



## **MAJORITY MESSAGE POINTS 2008-2009 HOUSE BUDGET**

### ***Preserving Core Missions and Balancing the Budget Responsibly***

In tight economic times, Floridians are looking to us to reduce spending and balance the budget responsibly.

The House budget this year is \$65 billion, a significant reduction from last year's budget.

We are not the US Congress. We cannot spend money we do not have. We must reduce our state budget because government revenues are less now than they were the year before. Just like any family, state government must live within its means.

The tough economic realities of Florida's and the national economies have forced us to make hard choices and set real priorities for our limited dollars. We have worked to rightsize state government back to a level that Floridians can afford.

Just like any Florida family, we have put our meaningful priorities first. Our focus is on the education and healthcare needs of our state. If it takes a little longer for a road to get built because we have chosen to educate our children or provide health care for needy seniors, we are comfortable with that choice.

Don't feel badly for government; feel for the people who can't pay their bills right now. When people have less money to spend, government should spend less too.

It's arrogant to suggest that government should reach further into the pockets of Floridians and force them to give more to government, when already they and their families are working hard to make do with less.

Tax increases should be rejected because they will make Florida less attractive for job creation and less affordable to all Floridians. When people have less money because the economy has slowed down, it is not the time to put additional burdens of government on them.

We should not put Florida workers at a disadvantage by raising the cost of doing business in Florida when other states are trying to lure away our jobs and businesses. We need to work hard to make Florida more attractive so that we can diversify our economy and bring the high-paying careers of the future here to Florida.

The defenders of the status quo and business as usual will say it cannot be done. They see the health of the state only in the size of its budget and how much government taxes and spends. **But we know that we must reduce spending and balance the budget responsibly if we are going to get Florida's economy back on track and help make Florida affordable again.**

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## **ECONOMIC EXPANSION AND INFRASTRUCTURE COUNCIL**

- Florida is facing a historic budget shortfall and this year's budget is based on the choice – essential services or optional expenditures.
- This is a no brainer for House Republicans. Given a choice, we'll always choose flesh and blood over bricks and mortar.
- Infrastructure projects are important to Florida, but if it means that our children will lack necessary medicine and the progress made in our world class education system will stop, then we will take a little longer to build a road.
- The Economic Expansion and Infrastructure Council reduced recurring general revenue expenditures by \$27.7 million, or 7.49%. However, taking into account all recurring expenditures – general revenue, state trust funds and federal funds, the overall reduction is less than 1% (0.83%).
- By reducing expenditures and reprioritizing the use of certain revenues, the Economic Expansion and Infrastructure Council made available over \$580 million in recurring general revenue for investing in education and healthcare.

### **Economic Development**

- Economic development, including business recruitment incentives, is critical to ensure Florida remains competitive and continues to be seen as a business friendly state. Florida has been a leader in economic development by being open to the needs of growing and expanding businesses, while keeping in mind that fiscally conservative, performance-based incentives ensure the people's money is spent wisely and with a strong return on their investment.
- House Republicans are committed to stimulating Florida's economy and continuing the past decade of economic prosperity. While it is tempting to divert these funds to other areas, it is vital we continue to invest in our economy so that we can attract the high wage jobs of the future and that business will continue to innovate and grow in our state.
- We are ensuring the state's continued economic success by investing in our tourism industry. We have increased the amount of state dollars used to attract visitors to our hotels, restaurants and attractions by \$5 million, for a total of \$38 million. This investment can be described as a shot in the arm to the economy, which will result in near-instant returns. In 2006, tourism accounted for \$65 billion in spending within Florida, which equated to \$3.9 billion in state sales tax revenue. At a time when other states are increasing their efforts to attract tourist dollars, it is important that Florida does not fall behind.
- The House budget invests \$125 million in traditional incentive programs, such as the Qualified Targeted Industry Program (QTI), the Quick Action Closing Fund and Economic

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Development Transportation projects (Road Fund). The Road Fund is actually increased to \$40 million to ensure our ability to improve infrastructure necessary for successful business locations and expansions.

### **Department of Transportation**

- Funding essential services without raising taxes requires revenues be redirected from our transportation system.
  - The House budget redirects revenues in the amount of \$627 million from transportation to other state priority programs. Of this amount, \$263 million consisting of motor vehicle registration fees will be used to fully fund our Florida Highway Patrol and Motor Carrier Compliance consolidated law enforcement division. Documentary stamp proceeds taken from general revenue in 2005, when the housing market was thriving and invested in our road system, must now be returned to general revenue in the amount of \$215 million. Finally, all receipts deposited into the State Transportation Trust Fund with the exception of the local option fuel tax, will be subject to our general revenue surcharge, yielding \$147.7 million in additional general funds for state priorities. Currently, transportation revenues are among the few exceptions to our state's general revenue surcharge policy.
- We have not neglected our transportation needs. Safety, preservation, maintenance and capacity of Florida's transportation system will continue to be addressed in the department's \$7 billion work program. Through program reductions, the law enforcement consolidation and using available reserves, the impact to road projects will be minimized.
- The proposed work program maintains the historical funding levels for construction contracts. The 2008-09 fiscal year includes \$3 billion for construction contract awards and an estimated \$14.5 billion over the 5 year work program. Historically the department awards and commits about 90% of its planned contracting level, or \$2.7 billion. The House bill reduces this by only \$834 million throughout the 5 year work program period; therefore the estimated contracting level of \$2.7 billion annually remains intact. As a result, Florida's transportation construction industry will remain vibrant.
- We are streamlining the process for funding our seaports, without reducing the funding levels or adversely impacting this multi-billion dollar industry.
  - Currently, we allocate money to the Florida Ports Council, a private entity, who then determines which seaports and projects will receive state taxpayer dollars. We are simply cutting out the middle man and having the Department of Transportation, our experts on transportation matters, approve seaport projects for funding. The Florida Ports Council will remain part of the process to review and recommend projects to the department. In addition, provisions have been included to ensure no state funds are expended for the council's administrative expenses.
- We are eliminating the mandate that Florida taxpayers spend a minimum of 1.5% of transportation construction contracts on planting flowers, shrubbery and trees along our

roadways. This program costs \$45 million annually which will be freed up for other more critical road projects. The department will continue to adhere to design standards that call for standard grassing and sodding for projects.

### **Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles**

- House Republicans are moving forward on our principle of smaller government by consolidating two duplicative law enforcement functions.
  - The Office of Motor Carrier Compliance will be moved from the Department of Transportation and consolidated with our Florida Highway Patrol. This will result in enhanced organizational knowledge gained through sharing and learning of law enforcement processes, practices and technology as well as increased investigative coordination. Although some upfront costs, about \$124,000, will be incurred, we will realize annual savings of \$1.2 million immediately, and savings will grow over time.
- We value our troopers and have proposed a compensation package that for the first time puts their pay on par with other law enforcement agencies in Florida. The budget provides enhanced funding to recruit and retain officers in the Florida Highway Patrol, including the motor carrier officers. Up to \$17 million is available for this purpose from increased service fees for reinstating suspended or revoked driver licenses.
- No trooper or motor carrier officer will be adversely affected by this budget; however 60 vacant trooper positions are eliminated.
  - The Department currently has approximately 182 law enforcement vacancies, of which 125 are road patrol trooper positions. On average, the agency fills a net of 22 positions annually and has maintained 161 vacancies over the past 5 years. With 120 remaining vacant positions coupled with the new salary compensation package, the agency will be able to aggressively recruit new officers to enhance our highway patrol functions and enable existing officers to be promoted into higher ranks.
- Smaller government will also come from the consolidation of 13 low volume drivers' license offices that are located in close proximity to another office. Eighty four state drivers' license offices will remain in 46 counties, in addition to the 24 full service and 59 limited service (all drivers' licenses services except road test) tax collector's offices that provide services throughout the state. This change frees money for general revenue while still assuring that Floridians continue to have ready access to these services.

### **Department of State**

- House Republicans understand that even in a difficult budget year, it is vital that we continue to focus at least some of our efforts on our culture and history. These programs not only enlighten us, but as a whole provide a greater than 8:1 return on the state's investment, a key ingredient in our recipe of economic success.

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- To compensate for budget shortfalls, we are redirecting \$4.5 million in state aid to libraries to historical and cultural operating grants. This assures that Floridians still have the opportunity to enjoy all of these programs.
- Unfortunately, we will not be able to fund library cooperatives, libraries in caring or construction grants for libraries, historical or cultural resources. While this is disappointing, we are hopeful that as the economy turns around, we will soon be able to continue those efforts to preserve our past and shape our future.
- The state will provide direct aid to libraries of \$22 million, continuing our commitment to these services. This commitment of funds will allow us to continue to draw down \$8 million in federal funds to add to the aid provided. With the state's investment in our library system, children and adults alike will be able to continue to enjoy media resources during these tight economic times.

### **Department of Emergency Management**

- For the safety of all Floridians and visitors, the Division of Emergency Management will continue to operate at optimum capacity to respond to disasters. This includes funding the State Logistics Response Warehouse in Orlando, which is a warehouse for essential commodities (bottled water, ice and tarps) needed as part of our first response to disaster events.
- \$21.2 million state match is provided to draw down \$620.6 million federal FEMA disaster recovery funds. These funds are available to reimburse local governments still recovering from the disastrous events of 2004 and 2005.
- In 2005, the Legislature funded a significant emergency management package, including emergency operations centers in all counties, enhanced evacuation shelters and emergency power generators for special needs shelters in all Florida's counties. Unfortunately, the cost to purchase and install the generators was much greater than anticipated, and at the end of this fiscal year, the state will still have 30 generators in our possession with no funds to install them. The budget includes \$21.3 million from state trust funds to continue this effort, which is about half of the projected cost. Local governments and school boards will be asked to share in the installation costs to ensure their special needs residents have a secure place to evacuate.

### **Agency for Workforce Innovation**

- The Agency for Workforce Innovation provides support to Workforce Florida, Inc., and administers the Early Learning programs, including School Readiness and Voluntary Pre-K.
- We understand that during this time of belt tightening, it is more vital than ever to continue assisting citizens in obtaining and retaining employment or learning the skills necessary to grow in their current jobs.

- One of the many customers served by the agency are very low income families, which are provided workforce training and assistance affording childcare while they strive to become and remain a part of the workforce.
- One of the resources the agency uses to provide these programs is the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) grant program. Unfortunately, due to an increase in funds needed for direct cash assistance programs provided by the Department of Children and Families, the available TANF funding to the Agency for Workforce Innovation will be reduced in the next fiscal year by \$20.5 million.
- Although the school readiness program will be reduced by \$13.4 million (which includes TANF and general revenue reductions), the program will receive \$631 million next year. In order to minimize the impact of these reductions, emphasis will be placed on children that are 0 – 5 years of age, from the lowest income bracket or in protective services due to abuse or neglect. There will be ample funding available to serve this population.
- TANF is also a major source of revenue for providing workforce services to eligible clients as a part of their transition from “welfare-to-work.” Although there is a slight reduction in funding, the doors of nearly 100 One-Stop centers will remain open to provide those workforce services needed by both job seekers and employers throughout the state. Regional workforce boards will continue to partner with community colleges, vocational education centers and businesses to provide essential workforce services and training to those eligible to receive these services.

## ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES COUNCIL

### Preserving Core Missions and Balancing the Budget Responsibly

- In a tight budget year, tough choices must be made when setting budget priorities.
- Protecting Florida's environment is an important priority, but it is not realistic to prioritize these programs over essential health services, education and public safety.
- By reducing expenditures and reprioritizing the use of certain revenues, the Environment and Natural Resources Council made available over \$175.3 million in recurring general revenue for investing in education and healthcare.
- Even with the redirection of those funds, we left in place requirements to reinstate funding no later than in 2013. If the economy recovers and revenue is available before 2013, we hope the projects will be funded sooner.
- In recent years, the Legislature has provided generous funding for environment and energy projects. **We have invested over \$8.2 billion in protecting Florida's environment and natural resources since 2005.** Even though funding has been reduced this year, we have not wavered in our commitment to a greener Florida.

## **GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY & ACCOUNTABILITY COUNCIL**

### **Preserving Core Missions**

- Suggested funding for the Department of Revenue includes a budget *increase* of \$51.4 million, directed toward the department's top priority – child support enforcement.
- The Department of Revenue funding includes the second year of development of the Child Support Automated Management System, which modernizes and enhances the department's child support capabilities.
- The proposed budget for the Department of Military Affairs includes a net *increase* of approximately \$40 million to strengthen Homeland Security capabilities.
- New funding of \$370,000 is proposed for Armory Support to cover the increased costs to the state's 54 National Guard Armories and \$6.6 million for maintenance and repair of state armories.
- The Council has budgeted \$100,000 to purchase Body Armor for state active duty personnel.
- The proposed budget for the Department of Management Services includes a net funding increase of \$21 million to cover the rising cost of utilities, meet contractual obligations, statutory mandates and to ensure pension payments and benefits for members of the Florida National Guard.

### **Balancing the Budget Responsibly**

- The Department of Lottery recommended a reduction to the Instant Ticket Purchase Contract resulting in a savings to the taxpayer of about \$12 million. The resulting savings will allow funds to be freed up for the Educational Enhancement Trust Fund.
- Twenty full-time Department of Revenue employees will be hired to replace current contracted services which will save the state more than \$660,000.

## HEALTHCARE COUNCIL

- During this time of historic budget shortfalls, the House is prioritizing healthcare spending and made the decision to allocate funds to healthcare over other budget categories.
- If it means it takes a little longer for a road to be built so that children and seniors can continue to get the healthcare they need, we will choose to protect our children and seniors every time.
- But in this tight budget year, reductions must be made. The Legislature has made budget reductions in the last year, ending with these reductions for the 2008-09 fiscal year.
  - In Special Session C last fall, we reduced healthcare spending by \$229 million in general revenue. These reductions were made by taking back overestimated appropriations and eliminating vacant positions. We were able to make no cuts to direct services.
  - In the first week of Regular Session this year, we continued to make reductions based on revised revenue estimates. We reduced healthcare spending by \$20 million in general revenue by taking back overestimated appropriations, eliminating vacant positions and by cutting administrative budgets. Again, we were able to make no cuts to direct services.
- After these two rounds of reductions, very few options remain that do not impact direct services.
- Recommending budget reductions to healthcare services that have a direct impact on Floridians' lives has been a difficult and careful process.
- The Healthcare Council conducted a detailed review of the base budget to examine ALL healthcare spending and to be sure we set the most meaningful priorities. Some items that have been in the budget for many years were found that are less necessary now, are duplicative to other programs or now are lower priorities than when they were created. To assure funding for essential programs, these were eliminated.
- Medicaid is the single largest part of Florida's healthcare budget, comprising 63% of the total. It is impossible to make the necessary reductions without impacting Medicaid. There are three options for making reductions to the Medicaid budget:
  1. **Reduce reimbursement rates** for Medicaid providers, like hospitals, nursing homes and doctors.
  2. **Reduce or eliminate Medicaid services.** Some services are optional under federal Medicaid law, such as adult dental services, podiatric services and chiropractic services, and may be covered or not according to each state's choice.
  3. **Eliminate Medicaid eligibility groups.** Some eligibility groups are optional under federal Medicaid law, such as the medically needy group, and may be covered or not according to each state's choice.

- In making Medicaid reduction decisions, the House placed these three options in order of priority for use: provider rate reductions; service reductions; eligibility group reductions.
- The overall reduction in the healthcare budget is \$465 million in general revenue (\$1.1 billion total), and the total amount we are dedicating to healthcare is 4.6% less than last year.

### **Agency for Healthcare Administration**

- **We protected eligibility for Medicaid and KidCare; we are NOT reducing eligibility.** In fact, we will be funding healthcare for more children, disabled people and low-income seniors in KidCare and Medicaid next year. We took the approach that rate reductions are better than eligibility cuts.
  - We are fully funding an additional 38,417 slots in the KidCare program for \$13 million.
  - We are fully funding an additional 107,000 slots in the Medicaid program, for \$154 million.
  - To encourage more providers to serve Medicaid patients, we also provided a 3.75% rate increase for their services in our budget for physicians and dentists. Because of their important role in preventing tobacco use and treating tobacco-related diseases, we were able to use funds received from the tobacco settlement to provide this rate increase.
  - The Nursing Home Diversion program is funded for an additional 3,000 slots. This means more of Florida's seniors will be able to stay in their homes longer.
  - To avoid cuts to eligibility, we made the difficult decision to suspend some optional Medicaid services. Coverage for chiropractic, podiatric and hospice services is suspended for two years.
  - **We did NOT make cuts to adult dental, vision and hearing services. Maintaining these benefits is a high priority.**
  - We reduced reimbursement rates for hospitals, nursing homes, community intermediate care facilities for the developmentally disabled, county health departments and managed care plans, as opposed to reducing eligibility or reducing more services.
- The Medicaid program is currently growing faster than the budget and will shortly be unsustainable. In order to help the Medicaid program survive, we must continue the work we began three years ago to reform it.

- To use our healthcare dollars more efficiently, we are expanding Medicaid reform into Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties, where we will take the lessons we've learned over the first few years of reform and make the program better.
- We made changes to the distribution of Low Income Pool funds to more fairly spread our resources to as many providers as possible. Their role in providing uncompensated care to Floridians deserves our support.

### **Agency for Persons with Disabilities**

- Our budget restores \$14 million in non-recurring funds to ensure continued availability of these critical services.
- No eligibility cuts are proposed. No one currently receiving care should lose their eligibility under our plan.
- We made provider rate reductions within APD programs. However, these providers will experience a much smaller reduction than those for other Medicaid providers.

### **Department of Children and Families**

- We reinvest an additional \$18 million of earned federal revenues in mental health and substance abuse services.
- To provide for prevention and recovery services for Floridians in need of mental health services, we are providing an additional \$8 million for the Mental Health Transformation Program.

### **Department of Health**

- There were also many tough budget choices made in this area. These choices were not made lightly, but were necessary to ensure that direct patient services and coverage would be maintained as much as possible.
- Funding for tobacco prevention programs was increased from \$57 million to \$61 million to help spread the message about the danger of tobacco use.
- To maintain access to care, the budget restores \$30 million in funding for Jackson Memorial and Shands hospitals, which are the state's two top charity care providers.

### **Department of Elder Affairs**

- The proposed budget transfers \$3.75 million for funding for Byrd Alzheimer's center to the University of South Florida to follow the transfer of governance to USF.

## **Department of Veterans Affairs**

- The proposed budget calls for a 1-year delay in IT spending and reduces administrative expenses within the Department.

## **JOBS & ENTREPRENEURSHIP COUNCIL**

### **Preserving Core Missions**

- Careful thought and consideration went into each budget reduction to ensure that excess budget has been eliminated and that the agencies will continue to meet their core mission requirements.
- The agencies under the Jobs & Entrepreneurship Council license over 1 million Floridians a year – our budget recommendations maintain accessibility for all Floridians to obtain their professional licenses and earn a living.
- No reductions were proposed for Law Enforcement, State Fire Marshall, Insurance Fraud Investigators, Condominium Regulation and consumer assistance programs.

### **Balancing the Budget Responsibly**

- More than a quarter of a million dollars are saved in the Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR) - Division of Certified Public Accounting - by moving the division from Gainesville to Tallahassee.
- A savings of \$202,000 is realized by making reductions to the Board of Architecture & Interior Design.
- The House is following through on the elimination of the “drink tax” that was repealed effective July 1, 2007. Audits were authorized through June 30, 2008. The council’s budget proposal includes the reduction of \$555,464 and 13 positions that are no longer needed with the tax elimination.
- The department’s proposal to bring the maintenance of the DBPR Single Licensing System “in house” is being accepted, cutting costs nearly in half for a projected two-year savings of \$2.8 million.

## **SAFETY & SECURITY COUNCIL**

- Keeping Floridians safe and secure is one of the fundamental jobs of government. The proposed budget focuses on ensuring public safety while also making responsible decisions with the limited taxpayer money available.

### **Preserving Core Missions**

- **To ensure public safety and security, we have committed to build the prisons we need instead of resorting to early release or supervised reentry.**
- Funding proposals for the Department of Corrections (DOC) include *increased* funding for public safety and security programs to keep pace with projections for new inmates entering the penal system. Included is \$55 million to offset operational deficits for the current budget year.
- The DOC proposal includes adding \$42 million to offset ongoing operational deficits in both health services and unanticipated inmates who entered prison this year.
- Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) budget allocations were carefully considered with the main focus on ensuring the public safety and security. The proposal includes ***no reductions to crime labs and DNA forensics.***

### **Balancing the Budget Responsibly**

- In the DOC, reductions in full-time staff, realignment of programmatic funding and elimination of non-essential contracting within the department will result in savings without having to resort to early release of inmates.
- With no reductions to the Sheriff Training and Respect program or the Redirections and the Wilderness Therapeutic Beds programs benefitting troubled kids, the elimination of *vacant* beds in the Department of Juvenile Justice saves the taxpayer an additional \$26.9 million.
  - NOTE: *In the Judicial system, full-time positions were reduced in the courts, public defenders and state attorneys offices, among others. The reductions totaled \$57 million.*

## SCHOOLS & LEARNING COUNCIL

- House Republicans have a strong history of significant investment in our educational system, and even in tight budget times we are continuing to place a priority on making sure our children receive a world class education.
- Despite this historic budget shortfall, we have maintained our commitment to education. Compared with total reductions, we still provided a great deal of protection for education funding.
- The overall reduction in the Education Budget is \$481.2 million, and the total we are dedicating to education is only 1.7% less than last year. Reductions were targeted to minimize the direct impact on students.

### K-12 Education

- **We are honoring our commitment to provide full funding (\$270.2 million) for the potential revenue impact of Amendment One.**
- **We are not raising property taxes.** The proposed budget does not contain an increase in required local effort (RLE). In fact, we have gone back to the rollback rate.
- **Over the past eight years, Republicans in the House have increased per student funding by over 43%.** Even in trying budget times, this year's reduction is only 1.2% and still the average per student increase over the last eight years is 4.44% or \$255 per student.
- It is not only how much we spend on education that matters; how we spend it matters too. House Republicans have placed a high value on raising standards, accountability, reversing failure and offering opportunities, and it's working.
- House Republicans value the state's investment in education; we are working to ensure that more education dollars are spent in the classroom.
- The National Assessment of Educational Progress shows that Florida's students have made great learning gains in recent years, including remarkable gains among minority students and students with disabilities.
  - The scores of Florida's fourth graders improved significantly in two years, moving up in the national rankings from 28<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> in reading and 24<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> in math. The reading scores for Florida's eighth graders met the national average for the first time.

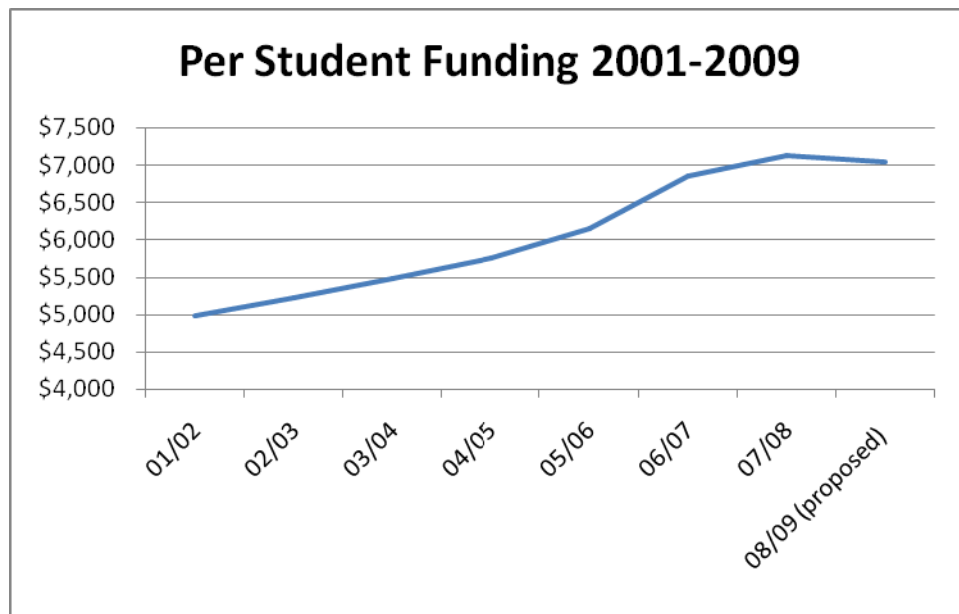
## Higher Education

- According to a College Board report, Florida ranks 50<sup>th</sup> in the nation for the cost to attend a public four-year university. **Even with our proposed 6% tuition increase, higher education in Florida will still be among the most affordable in the country.** This reasonable and responsible increase will minimize the impact of budget reductions on institutions of higher education.
- We are maintaining our commitment to reward high achieving high school students by continuing to award scholarships through the Florida Bright Futures Program, including the 6% tuition increase in the scholarship award.

## Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten

- We are continuing our commitment to the Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten Program, by making no reductions and continuing to fund this program at **the same per student amount as last year.**

## K-12 Education



## Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP)

- **We are continuing our longstanding commitment to an excellent education system and have minimized the budgeting impact on students.**
- FEFP reductions were limited to an average of only \$86 or 1.2% per student from \$7,126.95 to 7,041.09.

- Despite this reduction, the per FTE amount is still \$223 above the 2006-07 amount of \$6,818.35.
- We are using \$270.2 million of state funds to **honor our commitment on Amendment One.**

### Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten

- We are continuing our commitment to the successful Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten program, which prepares students to academic success from an early age, by funding this program at the same level of last year, \$2,677 per student.

### Other PreK-12 Areas

- **A world-class education system requires excellent teachers. Our budget demonstrates a commitment to rewarding strong teachers.**
- **We prioritized the funding for our most vulnerable students** by including smaller reductions for the Diagnostic and Learning Resource Centers (FDLRS), Autism Program, and Florida School for the Deaf and Blind, which were all reduced 2.5%; recurring funds for most other categories are reduced by 4%.

## Higher Education

**The reasonable and responsible 6% tuition increase will minimize the impact of budget reductions on institutions of higher education.**

### Community Colleges

- When including increased tuition revenue there is a **\$16.9 million, or 1.0%, net increase in funding.**

### State Universities

- **When including increased tuition revenue there is a \$17.3 million, or 0.5%, decrease.**
- Existing medical schools will see a 4% reduction and UCF and FIU medical schools are funded based on the original funding plan.
- We prioritized maintaining access to our higher education system for those who struggle to afford it. Student Financial aid is reduced only 2.5%.

### **Public School Workforce**

- When including the 6% tuition increase, public school workforce funding is decreased \$11.5 million or 2%.

### **Private Colleges and Universities**

- Many Florida students count on the Florida Resident Access Grant (FRAG) to make college more affordable. This program will only see a 2.5% reduction.
- There is a 2.5% reduction in the award amount for Access to Better Learning and Education Grants (ABLE) from \$1,250 to \$1,219

### **Student Financial Aid**

- **We are honoring our commitment of rewarding Florida students who have excelled in high school and earned the Florida Bright Futures award by fully funding this award at the 6% tuition level.** However, the book award is decreased from \$525 to \$250 under the Florida Academic Scholars Award Program.
- Need-based aid, First Generation Matching Grants and Minority Teacher Scholarships will realize a 2.5% reduction.

### **Vocational Rehabilitation and Blind Services**

- Net reduction to state funds is only 0.17% for Vocational Rehabilitation and 0.9% for Blind Services with **no loss of federal match.**