



**CHARLIE CRIST**  
GOVERNOR

February 20, 2009

The Honorable Jeff Atwater, President  
Members of the Florida Senate

The Honorable Larry Cretul, Speaker-Pro Tempore  
Members of the Florida House of Representatives

Dear Mr. President, Mr. Speaker Pro-Tempore and Members of the Florida Legislature:

I respectfully present for your review and consideration my budget recommendations for Fiscal Year 2009-2010. You may access the recommendations and handouts at the following Internet links: <http://www.thepeoplesbudget.state.fl.us> and <http://www.thepeoplesbudget.state.fl.us/handouts.pdf>.

Due to the challenging economic conditions we face, our state must make wise choices in order to balance the budget with available funds. Federal dollars received as a part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 will serve as a bridge to better economic times. I am confident that this proposed budget continues to prioritize the most vulnerable among us, while protecting the vitality of our state's families and businesses. Just as Floridians across the state are tightening their belts, we as elected officials must do all we can to run government and serve our citizens in a way that is efficient and responsible. Together, we must make certain that government lives within its means and acts as a responsible steward of all of Florida's plentiful resources.

I appreciate your thoughtful review and consideration of the policy and budget issues reflected in my budget recommendations. I look forward to working with you during the next few months as you craft your respective appropriations bills.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Charlie Crist".

Charlie Crist