

BROWARD LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION

NEWSLETTER

2018 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The Broward Legislative Delegation Office provides a communication resource between the Federal, State, local governments and Broward County citizens to facilitate the legislative process. Our responsibilities include maintaining an efficient means for the local bill process and monitoring bills approved by the Delegation Members through the Legislature. The Legislative Delegation has a responsibility to monitor the appropriations process, securing State Revenues and other allocated funds for programs, organizations and government agencies in Broward County.

Week 2: January 15-19

Campaign Finance Reforms: HB: 707



Photo credit: The Florida Channel

Rep. Evan Jenne
District 99

Twitter: @evanjenne

A pair of measures that would reform the state campaign finance system, including barring Gov. **Rick Scott** and Cabinet members from raising money during Session, cleared a House panel on Wednesday with bipartisan support.

State Rep. **Evan Jenne** said his proposal, [HB 707](#), is a "common sense rule" and not "an indictment or finger pointing" at the governor, who is widely expected to run for U.S. Senate, Attorney General **Pam Bondi**, Chief Financial Officer **Jimmy Patronis**, who is running for a another term, or Agricultural Commissioner **Adam Putnam**, a Republican gubernatorial candidate. "This is no indication of those four individuals, it is simply a matter of what is good for the goose is good for the gander," Jenne said.

Both the Florida House and Senate prohibit members from accepting contributions during a regular, extended, or special Legislative Session. The proposal would add the same restrictions to statewide elected officials.

The proposal would make it a misdemeanor to accept a single political contribution and a felony if an individual solicits or accepts two contributions during Session.

In the vein of reforming the campaign finance system, state Rep. **Frank White**, who is running for Attorney General, championed a proposal that would repeal a 30-year-old state public campaign financing system.

"Most of you know that I am running for statewide elected office and if this does go on the ballot it would not affect my campaign whatsoever," White said.

That measure cleared the House Oversight, Transparency & Administration Subcommittee. It would eliminate a system that gives statewide candidates taxpayer-funding matching dollars if they agree to limit their expenditures. Under the current system, outside contributions of up to \$250 are matched and contributions above that amount are matched to \$250.

"Our system dolls our millions of tax dollars to incumbents and other experienced politicians," White said.

Speaker **Richard Corcoran** has pushed to abolish the system with the [Constitution Revision Commission](#), which meets once every 20 years to propose changes to the constitution. Corcoran has called the public campaign financing system a "gross waste of taxpayer money" and "welfare for politicians."

"You really have to be clueless or just plain selfish to accept money from our state coffers that could go to our school children, first responders, or be put back in the pockets of our taxpayers," Corcoran has said.

Both measures have one more committee stop before they head to a full House vote.

If the measures are passed by the Legislature, they would be put on the 2018 ballot and would need 60 percent voter approval to go into effect. Courtesy of : <https://floridapolitics.com/archives/253794-campaign-finance-reforms-advance-bipartisan-support>

Presidential Elections by Popular Vote



Rep. Joe Geller
District 100

Twitter: @RepJoeGeller

This week Representative Joe Geller and Senator Victor Torres of Kissimmee held a press conference concerning HB-367 and SB-1374 titled Agreement Among the States to Elect the President by National Popular Vote. In a statement by the League of Women Voters Florida (LWVFL) applauded Rep. **Joseph Geller** (D-Aventura) for filing HB 367 which, if passed, would allow Florida to join the states that have already enacted the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact. The Compact is designed to ensure election of the President and Vice President of the United States by popular vote.

States signing onto the Compact agree to instruct their electors to vote for the candidate who wins the national popular vote. If enacted by Florida, the Compact would have 194 of the 270 electoral votes needed to activate the Compact.

"Passage of this act by the Florida Legislature would ensure that Floridians' votes for President count as much as residents in all other states, which is not the case today," declared **Pamela Goodman**, president of the Florida League. "Floridians' votes are worth only a third of residents of less populous states because of the Electoral College formula." She added that the "winner-take-all" rule further diminishes the value of a resident's vote for President, since all electoral votes currently go to the person winning in that state, even if by a bare majority.

"We applaud Representative Geller's leadership on this issue, and are working with him and others to secure additional sponsors in the House, as well as the Senate, for this critically needed legislation," said **Karen Wilkerson**, president of the LWVPBC. "This bipartisan issue affects every resident of our state, and we hope that Florida legislators support the democratic principle that all votes should count the same, regardless of where you live."

Observing that all other public officials are elected by popular vote across the country, Goodman added: "Why shouldn't the President and Vice President be subject to the same standard that applies to how we choose governors, senators, congressmen, state legislators and all other elected public officials? It is time we addressed this imbalance."

She noted that the Compact would also help reverse voter disenfranchisement and thus likely increase turnout in state and local elections as well.

The Compact complies with Article II of the Constitution that specifies states have sole authority to elect the president; thus, activation does not require any change or amendment to the U.S. Constitution. The League has supported the National Popular Vote for over 40 years.

Courtesy of: <http://www.lwvfl.org/press-releases/league-women-voters-florida-supports-hb-367-enact-national-popular-vote-interstate-compact-florida/>

February 7-8 in Tallahassee.

Join County, City, School Board, & Community Leaders, Broward Residents and Business Owners as we Bring Broward to Tallahassee. Details available at www.BrowardDays.com



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