

# 2008 Legislative Session

*An Overview....*

## *2008 Member-Identified Priorities*

- Affordable/Workforce Housing
- Building Code/Mitigation
- Growth Management
- Impact Fees
- Onsite and Springshed Protection
- Unfinished Business
  - *Property Insurance*
  - *Property Taxes*

## *Affordable/Workforce Housing - **VICTORY***

- \$243 million for Sadowski Affordable Housing Trust Fund
- \$60 million appropriated above the cap
- \$22.5 million of the \$60 million for down payment assistance

## *Building Code Mitigation (ENERGY) - **VICTORY***

- Adoption of the International Energy Conservation Code
- Two (2) paths for achieving energy efficiency
- Code now calls for 50% energy efficiency increase over the next 12 years
- Future efficiency increases must be based on cost-benefit analysis
- Repeals ill-conceived Coastal Code Plus standard
- Amends current wind maps
- Allows new wind maps to be adopted with new code updates
- Increases public input and citizen testimony

# *Growth Management*

- A stalemate between the House & Senate forced the bill to die on the last day of the 2008 Legislative Session

## *Impact Fees - **VICTORY***

- Reduces impact fees by 25% in counties and municipalities that desire to obtain down payment dollars for affordable housing programs

## *Onsite & Springshed Protection - **VICTORY***

- 2008-'09 Budget provides \$1 million to develop nitrogen reduction strategies using passive, non-conventional treatment systems
- Study to be conducted by Department of Health-Research Review & Advisory Committee
- Study includes:
  - Review of existing studies
  - Field-testing of technologies
  - Capital, energy and life-cycle cost analysis
  - Soil & groundwater testing
  - Nitrogen fate/transport model

## *Property Insurance - **VICTORY***

- Gives hurricane mitigation premium credits
- Credits linked to uniform home rating scale
- Freezes Citizens Property Insurance rates until 2010

# *Property Taxes*

- While several reform efforts were passed by the House, the Senate President did not allow any of the various plans to reach the Senate floor
- TBRC (Taxation & Budget Reform Commission) approved measure allowing a 25% savings on property taxes if voters approve the plan during the November general election

## *Other Industry-Related Victories...*

- Copper & Metal Theft
- Florida Forever
- Administrative Procedures Act
- My Safe Florida

## *Copper and Metal Theft - **VICTORY***

- Requires metal dealers to keep records of all sales
- Sales records will deter thieves from bringing stolen items to legitimate secondary metal dealers
- Unscrupulous metal dealers who don't keep or provide required information can be charged with a third-degree felony

## *Florida Forever - **VICTORY***

- Threatened wildlife species can be relocated to state conservation lands
- Will potentially reduce the cost of mitigating for imperiled species, and development costs

## *Administrative Procedures Act* - **VICTORY**

- Reduces and eliminates unlawful state agency non-rule policies
- State agencies must go through rule making process to formally adopt policies
- Provides incentives and penalties for agencies

## *My Safe Florida - **VICTORY***

- Clarifies that contractors are eligible to sign affidavits for insurance discounts
- Makes needed improvements to the My Safe Florida program and continues the program for another year

## *The Next Step: Governor's Action*

- All legislation requires action by the Governor
- Governor has 15 days to take action
- Courses of action include:
  - *Sign bill into law*
  - *Allow bill to become law without signature*
  - *Veto the bill*

## *Bad Bills We Defeated...*

- Immigration bills mandating employee verification with DHS
- Legislation attempting to reduce use of arbitration
- Local licensing & fines bill
- DBPR's licensing & bonding bill
- Harmful coastal management changes
- Complete sweep of Sadowski
- DCA's Citizen's Bill of Rights

# *FHBA Scorecard*

## House

Avg. GPA **86%**

A's: **15**

B's: **67**

C's: **21**

D's: **14**

F's: **2**

## Senate

Avg. GPA **88%**

A's: **6**

B's: **27**

C's: **7**