



THE FLORIDA SENATE

SENATOR JOE NEGRON

President

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Senators
FROM: Joe Negron, President
SUBJECT: Committee Week Cancellation and Safety Precautions
DATE: September 6, 2017

Due to Hurricane Irma, I am cancelling the interim committee meetings scheduled for next week.

Senate offices in the Capitol Complex will remain open during regular business hours tomorrow, Thursday, September 7. District staff should contact each Senator to determine appropriate office hours in your district offices as the storm approaches. District offices closing today or tomorrow should notify Debbie Brown and forward phones as needed.

As a precautionary measure, consistent with the Governor's decision to close state offices in all 67 counties, I have authorized discretionary leave for all Senate employees and all Senate offices will be closed on Friday, September 8, 2017. Please use this time to prepare your family and home. The specific trajectory of this unprecedented storm is still uncertain and impacts could vary drastically across the state. All Floridians need to be ready. **Staff should monitor local weather advisories and adhere to local evacuation orders.**

Volunteer Opportunities

Governor Scott indicated this morning that the state is in need of volunteers at shelters. State employees are eligible for expedited certifications through the American Red Cross. I am authorizing Senate staff interested in volunteering in support of the state's emergency shelter mobilization efforts up to 15 days of administrative leave. Please work with your direct supervisor and submit a request for leave to Debbie Brown. District staff should contact your Senator to receive approval prior to submitting a request for administrative leave.

I encourage all Senate employees to tend to the needs of your own family prior to pursuing volunteer opportunities. We each have a responsibility to prepare our families and homes so that limited government resources can be used to help the most vulnerable. Please be safe and cautious during this time.