



# HOUSE DEMOCRATIC OFFICE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **ALMOST OVER BUT THE PAIN**

**TALLAHASSEE, FL ---** The 2009 Florida legislative session will reach its 60<sup>th</sup> day on Friday without a new state budget or any serious fixes to the economic pain that threatens Florida families and small businesses.

Marred by the obstructionist strategies of Republican leaders in the Florida House, this session will best be remembered as one that gave greater attention to the regulation of golf carts and septic tanks than it did to economic recovery and the real needs of middle-class Floridians.

Florida House Democrats proposed reasonable solutions to help our state's citizens and businesses overcome the challenges of the recession and prepare for the opportunities of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

In contrast, Republican leaders engaged in finger pointing, political posturing, and providing more giveaways to their wealthy donors. Repeatedly, Republican lawmakers turned their backs on solid solutions to address Florida's gravest problems. Under Republican leadership:

- Nearly 1 of every 10 Floridians are out of work.
- Public school funding remains among the lowest in the nation.
- Florida's health programs – and health care workers – are in crisis.
- Home ownership costs and insurance prices are out of reach for many families.
- Our tax system is unfair and our property tax structure is out of whack.
- Crime reports show Florida the fifth most-dangerous state in the nation.
- Affordable housing is lacking, and
- Florida lags in implementing a modern-day renewable energy strategy.

House Democratic Leader Franklin Sands (D-Weston) issued the following statement on the status of the 2009 legislative session:

“After an excruciatingly contentious special legislative session, Florida House Democrats returned to Tallahassee this spring with hopes of working in a bipartisan fashion on solutions to the tragic economic dilemmas bestowed on middle class and working families.

“Florida House Democrats proposed logical strategies to deal with the state’s budget crisis and the state’s other needs,” added Leader Sands. “House Democrats voted for lower class sizes in public schools and against cuts to education. We battled efforts to drill for oil just off our coasts and stood for preserving the state’s land-conservation programs. We fought for workers rights and the importance of using federal economic recovery monies to augment unemployment compensation programs.

“Unfortunately, we have seen too little compassion and too many political shenanigans from Republican leaders this session,” said Sands. “Once more, Republican legislative leadership has failed the people of Florida. Their apparent lack of understanding of the plight of our residents is distressing and only means that many Floridians will continue to suffer.”

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