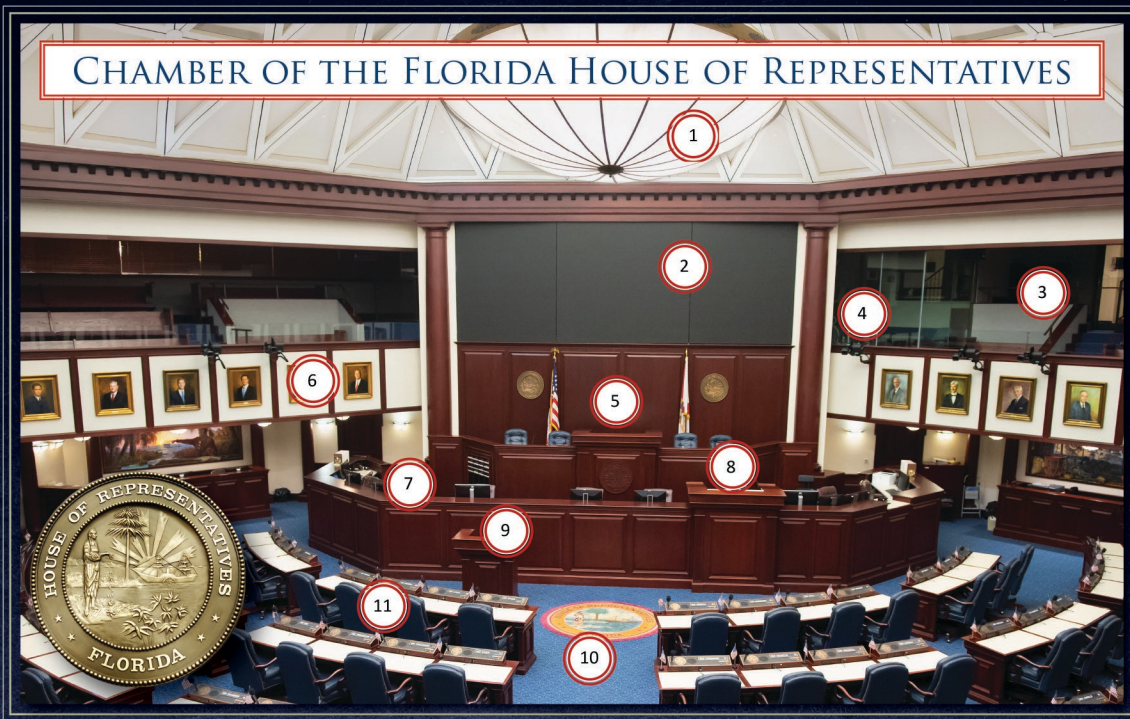


## CHAMBER OF THE FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



### 1. HOUSE CHANDELIER

Above the Chamber floor hangs an impressive chandelier, weighing in at 1,100 pounds with a 15-foot diameter and utilizing 80 lightbulbs to illuminate the room. Due to its size and weight, the chandelier had to be delivered in four pieces and assembled on the Chamber floor. Once a year, the Department of Management Services lowers the chandelier by its chain to replace lightbulbs and perform routine maintenance.

### 2. VOTE BOARD

In 1939, the Florida House first implemented an electrical voting system that collects and displays votes cast in the Chamber. That move saved an estimated 12 days' worth of time in that year alone. The current vote board's left and right screens display the names of all 120 Representatives, while the center screen displays the first page of the bill or amendment up for consideration. The vote board can also be used for special presentations.

### 3. THE GALLERY

In the spirit of open government, the House Chamber has a public seating area called the Gallery where all citizens can observe the House in action. Visiting groups seated in the Gallery may receive recognition on the Floor by a Member from the group's district.

### 4. TV CAMERAS

For citizens who are unable to view the proceedings of the Florida House in person, all legislative sessions, committee and subcommittee meetings are broadcast throughout the state of Florida on the Florida Channel.

### 5. SPEAKER'S ROSTRUM

The Speaker's Rostrum is placed in the Chamber as the highest and most forward seat in the House, as the Speaker is the highest ranking official and oversees all legislative actions in the Chamber.

### 6. SPEAKERS' PORTRAITS

In honor of their service, a portrait of each Speaker is hung at the end of their tenure that is placed in the Chamber in line with the Speaker's Rostrum. As one portrait is hung in the Chamber, another is retired and relocated to the Florida Historic Capitol Museum across the Capitol Courtyard.

### 7. CLERK'S DESK

The Office of the Clerk is responsible for securing and maintaining all legislation being considered by the House. The official record of the proceedings is recorded in the *Journal* of the Florida House of Representatives. The Speaker and other representatives may seek the Clerk's guidance in legislative procedure as well as request documents such as House calendars, amendment withdrawal forms, and Gallery recognition forms.

### 8. READING CLERK'S PODIUM

The Reading Clerk's podium is where all bills and amendments discussed in the Chamber are read aloud. Each bill voted on by the Representatives receives three readings, the 2nd and 3rd of which are read on the Floor. The first reading of a bill is read by publication in the *House Journal*.

### 9. THE WELL

In 1845, when Florida's Historic Capitol was first built, it was designed to include certain areas in which a person's voice would be amplified by the architecture itself. This area included a podium and was known as "the Well" because when a person stood there to speak, it sounded as if they were speaking from the bottom of a well. When Florida's new House Chamber was built in 1978, the room still included a podium known as "the Well," although microphones are used in the Chamber. At present, the Well is primarily used for the opening prayer and other important speeches.

### 10. THE FLOOR

The Chamber is sometimes referred to as "the Floor." Floor action suggests consideration by the entire House rather than committee action. 2nd and 3rd readings of a bill and the bill's final vote take place on "the Floor."

### 11. MEMBERS' DESKS

The nameplate on the desks displays the Representative's name and the district number each represents. Each desk is equipped with everything a Representative may need to conduct business in the Chamber: a microphone, a telephone with a direct line to their office in the Capitol complex, internet and power connectors for personal laptops, and "Yes" and "No" buttons to record votes. Additionally, each desk is fitted with a "Page" button that alerts House Pages they are needed to run a small errand in the House Chamber.

