

FRA Legislative meeting summary for 09/05/2025

The Florida Renal Association's (FRA) Legislative Committee met for the eighth time in 2025 on Friday September 5. Below is a summary of the meeting led by FRA Lobbyist Ron Watson. **As a reminder, Kidney Day 2026 is Feb 8th-10th, please save the date!!**

2026 Kidney Day Planning Subcommittee Created

Early planning is already underway for the **20th annual Kidney Day which will occur from February 8-10 in Tallahassee.** The subcommittee is seeking volunteers and will decide all the details. So far it looks like we will have an NKFF walk on Sunday the 8th at 4pm with a nice dinner reception at the private Governors Club Sunday evening. Monday should be a half-day meeting with CE credits being offered, a meeting with AHCA officials and a working reception that night to get prepared for Tuesday at the Capitol. We have reserved the entire 3rd floor Rotunda and will be hosting kidney screenings while we meet with legislators/staff throughout the day.

2026 Legislative Issues

The legislative committee is **asking for input** for our 2026 legislative issues. The FRA wants on the ground/local input as to what needs to change in Tallahassee to make for the benefit of our patients. We will focus on transplants, transportation, social workers licensure compact, prescription drugs, food is medicine and possibly your idea(s)! Please help us develop the issues we will be fighting for in Tallahassee!

Mr. Watson moved into News/Notes established by and in honor of former long-time FRA lobbyist Bob Reynolds.

NEWS and NOTES:

- **Happy College Football Season** – For the first time since 2006, FSU, UF and Miami were all ranked in the top 15, with USF also doing well. There is a different feeling in Tallahassee this year!
- **Adelson Trial** – The eyes of the nation were watching the court room in Tallahassee with the high profile murder-for-hire case of a FSU law professor who was gunned down in broad daylight in his driveway. Four other convictions have already occurred, including both triggermen and the former girlfriend go-between and the brother of the ex-wife. This latest case went after the mother of the ex-wife, Donna Aldeson, who was found guilty. Is the ex-wife next?
- **Alligator Alcatraz** – As last reported, Alligator Alcatraz, the immigration/detention center in the heart of the Everglades was being closed due to a court ruling. However, a new ruling on appeal overturned that original ruling and will allow the facility to remain open as the lawsuit proceeds.
- **Painting Over Street Art** – The DeSantis administration has put a priority on removing all colorful street art crosswalks, including all rainbow and other political statements under the guise of safety. Even the Pulse memorial in Orlando had their crosswalks painted over in the middle of the night. There have been several protests and attempts to put back the colors with chalk.
- **Open-Carry Court Ruling** – Florida is one of a few states that has a ban on open carry of firearms, but one can carry concealed. A recent court ruling declared that ban unconstitutional and the Florida Sheriff's Association has suggested the ban NOT be enforced statewide, even

though the ruling was only for the northern district. However, businesses and private property owners can still ask an armed individual to leave.

- **House Select Committee on Property Taxes** – The recently created House Select Committee on Property Taxes is set to meet in Tallahassee on Sept. 22nd & 23rd. It is highly anticipated that the results of their work will most likely be proposed as a 2026 constitutional amendment to greatly alter property taxes in Florida. The stakes are high and the ideas are a plenty. This will be one of the biggest issues for the 2026 session.

POLITICS:

- **Senator Jay Collins (R-Tampa) named Lieutenant Governor** – After over seven months of being vacant, the Governor finally selected his next LT. Sen. Jay Collins (R-Tampa) is a veteran and has been called the Chuck Norris of Florida by Gov DeSantis. He may or may not run for Governor in 2026 if the first lady Casey DeSantis chooses not to run. His Senate seat will be open, and another special election will be called.
- **Two lanes or now three lanes for Governor?** – Former Speaker of the Florida House Paul Renner (R) announced his run for Governor in 2026. However, Cong. Byron Donalds (R-Sarasota) is the Republican front-runner who has the coveted endorsement of President Trump. And as mentioned above, either Casey or Jay will run in the DeSantis Lane, so this leaves Speaker Renner on an island by himself. Governor DeSantis said it was a mistake for Renner to run!!
- **Democratic Primary for Governor?** – Former Republican Congressman David Jolly turned independent and now running as a Democrat for Governor has been working hard to clear the field with hopes of focusing on the general election, may end up with a primary after-all. Jerry Demmings of Orlando has floated the idea and said he won't rule it out. Demmings is the former Sheriff and Orange County mayor.
- **Special Election Results** – Due to the death of Sen. Thompson of Orlando, a special election was held to replace her. It was won by Rep. Laura Bracy-Davis (D-Orlando) who will move across the hall and into the Senate. Her former legislative aide Rashon Young (D-Orlando) ran for an d won her open House seat. Congrats to both!!
- **Local government audits** – New CFO Blaise Ingoglia continues his audits of local governments to highlight waste, fraud and abuse in spending. Most of these local governments are democratically controlled including Broward County, Orlando, Orange County, and Jacksonville. This may be a set up for a future debate on eliminating or greatly reducing property taxes in Florida which would take passing a Constitutional amendment.

The Final Rule on Florida Medicaid Dialysis Services Coverage Policy recently became effective. This is the main Medicaid dialysis regulation which creates the [Florida Medicaid Dialysis Services Coverage Policy](#). The FRA provided input by testifying at the rule hearing and provided written comments as directed by the legislative committee.

Thank you for your membership in the FRA. Tell a friend and get them to join. We hope to see you at the 20th Kidney Day in February.

KIDNEY DAY 2026
February 8-10