

**2018 Organizational Session – Team JB Weather Report for FES/ACEC-FL  
(Tuesday November 20, 2018)**

**Quote of the Week.** "And let our debate always lean on the strength of our arguments rather than the volume of our voices." - Speaker Jose Oliva

**Organized.** Today, the Florida House and Senate kicked off the 2018 Organizational Session. The purpose of today's session is to convene for the first formal day, the 14th day after a general election, to organize, pass rules and select officers.

**Senate President and Speaker.** The Florida Senate officially handed the title of Senate President over to Republican Senator Bill Galvano (Bradenton) today - he will serve until November of 2020. The House of Representatives also selected their next Speaker, Representative Jose Oliva (Miami). Both of their remarks can be found below.

**Minority Leaders.** The Democratic Caucuses for both the House and the Senate appointed their incoming leaders for the upcoming terms. Senator Audrey Gibson (Jacksonville) and Representative Kionne McGhee (Miami) will lead their respective chambers for the next two sessions.

**Legislative Makeup.** Following a contentious election, the chambers will be moving forward with a Republican Majority. The Florida House's makeup is 73 Republicans and 47 Democrats. The Senate makeup changed slightly, 23 Republicans and 17 Democrats, with the gain of one Democratic Senator - Senator Janet Cruz.

**Elections.** The 2018 General Election results were certified this morning by the Florida Elections Canvassing Commission. By law, this commission is made up of the Governor and two Cabinet Members. Governor Rick Scott recused himself, given the recount from the Commission instead, appointing Senator Rob Bradley. He was joined by outgoing Agriculture Commissioner Adam Putnam and outgoing Attorney General Pam Bondi.

**Mark Your Calendar!** The 2019 Legislative Session will be quickly underway as the interim committee weeks begin the week of December 11th. The rest of the interim committee weeks are listed below:

- Week of January 7th
- Week of January 22nd
- Week of February 4th
- Week of February 11th
- Week of February 19th
- 2019 Legislative Session begins in March

**Quote.** "As Senate President, I have little ability to change the national discourse or to stem the tide of modern-day incivility that has become so pervasive in an era of social media and the 24-hour news cycle. But I can tell you that while I am serving as Senate President, the Florida Senate will have civility, transparency, candor, and opportunity. Including opportunity for the people of Florida to be heard. Together, we can strive to be an example other states and governments can follow as to how to focus on policy, not politics and on service, not severance." - President Bill Galvano