



## DELEGATION MEETINGS

A Legislative Delegation is a nonpartisan group from the Florida Senate and House of Representatives that represent a specific area.

Each Florida Senator and Representative of the Florida House are assigned to at least one Delegation.

At least one of the Delegation meetings is a public hearing prior to the start of the new session. It affords local officials, members of the public, and other interested parties, the opportunity to present legislative proposals, make funding requests, or express opinions on state issues. If a representative's district crosses into other counties, they will likely be present at more than one public Legislative Delegation meeting.

A Legislative Delegation Meeting is the best time to communicate with one's local delegation because once they are through with committee meetings and once they are into the legislative session coming up in March, it is much harder to have your voice heard.

If you are not prepared to speak at the public hearing, at least attend it and observe. Get to know the representatives in your district.

If you are prepared to speak, you will need to complete an attendance request form before the meeting. Sometimes they will let you complete a speaker's card at the start of the meeting, depending on the agenda. There will be other scheduled speakers on the agenda. You may hear from the Sheriff, the Mayor, the School Board, and agencies that work with the local government.

When it is time for public comments, citizens are usually given only three minutes to express their concerns.

This is your chance to raise awareness and change public perception to a wide, local audience.

### **Before you speak at any public meeting, take time to prepare:**

- The media, public, state, and municipal lawmakers will all be present to hear your message.
- These meetings are video recorded and archived. You can view videos of past delegation meetings.
- Consider your appearance and dress professionally if you want to be taken seriously.
- In preparing your presentation, stay with one point.
- State the issue.
- State why it is important to the citizens of Florida.
- Tell them what you want to see done.
- Follow up with a Thank You note.