


## The LaMarca Letter !

### 2023 Post Session Legislative Update

#### Flooding Update:

Since the evening of April 12, I have been in contact with FDEM Director Kevin Guthrie and Fort Lauderdale City Manager Greg Chavarria to see what our office could do to assist. Governor Ron DeSantis announced \$1.5 million in grant awards through the Florida Disaster Fund to support the efforts of non-profit and faith-based organizations engaged in flood recovery efforts in Southeast Florida.



**FL Division of Emergency Management**  
@FLSERT

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Individual Assistance is now available for Floridians impacted by the SE FL Flooding in Broward County.

There are 3 ways to start the application process:

Visit [DisasterAssistance.Gov](https://DisasterAssistance.Gov)

Download the FEMA App

Call 1-800-621-3362

**FEDERAL**

**FEMA ASSISTANCE**

**FOR BROWARD FLOOD SURVIVORS**

**WEB**  
Visit  
[DisasterAssistance.Gov](https://DisasterAssistance.Gov)

**APP**  
Download the  
FEMA app  
for smartphones

**PHONE**  
Call  
800-621-FEMA (3362)  
TTY 1-800-462-7585

The State Emergency Response Team (SERT) remains in communication with areas impacted by devastating flooding, continuing to deploy state resources and assistance as requested, including one million gallons of fuel in response to fuel distribution delays caused by the flooding at Port Everglades.

Governor DeSantis has also activated the Florida Small Business Emergency Bridge Loan Program, making \$5 million available for businesses impacted by flooding in Southeast Florida. Businesses in Broward County, including sole proprietors, are eligible to apply. Florida's small business owners in need of assistance are encouraged to visit [FloridaJobs.org/EBL](https://FloridaJobs.org/EBL) to apply for the Florida Small Business Emergency Bridge Loan.



**Florida DEO**  
@FLDEO

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@FLDEO announces Disaster Unemployment Assistance is available for Floridians impacted by flooding in Broward County. Press release >> [bddy.me/3Alq17e](https://bddy.me/3Alq17e)

**Press Release**  
**May 1, 2023**


**Florida Department of Economic Opportunity Announces Disaster Unemployment Assistance Available for Floridians Impacted by Flooding in Broward County**

I am proud to say that we finally have approval of a Major Disaster Declaration from the federal government, which will provide a wide range of assistance programs for flood-impacted individuals and public infrastructure. Some of the recipients include: Team Rubicon, The Salvation Army; Southern Baptist Disaster Relief, Feeding South Florida; and Broward Long Term Recovery Group.

#### Legislative Update:

##### BUDGET:

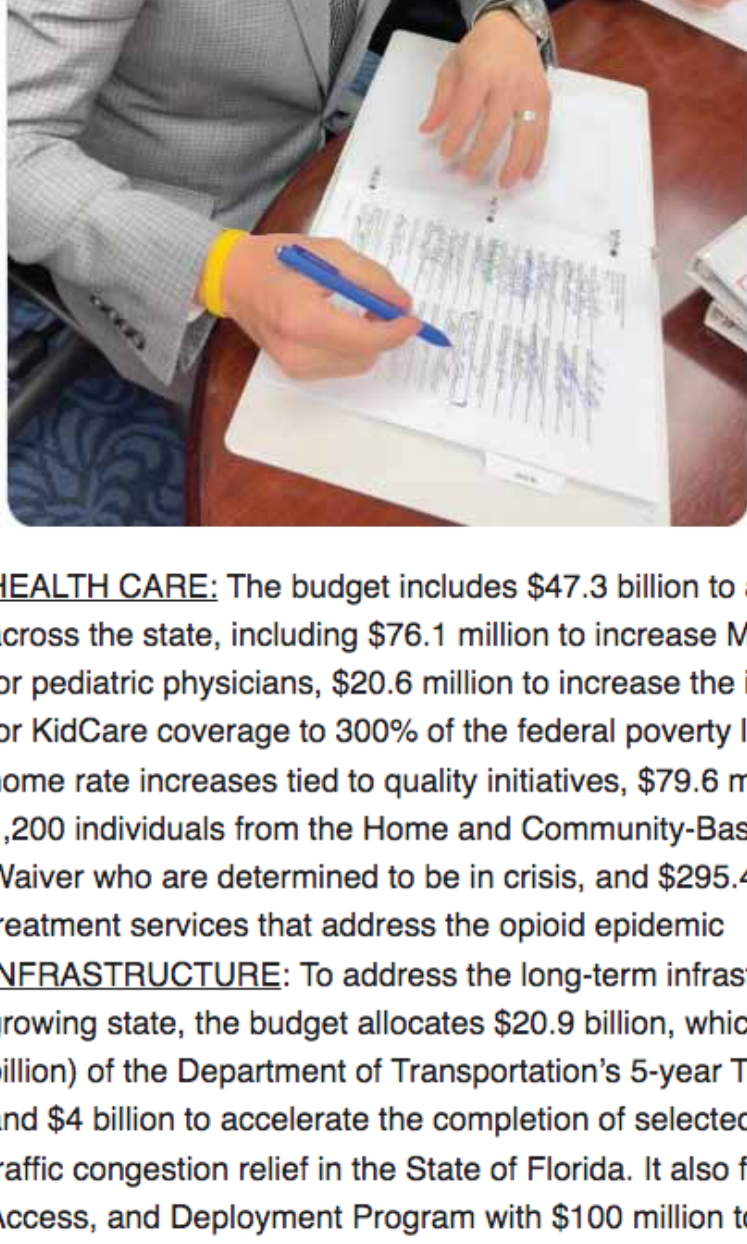
We have concluded the 2023 Legislative Session, and we were hard at work at passing legislation that will benefit our great state. On the final day of session, the legislature approved a \$117 billion budget increasing funding for K-12 schools, health care programs, environmental projects and pay raises for state workers while setting aside \$10.9 billion in reserves and providing tax relief to reduce the cost of living for Florida families.



**Chip LaMarca** ! @ChipLaMarca · May 4

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Today I had the privilege of signing the Infrastructure & Tourism Appropriations budget. Thank you for your leadership Chair @RAlexAndradeFL and for including me in the process (as well as some great projects for @BrowardCounty!)



- HEALTH CARE:** The budget includes \$47.3 billion to address health care needs across the state, including \$76.1 million to increase Medicaid reimbursement rates for pediatric physicians, \$20.6 million to increase the income eligibility threshold for KidCare coverage to 300% of the federal poverty level, \$125 million for nursing home rate increases tied to quality initiatives, \$79.6 million to serve an anticipated 1,200 individuals from the Home and Community-Based Services Medicaid Waiver who are determined to be in crisis, and \$295.4 million for prevention and treatment services that address the opioid epidemic
- INFRASTRUCTURE:** To address the long-term infrastructure needs of an ever-growing state, the budget allocates \$20.9 billion, which includes full funding (\$13.6 billion) of the Department of Transportation's 5-year Transportation Work Program and \$4 billion to accelerate the completion of selected road projects to provide traffic congestion relief in the State of Florida. It also funds the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program with \$100 million to expand high-speed internet access and allots \$401 million for local transportation projects.
- AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES:** The Agriculture and Natural Resources portion of the budget allocates \$7.5 billion to support and preserve environmental assets. It includes \$1.1 billion for land acquisition, which accounts for funding of the Florida Forever Program, the Rural and Family Lands Protection Program, and immediate acquisition of lands within the Florida Wildlife Corridor. The Resilient Florida Program receives \$320 million for projects included in the Statewide Flooding and Sea Level Rise Resilience Plan and for Resilient Florida planning grants. \$206 million is allocated to assist local governments with beach and dune restoration, nourishment, and inlet management. This portion of the budget also allocates \$1.6 billion to protect Florida's water resources, including:
  - \$694.6 million for Everglades restoration;
  - \$200 million for wastewater grants to help communities across Florida reduce excess nutrient pollution within a basin management action plan; and
  - \$50 million for springs restoration, protection, and preservation.

##### BILLS:

One of my top priorities this session was environmental protection and, which is why I sponsored **HB 641 - Restoration of Osborne Reef**. The Osborne Reef, also known as the Tire Reef, sits 1.3 miles off the coast of Fort Lauderdale. This artificial reef was created during the 1970s to address the surplus of old tires in landfills. Due to the impact of storms and currents, the bindings that held the tires together eventually eroded, and the tires scattered over approximately 34 acres, causing damage to nearby natural reefs. Cleanup efforts began in 2007, but as of 2019 there are still 500,000-1,000,000 tires left to be removed.



**Chip LaMarca** ! @ChipLaMarca · Apr 22

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I want to thank a great friend and tremendous public servant Senator @BryanAvilaFL for working with me on this critical issue for our @BrowardCounty coastline. [floridapolitics.com/archives/60510...](https://floridapolitics.com/archives/60510...)



Our legislation requires the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to develop a comprehensive plan for coral reef restoration that includes provisions for the restoration of the existing reef, as well as any nearby natural reefs that were damaged by the tire installation. This project will be transformational to our underwater treasure. I must thank Senator Bryan Avila for working alongside me to get this important environmental legislation over the finish line. The bill is sent to the Governor's desk for signature to become law.

This year I also ran, **HB 881 - My Safe Florida Home (MSFH) Program**, which provides inspections and grants to retrofit single-family homes to make them less vulnerable to hurricane damage. The bill expands eligibility requirements to all areas in the state since hurricanes can impact any area, not just windborne areas. This expansion of the program, allows homeowners with homes valued up to \$700,000 to be eligible, increases the grant award for low-income recipients from \$5,000 to \$10,000. I also worked hard to add townhomes to this program, since thousands of Floridians were previously ineligible due to shared walls. Thankfully we were successful and they can apply. As always, it is an honor to work with CFO Patronis on another bill this session.



**Chip LaMarca** ! @ChipLaMarca · May 5


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Great legislation protecting Floridians and their most important investment 🏠 #TeamJimmy ✓




#### TAX PACKAGE:

**2023-2024 PROPOSED TAX PACKAGE**

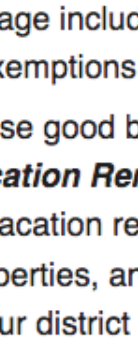
**SALES TAX HOLIDAYS**

**INCLUDES**



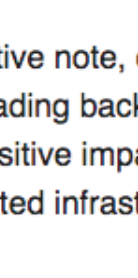
**BACK TO SCHOOL**  
14 DAYS IN JULY/AUG & 14 DAYS IN JANUARY

- Clothing Items priced \$100 or less
- School Supplies priced \$50 or less
- Computers and Related Accessories priced at \$1,500 or less
- Learning Aids and Puzzles priced \$30 or less




**DISASTER PREPAREDNESS** 14 DAYS

- NEW** Over-The-Counter Pet Medication priced at \$100 or less and Common Household Consumables priced \$30 or less
- Increases Eligible Generators Pricing From \$1,000 to \$3,000



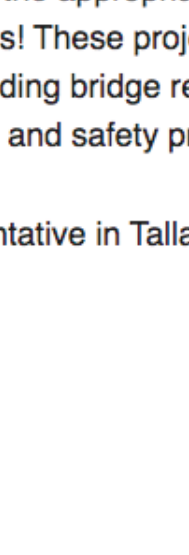
**FREEDOM SUMMER** 14 WEEKS

- NEW** Children's Athletic Equipment priced \$100 or less & Toys priced \$75 or less



**TOOLS FOR SKILLED WORKERS** 7 DAYS

- Tools Used In Trades—Power Tools, Tool Belts and Boxes, etc.



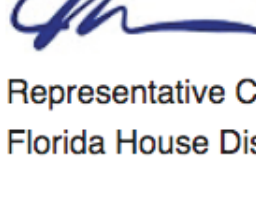
The Legislature passed a tax-cut package expanded to save Floridians around \$1.3 billion. The package includes multiple tax holidays for disaster materials and school supplies, as well as exemptions on baby products.

Unlike these good bills, I have not supported every bill that has passed. I voted against **HB 833 – Vacation Rentals**, which would have taken away local governments' power to regulate vacation rentals. I believe in empowering our municipalities to oversee vacation rental properties, and this bill, which I have fought against for five years, goes against the rights of our district residents. I am happy to say, that the House and Senate could not agree upon language, and ultimately the bill died.

On a positive note, our district is in great shape when it comes to the appropriations that will be heading back to our district, totaling over \$10 million dollars! These projects will have a positive impact on our district in a variety of projects, including bridge repairs, water-related infrastructure, education and economic opportunity, and safety projects.

As always, it is an honor to represent you as your State Representative in Tallahassee.

Best Wishes ,



Representative Chip LaMarca  
Florida House District 100