



November 2018 Government Affairs Update

In this report:

- 1. 2018 Elections Results Certified**
- 2. Brenda Snipes Suspended, Replaced**
- 3. Mark Bogen Named Mayor of Broward County**
- 4. Organizational Session and Committee Structures for 2018-2020**
- 5. Governor-elect DeSantis Transition**
- 6. Texting and Driving Legislation Filed**
- 7. Florida League of Cities/Florida Association of Counties Legislative Conferences**
- 8. 6th Annual Automated Vehicle Summit**
- 9. Broward Days Impact Teams**

2018 Elections Results Certified

The results of the 2018 elections were certified after recounts were conducted on three statewide races, one state senate seat, and two state house seats. The elections and subsequent recounts were marred by lawsuits, mistakes, allegations of fraud, machine malfunctions and missed deadlines in Palm Beach and Broward County. Broward Supervisor of Elections Brenda Snipes announced she will be resigning in January. Palm Beach County is still conducting their recounts as required by state law despite results having already been certified.

Republicans took control of Florida's only Democratic U.S. Senate seat; maintained control of the Governor's Mansion and offices of Chief Financial Officer and Attorney General; and maintained Republican majorities in the State Senate (23-17) and State House (73-47). However, Democrats made minor gains in Congressional Districts (picking up 2), State Senate (picking up 1) and the State House (picking up 5.) Fort Lauderdale lobbyist Nikki Fried became the only Democrat to hold statewide office in Florida, narrowly winning her race for Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

The Broward Delegation will enter the 2019 Legislative Session with five new members: Chip LaMarca (HD 93), Anika Omphroy (HD 95), Michael Gottlieb (HD 98), Cindy Polo (HD 103), and Ana Maria Rodrigues (HD 105)

All but one of the thirteen proposed Constitutional Amendments passed and all Broward County Charter questions passed. Broward County voters also overwhelmingly passed a Local Option Transportation Surtax to address congestion and connectivity in the County. Next steps for the surtax include the establishment of an Oversight Committee and determining a process for ranking municipal projects by the Broward MPO as laid out in an

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interlocal agreement adopted between the County and municipalities. The County is also working with the State to clarify the dates and process of revenue collection.

Brenda Snipes is Suspended before Resigning

Governor Scott suspended Broward County Elections Supervisor Brenda Snipes for incompetence. He announced her replacement will be attorney Pete Antonacci, whom Scott has appointed to several different positions throughout his time as Governor. After multiple elections that featured high-profile missteps, the 2018 elections and recount drew intense criticism from Scott and even allegations of fraud. However, the Secretary of State determined that nothing illegal took place. Snipes had announced her resignation to be effective January 4th, one day after Scott was to be sworn in as U.S. Senator. Instead, Scott moved to suspend Snipes immediately, announcing it was unfair for taxpayers to continue to pay Snipes a salary until that time.

Mark Bogen named Broward County Mayor

The Board of County Commissioners unanimously selected Mark Bogen to serve as the Mayor of Broward County for the next year. Commissioner Dale Holness was selected as Vice Mayor (and therefore next-in-line to be Mayor.) Newly elected Commissioner Lamar Fisher was also officially sworn-in to serve on the board. All nine members of the Commission are now from the Democratic Party.

2018-2020 Legislature is Organized

All members of the Legislature elected in 2018 were officially sworn in on November 20th and new leadership officially took power in both Chambers. Leadership teams and committee chairs were announced shortly after the Organizational Session.

Senate Takeaways: Senate President Bill Galvano (Tampa) and President Pro Tempore David Simmons (Longwood). In his opening speech, President Galvano called for civility and transparency. He promised to allow Senators to pursue policies regardless of party affiliation and reiterated his priority of investing in infrastructure and fostering innovation. The Senate released its list of full committee assignments, with Senator Bradley being chosen once again as Appropriations Chair. Broward Sen. Perry Thurston will serve as Vice Chair of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation & Economic Development. Notably, the Committee on Transportation Policy was expanded to also include all matters of domestic security and was renamed the Committee on Infrastructure and Security, chaired by Sen. Tom Lee. Another notable change was the combination of the Committee on Regulated Industries and Committee on Communications, Energy, and Public Utilities. The new committee is named the Committee on Innovation, Industry and Infrastructure headed by Sen. Wilton Simpson. President Galvano established this committee to also drive innovation and foster economic development to attract tech companies and start-ups.

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Senate Committees: <http://www.flsenate.gov/Committees>

House Takeaways: Speaker of the House Jose Oliva (Miami) and Speaker Pro Tempore. Marilynn Magar (Hobe Sound). In his opening speech, Speaker Oliva gave a preview of his agenda based on less regulations, lower taxes, and free market principles. The House has only released its committee structure and the chairs of the main committees, but not of subcommittees or full committee membership. Rep. Travis Cummings will serve as Chair of House Appropriations. It's notable that Rep. Cummings and Sen. Bradley have a very close relationship, which could mean more amicable budget negotiations between the chambers than in previous years.

House Committees: <http://myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Committees/committees.aspx>

DeSantis Transition

The transition of Governor-elect Ron DeSantis began this month. DeSantis announced members of his transition team, including Congressman Matt Gaetz, former U.S. Senator George LeMieux, former Lt. Governor Toni Jennings and former House Speaker Richard Corcoran. FDOT Secretary Mike Dew will also join the transition team, leaving FDOT General Counsel Erik Finneman as interim Secretary.

DeSantis also announced a 45 member economic advisory committee headed by former Speaker Will Weatherford. The committee is made up of owners and CEOs of companies across a number different industries, but energy and logistics is heavily represented. The committee includes a number of transportation professionals: Ananth Prasad, former FDOT Secretary and incoming President of the Florida Transportation Builders Association; Ron Howse of the Florida Transportation Commission; officials from the Port of Tampa Bay and Tampa International Airport; and Capt. Sam Stephenson of the Port Everglades Pilots Association. It's also worth noting that his deputy director of economic policy, lobbyist Chris Spencer, is the former Chief of Staff of Sen. Jeff Brandes and is very involved with efforts to prepare Florida for Autonomous Vehicle technology.

DeSantis also announced Broward's Shane Strum to serve as his Chief-of-Staff beginning in January.

Texting While Driving Legislation Filed

Sen. Wilton Simpson (R-Trilby) filed SB 76, titled the "Florida Ban on Wireless Communications While Driving Law." The bill would allow law enforcement to regulate the use of handheld cell phones (texting, reading data, and talking) while driving as a primary offense (meaning one can be pulled over for the violation.) The bill would still allow for use of a hands-free device and for use of a cell phone for navigational purposes. The sponsor is a member of Senate Republican Leadership (and is expected to become a future Senate President) which gives the bill a much greater chance of passage. He also chairs the Senate

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Committee on Innovation, Infrastructure and Industry. Last Session, the House overwhelmingly passed a texting while driving ban at the Speaker's direction, however the bill stalled in the Senate due to concerns over racial profiling. SB 76 does not contain compromise language amended in the Senate version last Session that was intended to address the racial profiling concerns.

Florida League of Cities and Florida Association of Counties Legislative Conferences

The Florida League of Cities (FLC) and Florida Association of Counties (FAC) both held their annual Legislative Conferences, where each organization officially adopted their 2019 Legislative Action Plans. The FLC Transportation & Intergovernmental Relations Committee featured an informative presentation from Carl Mikyska of the MPOAC on transportation funding, texting while driving, and the function of MPOs. Representatives from Uber and Brightline also presented on what the companies were envisioning for the future of both their companies and for transportation. Both organizations adopted policy statements asking for flexibility in transportation funding. FAC also adopted statements encouraging indexing of local option fuel taxes to annual CPI adjustments and supporting regional collaboration on resiliency and climate change to maximize resources and foster best practices.

6th Annual Florida Automated Vehicles Summit

We attended the 6th annual Autonomous Vehicle Summit, which is quickly becoming the leading AV summit in the Country. Leaders in the AV space gathered this week in Tampa from all around the globe at the leadership of Senator Brandes. The two days focused on technology, future deployment, test sites and challenges as we move into the implementation of AV technology. Discussions ranged from strategic initiatives, improving mobility, emerging technologies and preparing for connected vehicle deployment.

Senator Brandes highlighted how the rapid pace of technological change limits the ability for transportation planners to think too far into the future; how the law must adapt to encourage micro-mobility solutions, such as electric scooters and golf carts; how the future of Autonomous Vehicles will impact auto manufacturers; and the need to move from a fuel tax to a Vehicle Miles Traveled tax.

Get Involved:

Broward Days Impact Teams

We are extremely excited about the direction that Broward Days is moving with the grass roots local efforts. Our impact teams that range from affordable housing to transportation to health care and beyond are gaining tremendous support throughout the community. Elected officials from the state, county and municipal level are actively engaged with this

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journey to make Broward's voice stronger in Tallahassee. Please look at the website www.browarddays.com or call Candice directly to learn more about the various impact teams and becoming involved.

Broward Days will be hosting its official kick-off for the 2019 Legislative Session on December 19th. We are expecting a great turnout of elected officials, business leaders and non-profits from throughout the County. The event will be co-hosted by the Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce and the Broward Bar Association as part of the "Broward Forward" collaboration that was started this past summer. We will send out the invite once it is finalized and encourage all to attend the event.

Please contact Candice (candice@tsecgov.com), Corey (Corey@tsecgov.com) or Lauren (Lauren@tsecgov.com) for further information about anything listed in this report.