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**From:** cfhla@memberclicks-mail.net on behalf of Central Florida Hotel and Lodging Association  
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## SESSION

The **Florida Legislative Session** concluded on May 4 after two months of intense deliberation drafting and enacting laws for the State. The **Central Florida Hotel & Lodging Association** worked diligently with industry partners and the advocacy team at **GrayRobinson** to support the tourism industry's priorities:

- **VISIT FLORIDA:** **VISIT FLORIDA** was **reauthorized for one-year** and received **\$50 Million in funding**. **Governor Ron DeSantis** championed the last-minute rescue for the organization during a discussion with **House Speaker Jose Olivia**. Moving forward, the tourism industry will prepare to advocate for VISIT FLORIDA again

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[Florida Governor Ron DeSantis](#)

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organization’s marketing and communications efforts. Thank you to all CFHLA Members who participated in the email advocacy campaigns to the House, Senate, and Governor’s office - your voices were heard!

- **HUMAN TRAFFICKING:** The House and Senate approved legislation to **mandate human trafficking prevention and awareness training** for public lodging establishments, massage parlors, and adult-themed venues. The bill specifies that it does not create a private cause of action upon the establishments.
- **LOST & ABANDONED PROPERTY:** The Legislature approved a bill, early in the process, that allows theme parks, public lodging establishments, zoos, museums, aquariums, entertainment venues, and food service establishments more flexibility in disposing or donating items that are lost or abandoned on their properties.

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## ENDORSEMENTS

The **CFHLA-PAC Board of Directors** are proud to announce **two new endorsements** for the upcoming election cycles:

**2019 City of Orlando Mayor’s Race:**  
**Mayor Buddy Dyer**



**2020 Orange County Sheriff’s Race:**  
**Sheriff John Mina**



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## SALES TAX

On Tuesday, May 21 voters in Osceola County voted against a one-penny sales tax increase in the county for transportation upgrades. The ballot-measure was initiated by the [Osceola Board of County Commissioners](#) and would have increased Osceola County's sales tax to 8.5% - the highest sales tax allowed by the State.

The **Volusia County Supervisor of Elections** also confirmed, last evening, that their residents also voted against a sales tax increase for transportation initiatives.

Additionally, Orange County **Mayor Jerry Demings** announced his plans during the State of the County Address to increase Orange County's sales tax by one-penny for dedicated transportation funding. The increase would bring Orange County from a **6.5% to 7.5% sales tax**.

The next opportunity for Counties to bring a sales-tax increase to the ballot will be during the **November 2020 election**.

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## TOURISM WEEK

The **week of May 5 - 11** celebrated [National Travel & Tourism Week](#) - a time for communities across the Country to recognize the achievements and contributions of the tourism industry. CFHLA thanks the **Board of County Commissioners** from **Orange**, **Osceola**, and **Seminole**, as well as the **City of Orlando Commission** for their support of tourism and for proclaiming the week of May 5 - 11 as National Travel & Tourism Week in their communities. Additionally, CFHLA thanks [Visit Orlando](#), [Experience Kissimmee](#), and the [Orlando North Seminole County](#) for their dedication to enhancing tourism in their communities.



Orange County's "National Travel & Tourism Week" Proclamation



Osceola County's "National Travel & Tourism Week" Proclamation





Seminole County's "National Travel & Tourism Week" Proclamation



City of Orlando's "National Travel & Tourism Week" Proclamation

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## GA

The **CFHLA Governmental Affairs Committee** welcomed **Representative David Smith, District 50** to the May 8 Luncheon Meeting at the **Ritz-Carlton Orlando, Grande Lakes** (Thank you **Jon McGavin, General Manager**).

Representative Smith has been an honored guest at a number of CFHLA functions and the GA Committee was grateful to learn more about his career and his goals for Central Florida.

embodies the highest level of professionalism and dedication to his community. CFHLA looks forward to working with Representative Smith and thanks him for his service!



CFHLA Board Chairman and GA Committee Member Jesse Martinez, General Manager of the Alford Inn at Rollins, Representative David Smith, District 50 and CFHLA Board Immediate Past Chairman and GA Committee Member Fred Sawyers, Complex General Manager of the Walt Disney World Swan and Dolphin Resort

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## PAC RECEPTION/AUCTION

The annual **CFHLA-PAC Reception** will take place on **June 5, 2019** at the **Florida Hotel & Conference Center** (Thank you John Lamont, General Manager). Please [CLICK HERE](#) to register!

Additionally, the **CFHLA-PAC Online Auction** will begin **May 29** and conclude on **June 5**. All proceeds will be used to support the CFHLA-PAC.

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## PAC INVOICE REMINDER

As a reminder, **CFHLA-PAC dues invoices** will be re-forwarded on **Thursday, May 30**. If you would like to pay online please [CLICK HERE](#).

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## LINKS

political interests of the Hospitality Industry:

[Osceola, Volusia voters defeat sales tax for roads issues](#)


[Jerry Demings proposes penny sales tax for transportation in Orange County](#)

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