

## **Library Funding in Jeopardy! Appropriations Conference Process Begins – Contacts Needed Now & Over the Weekend!**

*April 16, 2010*

House and Senate will hold an organizational budget conference at 10:00 a.m. tomorrow, Saturday, April 17, 2010; location to be determined. The conference committees will begin tomorrow afternoon, probably at 1 p.m. Individual conference meetings will make their meeting notices available to the public at least two hours prior to the meeting start time. Below is the list of House and Senate Conferees.

To watch the proceedings over the web, go to the [House](#) or [Senate](#) pages. It may be wise to monitor your e-mail over the weekend. The House will make the first conference offer tomorrow afternoon. We are concerned that extra Medicaid dollars budgeted by the Senate will not be coming from Washington and that may make our work harder.

***The Situation*** – The Senate budget provided \$15 million for State Aid and \$0 for the Library Cooperative Program and the House provided \$500,000 as a place holder for State Aid and \$1 million for the Library Cooperative Program. The Legislature is scheduled to adjourn April 30 and the budget has to be on members' desks 72 hours before they can vote on it so they have a little over a week to get this done.

***Action Needed: Contact the House and Senate leadership and members of the House and Senate Transportation and Economic Development Conference Committees – all of them!***

***The Message – Restore funding for State Aid to Public Libraries to the current \$21.2 million and the Library Cooperative Program to \$1.2 million.***

If State Aid is deeply cut or eliminated, branches will close all over the state and library service in rural libraries will be decimated because of their reliance on state funding! Several of Florida's 6 library cooperatives are likely to close without the \$1.2 million appropriation. Add your local stories – they are the most powerful!

\$21.2 million is also the Maintenance of Effort amount the legislature needs to appropriate in order for Florida to continue receiving federal Library Services and Technology Act dollars. Florida received about \$8.9 million this year.

***Background-*** The library community knows the state budget is seriously stressed but library funding has already been cut by over a third, from \$33.4 million in 2001 to \$21.2 million today. Local funding has been deeply cut in last the 3 years and more reductions are coming in 2010-11. Many libraries report cuts exceeding 30%.

This comes at a particularly bad time for Floridians who are turning to their public libraries for help during these challenging times:

- Job seekers are getting help learning about and applying for jobs.
- Floridians needing assistance applying for E-Government services and benefits are getting help from library staff, computers, and Internet service.
- Families are relying on library books, cd's and dvd's to stretch household budgets.
- Families continue to rely on libraries to help children learn to read and help parents and caregivers learn to be children's first teachers.

***Please, Please Keep It Positive! – These folks want to fund libraries. It is our job to show them that there is positive public support so they can justify finding the dollars!***

***Thank you!***

## **Senate Leadership**

- **Senator Jeff Atwater** (r) – **President** – Represents parts of Broward & Palm Beach Counties - [atwater.jeff.web@flsenate.gov](mailto:atwater.jeff.web@flsenate.gov) / District (561) 625-5101 / Tallahassee (850) 487-5100
- **Senator JD Alexander** (r), **Chairman, Policy and Steering Committee on Ways and Means** – Represents Hardee, Highlands and parts of DeSoto, Glades, Okeechobee, Polk, and St. Lucie Counties - [alexander.jd.web@flsenate.gov](mailto:alexander.jd.web@flsenate.gov) / District (863) 679-4847 / Tallahassee (850) 487-5044
- **Senator Mike Haridopolos** (r) – **President designate, 2011-12** - Represents parts of Brevard, Indian River, Osceola, & St. Lucie Counties – [haridopolis.mike.web@flsenate.gov](mailto:haridopolis.mike.web@flsenate.gov) / District (321) 752-3131 / Tallahassee (850) 487-5056

## **Senate Conference Committee on Transportation and Economic Development (TED)**

- **Senator Mike Fasano** (r) - Represents parts of Citrus, Hernando, Pasco, & Pinellas Counties / [fasano.mike.web@flsenate.gov](mailto:fasano.mike.web@flsenate.gov) / District (727) 848-5885 / Tallahassee (850) 487-5062
- **Senator Tony Hill** (d), **Vice-Chair** – Represents parts of Duval, Flagler, Putnam, St. Johns, & Volusia Counties – [hill.tony.web@flsenate.gov](mailto:hill.tony.web@flsenate.gov) / District (904) 924-1646 / Tallahassee (850) 487-5024
- **Senator Alex Diaz de la Portilla** (r) – Represents part of Miami-Dade County – [portilla.alex.web@flsenate.gov](mailto:portilla.alex.web@flsenate.gov) / District (305) 643-7200 / Tallahassee (850) 487-5109

- **Senator Paula Dockery** (r) – Represents parts of Hernando, Lake, Osceola, Polk, & Sumter Counties - [dockery.paula.web@flsenate.gov](mailto:dockery.paula.web@flsenate.gov) / District (863) 413-2900 / Tallahassee (850) 487-5040
- **Senator Andy Gardiner** (r) – Represents parts of Orange, Osceola, & Seminole Counties – [gardiner.andy@flsenate.gov](mailto:gardiner.andy@flsenate.gov) / District (407) 428-5800 / Tallahassee (850) 487-5047
- **Senator Chris Smith** (d) – Represents parts of Broward & Palm Beach Counties – [smith.chris.web@flsenate.gov](mailto:smith.chris.web@flsenate.gov) / District (561) 650-6801 / Tallahassee (850) 487-5112

## House Leadership

- **Larry Cretul** (r) – **Speaker** – Represents parts of Alachua, Levy, & Marion Counties – [larry.cretul@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:larry.cretul@myfloridahouse.gov) / District (352) 873-6564 / Tallahassee (850) 488-1450
- **Rep. Dean Cannon** (r) – Represents part of Orange County – Speaker designate 2011-12 – [dean.cannon@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:dean.cannon@myfloridahouse.gov) / District (407) 623-5740 / Tallahassee (850) 488-2742
- **Rep. Will Weatherford** (r) – Represents parts of Hillsborough & Pasco Counties – Speaker designate 2013-14 – [will.weatherford@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:will.weatherford@myfloridahouse.gov) / District (813) 558-5115 / Tallahassee (850) 488-5744
- **Rep. David Rivera** (r), **Chair of the Full Appropriations Council On Education & Economic Development** – Represents parts of Broward, Collier, & Miami-Dade Counties – [david.rivera@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:david.rivera@myfloridahouse.gov) / District (305) 227-7630 / Tallahassee – (850)-488-7897

## House Conference Committee on Transportation and Economic Development (TED)

- **Rep. Rich Glorioso** (r), **Chair** – Parts of Hillsborough & Pasco Counties – [rich.glorioso@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:rich.glorioso@myfloridahouse.gov) / District (813) 757-9110/ Tallahassee (850) 488-0807
- **Rep. Audrey Gibson** (d) – Represents part of Duval County – [audrey.gibson@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:audrey.gibson@myfloridahouse.gov) / District (904) 353-2180 / Tallahassee (850) 488-7417
- **Rep. Evan Jenne** (d) – Represents part of Broward County – [evan.jenne@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:evan.jenne@myfloridahouse.gov) / District (954) 321-2760 / Tallahassee (850) 488-0245
- **Rep. Mike Horner** (r) – Represents parts of Okeechobee, Orange, Osceola, & Polk Counties / [mike.horner@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:mike.horner@myfloridahouse.gov) / District (407) 943-3077 / Tallahassee (850) 488-8992

- **Rep. Dorothy Hukill** (r) – Represents part of Volusia County – [dorothy.hukill@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:dorothy.hukill@myfloridahouse.gov) / District (386) 322-5111 / Tallahassee (850) 488-6653
- **Dave Murzin** (r) – Represents part of Escambia County – [dave.murzin@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:dave.murzin@myfloridahouse.gov) / District (859) 494-7330 / Tallahassee (850) 488-8278
- **Hazelle Rogers** (d) – Represents part of Broward County – [hazelle.rogers@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:hazelle.rogers@myfloridahouse.gov) / District (954) 497-3367 / Tallahassee (850)488-8234
- **Rep. Robert Schenck** (r) – Represents parts of Pasco, Hernando, & Sumter Counties – [robert.schenck@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:robert.schenck@myfloridahouse.gov) / District (352) 688-5005 / Tallahassee (850) 488-6641