

“What is music education advocacy?”

Part of our professional responsibility as music educators who also happen to be citizens of a republic is to keep informed about issues that affect the education system in our state. One of the best (and easiest) ways to stay informed is by periodically visiting the FMEA website at www.flmusiced.org and clicking on “Legislative Information.” This lists some of the most important bills and policies affecting music education in Florida.

“So, I’m informed now. What can I do?”

The good news about this country is that we can make a difference without marching to Tallahassee and taking over the state government. One of the easiest things to do is to write a simple letter or make a phone call to the legislator who represents YOU.

“So, I want to write a letter to the legislator who represents my district. Who is he, again?”

Getting information about your legislator is easy! First, go to <http://zip4.usps.com> and enter your address to get your “ZIP + 4,” which is your ZIP code and then four random numbers nobody ever knows. Then, go to www.myfloridahouse.gov and enter your ZIP + 4, and voila! All you ever wanted to know about your member of the House of Representatives. Likewise, you can go to www.flsenate.gov and do the same thing to find your Senators.

“Yeah, but why would a state legislator listen to a college student?”

Remember, these people work for YOU! Taking YOUR interests to the table at the state legislature is their job. But they can’t do that unless you tell them what your interests are. So find out who they are and write a letter, or send an email, or give them a phone call, and let them know the issues that you’re concerned about. They’ll listen – it’s their job, and they want your vote so they can keep it.

To make things even easier, here is a list of universities with FCMENC chapters, and the contact information of the legislators who represent those universities’ districts. (Remember, these may not be your home legislators unless you’re registered to vote in your university’s district.) If your university is not listed, contact the [FCMENC Advocacy Chair](#) to get the information you need!

Bethune Cookman University

Rep. Dwayne L. Taylor (District 27, elected 2008)

Capitol Office:

1401 The Capitol

402 South Monroe Street

Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300

Phone: (850) 488-0580

District Office:

732 Orange Avenue

Daytona Beach, FL 32114-4773

Phone: (386) 239-6202

Florida Atlantic University

Rep. Maria Lorts Sachs (District 86, elected 2006)

Capitol Office:

218 House Office Building

402 South Monroe Street

Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300

Phone: (850) 488-1662

District Office:

203 NE 1st Avenue

Delray Beach, FL 33444-3714

Phone: (561) 266-6645

Florida College

Rep. Ed Homan (district 60, elected in 2002)

Capitol Office:

1302 The Capitol

402 South Monroe Street

Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300

Phone: (850) 488-3087

District Office:

Suite 311

9385 N. 56th Street

Temple Terrace, FL 33617-5505

Phone: (813) 983-3330

Florida International University

Rep. Anitere Flores (District 114, elected 2004)

Capitol Office:
422 The Capitol
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300
Phone: (850) 488-2831

District Office:
Suite 205 C
1405 SW 107th Avenue
Miami, FL 33174-2523
Phone: (305) 227-7626

Florida Southern College

Representative Kelli Stargel (District 64, elected in 2008)

Capitol Office:
405 House Office Building
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300
Phone: (850) 488-2270

District Office:
Suite 109
2000 East Edgewood
Lakeland, FL 33803-3639
Phone: (863) 614-9156

or

PO Box 2839
Lakeland, FL 33806-2839

Florida State University

Rep. Michelle Rehwinkel Vasilinda (District 9, elected in 2008)

Capitol Office:
1001 The Capitol
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300
Phone: (850) 488-0965

Palm Beach Atlantic University

Rep. Priscilla Taylor (District 84, elected in 2004)

Capitol Office:
303 House Office Building

402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300
Phone: (850) 488-8632

District Office:
Suite 410
1 East 11th Street
Riviera Beach, FL 33404-6921
Phone: (561) 840-4814

or

Belle Glade City Hall
110 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. W
Belle Glade, FL 33430-3900
Phone: (561) 829-1857

Southeastern University

Rep. Seth McKeel (elected 2006, reelected subsequently)

Capitol Office:
1102 The Capitol
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300
Phone: (850) 488-9890

District Office:
250 East Highland Drive
Lakeland, FL 33813-1725
Phone: (863) 647-4896

Stetson University

Rep. Pat Patterson (District 26, elected 2002)

Capitol Office:
313 House Office Building
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300
Phone: (850) 488-9873

District Office:
Room 222
203 North Woodland Boulevard
DeLand, FL 32720-4257
Phone: (386) 736-5100

University of Central Florida

Rep. Dean Cannon (District 35, elected in 2004)

Capitol Office:

418 The Capitol

402 South Monroe Street

Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300

Phone: (850) 488-2742

District Office:

Suite 200

1992 Mizell Avenue

Winter Park, FL 32792-4117

Phone: (407) 623-5740

University of Florida

Rep. Larry Cretul (District 22, elected in 2002, current speaker pro tempore)

Capitol Office:

422 The Capitol

402 South Monroe Street

Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300

Phone: (850) 488-0887

District Office:

6911 SW Highway 200

Ocala, FL 34476-9210

Phone: (352) 873-6564

or

Doyle Conner Building

1911 SW 34 Street

Gainesville, FL 32608-1201

Phone: (352) 955-6407

University of Miami

Rep. Richard L. Steinberg (District 106, elected 2008)

Capitol Office:

1401 The Capitol

402 South Monroe Street

Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300

Phone: (85) 488-0690

District Office:
767 Arthur Godfrey Road
Miami Beach, FL 33140-3413
Phone: (305) 535-5445

University of South Florida
St. Petersburg Campus
Rep. Bill Heller (district 52, elected 2006)
Capitol Office:
400 House Office Building
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300
Phone: (850) 488-5719

District Office:
Alexander Building
535 Central Avenue
St. Petersburg, FL 33701-3703
Phone: (727) 552-2573

University of South Florida
Tampa Campus
Rep. Ed Homan (district 60, elected in 2002)
Capitol Office:
1302 The Capitol
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300
Phone: (850) 488-3087

District Office:
Suite 311
9385 N. 56th Street
Temple Terrace, FL 33617-5505
Phone: (813) 983-3330