



Martin County Board of County Commissioners

Legislative Affairs

Committee Week Report 1

December 11, 2018 – December 14, 2018

The first official committee week for the new Martin County legislative delegation began on December 11, 2018. Representative MaryLynn Magar was re-elected to serve District 82 and was appointed Speaker Pro Tempore of the Florida House of Representatives. Newly elected Representative Toby Overdorf represents District 83 and serves the county north of Hobe Sound. Senator Gayle Harrell, who formerly served in the Florida House of Representatives, now represents District 25, encompassing all of Martin County, in the Florida Senate.

The newly formed senate committees met for the first time to introduce their new members, new priorities and address some challenges the state will face this upcoming fiscal year. Hurricane Michael, which made landfall in the Florida panhandle in October of 2018, caused more in monetary damage than the impact Hurricane Irma had on the entire state of Florida. While this will be a budgetary issue for the state, many of the committees indicated that priorities for the upcoming session will be healthcare and addressing water quality issues statewide.

Several commissions and committees have been established to advise the legislature about major statewide issues that will need to be addressed in the state's budget and with future policy. The Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Commission, within the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, was established during the 2018 Legislative Session. The commission was formed to analyze information from the school shooting and other mass violence incidents in the state and to address recommendations. Another committee the county is following closely is the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Biosolids Technical Advisory Committee. Statewide, there has been an increased interest in better understanding the nutrient impacts of the land application of biosolids. This committee's focus is to evaluate current management practices and potential opportunities for enhancements to better protect Florida's water resources.

The next committee week will begin on January 8, 2019. The 2019 Legislative Session officially begins on March 5, 2019.