

Floridians,

This week, during a coordination call with Fire Chiefs from across Florida, I <u>assessed</u> the needs of the state's fire service community to assist in successfully distributing a safe and viable COVID-19 vaccine to first responders as soon as it becomes available statewide. Florida's first responders have been on the frontlines of COVID-19 response for more than nine months, working to support our communities, businesses, and families as we deal with the devastating effects of this pandemic. With recent news that COVID vaccine trials have been increasingly successful and as state emergency managers work to solidify a vaccine distribution plan, we must work together to ensure that our firefighters are fully prepared and equipped to distribute a safe and viable COVID-19 vaccine to fire stations statewide as soon as it's available.

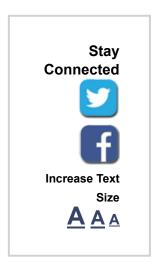
Additionally, in recognition of International Fraud Awareness Week, I encouraged Floridians to learn more about the latest fraud schemes and to "Be Scam Smart" to better identify fraud before becoming a victim. I also urged consumers to track and report the latest fraud and scam tactics in their communities by using the <u>Better Business Bureau Scam Tracker</u>. In partnership with my "Fraud Free Florida" initiative, the BBB's online Scam Tracker tool includes an interactive map to help keep Floridians informed of local fraud trends and emerging scams in their area. Click **here** for more information and tips on how to avoid fraud.



Lastly, I also <u>warned</u> Floridians of fire dangers when frying a turkey leading up to the Thanksgiving holiday and offered fire safety tips to reduce the chances of an accident. According to data from the National Fire Protection Association® (NFPA), more than three times as many home cooking fires happen on Thanksgiving Day as on an average day of the year. Additionally, the NFPA recommends you test your smoke alarm at least once a month and replace all smoke alarms in your home every 10 years.

Sincerely,

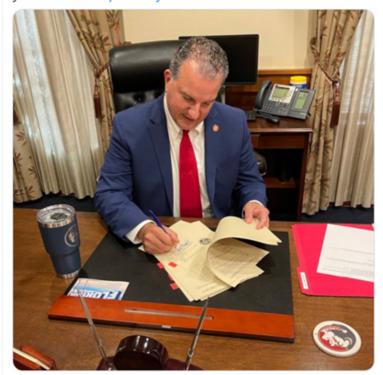
Jimmy Patronis Chief Financial Officer State of Florida







Incredibly honored to officially sign and certify the results of the 2020 General Election including the #Great78. Congratulations and I can't wait to work with you soon! #flapol #sayfie



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