

2005 ANNUAL REPORT District 90



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COMMITTEES:

Civil Justice (Vice Chair)
Transportation
Transportation & Economic
Development Appropriations
Military & Veteran Affairs

STAFF:

Justin S. Flippen – Legislative Assistant
Lawrence Victoria – District Secretary

DISTRICT OFFICE:

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IRV SLOSBERG DEMOCRAT

Dear Neighbors,

I am your state representative, Irv Slosberg. I am not only your link to Florida's government, but I am also a resource for you on local to state issues. My job is to write legislation that will benefit you, vote in your best interest, and approve a budget for our state.

I view this position as a customer service business, with you as the customer and my staff and I as your public servants devoted to serving you the best way possible. To satisfy my constituency, I better **exceed** your expectations. I do not own this seat. The people control the seat, which makes **you my boss**.

Our neighborhood consists of western Deerfield Beach, Coconut Creek, and parts of western Boca Raton and western Delray Beach. We live in an area where the average citizen is 68-years-old. This is the most senior-populated district in Florida, and possibly the country.

I represent everyone, especially our **seniors**. This district houses the greatest population of World War II veterans. Seniors built this country, and this state owes them, as it does all Floridians, great representation.

My staff and I are extremely accessible. Our office is on Lyons Road in Fontana Plaza. Remember, I am your full-time legislator who is always happy to be at your service.



Warmly,

Irv Slosberg, Representative Dist. 90



Please cut out and place near telephone

BROWARD'S FREQUENTLY CALLED NUMBERS:

Representative Irv Slosberg – (561) 637-7097

Broward County Sheriff – (954) 831-8900
Broward County Supervisor of Elections – (954) 357-7050
Seniors vs. Crime Project – (561) 865-1571
Broward County Transportation Options (TOPS) – (954) 357-6647
Florida Division of Consumer Services – (800) 342-2762
Medicare – (800) 633-4227

PALM BEACH'S FREQUENTLY CALLED NUMBERS:

Representative Irv Slosberg – (561) 637-7097

Elder HelpLine – 211
Palm Beach County Sheriff (South County) – (561) 995-2800
Palm Beach Supervisor of Elections (South County) – (561) 276-1226
Seniors vs. Crime Project – (561) 865-1571
Palm Tran CONNECTION – (877) 870-9849
Florida Division of Consumer Services – (800) 342-2762
Medicare – (800) 633-4227



Representative Irv Slosberg

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REPRESENTATIVE IRV SLOSBERG

Dori Slosberg Driver Education Safety Act Provides Potential \$12 Million Yearly for Training



Rep. Slosberg visits with driver education class students Daniel Clenzi and Joe Gerum at Olympic Heights High School, which now utilizes cars in their lessons thanks to the Dori Slosberg Driver Education Safety Act. "Between 25 and 30 percent of teenage drivers will crash within the first year of getting their license," Slosberg said. "What good is an education if our kids are dead?"

The Dori Slosberg Driver Education Safety Act allows county commissions to add an extra \$3 to each traffic ticket to enhance driver education in the county's schools. The act, named for 14-year-old Dori Slosberg, who died in a 1996 car crash, was badly needed in Palm Beach and Broward counties when it was approved by the Legislature in 2001. Each county has the option to collect this additional \$3 per ticket by enacting a state-approved ordinance. To date, my office has worked with measured success as 51 of Florida's 67 counties have passed such local ordinances, providing \$9 million per year to driver education, with a potential of \$12 million per year. This year I authored clarification language to this law, mandating that 30% of the funds collected go to behind-the-wheel training. This act provides \$1.5 million each year to Palm Beach and Broward counties.

More Buses For Seniors and Disabled



Rep. Slosberg helps Weinberg House residents off the Jewish Federation Transportation Services buses for which \$850,000 in funding were obtained.

As one of my sponsored projects, the Legislature has provided \$850,000 over the past five years to the Jewish Federation of South Palm Beach County Transportation Services for the elderly and disabled. This money offers 130,000 bus rides to senior citizens for life-sustaining activities.

This service provides transportation for residents of the Weinberg House, Alzheimer's patients, mentally disabled and physically disabled citizens to and from destinations such as work, meals, the grocery store, social activities, and daycare.



Rep. Slosberg joins the veterans and Ladies Auxiliary's Birdie Aronin and Lee Hoppen. "Thanks for saving our country," he said.

Disabled Veterans Save More Money on Property Taxes



Rep. Slosberg and Rocky McPherson, director of the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs, inform veterans about the property tax exemptions they may be eligible for due to a bill co-sponsored by Slosberg and passed by the legislature. "I'm happy to support property tax exemptions for our veterans. They made this country what it is today," he said.

As a member of the Military and Veterans Subcommittee, I co-sponsored legislation to allow certain disabled ex-service veterans to increase their property tax exemption from \$25,500 to \$30,000. If you believe you are eligible, and are not already receiving this benefit, please call the property appraiser's office to receive further details.

More and more veterans are moving into our community. Make sure your friends and neighbors know about benefits to which they may be entitled.

Helping Florida's Military

This year, the Florida legislature passed our proposals designed to help Florida's men and women in uniform. We are committed to helping members of the military and their families, as they have risked their lives to protect ours. I was proud to support the Citizen Soldier Matching Grant program, which will provide grants to employers who pay the difference between their employee's citizen and soldier pay when called to active duty. I supported another proposal to pay for the life insurance premiums for all active members of the Florida National Guard in addition to a proposal that will prohibit auto insurance companies from increasing insurance rates on servicemen and servicewomen.



Amadeo Trinchitella's Memory Lives on in Trinchitella Deerfield Beach High School Health Center

While visiting the Amadeo Trinchitella Deerfield Beach High School Health Center, one of his sponsored projects, Rep. Slosberg stops to speak to Dr. Marybel Landrau. "This health center is named after a true legend in Century Village and Deerfield Beach," Slosberg said. "Trinchi was a true visionary."

During the 2003, 2004, and 2005 Legislative Sessions, the Legislature funded my project of \$400,000 each year for the Amadeo Trinchitella Deerfield Beach High School Health Center. This center is part of the North Broward Hospital District's eight school-based community health centers, providing affordable and accessible medical health services, regardless of ability to pay in underserved communities. Medical care provided by the center includes treatment of common injuries and illnesses, health screenings, school/college physicals, immunizations, obstetric/gynecological exams, family planning and counseling, dental care, health and nutritional counseling, social services/behavioral health and laboratory services.

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Low-Cost Rides for Seniors and the Disabled



Century Village residents Irma Fleischman, Olga Koval, Gloria Horowitz, and Pauline Altman ride with Rep. Slosberg on a Palm Tran CONNECTION van. "As an alternative means of transportation, this really prevents our seniors from having to relocate to restrictive living facilities," said Slosberg, who advocated for continued State funding for the service. "When our seniors can no longer drive themselves, it is our duty to provide safe and accessible transportation for them."

Working on the Health and Transportation budget conferences, I advocated for continued funding for Palm Tran CONNECTION. CONNECTION is a shared ride, door-to-door, paratransit service providing transportation for residents of Palm Beach County. Users who are unable to transport themselves or purchase transportation are dependent on others to obtain access to health care, employment, education, shopping, social activities, or other life sustaining activities and thus come to CONNECTION for a ride. I actively took part in revamping CONNECTION to function more efficiently and improve their customer service. CONNECTION installed new computer systems, increased the number of operators, and established a specialized department to handle emergency and rescheduling requirements. **Whether you are a senior 70 and above or if you are disabled, you automatically qualify for this door to door shuttle service and pay a round-trip fee of just \$5.** Individuals must complete an application and allow 7 weeks for it to be processed. For those with emergency situations this 7 week processing period may be waived.

Primary Enforcement of the Seat Belt Law



Rep. Slosberg enjoys time with 14-year-old Dori Slosberg shortly before she died in a 1996 car crash. He has dedicated his work in the Legislature as a tribute to her. "My mission is to protect Floridians," Slosberg said. "I don't want to see any family go through a tragedy like this."

Five years ago, I took the torch to pass a 20-year-old piece of legislation to make a seat belt violation a primary, rather than secondary, offense. This year I'm pleased to have sponsored the approved Dori Slosberg Safety Belt Law, historical legislation that **makes the failure of a minor to wear a safety belt a primary offense – a law I believe would have saved Dori Slosberg's life nine years ago and thousands of others.**

While I'm pleased with this new law, I think law enforcement should be able to ticket seat belt offenders just for breaking the seat belt law no matter their age. Too much is at stake, which is why I will re-file this bill next year.

If passed, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration expects to bring compliance of the law from the current 72 percent to about 90 percent. Each year this bill could save 200 lives, 6,200 serious injuries, and \$500 million dollars.

Holocaust Survivors Assistance



Rep. Slosberg was pleased to announce the \$100,000 in funding for the new Holocaust Survivors Assistance Program which he sponsored and the legislature funded. Joining Rep. Slosberg and happy to hear about the new program and funds are, from left to right, Holocaust survivors Israel Neiman, Larry Nayman, and Century Village – Boca Raton Holocaust Survivors Club President Saul Birnbaum. "Thank you for giving me the opportunity to sponsor this for Holocaust Survivors of South Palm Beach County," Slosberg said.

This year, I am honored to have sponsored \$100,000 in funding, which the legislature passed, for a Holocaust Survivors Assistance Program. This critical program focuses on not just the home care and case management of their peers, but also counseling, food pantry supplements, kosher foods, telephone reassurance, socialization activities, and transportation services.

Not only do Holocaust survivors experience the difficulties of aging, but their life experiences magnify their effects.

Medicaid Reform

While the legislature voted to further privatize Medicaid and create a pilot program to test private providers' abilities to deliver health care to Medicaid enrollees, I remained opposed to ideas to privatization. The Medicaid reform proposal would allow private health care providers the authority to determine the "amount, scope, and duration," of many health care services currently guaranteed by law. I believe our current Medicaid health care system operates better than private health insurance.

To help seniors combat the rising costs of medication, **I introduced legislation that would study how we would save \$1 billion** a year by importing prescription drugs from Canada. This is the real reform we need for Medicaid. Unfortunately, my bill was defeated. I strongly believe our State needs to capitalize on Medicaid reform and also allow everyone to import prescription drug medication from Canada.

REPRESENTATIVE IRV SLOSBERG

Staying Alive on 95



Rep. Slosberg is joined by DOT District 4 Secretary James Wolfe, FHP Lt. Roger Reyes, and Palm Beach County Sheriff Rick Bradshaw at a "Staying Alive on 95" kick off event in Boca Raton. "Everyone knows 95 is a death trap," Slosberg said. "We want to encourage and ensure that law-abiding motorists receive the protection they deserve."

On three different 2-day blitzes during the past 6 months, I organized and teamed up with law enforcement from Florida Highway Patrol, D.O.T., Palm Beach County Sheriff's office, Broward County Sheriff's office, Boca Raton, West Palm Beach, Hollywood, North Miami Beach, Boynton Beach, Delray Beach, Hallandale Beach, and Lake Worth to participate in the "Staying Alive on 95" program. During each event, we gave out between 1,000 to 1,500 tickets, slowing things down on I-95.

The good news is that "Staying Alive on 95" will continue on a daily basis. Starting in January 2006, we will begin around the clock surveillance of I-95 with motorcycles, aggressive driving units, and D.U.I. squads. We will begin taking back our roadways, one road at a time, beginning with I-95.

Increasing Teachers' Salaries and Reducing Class Size

This session, some of my colleagues and I fought to increase teachers' salaries, but many lawmakers opposed our efforts. Our plan would have required our state to begin paying Florida teachers a salary at least equal to the national average by 2010, while at the same time, preserving the 2002 voter-approved class size reduction amendment. I am unhappy that the pay disparity in Florida is such that 42 counties have public school teachers more than \$10,000 below the national average.

Historically our attempts to increase teacher pay have been opposed. I believe we should provide our teachers with an adequate salary like the professionals they are. Our public school children deserve smaller class sizes and individual attention from a highly trained and well paid professional.

Rep. Slosberg & Staff of House District 90

My staff and I are your public servants, here to serve you no matter your problem, crisis, or concern. Whether it involves such issues as health care, highway safety, or education, we are dedicated to doing all we can to ensure that our State works for you. We are on the job every day, and when a crisis arises, such as last hurricane season, we are working around the clock. We are here to serve you.



Team Slosberg, from left to right, is District Secretary Lawrence Victoria, Rep. Irving 'Irv' Slosberg, and Legislative Assistant Justin S. Flippen.

Increased Funding for Trauma Centers



Standing in front of the Trauma Hawk helicopter at the Delray Medical Center with Rep. Slosberg are (from left to right) Sean Gibson, Melissa Durbin, Rep. Slosberg, Margaret Neddo, Sharron Romano, Mary McGarry, and Gerald Pagano. "The trauma hawk is a vital component of the emergency trauma services provided to our community," Slosberg said. "I believe state-of-the-art medical equipment, transportation, and services should be readily available to all in need."

Motorists who cause traffic accidents will now have to pay trauma centers \$500 for each serious injury accident and \$1,000 for each fatality they cause due to legislation that I supported and the legislature funded. Last year with 700 fatalities and 8,000 serious injuries reported, this would have brought in \$4.7 million to trauma centers state-wide. I'm pleased to have supported this legislation which will provide much needed funds to our trauma centers. I truly enjoy advocating for our community's health needs here at home and up in Tallahassee.

Serving one of the most senior districts in the nation, Rep. Slosberg meets with the staff of the Delray Medical Center who provide excellent medical services to everyone. "As our hometown hospital, the Delray Medical Center is a valuable addition to the community," Slosberg said. Standing with Rep. Slosberg are

(from left to right) Gerald Pagano, Mary McGarry, Melissa Durbin, Chief Operating Officer Mitch Feldman, Rep. Slosberg, Tom Volpe, and Dr. Michael Parra



Guardrails & Canal Cable Barriers for Safer Highways



I supported and sponsored legislation passed by the state legislature that allocated over \$13 million for a road system program that will install guardrails and canal cable barriers along Florida's roadways. This program is named in honor of Alexander Ware, a Palm Beach County boy who died when his mother Julie's car crashed into a Palm Beach County canal in 2002. I believe public safety is Florida's No. 1 priority and these cables and guardrails will save thousands of lives.

Rep. Slosberg and Julie Ware inaugurate the construction of the Alexander Ware Cable Barrier and Guardrail System by installing a guardrail on Florida's Turnpike in Palm Beach County. "I believe this system will help save lives and prevent tragedies like the one for which and whom we are inaugurating this cable barrier and guardrail system today," Slosberg said.