



**Debbie Mayfield, District 54  
Florida House of Representatives**

# THE MAYFIELD MINUTE

Volume 4, Issue 21

November 20, 2012

## Inside this issue:

Insurance	1
CHOICES	
Debt Reduction	2
Education Agenda	2

**Legislative Assistant  
Audra Robitaille**

**District Executive Secretary  
Mayra Hernandez**

### Vero Beach Office:

1053 20th Place  
Vero Beach, FL 32960  
(772) 778-5077

### Tallahassee Office:

317 House Office Building  
402 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399  
(850) 488-0952

### Toll Free Numbers:

Phone – (866) 857-7289  
Fax – (888) 544-0393



Florida's Old and New Capitols

*As we enter in to the 2013 Legislative Session, I would like to extend my humble appreciation for being allowed the opportunity to serve in the newly created District 54, which incorporates all of Indian River County and areas of St. Lucie County. I would also like to offer my congratulations to those members that have been re-elected or newly elected to our Florida Legislature. I look forward to working with each of them in what is sure to be a successful Session. As always, I will remain diligent in my efforts to limit the scope of government while increasing individual liberty.*

*In this issue of the Mayfield Minute, I will highlight some of the positive developments that are occurring on a state level. First, the Office of Insurance Regulation has recently offered new online video tutorials which make it easier for Floridians to navigate the CHOICES program. In addition, I am happy to announce that Florida was successful in reducing its outstanding debt by \$2 Billion over the last two years! I will also briefly discuss the education agenda for the 2013 Session, both from Governor Scott and House Leadership, which will assist in ensuring that Florida's students are well equipped for the working world. Whether you are a new constituent or have been in my district for years past, please do not hesitate to contact my District Office should you need any assistance.*

## CHOICES FOR INSURANCE COVERAGE

The Florida Office of Insurance Regulation offers an interactive program, named CHOICES, to Florida residents who are shopping for automobile and/or homeowners insurance. CHOICES is a program that it is designed to give consumers the ability to compare automobile and/or homeowners insurance rates using sample risk scenarios created for each. Using these sample rates helps you to ensure that you are receiving the best value and coverage.

Under the direction of Florida's Insurance Commissioner, Kevin M. McCarty, two new online video tutorials have been added to the website to assist consumers in learning about the system. There is a tutorial available for both automobile and homeowners insurance options, and each of them provide step-by-step voice instructions on how to access and maneuver through the CHOICES system. They also provide essential information on the breakdown of statewide rates by county, the various risk scenarios consumers can choose from, and a brief description on the components within insurance policies. Please visit <http://www.floir.com/choices> to access these and other resources. The mobile



**FLORIDA OFFICE OF  
INSURANCE REGULATION**

version of CHOICES is also available. Simply access <http://www.floir.com/choices> on any smartphone with Internet capability, and you will be able to shop on the go.

## Email Representative

### Important Dates

November 20—  
Organizational  
Session &  
Swearing-In

November 22—  
Thanksgiving.  
Have a safe and  
Happy holiday!

December 3-7—  
First Committee  
Week for 2013  
Session

### Technology Corner:

Follow me on Twitter &  
Facebook by clicking the  
links below:



You can follow daily events  
in the House of Representa-  
tives at  
[www.myfloridahouse.gov](http://www.myfloridahouse.gov)



## FLORIDA'S DEBT REDUCTION

At a recent meeting of the Florida Cabinet, the Division of Bond Finance, an arm of the State Board of Administration in charge of issuing bonds for or on behalf of the State, reported that Florida has reduced its outstanding debt by **\$2 Billion** over the last two years. The Director of the Division of Bond Finance, Ben Watkins, also reported that **ongoing debt refinancing has saved taxpayers an additional \$744 million** on future interest payments in the same time period. Refinancing our outstanding debt to lower interest rates is a great example of how fiscal discipline helps keep money in the pockets of hardworking Floridians.

The State of Florida has made tough decisions during these tight economic times. The Division of Bond Finance has done a great job in helping to cultivate an attractive, stable business environment by doing what is necessary to preserve our AAA credit rating. I commend Director Watkins for his diligent efforts and commitment to creating a more prosperous Florida by striving for limited government.

## EDUCATION AGENDA

Recently, Governor Scott announced his education agenda for the 2013 legislative session. Entitled "College and Career FIRST" (Focusing Investments on Results for Students and Teachers), the agenda was created based on feedback he gathered during a month-long education listening tour, where parents, teachers, students, superintendents and union representatives were incorporated in a discussion on how to better prepare students for college and careers.

Governor Scott has committed to protecting current education funding levels in this year's budget, but aims to provide a clearer focus on where the funding levels (or, "investments") are directed. In essence, the money needs to follow good policies that provide real and positive results to both students and teachers.

The three overarching goals of the Governor's education agenda are: Accountability in Transition, Support Teachers, and Flexibility in Education. To find more detailed information about these goals and how they will be implemented, please visit the press release, which has a link to the full agenda: <http://www.flgov.com/2012/10/25/governor-rick-scott-announces-college-and-career-first-agenda/>

In addition to Governor Scott's proposals, the Legislature, under the direction of Speaker Will Weatherford, will also continue to emphasize school choice, flexibility, creating better methods of measuring student performance, and reducing unfunded mandates while holding districts accountable. I am looking forward to working with the Department of Education, teachers, and local school districts to strive for schools that will truly equip our students with the skills necessary for them to thrive as adults.