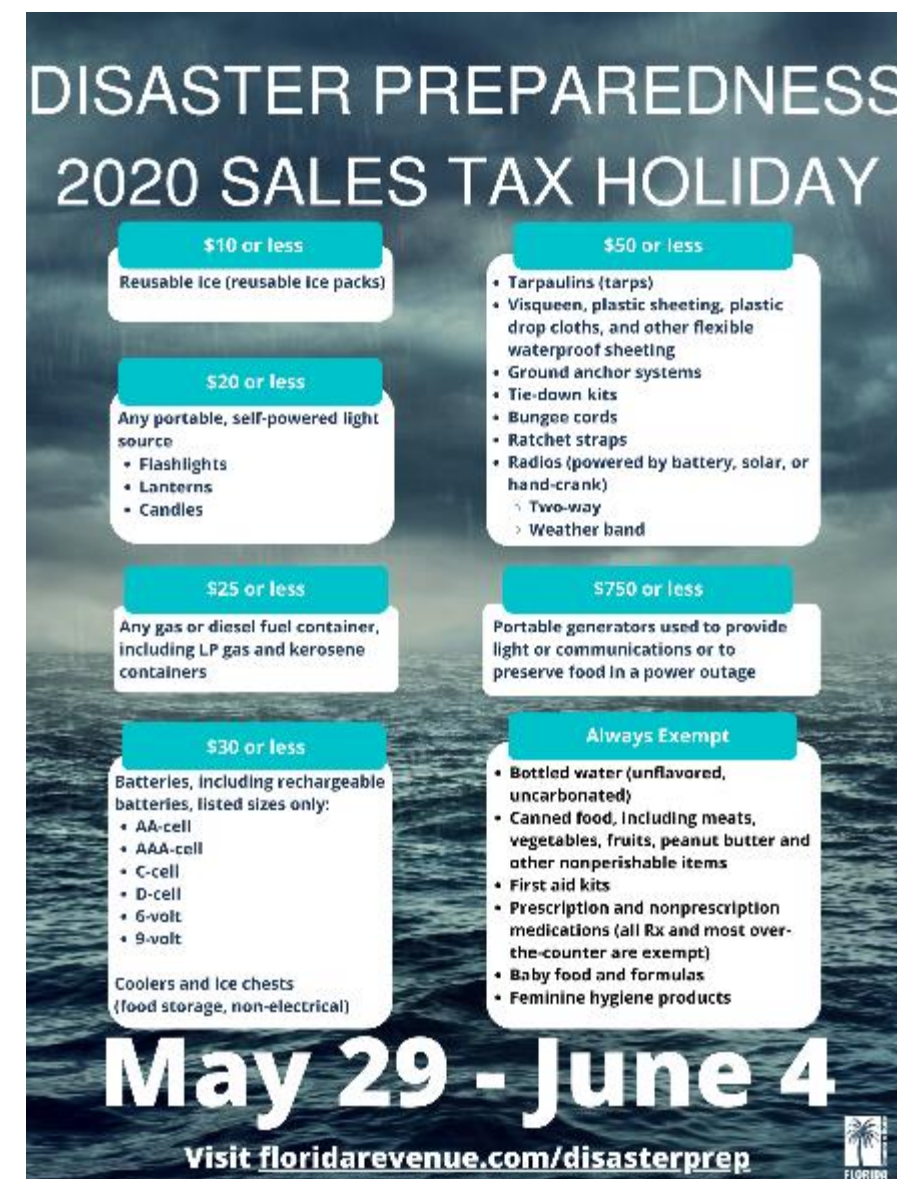
- \$9.2B – FDOT
- \$209M – Workforce Housing
 - \$146.7M – SHIP
 - \$62.5M – SAIL
- \$50M – Visit Florida
- \$18.5M – Space FL
- \$14.4M – EFI Operating
- \$36M Reemployment Modernization

Federal Funding Highlights:

- \$2B – FDOT
- \$500M – Septic to Sewer
- \$500M – Resiliency
- \$350M – Budget Stabilization Fund
- \$250M – Sea Ports
- \$125M – Speaker’s “New Worlds Lit Program”
- \$100M – Piney Pointe
- \$50M – Job Growth Grant Fund
- \$25M – Visit Florida
- \$1k Bonuses for Front Line Workers
- \$13/hr. Minimum Wage Raise for State Workers
- \$56.4M Reemployment Modernization

**Current cash reserves ≈ \$6B*

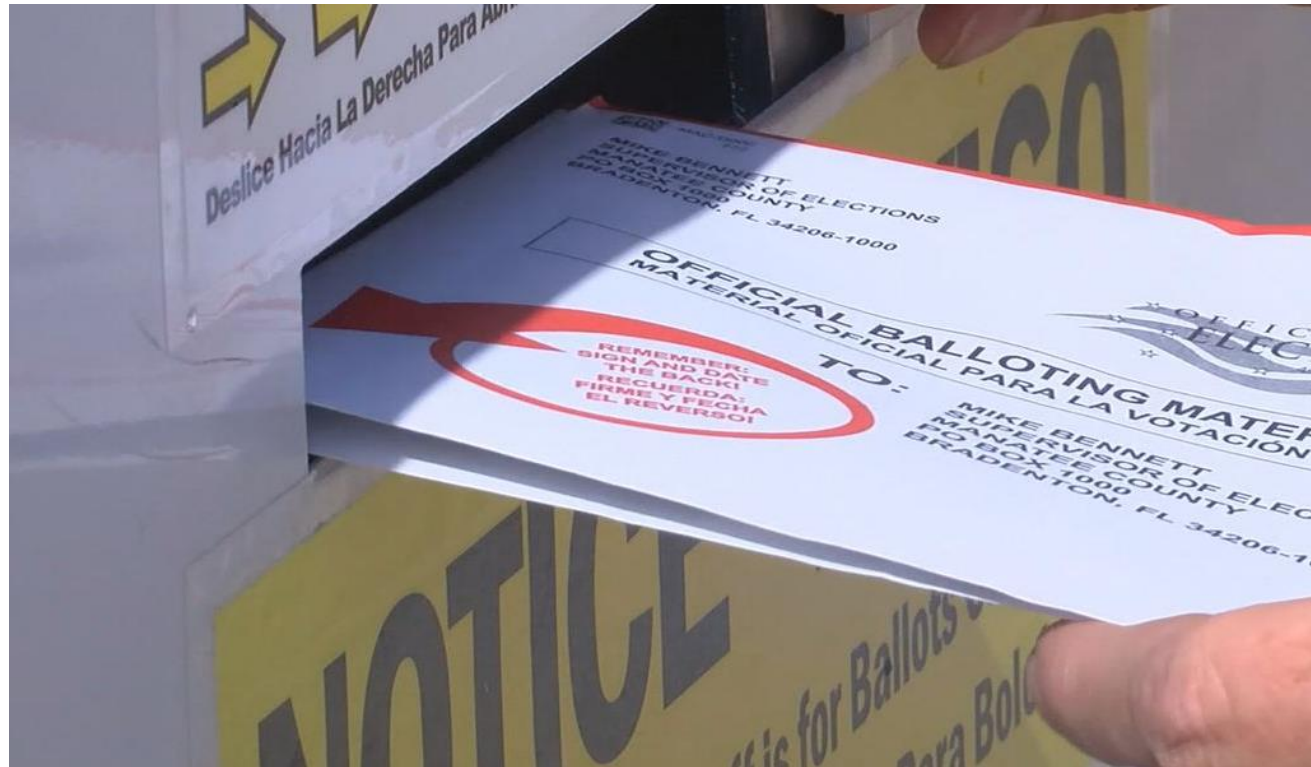
Tax Package



House Bill (HB 7061)

- \$196 Million
- Back to School Sales Tax Holiday (10 Days- July 31- August 9, 2021)
- Disaster Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday (8 Days- May 28- June 6, 2021)
- “Freedom” Sales Tax Holiday (7 Days- July 1-July 7, 2021)
- Data Centers Sunset Extended to 2027
- No QTI
- No TDT

Other Issues You'll Be Hearing About...



Elections Bill

SB 90 Signed by Governor 5/6/21



Vaccine Passports

EO 21-81 (signed 4/2/21)
SB 2006 Signed by Governor 5/3/21



Unemployment / Work Waiver Extension

EO 21-94 Expires May 29



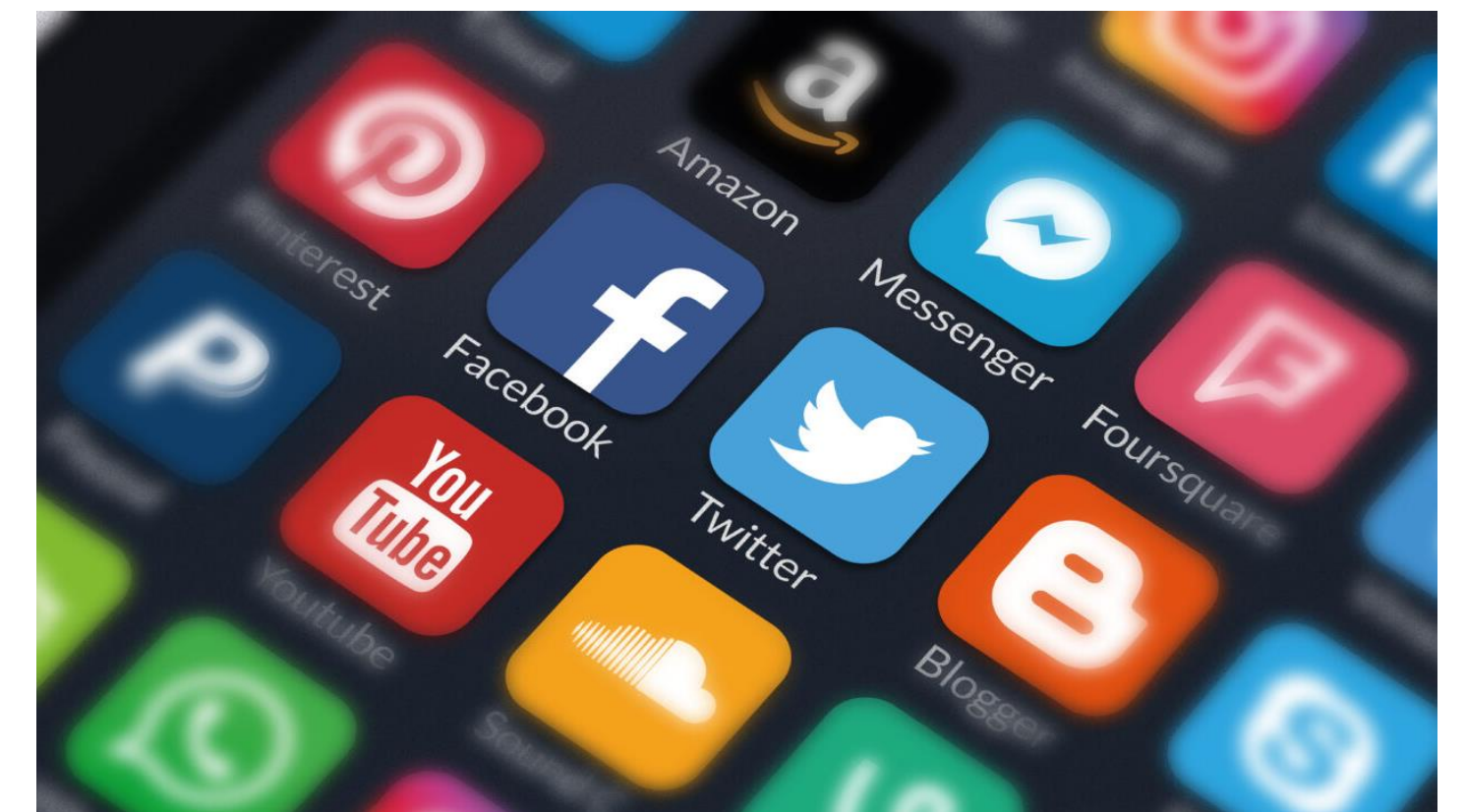
Anti-Riot Bill

HB 1 Signed by Governor 4/19/21



Transgender / NIL Bill

SB 1028 Passed 4/28/21



Social Media Deplatforming

SB 7072 Passed 4/29/21



Carolyn Johnson

Senior Director of
Business, Economic
Development &
Innovation Policy

Florida Chamber of
Commerce

cjohnson@flchamber.com

FLORIDA CHAMBER SAFETY COUNCIL

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FLChamberSafety.PureSafety.com



“Florida Chamber launches statewide political committee – The Florida Chamber of Commerce launched a new committee to unite its political efforts under one roof...The new committee is aimed at advancing the interests of all businesses at the state level and will unite businesses...”

FLAPOL

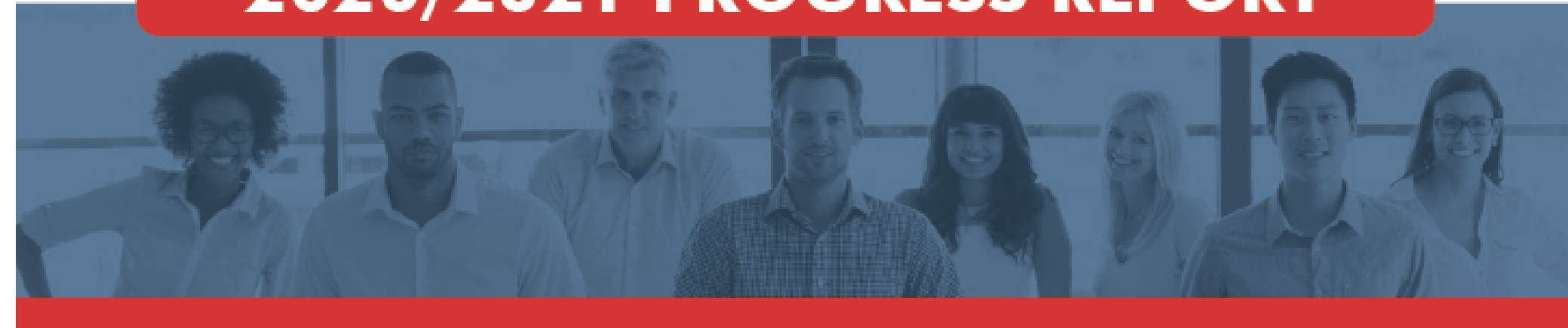
Contact Nick Catroppo - ncatroppo@flchamber.com



Florida Institute
for Political Leadership

An initiative by **FLORIDA**
CHAMBER
of Commerce

2020/2021 PROGRESS REPORT



8 Campaign Schools completed in **9** counties
12 Campaign Schools scheduled in **43** counties



470 Participants



350 Graduates



36 Local
Chamber Hosts



16 Community Partner
Co-sponsors



9 Trainers



76 Speakers



10% of attendees
ran for office in 2020



80% of
students plan to
run in the future



Contact Andrew Wiggins- awiggins@flchamber.com

Interested in running for elected office? Search for upcoming elections in your area:

Osceola | ▾

County | ▾

Select Next Election Year | ▾

Select Office | ▾

Filter

Clear

COUNTY	CATEGORY	OFFICE	DISTRICT/SEAT/GROUP	LAST ELECTION YEAR	TERM LENGTH	NEXT ELECTION MONTH	NEXT ELECTION YEAR
Osceola	County	Clerk Of The Court	Countywide	2020	4 years	August/November	2024
Osceola	County	Property Appraiser	Countywide	2020	4 years	August/November	2024
Osceola	County	Sheriff	Countywide	2020	4 years	August/November	2024
Osceola	County	Supervisor of Elections	Countywide	2020	4 years	August/November	2024
Osceola	County	Tax Collector	Countywide	2020	4 years	August/November	2024
Osceola	County	County Commissioner	1	2020	4 years	August/November	2024
Osceola	County	County Commissioner	2	2018	4 years	August/November	2022
Osceola	County	County Commissioner	3	2020	4 years	August/November	2024
Osceola	County	County Commissioner	4	2018	4 years	August/November	2022
Osceola	County	County Commissioner	5	2020	4 years	August/November	2024

SOLUTION SUMMITS

Driving Solutions to Secure Florida's Future



Prosperity & Economic Opportunity Solution Summit

Date: May 26, 2021

Presented by:



Technology & Innovation Solution Summit

Date: August 5, 2021

Presented by:



Learners to Earners Workforce Solution Summit

Date: June 15, 2021

Presented by:



Future of Florida Forum

Date: October 27-28, 2021

Presented by:





| Next Small Business Council Meeting
Tuesday, August 24
8:30 – 9:15 a.m. (EDT)