



Sources of Information for Bill Writing & Research

In-Library Materials

Robert's Rules of Order (*keep in mind that 4-H LEG has its own unique language, as do most governing bodies. Robert's Rules are used when it is not clear in the 4-H LEG manuals.*)

Florida Statistical Abstract

(updated annual with demographical information)

Information Plus issue guides

Guidelines for Bill Drafting

(also available here:

<http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/contentViewer.aspx?Category=PublicGuide&File>AboutTheLegislativeProcessGuidelinesforBillDrafting.htm>)

Library Databases

Gale InfoTrac

Gale General Reference Center

Gale Opposing Viewpoints

NewsBank Archive: America's Newspapers

Legislative Resources Online

Online Sunshine

<http://www.leg.state.fl.us> (Select Senate or House for member, committee and bill information) Statutes: <http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/>

National Conference of State Legislatures

<http://www.ncsl.org/>

(Discussion of state issues and links to other state legislatures.)

The Buzz: Florida Politics News from the St. Pete Times Staff

<http://www.tampabay.com/blogs/the-buzz-florida-politics/>

(Political blogposts with insider comments. Often Entertaining.)

Florida News & Information Resources*

Tampa Tribune (Tampa Bay Online)

<http://www.tampatrib.com/>

(<http://www2.tbo.com/>)

Tampa Bay Times

<http://www.tampabay.com/>

Orlando Sentinel

<http://www.orlandosentinel.com/>

The Florida Times-Union

<http://jacksonville.com/>

The Gainesville Sun

<http://www.gainesville.com/>

Pensacola News-Journal

<http://www.pnj.com/>

Tallahassee Democrat

<http://www.tallahassee.com/>

The Miami Herald

<http://www.miamiherald.com/>

Herald-Tribune (Sarasota)

<http://www.heraldtribune.com/>

SunSentinel (South Florida)

<http://www.sun-sentinel.com/>

National News & Information Resources*

The New York Times – mainstream media

<http://www.nytimes.com/>

The Washington Post – mainstream media

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/>

Los Angeles Times – mainstream media

<http://www.latimes.com/>

The Washington Times - conservative

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/>

Fox News Channel – mainstream media

<http://www.foxtimes.com/>

Associated Press – mainstream media

<http://ap.org/>

CBS News – mainstream media

<http://www.cbsnews.com/>

MSNBC – mainstream media

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/>

ABC News – mainstream media

<http://abcnews.go.com/>

NewsMax – conservative

<http://www.newsmax.com/>

Drudge Report

<http://www.drudgereport.com/>

National Review – conservative

<http://www.nationalreview.com>

Weekly Standard – conservative

<http://www.weeklystandard.com/>

The New Republic – liberal

<http://www.tnr.com/>

The Nation – liberal

<http://www.thenation.com/>

The American Prospect – liberal

<http://prospect.org/>

Real Clear Politics

<http://www.realclearpolitics.com/>

Political Resources – National & Florida

Republican National Party

<http://www.gop.com/>

Democratic National Committee

<http://www.democrats.org>

Issue Resources

Florida Farm Bureau – Issues and Public Policy

<http://www.floridafarmbureau.org/>

The Florida Bar

Other Resources

ipl2

(A public service organization and learning/teaching environment. The “librarians index to the internet.”)

<http://www.ipl.org/>

FindLaw

Republican Party of Florida

<http://rpof.org/>

Florida Democratic Party

<http://www.fladems.com/>

<http://www.floridabar.org/>

Florida Chamber of Commerce

<http://www.flchamber.com/>

Very thorough web site for U.S. state resources and Federal information. Legal Subject Index provides legal information searching by subject. Many sources to search for information including: legal dictionary and legal news.

<http://www.findlaw.com/>

State and Local Government on the Net

This site provides frequently updated directory of links to government sponsored and controlled resources on the Internet. Great source to access Florida legislative information.

<http://www.statelocalgov.net/>

Florida State Government Information

<http://www.myflorida.com/>

THOMAS Legislative Information

Very thorough Congressional legislative information. Quick search of summary of bills and status. Can search by subject. Covers federal legislation (bill summary and status) and Congressional Record back to 1976. Full text of public laws back to 1976. Link to “Bills in the News” can be searched by alphabetical scroll index.

<http://thomas.loc.gov>

*Disclaimer: Florida 4-H provides this information for research and perspectives purposes. It does not imply endorsement.

