



**Debbie Mayfield, District 80  
Florida House of Representatives**

# THE MAYFIELD MINUTE

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I believe keeping Florida a low-tax, low-cost state is vital to our state’s prosperity. This session, the Legislature passed several pieces of legislation aimed at providing tax relief for Floridians.

As always if you are having problems with a State Agency or need assistance with an issue please contact my district office at 772-778-5077; or you can call toll free at 866-957-7289.

*Rep. Debbie Mayfield*

## TAX RELIEF

Through a combination of tax-relief measures and appropriations the Legislature shaped an Economic Development Package that provides \$223 million in economic development incentives. We also approved a 3-day sales tax holiday on clothing, shoes, and school supplies.

Florida lawmakers passed legislation to provide tax relief to Florida’s businesses. One measure we passed will increase the corporate income tax exemption from \$25,000 to \$50,000. Additionally, we made changes to the unemployment compensation system which will save Florida’s businesses up to \$800 million over the next three years.

We also passed several pieces of legislation that proposed constitutional amendments to offer additional homestead exemptions for veterans, low income seniors, and surviving spouses of military members and first responders.

## INDIAN RIVER ESTATES

The WillowBrooke Court Skilled Care Center grand opening took place this month at Indian River Estates. What a beautiful facility! It is a community setting with a warm and welcoming design that feels like home. This new addition to Indian River Estates has had a direct impact on our economy, using local builder Proctor Construction for the new building and employing over 400 full and part time skilled employees.



Email Representative

**Local Events**

*Hibiscus Festival  
April 13th & 14th*

*Heli Drop Bash &  
BBQ to benefit Youth*

*Guidance*

*Vero Beach Sports  
Village*

*April 21st*

*Sebastian Earth Day  
April 21st*

*40th Annual SISA  
Spring Fling*

*Capt. Hiram's  
April 28th*

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FEDERAL HEALTHCARE UPDATE

For three days the Supreme Court heard oral arguments and asked questions about President Obama’s Health Care plan. The main issues were: if the penalty that would be required by Americans without health insurance was a tax; if the role of government should include forcing people to buy health insurance; the forced expansion of Medicaid (originally a voluntary program) by the government; and lastly whether the program can survive if the individual mandate is eliminated.

A group of 26 states challenged the constitutionality of the health care law. Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi emerged as a spokeswoman for the group, stressing that the issue is not based on political grounds: “as attorneys general, we keep going back to the constitutionality, because that’s our job.” Here are possible outcomes:

1. The Supreme Court could uphold the law, meaning that everyone must purchase health insurance or pay a penalty.
2. The Supreme Court could strike down the law, meaning that provisions currently in place would be repealed and an alternate solution to the growing health care problem would need to be determined.
3. The Supreme Court could strike down the individual insurance requirements, leaving the rest of the Affordable Care Act in place.
4. The Supreme Court could strike down the mandate and invalidate the parts of the law that requires insurance companies to cover people with preexisting conditions and caps charges to older people.
5. The Supreme Court could only throw out the expansion of the Medicaid program.
6. The Supreme Court could decide that the constitutional challenge is premature.

A decision is expected in late June.

NATIONAL ELEPHANT CENTER

The beautiful little town of Fellsmere not only celebrated it 101st Birthday this month, but they will soon be the first and only facility in North America to house the National Elephant Center. This brand new elephant care facility will be focused on training veterinarians, keepers, curators and elephant managers.

In partnership with Brevard Zoo and The National Elephant Center, a

collaboration of 73 zoos accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, this \$12.5 million, 225 acre facility along the C54 canal will be an economic boost to the community with all construction and development coming from local businesses. The first phase includes a barn, a keeper station and four elephant paddocks, with enough pasture for up to 10 elephants.

