



# THE FLORIDA SENATE

Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100

**COMMITTEES:**

Appropriations  
Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture,  
Environment, and General Government  
Commerce and Tourism  
Infrastructure and Security

**JOINT COMMITTEE:**

Joint Administrative Procedures Committee,  
*Alternating Chair*

**SENATOR LINDA STEWART**

13th District

March 4, 2024

The Honorable Ron DeSantis  
Governor, State of Florida  
Via Email

Dear Governor DeSantis,

Your recent appointment of Glen Gilzean to the position of Orange County Supervisor of Elections has created a vacancy at the Central Florida Tourism Oversight District. Over the past few months I have encouraged the appointment of a central Florida elected to one of the positions of the CFTOD board. It is critical that an elected official from Orange County, who understands local government and creating a balanced budget, is appointed to the CFTOD board.

Unlike other special districts created in the state, the CFTOD board lacks any elected representation of the residents or taxpayers. Only one of the five appointed Board Members is from Orange County and the others reside in Tampa, Sarasota and Clearwater. The morale of district employees has been crushed leading over 40 employees in key leadership positions and with institutional knowledge to resign or retire after the current administration took over.

It is my belief that by appointing an elected official from Orange County to the Central Florida Tourism Oversight District, the board can be more effective in understanding and meeting the local needs of those impacted by its decisions in central Florida.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda Stewart".

Senator Linda Stewart

**REPLY TO:**

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- ☐ 205 Senate Building, 404 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100 (850) 487-5013

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**BILL GALVANO**  
President of the Senate

**DAVID SIMMONS**  
President Pro Tempore