

LegisLetter

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

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— SUPPLEMENTAL EDITION —

Legislative Rankings

The Miami Herald released their annual ranking of state legislators on Sunday, June 2.

The Herald relies on a panel of experienced legislative observers to independently rank lawmakers. The panelists selected this year were:

Mike Abrams, lobbyist with Katz Kutter Alderman Bryant & Yon in Miami.

Brian Ballard, lobbyist with Smith Ballard & Logan in Tallahassee.

Sarah Bleakley, lobbyist with Nabors Giblin & Nickerson law firm in Tallahassee.

Victoria Hernandez, lobbyist with Miami-Dade Community College.

Curt Kiser, lobbyist with Holland & Knight law firm.

Sean Pittman, lobbyist with the Pittman Law Group in Tallahassee.

Peter Wallsten, chief of the Herald's Capitol Bureau.

These observers used the following standards for ranking lawmakers:

- Effectiveness at passing legislation beneficial to the entire state, not just a particular interest group.

- Effectiveness at influencing colleagues on behalf of legislation, particularly through debate.

- Effectiveness at serving his or her district.

Senate President John McKay and House Speaker Tom Feeney retained the number one rankings in individual houses again this year. Judges described both leaders as having "held strong to their positions and their power" as well as having "defined objectives that didn't fade away."

The following list represents how our local delegation and legislative alumni ranked this session.

SENATE RANKINGS

FOUR STARS

John McKay, R-Bradenton
Jim King, R-Jacksonville
J. Alex Villalobos, R-Miami

THREE STARS

Steve Geller, D-Hallandale Beach

TWO STARS

(No local delegation or alumni fell into this category.)

ONE STAR

Richard Mitchell, D-Jasper
Al Lawson, D-Tallahassee

HOUSE RANKINGS

FOUR STARS

Allan Bense, R-Panama City
Chris Smith, D-Ft. Lauderdale
Ken Sorensen, R-Key Largo

THREE STARS

Loranne Ausley, D-Tallahassee
Bev Kilmer, R-Quincy
Curtis Richardson, D-Tallahassee
Leslie Waters, R-Seminole

TWO STARS

Dennis Baxley, R-Ocala
Chris Hart, R-Tampa

ONE STAR

Terry Fields, D-Jacksonville
Will Kendrick, D-Carrabelle
Jeff Kottkamp, R-Cape Coral
Mark Mahon, R-Jacksonville

The Governor's Veto

On Wednesday, Governor Jeb Bush swept \$207 million from the \$50 billion state budget. Florida State University and the state university system fared very well. The Governor vetoed only one Florida State University specific program: the Florida Institute for Health and Human Services for \$50,000. No system-wide university appropriations were vetoed.