



# DAILY BRIEF

From November 8, 2008

## 2008 Organizational Session

The 2008 organizational session was held on Tuesday, November 18th and was highlighted by the swearing-in of the new presiding officers for the Senate and House of Representatives as well as all of the incoming freshman legislators. Both Senate President Jeff Atwater (R-North Palm Beach) and Speaker Ray Sansom (R-Fort Walton Beach) presided over their respective bodies for the first time.

During the House's Organizational Session, HR 10 Relating to Rules of the Florida House of Representatives by Representative Bill Galvano (R-Bradenton) was unanimously approved. This resolution establishes the Rules of the House of Representatives for the 2008-2010 terms. In the 99 page document there are a number of new rules. For example, there is a new rule that establishes the Policy and Budget Council as separate entities. This is a stark departure from the previous two years under Speaker Marco Rubio (R-Miami). House members will still have a limit on the number of bills they may file – 6, two of which must be filed six weeks before Session begins. The remaining 4 bills must be filed by noon on the first day of regular session. The House also unveiled staff assignments for the new committees.

In addition, the House held a memorial for **Representative Stanley F. Mayfield (R-Vero Beach)** who recently passed away and passed HR 50 Relating to Representative Mayfield by Representative Marti Coley (R-Marianna). This memorial was full of heartwarming speeches from former and present legislators that had the opportunity to serve beside such a great leader.

In the Senate, newly sworn-in **President Jeff Atwater** focused on the economy and the entrepreneurial spirit that is so important to the success of our economy. In a bold move, President Atwater announced the creation of special bipartisan Senate panel that will focus on the economy. This panel will be reaching out to business leaders across the state to hold discussion on how to best stimulate Florida's lagging economy. AIF looks forward to working with this newly established panel and offering our Economic Stimulus Package 2.0 as a source of fresh ideas for creating jobs and new economic opportunities for our state.

The Senate has yet to unveil their complete committee structure and has been very tight lipped about staff appointments and committee chairs. The new rules do include the creation of a number of Policy and Steering Committees.