



**THE FLORIDA SENATE**  
**SENATOR JEFF ATWATER**  
*President*

**TO:** All Senators  
**FROM:** President Atwater  
**SUBJECT:** Budget Process  
**DATE:** March 10, 2010

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For several weeks now Senate Appropriations Committees have been holding budget hearings, listening to agency presentations and conducting comprehensive reviews of every area of state spending. These are vital as we work to build Florida's budget from scratch by separating required programs from those that are desired.

Last year, the budget process that produced the 09/10 Florida budget was the most transparent in history. Every conference offer was made in the sunshine and, for the first time ever, proviso was discussed in a noticed, open meeting.

As we begin drafting proposed committee budgets, we will continue and expand upon that process. Line-item spending and proviso will be discussed in the sunshine, not slipped into the budget at the last moment. Specifically, that means:

1. Proviso will be published, explained, discussed, and decided upon during a noticed committee meeting
2. No proviso will be included in Senate budgets proposals that has not been vetted and acted upon in a noticed meeting
3. Line-item spending adjustments will be considered in a noticed Senate Committee

Additionally, attached are initial Senate allocations by committee, these may be adjusted as the budget process progresses. I am looking to each of you to work together to determine how spending reductions and prioritizations should be made. I know the decisions before you are not easy. However, we must remain mindful that similar decisions are being made by Floridians as they reduce their budgets to make ends meet.

This transparent budget process will continue as we enter budget conference with our partners in the Florida House. All budget offers made to House Conference Committees will be made in an open, noticed meeting. Line-item spending and proviso recommendations and any bump issues will be published and discussed during those meetings.

New issues that have not been heard in any appropriations or conference committee will not be included without first being openly discussed in a noticed meeting, even if that means Speaker Cretul

and I meeting jointly, in a noticed meeting, to address last minute line-item or proviso recommendations.

Thank you for your dedicated work to build a responsibly balanced state budget for Florida.

**2010/2011 FY Initial Senate Allocations  
By Senate Committee**

Committee	Total Recurring	NR	Total GR
PREK-12	8,832.5	-	8,832.5
HIGHER EDUCATION	3,373.7	-	3,373.7
HEALTH	6,131.0	251.8	6,382.8
JUSTICE	3,428.0	27.6	3,455.5
TRANSPORTATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	187.7	93.3	281.0
GENERAL GOVERNMENT	364.0	64.0	428.0

Education Appropriations Committees

Federal Stabilization Funds           \$1.1 Billion  
 Federal Flexible Stabilization Funds   \$246 Million

Health Appropriations Committee

Federal Medicaid Stimulus Funds     \$1.0 Billion