

## Public Policy

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**From:** CFHLA\_info@cfhla.org  
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# Tourism's Voice

Your Political Advocate

August 20, 2009

## CFHLA

### Martinez Resigns Early

#### Governmental Links

Florida  
 Governor Charlie  
 Crist

State of Florida  
 Senate

State of Florida  
 House of  
 Representatives

Orange County

Osceola County

Seminole County

City of Orlando

City of Kissimmee

City of Sanford



U.S. Senator Martinez resigns at a press conference at the Orlando International Airport.

On Friday, August 7th **U.S. Senator Mel Martinez** (R-FL) resigned early from his seat in public office, attributing his departure to his desire to spend more time with his family. During his press conference at the [Orlando International Airport](#), Martinez cited plans to return to the private sector and vowed to continue his service to the Republican Party.

**Florida Governor Charlie Crist** is now responsible for appointing a new individual to the post to serve the remainder of Martinez's term until January 3, 2011.

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"What's Your Opinion?"



Mike Lafferty, Opinions Editor for the [Orlando Sentinel](#) with CFHLA Chairman Paul Tang of the [Hyatt Regency Grand Cypress](#) and CFHLA Board Member Ron Caimano of the [Embassy Suites I-Drive / Jamaican Court](#)

On Wednesday, August 12th the Opinions Editor for the [Orlando Sentinel](#), **Mike Lafferty**, met with the CFHLA Governmental Affairs Committee to discuss the importance of the tourism industry in Central Florida.

Other topics discussed included:

- The Future of the Newspaper Industry
- The History of the Tourist Development Tax
- CFHLA Community Outreach Programs

In addition to discussing these issues, Lafferty invited CFHLA Board Members to contact the newspaper to report news relating to the hospitality industry.

BACK TO TOP

## Adopt-An-Elected Official

As made "famous" by columnist **Scott Maxwell** of the [Orlando Sentinel](#) ([see full text of article here](#)), the CFHLA Governmental Affairs Committee will finalize the newly formed Adopt-An-Elected Official program that will continue to enhance relationships with local elected officials. This program invites CFHLA Board Members to communicate monthly with elected leaders thoughts on issues / concerns relating to the tourism and hospitality industry in Central Florida.

CFHLA will initiate this relationship-building program during the last quarter of 2009.

BACK TO TOP

## Employee Free Choice Act



U.S. Senator Nelson speaks to CFHLA Board Members about the importance of tourism.

On Friday, July 31st CFHLA Governmental Affairs Committee Members met with **U.S. Senator Bill Nelson** to detail opposition of the Employee Free Choice Act. Senator Nelson reported that the number of supporters necessary for the passage of SB560 / HB1409 are not near where they should be and appreciated input from the business community. Currently, Senator Nelson serves as a co-sponsor of this bill that would enable organized labor to collect signatures from employees outside of the workplace as well as decrease time allotted for collective bargaining between the employer and the union.

Just one week prior, CFHLA met with Senator Nelson to discuss proposed amendments that would remedy the Orlando "blacklisting" issue. These amendments would prohibit federal government agencies designating travel policies to U.S. cities based on their perception as a 'non-meeting' destination.

BACK TO TOP

## High - Speed Rail



On Tuesday, August 18, **Jacob Stuart** of the [Central Florida Partnership](#) along with **U.S. Representative Alan Grayson** and **Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer** kicked off a series of press conferences at the [Orlando International Airport](#) to promote Florida's bid for \$2.5 billion in federal money to build a high-speed train between Tampa and Orlando. CFHLA supports the efforts of this group of business, labor and political leaders who have joined together to bring rail to Central Florida.

For more information, please visit the ConnectUs website at <http://www.fastrailconnectus.com>.

BACK TO TOP

## Register for Powerhouse PAC Golf / Power Pow-WOW Luncheon Today



The CFHLA - PAC Golf Outing, with Keynote Speaker **Senator Andy Gardiner (R), District 9**, is set to occur on **September 24, 1:00pm** at the [Grand Cypress Golf Club](#). This new event will serve as a fundraiser for the CFHLA Political Action Committee.

**Not A Golfer? Join us for the Power 'Pow-Wow' Luncheon!**

[Click Here To Register For These Events Online](#)

BACK TO TOP

## Pizza Flyer + Action Alert

CFHLA is asking its members to file a complaint with the [Florida Department of Business & Professional Regulation \(DBPR\)](#) for any unlicensed activity relating to the distribution of 'pizza flyers' on their properties.



Not only is CFHLA working with local law enforcement on this issue, now CFHLA members can "take matters into their own hands."

We encourage you to verify the license of these businesses and file a complaint with DBPR at their website <http://www.myfloridalicense.com/dbpr/> -or- to fax a completed form to DBPR Orlando Offices at **407.312.7839**.



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