

A photograph of the Palm Beach County Courthouse, a large, classical-style building with a prominent dome and a flagpole on top. The sky is blue with some clouds. The text 'PALM BEACH LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION' is overlaid in large, bold, yellow letters.

PALM BEACH LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

With just one month to go before starting the 2021 Legislative Session, the Legislature has been hard at work since the beginning of the year.

Tallahassee is looking very different this year due to COVID-19. Several rules and guidelines have been implemented to keep the Capitol staff and public safe. It will not be the same bustling Capital it usually is, but members and staff are still accessible through phone, email, and virtual meetings. With these new changes, business is still being conducted in Tallahassee, just in different ways. Bills are still being filed, committee meetings are still being conducted, and members are still meeting with constituents and organizations. With the power of technology, all things are possible.

In the next few weeks, the Delegation Office hopes to bring you information regarding bills filed by Delegation members as well as any other important pieces of legislation.

If you have any issues or concerns or would like to know more about a piece of legislation, you can contact your local state representative or state senator or our office.

PBC DELEGATION LOCAL BILLS

Before the start of every legislative session and committee week, the Palm Beach County Delegation holds several public hearings throughout the County. These hearings allow the public to come before the members to speak on any issue. One of these meetings is a local bill hearing that allows for local bills to be heard and voted on before being introduced to the Legislature. What is a local bill you may ask? A local bill is any bill that relates to a specific geographical area as opposed to a general bill that affects the entire State of Florida. All requests for local bills to be presented to the Florida Legislature for the current year session must be heard before the Palm Beach County Legislative Delegation at a properly advertised public hearing in Palm Beach County.

No local bill shall be introduced to the Legislature unless approved by a majority of the members of the House present and a majority of the members of the Senate present as indicated by roll call vote.

PALM BEACH COUNTY LOCAL BILLS

All five local bills were passed favorably by the Delegation on January 7, 2021.

Indian Trail Improvement District

This bill would amend the Districts enabling legislation to provide for revising the boundaries of the District; providing the District a procedure to study the feasibility of an elector-initiated conversion of the District to a municipality, requiring the execution of interlocal agreements; providing a transition schedule; providing for a referendum; providing an effective date.

Lake Clark Shores

This bill would allow the Town of Lake Clark Shores to extend its Town boundaries to include a neighborhood known as Edgewater Park, which is currently part of incorporated Palm Beach County

Loxahatchee River District

This bill would allow the Loxahatchee River District to revise the Loxahatchee River Environmental Control District enabling act. The LRD Governing Board is requesting the Legislature approve the following conceptual revisions to the Enabling Act: 1. updating legal statutes; 2. converting some specific implied authority to explicit authority (environmental education and environmental monitoring), which are central to current perspectives on reversing and minimizing environmental impacts; 3. providing explicit authority to enter into a lease, and 4. providing greater public access to public-owned lands by providing explicit authority to allow passive outdoor recreation.

Port of Palm Beach

This bill would amend the Laws of Florida governing the Port of Palm Beach District. deleting obsolete provision; providing for annual adjustment of the salary of commissioners; revising the term "port manager" to "port director"; conforming provisions to changes made by the act; providing an effective date.

Village of Wellington

This bill would regulate the use of fireworks within the Equestrian Preserve Area of Wellington on certain holidays.

If you would like more information on the local bills or any piece of legislation, please visit the Florida House website at www.myfloridahouse.gov

Palm Beach County Legislative Delegation

Delegation Chair - Rep. David Silvers
Delegation Vice-Chair - Rep. Mike Caruso

Senators

Gayle Harrell - District 25
Tina Polsky - District 29
Bobby Powell, Jr. - District 30
Lori Berman - District 31

Representatives

Kelly Skidmore - District 81
John Snyder - District 82
Rick Roth - District 85
Matt Willhite - District 86
David Silvers - District 87
Omari Hardy - District 88
Mike Caruso - District 89
Joseph "Joe" Casello - District 90
Emily Slosberg - District 91

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The Palm Beach County Legislative Delegation Office is a non-partisan office that serves all thirteen members of the Florida Senate and House of Representatives representing Palm Beach County in Tallahassee. The delegation office is responsible for: scheduling and coordinating all delegation meetings in Palm Beach County and Tallahassee; developing the delegation's legislative program including local bills, appropriation requests, and county and municipal legislative priorities; providing legislative assistance and research to the delegation during the legislative session; and serving as a liaison between the delegation and local governments and community organization.