



Florida House of Representatives Representative Gwynn Clarke-Reed

Gwynn.Clarke-Reed@myfloridahouse.gov

House District 92



District 92

Councils & Committees

PreK-12 Appropriations Committee
Public Safety & Domestic Security Policy Committee
Elder & Family Services Policy Committee
Joint Legislative Sunset Committee
Health & Family Services Policy Council

Capitol Office

1402 The Capitol
402 S. Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399
Phone: 850-488-0880

District Office

Pompano Beach City Hall
100 West Atlantic Blvd.
Suite 275
Pompano Beach, FL 33060
Phone: 954-786-4848
Fax: 954-786-4850

Legislative Assistant
Dawn Smith

District Executive Secretary
Kathryn Snyder

Community Outreach
Coordinator
Delores Sallette



Spotlight on 2009 Session

Dear Friends,

The 2009 legislative session has ended, and it's great to be home with the citizens of House District 92. I would like to thank everyone for their letters, phone calls, emails and office visits. I need to hear from my constituents in order to effectively represent your issues and concerns in the Florida Legislature. Thank you!



The legislative session was one of the toughest on record. We were challenged to draft a state budget while facing a \$6 billion revenue shortfall. The Legislature responded by reducing programs and services, draining trust funds and increasing fees, many of which will impact working-class families. For these and other reasons, I voted against the budget because I don't think it adequately met our state's needs.

I am also concerned about the impacts of a bill that aims to end the process known as "double dipping" in the state retirement system. I fear that the legislation will unfairly impact retiring teaching professionals. I am pleased, however, to have been one of the first in the Legislature to endorse the use of new federal economic recovery dollars approved by President Barack Obama and Congress.

As a freshman legislator, I was pleased by the passage of a bill I sponsored that will require a person seeking a name change to submit to a national criminal background check. The bill is a good step toward improving public safety, but it is limited so that it won't apply to divorced persons seeking to resume their maiden name nor those who seek name changes due to their adoption or marriage. Additionally, I sponsored a bill this year that will require a study the outreach efforts of Florida's KidCare health program.

I value your input and urge you to contact my office if there is any assistance that I can provide. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your state legislator.

Regards,

Gwynn Clarke-Reed

Gwynndolen Clarke-Reed
Representative, House District 92

REPRESENTATIVE GWYN CLARKE-REED

Accomplishments



Change of Name

Legislation I sponsored requires a person seeking a name change to present two sets of fingerprints to the petitioner.

The requirement does not pertain to those who are restoring a maiden name or are changing their name due to a divorce or adoption. Under the legislation, a Clerk of Court must send one set of fingerprints to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement in order to conduct a criminal history records check. The history check allows a judge to know if a name-change applicant is a sex offender, a felon, or has expired immigration papers. There will be a charge of \$43.25 for the criminal history check.

The bill takes effect on October 1, 2009.



Florida KidCare Study

I am pleased to have sponsored legislation approved by the Legislature that directs the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA) to perform a study of the effectiveness of the outreach efforts of the Florida KidCare program for uninsured children.

The study is to examine current practices of the Social Services Estimating Conference, Department of Health, Department of Children & Families and other entities. The report is due to legislative leaders by January 1, 2010.



Co-Sponsored Bills

I am pleased to have co-sponsored several bills that were passed by the Legislature. They include:

(CS/ HB1) Florida Safety Belt Law. The bill requires a motor vehicle operator, front-seat passengers, and all passengers under 18 to wear safety belts. Law enforcement officers are authorized to stop a motorist and issue a citation upon reasonable suspicion that any occupant is in violation of the law. A violation is punishable by \$30 fines, plus court fees, which can exceed \$100. The legislation takes effect June 30, 2009.

(CS/HB 997) This bill requires local school boards to install policies to ensure a safe and supportive learning environment that protects teachers and other school personnel when they are victims of a crime by students. In addition, the bill states that “zero tolerance” policies should apply equally, regardless of a persons economic status, race or disability. District school boards are to review these policies every three years.

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Census

The census is a count of everyone living in the United States every 10 years. The census is mandated by the U.S. Constitution.

The next census is in 2010 and your participation in the census is required by law. Completing the Census form takes less than 10 minutes and it is critical that EVERYONE is counted, whether you're a citizen of the United States or not, because the Census plays a critical role in the allocation of billions of dollars in government funding. Federal law protects the personal information you share during the census. Census data are used to distribute Congressional seats to states, to make decisions about what community services to provide, and to distribute \$300 billion in federal funds to local, state and tribal governments each year.

For more information, call 1-866-861-2010, or 954-830-5637. Or visit <http://2010.census.gov/2010census/>

Hurricane Preparedness

With the Hurricane Season upon us, it is important that everyone is prepared should one arrive at our shores.

The following is a short checklist and numbers to assist you with your preparations:

- Water/food — at least enough to last for 3 to 7 days (non-perishable), including bottled water, juices and snack foods.
- Non-electric can opener, paper plates and plastic utensils.
- Flashlights, batteries, portable radios, waterproof tarps.
- Medications.
- Fill up your gas tank before the storm arrives.
- Place ALL valuables, personal documents, bank account and medical records in a waterproof container.

Phone Numbers:

- American Red Cross Broward Chapter — 954-797-3800
- Broward County Emergency Management — 954-831-3900
- Consumer Insurance Assistance — 1-800-342-2762

Legislation for 2010 Session

In the 2010 Legislative Session, Representative Clarke-Reed is preparing to introduce the following bills:

Legislation that will require portions of Powerball Lottery net revenues to be allocated to voluntary pre-kindergarten education programs. Such funds shall be allocated in equal amounts for each student enrolled. These funds must be used for direct classroom expenditures and may not be used to pay for administrative costs.

Legislation relating to the creation of an Early Voting task Force which will evaluate early voting practices and make recommendations for the improvement of these practices. A report of these findings and recommendations shall be given to the Governor, the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate.

Budget / Stimulus

Representative

Gwyn Clarke-Reed

Pompano Beach City Hall

100 West Atlantic Blvd.

Suite 275

Pompano Beach, FL

33060

Phone: 954-786-4848

Fax: 954-786-4850



Facing a \$6-billion revenue shortfall, the Legislature reduced many worthwhile programs and services, stripped trust funds and increased fees. We were fortunate to have received new federal economic recovery dollars approved by President Barack Obama and Congress, funds that were utilized to help balance the state budget.

Over the next three years, Florida will receive approximately \$14-billion in stimulus funds that will be used to get the state's economy going. The Legislature defined where those dollars will go and I'm pleased that the bulk of this money will go to schools, public works projects, and health care programs.

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