

# Capitol Report

Week Ending March 8, 2019

## 2019 Session Begins

The 2019 Florida Legislative Session began on Tuesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, with [Governor Ron DeSantis' State of the State Address](#). Senate President [Bill Galvano](#) offered [comments](#) and House Speaker [Jose R. Oliva](#) spoke at the first [house sitting](#). Sen. [Audrey Gibson](#), Senate Minority Leader (Democrat), [responded](#) to Gov. Ron DeSantis' first State of the State address.

## Overview

The Florida legislature has completed its first week of the 2019 legislative session. There are 99 bills that have been filed that impact the [Common Cause](#) mission, though many of them will never be heard in committee. The Florida team has prioritized 16 bills in Ethics & Accountability, Money & Influence, Gerrymandering & Representation, Voting & Elections, Media & Democracy, Constitution & Courts and other areas impacting democracy.

This week's activities featured three priority bills:

GOOD

**SB7066 Ballot Processes** - The Ethics and Election Committee Bill is based on several recommendations from the [Florida State Association of Supervisors of Elections](#) and addresses several election administration glitches including: voter registration signatures, revising dates relating to the selection and qualification of a lieutenant governor running mate; modifying the Provisional Ballot Voter's Certificate and Affirmation; establishing a process to cure a provisional ballot with a signature deficiency; and revising requirements related to the canvassing and counting of vote-by-mail ballots. The bill was unanimously reported favorably by the Senate Ethics and Elections Committee and referred to the Rules Committee. [Common Cause supports this bill.](#)

BAD

**SJR270 and SB272 Campaign Finance** - [Senator Dennis Baxley](#) wants to eliminate the constitutional requirement to provide partial public financing for people campaigning for statewide offices. Floridians established this modest investment in honest government in 1998 through Amendment 11 of the Constitution Revision Commission (CRC). The Legislature attempted to repeal the public campaign financing provision on the 2010 ballot and failed. The 2018 CRC tried

to put a repeal Amendment on the 2018 ballot. The public rallied against the proposed amendment and the CRC also failed their repeal attempt. The bill was reported favorably by the Senate Ethics and Elections Committee, YEAS 4, NAYS 3 along party lines and referred to the Senate [Judiciary](#) Committee. **Common Cause opposes these bills.**

**Take Action Now** - Call the Senate [Judiciary](#) members and remind them that your vote put campaign public financing in the Florida Constitution because you support free and fair elections that are not controlled by big money. Tell them that in 2018 state funds helped all but one qualified statewide candidate share their vision for a better Florida with the voters and that you support a strong democracy that puts everyday people before wealthy special interests and big donors.

## Looking Ahead to Week 2

### Watch live on [The Florida Channel](#)

Tuesday, March 12, 4:00pm – Senate [Ethics and Elections Committee](#).

- [SJR 690: Single Subject Limitation for Taxation and Budget Reform](#). Commission; Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to require that any proposals to revise the State Constitution, filed by the Taxation and Budget Reform Commission be limited to a single subject. **Common Cause supports this bill.**

Wednesday, March 13, 10:00am - Senate [Rules Committee](#).

- [SJR 74: Single-subject Limitation for Constitution Revision Commission Proposals](#). Single-subject Limitation for Constitution Revision Commission Proposals; Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to require that any proposals to revise the State Constitution, or any part thereof, filed by the Constitution Revision Commission be limited to a single subject. **Common Cause supports this bill.**

9:00am - House [Oversight, Transparency & Public Management Subcommittee](#)

- [HB613](#) and [HB615](#): Repeal of Public Campaign Financing Requirement: Proposes repeal of s. 7, Art. VI of State Constitution to eliminate requirement for public financing of campaigns of candidates for elective statewide office who agree to campaign spending limits. **Common Cause opposes these bills.**

## LEGISLATION

Common Cause Florida is currently tracking a number of bills. They include a record number of bills to improve elections and a record number to preempt local communities from self governance. These bills have been filed by legislators and subject matter committees. The Common Cause Florida Team has put them in online tracking application for you here : <https://airtable.com/shrn93mUWOqI2il2Z>

Position Code: **N** – No position; **O** – Oppose; and **S**- Support

The Capitol Report is filed weekly. We will send special notices for actions that can be taken by Common Cause members in our advocacy efforts. Follow [Common Cause Florida](#) on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

Text **MATTER** to **97779** to join our list of **Common Cause Florida** members willing to take action to strengthen our democracy. If you want reminders for the upcoming legislative action and public meetings,

Text **MATTER** to **97779**\*

\*Message & data rates may apply. Common Cause may contact you with campaign updates and other offers of engagement. Reply STOP to unsubscribe at any time.

