

Aaron Bean

Florida Senate District 4



Summary

Campaign Biography

Aaron Bean was first elected to the Florida Senate in 2012. He was subsequently re-elected without opposition in 2014 and 2016 and is currently serving as chair of the Communications and Utilities Committee and is Chairman of the Duval County Legislative Delegation. Before being elected to the Florida Senate, Aaron served eight years in the Florida House of Representatives, and two terms as Mayor of the City of Fernandina Beach.

This year, Senator Bean was named “Legislator of the Year” by the Florida Dental Association for his support and commitment to the delivery of quality health care to the citizens of Florida, and by Guardian ad Litem for advocating for issues that help the children of Florida. Last Year, Aaron was named Child Advocate of the Year by the Northeast Florida Pediatric Society, and the Able Trust has awarded Senator Bean its Senator of the Year honor three times for helping people with disabilities find employment.

In addition to serving as president of Compass Bank in Nassau County for 11 years, Bean has successfully launched four small businesses, including the High Energy Auction Company. He has been a professional Florida auctioneer for over 8 years, and his quick wit and impressive results have put him in high demand as an auctioneer throughout the State of Florida.

Aaron received his Bachelor of Science in Finance from Jacksonville University and is currently the relations development officer at UF Health Jacksonville. He has been a Rotarian for 26 years and a

volunteer for numerous organizations, including the National Alliance for Mental Illness, First Coast Crimestoppers and Nassau County Schools. Aaron and his wife, Abby, reside in Fernandina Beach, Fla., and have three sons. [Campaign Biography, [Accessed 10/11/18](#)]

ALEC membership/ties

Campaign Disclosure show that Aaron Bean paid \$160 to ALEC in 2006.

Bill Title/Number	ALEC Model Bill	Sponsored/ Authored/Voted For
SB 534	Defined-Contribution Pension Reform Act	Voted yea in Community Affairs Committee and Appropriations Committee

- Florida State Sen. Aaron Bean voted to strip local government of the freedom to pay workers what they want- prohibiting local governments from establishing living wage, prevailing wage, and other labor standards for public works projects.** Bean voted yes on SB 534 in 2017. J.B. Clark, a lobbyist for the Florida Electrical Workers Association, called the bill “an attack” on the home rule powers of local governments, stating, “Workers are also collateral damage in that, when those home rules are lost.” [Palm Beach Post, [4/21/2017](#); [SB534, Laid on table, 4/27/2017](#)]

Other Hits

Florida Senator Aaron Bean sponsored legislation opposing sanctuary cities. Despite the fact that Sen. Bean’s district lack any sanctuary jurisdictions, Bean has sponsored, for the second straight legislative session, a bill that requires local authorities to comply with federal law and report immigration violations. If the bill becomes law, county and local law enforcement agencies would also be required — at their taxpayers’ cost, with no guarantee of reimbursement — to comply with federal immigration detention requests, which are currently only optional. HB 697 offers an original mix of penalties. According to Politifact, “National experts agree that — to the best of their knowledge — while other states have taken up bills on sanctuary cities, no other law or pending bill goes as far in terms of the breadth of the prohibitions and the penalties imposed in HB 697.” Francesca Menes, policy and advocacy director at the Florida Immigration Coalition stated, “This bill ultimately cannot be enforced without legalizing racial profiling.” [Florida Politics, [9/22/2017](#); The Miami Herald, [5/13/2017](#); Politifact, [3/30/2017](#); [HB 697, Passed Florida House, 4/28/2017](#)]

State Senator Aaron Bean sponsored a bill supporting Florida Power and Light’s right to charge consumer for investment in fracking and received talking points supporting the bill from them. In 2017, Sen. Bean introduced a bill that would overturn a Florida Supreme Court ruling that said that Florida regulators exceeded their authority when they allowed the utility company FPL to become the first utility in the nation to be allowed to charge its customers, not its shareholders, for speculative investment in fracking operations. Sen. Aaron Bean acknowledged that he received “talking points” from FPL when he presented SB 1238 to senators. The Miami Herald reports, “The Word document, titled “Gas Reserves Talking Points” and obtained by the Energy and Policy Institute, was sent to Bean’s personal email address by FPL lobbyist John Holley on Feb. 28. The document was authored by FPL’s Vice President of State Legislative Affairs Daniel Martell. ‘Here you go. I would love to catch up if you

have any questions, comments, concerns,' Holley wrote. 'Thank you so much Aaron!!'" [The Miami Herald, [6/16/2014](#); The Miami Herald, [3/7/2017 SB 1238, withdrawn from consideration, 5/5/2017](#)]

State Senator Aaron Bean sponsored a pro-life bill that provides permanent state funding for crisis pregnancy centers. Crisis pregnancy centers were established to counsel pregnant women against having an abortion. The Florida Pregnancy Support Services Program was established in 2005 and only gives permanent funding for clinics that are exclusively pro-life. Lawmakers earmarked \$4 million in general-revenue funds for the initiative in the fiscal year and Bean's bill made the program funding permanent. [WFSU, [2/9/2018](#); [FL HB 41, passed into law, 3/21/2018](#)]