

# CONGRESSMAN DARREN SOTO

## FLORIDA'S NINTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

JAN. 2021—DEC. 2022

### 117TH CONGRESS BY THE NUMBERS

8

BILLS SIGNED INTO LAW

12

BILLS PASSED IN THE HOUSE

12

AMENDMENTS SIGNED INTO LAW



**60,000+**

LETTERS SENT  
TO CONSTITUENTS



**3,218**

CONSTITUENT CASES  
COMPLETED



**26**

TOWN HALLS AND  
ROUNDTABLES HOSTED



**800+**

COMMUNITY EVENTS  
ATTENDED



**\$1 BILLION+**

FUNDS DELIVERED  
TO CENTRAL FLORIDA



**\$729,812**

FUNDS RECOVERED FOR  
INDIVIDUAL CONSTITUENTS



A REVIEW OF THE

# 117TH CONGRESS

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**PREPARED BY THE OFFICE OF  
CONGRESSMAN DARREN SOTO**



# INTRODUCTION

Dear friends and neighbors,

In the 117th Congress, House Democrats delivered for Central Floridians and Americans. Under the leadership of President Joe Biden, we overcame the worst of the pandemic, maintained a strong economy, and made investments in our infrastructure and our environment that will impact generations to come. I am immensely proud of what we have accomplished in the past two years and look forward to building on our progress in the 118th Congress.

In community,



Our team is made up of 19 dedicated public servants between Central Florida and Washington, D.C. Each and every member of our team brings a unique perspective and contributes to our overall success. I am immensely proud of their work and dedication to our Central Florida community.



# LEGISLATIVE WINS

## LEGISLATIVE WINS

We are incredibly proud of our legislative wins during this session. In addition to what we got done with our House Democratic colleagues, we delivered for Central Floridians through the bills we passed into law. We worked hard to honor our 49 angels lost at Pulse, passed a law to restore the Seminole Tribe of Florida's economic freedom and autonomy over its land properties, made progress in protecting our Kissimmee River and precious coral reefs, and so much more. We're also feeling optimistic about the progress we made with bills that passed the House of Representatives and will push for them to become law during the next session.

8

BILLS SIGNED INTO LAW

12

BILLS PASSED IN THE HOUSE

12

AMENDMENTS SIGNED INTO LAW

For a full list of the legislation I've introduced and co-sponsored, please visit [Congress.gov](https://www.congress.gov). Further details on some of my legislative accomplishments will be found in the forthcoming pages.



# LEGISLATIVE WINS



## **H.R. 49 — Pulse Nightclub National Memorial Site**

*Introduced by Rep. Soto, SIGNED INTO LAW*

In 2016, we saw the atrocious and destructive nature of hatred plague our Orlando community when 49 lives were taken and 53 others were injured. To honor their memory, I worked with Reps. Val Demings and Stephanie Murphy to make the Pulse Nightclub a national memorial.

## **S. 108 — Authorizing the Seminole Tribe of Florida**

*House bill introduced by Rep. Soto, SIGNED INTO LAW*

We were proud to work with Senators Marco Rubio and Rick Scott to pass a bill that will restore the Seminole Tribe of Florida's economic freedom and autonomy over its land properties. It is an honor to stand with the Seminole Tribe of Florida to right our historic injustices and continue advocating for them.



## **H.R. 160 — The Restoring Resilient Reefs Act**

*Introduced by Rep. Soto, SIGNED INTO LAW*

The Restoring Resilient Reefs Act reauthorizes and modernizes the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000, strengthens NOAA's Coral Reef program, and gives innovative new tools and resources to states, territories, and local communities. We are thrilled that this bill was included in the FY23 National Defense Authorization Act.





# LEGISLATIVE WINS



## **H.R. 4404 — Kissimmee River Wild and Scenic River Act**

*Introduced by Rep. Soto, SIGNED INTO LAW*  
The Kissimmee River Wild and Scenic River Act directs the Secretary of Interior to complete a study of the Kissimmee River within three years to make it part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. This bill was incorporated into the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023, and signed into law.

## **H.R. 4406 — Supporting Medicaid in the U.S. Territories Act**

*Introduced by Rep. Soto, SIGNED INTO LAW*  
We are thrilled that the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 included parts of the Supporting Medicaid in the U.S. Territories Act of 2021 to provide five years of Medicaid funding for Puerto Rico and avoid a cliff. There is \$1 billion in infrastructure/ energy grid repair for the island as well.



## **H.R. 2170 — Helping Adults Protect Immunity (HAPI) Act**

*Introduced by Rep. Soto, SIGNED INTO LAW*  
The HAPI Act ensures more Americans can receive necessary vaccines at no out-of-pocket cost. The bill also provides enhanced federal matching funds for states to better reach at-risk and vulnerable patient populations. During this Congress, our HAPI Act was included in the Inflation Reduction Act.



# LEGISLATIVE WINS



## **H.R. 8545 — To establish a blockchain and cryptocurrency position within the Office of Science and Technology Policy**

*Introduced by Rep. Soto, SIGNED INTO LAW*

Our bill, which was included in the CHIPS and Science Act, establishes a blockchain and cryptocurrency position within the Office of Science and Technology Policy to advise the president on matters related to blockchain and cryptocurrencies.

## **H.R. 161 — Venezuela TPS Act**

*Introduced by Rep. Soto, PASSED VIA EXECUTIVE ACTION*

As the political, economic, and humanitarian crisis in Venezuela continues to worsen, it is critical for the United States to keep protecting those who have fled the authoritarian Maduro regime to seek refuge and a better quality of life for themselves and their families. We are grateful to President Biden for protecting Venezuelans.



## **H.R. 163 — Protect Patriot Spouses Act**

*Introduced by Rep. Soto, PASSED THE HOUSE*

Our bill was incorporated into the Veteran Service Recognition Act. We introduced H.R. 163 in honor of Polk County resident Alejandra Juarez, spouse of Iraq War veteran Temo Juarez. Alejandra was deported to Mexico under the previous administration's zero-tolerance policy and reunited with her family thanks to President Biden.





# LEGISLATIVE WINS



## H.R. 8393 — Puerto Rico Status Act

### *PASSED THE HOUSE*

We worked with Reps. Grijalva, González-Colón, Velazquez, and Ocasio Cortez to ensure that after 120 years of colonial status, Americans in Puerto Rico will finally have the chance to determine their own government. There's a pathway to choose statehood as well as independence and independence with free association.

## H.R. 6553 — AI Jobs Act

*Introduced by Rep. Soto, PASSED THE HOUSE*

We were proud to see our AI Jobs Act pass in the House version of the Inflation Reduction Act. This bill will authorize the Department of Labor to work with businesses and educational institutions to create a report analyzing the future growth of artificial intelligence and its impact on the American workforce.



## H.R. 3638 — Digital Taxonomy Act

*Introduced by Rep. Soto, PASSED THE HOUSE*

The Digital Taxonomy Act requires the FTC to submit to Congress a report and recommendations on unfair deceptive trade practices in digital tokens. Parts of this bill were passed as part of the Consumer Safety Technology Act. When we look at market volatility and the use of cryptocurrency for ransomware it's critical that we get on the front end of this



# LEGISLATIVE WINS



## H.R. 3639 — Blockchain Innovation Act

*Introduced by Rep. Soto, PASSED THE HOUSE*

Our bill directs the Department of Commerce in consultation with the FTC to conduct a study and submit to Congress a report on the state of blockchain technology and commerce, including its use to reduce fraud and increase security. We were proud to see it pass the House in the Consumer Safety Technology Act.

## LEGISLATIVE LANGUAGE PASSED IN THE 117TH CONGRESS

In addition to bills, our office has also introduced multiple language additions to bills — including the annual government appropriations bill. During the first half of the session, we included 100 language additions in the government appropriations bill and defense budget to move our priorities forward and prioritize Central Florida families. In 2022, we were thrilled to see many of our language additions included in the Water Resources Development Act — which was later incorporated into the FY23 National Defense Authorization Act. We also included over 100 language additions to legislation this year to help our community recover from disasters like Hurricane Ian and more.

**2021**



**100**

PIECES OF LEGISLATIVE  
LANGUAGE PASSED

**2022**



**100+**

PIECES OF LEGISLATIVE  
LANGUAGE PASSED



# WORKING FOR THE PEOPLE

## DEMOCRATS DELIVER THE "GREAT EIGHT"

The 117th Congress was the most productive in over 50 years. Under the leadership of Speaker Nancy Pelosi, House Democrats introduced countless bills to improve the quality of life of everyday Americans. With President Biden's support, we passed eight landmark laws that helped us recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, lower costs, create better-paying jobs, have safer communities, protect our environment, care for veterans, and more. I am incredibly proud to have been part of such a historic Congressional session and look forward to coming back in the 118th Congress and working with my colleagues to build on our progress.

# #1

### **H.R. 1319 — American Rescue Plan**

*Introduced by Rep. John Yarmuth (KY-03) | Signed into law on March 11, 2021*

During the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic, Democrats delivered the American Rescue Plan to put shots in arms, money in pockets, open schools safely, and get Americans back to work. Our Central Florida community returned to prosperity as a result.

# #2

### **H.R. 3684 — Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act**

*Introduced by Rep. Peter DeFazio (OR-04) | Signed into law on November 15, 2021*

The Infrastructure Law provides a historic investment to upgrade our infrastructure in Central Florida. It will help us extend I-4 Ultimate, expand SunRail/Brightline, improve our airport, water systems, and rural broadband, and create millions of union jobs across Central Florida for years to come.

# #3

### **S. 2938 — Bipartisan Safer Communities Act**

*Introduced by a bipartisan group of Senators | Signed into law on June 25, 2022*

House Democrats proudly voted on this bill to expand background checks for the purchase of firearms, crack down on gun traffickers, add increased protections for victims of domestic violence, as well as fund violence prevention in schools and stronger mental health services to stop tragedies like mass shootings before they happen.

# #4

### **H.R. 4346 — CHIPS and Science Act**

*Part of a joint effort with multiple representatives | Signed into law on August 9, 2022*

This landmark bill boosts microchip manufacturing to fix the shortage, makes critical investments in science and innovation, increases our competitiveness, and protects the homeland. We are also proud that it helps create higher paying jobs in NeoCity.





# WORKING FOR THE PEOPLE

## DEMOCRATS DELIVER THE "GREAT EIGHT"

### #5

#### **H.R. 3967 — Honoring our PACT Act**

*Introduced by Rep. Mark Takano (CA-41) | Signed into law on August 10, 2022*

Democrats enacted the Honoring Our PACT Act to ensure that 3.5 million veterans who were exposed to toxic chemicals while serving our nation can access the health care they need.

### #6

#### **H.R. 5376 — Inflation Reduction Act**

*Introduced by Rep. John Yarmuth (KY-03) | Signed into law on August 16, 2022*

Democrats enacted the Inflation Reduction Act, which lowers health care costs for millions and combats climate change. This landmark legislation caps out-of-pocket costs for seniors to \$2,000 per year and seniors' insulin costs to \$35 per month. It also keeps Obamacare health insurance premiums affordable, saving 13 million Americans an average of \$800 per year. Additionally, the act invests a record \$369 billion to combat climate change by reducing the costs for renewable energy, electric vehicles and more. As a result, the U.S. will lower emissions by 40% by 2030.

### #7

#### **H.R. 8404 — Respect for Marriage Act**

*Introduced by Rep. Jerrold Nadler (NY-10) | Signed into law on December 13, 2022*

All married people who are building their lives together must know the government will respect and recognize their marriages. Congress passed the Respect for Marriage Act to provide crucial safeguards for same-sex and interracial couples.

### #8

#### **S. 4573 — Electoral Count Reform and Presidential Transition Improvement Act**

*Included in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 | Signed into law on December 27, 2022*

The Electoral Count Reform and Presidential Transition Improvement Act will safeguard the certification of presidential elections from the threats to democracy we saw on January 6, 2021.





# TAKING ON LEADERSHIP ROLES

## SERVING AS CHAIR OF THE FUTURE FORUM CAUCUS

During the 117th Congress, I was incredibly proud to serve as the chairman of the Future Forum Caucus — a generational caucus comprised of 47 members from a diverse cross-section of the Democratic Caucus who are 50 years and younger. Future Forum represents the next generation of leaders in Congress and includes members of all ideological and identify caucuses in the House, members of the Democratic leadership, and the first Gen Z Member of Congress.



**2022**

DEM CAUCUS ISSUES CONFERENCE  
YOUTH PANEL HOSTED



**10**

POLICY LETTERS  
SENT



**10**

MEMBER TOWN HALLS/EVENTS  
HOSTED



**6**

POLICY TASK FORCES  
CREATED



**2**

FUTURE FORUM  
YOUTH CONGRESSES HOSTED



**32**

PIECES OF LEGISLATION  
ENDORSED

### POLICY/APPROPRIATIONS VICTORIES:

- OFFICE OF YOUNG AMERICANS IN THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH
- PAID HOUSE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM EXPANDED TO COMMITTEE INTERNSHIPS
- THE BIDEN-HARRIS ADMINISTRATION'S STUDENT DEBT RELIEF



# TAKING ON LEADERSHIP ROLES

## SERVING AS VICE CHAIR OF POLICY OF THE CONGRESSIONAL HISPANIC CAUCUS

As the Vice Chair of Policy for the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, I was proud to see member bills including wildlife conservation, foreign affairs, public health, consumer safety, veterans' affairs, Hispanic representation, tribal issues, Puerto Rico issues, and more get signed into law. We also proudly hosted two policy roundtables on farmworker's rights and voting rights with members of Congressional leadership and Dolores Huerta. I was elected by my peers to serve for another term and look forward to working in the 118th Congress to advocate for our members' priorities.



18

CHC MEMBER STANDALONE BILLS  
SIGNED INTO LAW



73

CHC MEMBER STANDALONE BILLS  
PASSED THE HOUSE AND SENATE



2

POLICY ROUNDTABLES HOSTED



51

CHC REQUESTED EXECUTIVE  
ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE PRESIDENT







# DELIVERING FOR THE DISTRICT

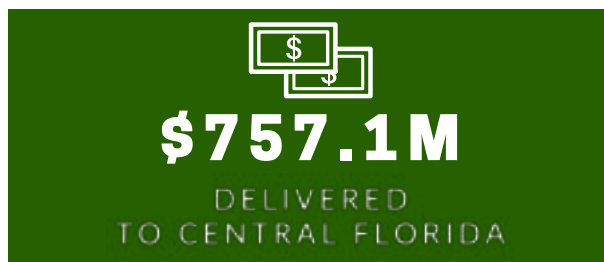
## FEDERAL GRANTS AND FUNDING

Our community has received federal grants in a wide variety of areas, including economic development, the environment, transportation, and housing. These funds — which are your taxpayer dollars going back into our community — have allowed us to invest in innovation and set ambitious goals for the future. Over the past two years, we have delivered over \$1 billion in pandemic relief, Hurricane Ian relief, and funds to create higher-paying jobs in Lake Nona and NeoCity. We have also taken steps to preserve the Kissimmee River and our beautiful Florida coral reefs, as well as strengthen Central Florida's agriculture sector, which serves as an essential part of our local economy. With funds awarded from the Department of Transportation, we also hope to mend connectivity issues in rural parts of the district by expanding SunRail and continuing our efforts to ease traffic congestion on I-4. Additionally, we are focused on allocating funds from the Department of Housing and Urban Development to ensure that our constituents have affordable housing options.

**2021**



**2022**



My staff and I are always happy to assist you with questions regarding federal grants. While we cannot help you apply directly to grants or private funding, we can provide you with the resources that would make the process easier.



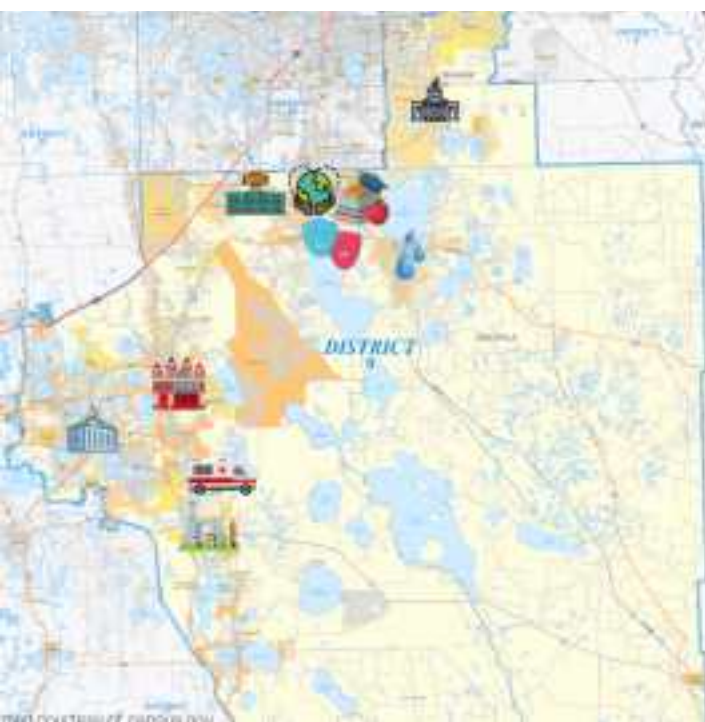
# DELIVERING FOR THE DISTRICT

## DELIVERING COMMUNITY PROJECTS

In the 117th Congress, we secured 23 community project funding requests to boost jobs, increase affordable housing, upgrade infrastructure, improve healthcare and education, protect our environment, and more. These projects were primarily bipartisan requests from our local governments to help improve the quality of life for all residents of Florida's Ninth Congressional District.

### PROJECTS APPROVED FOR FY22

- #1 – \$1,000,000 for the City of Orlando Lake Nona Community Center
- #2 – \$1,000,000 for HOPE motel conversion for affordable housing on 192 in Osceola County
- #3 – \$1,000,000 for the City of Kissimmee's Berlinsky House improvements
- #4 – \$500,000 for Poinciana Valencia College solar energy project
- #5 – \$450,000 for School District of Osceola NeoCity internships
- #6 – \$750,000 for a new City of Haines City fire station
- #7 – \$2,500,000 for the City of St. Cloud clean water supply project
- #8 – \$800,000 for City of Lake Wales downtown streetscape improvements
- #9 – \$850,000 for Polk County behavioral health and mobile crisis services
- #10 – \$500,000 for the City of Winter Haven Intermodal Logistics Economic Development Zone



-  \$750,000 for Haines City to construct a new fire station
-  \$2,500,000 for an alternative water supply (AWS) project in the City of St. Cloud
-  \$800,000 to improve infrastructure in the City of Lake Wales
-  \$850,000 for the Polk County Behavioral Outreach Mobile Crisis Team (MCRT)
-  \$500,000 for the City of Winter Haven Intermodal Logistics Development Zone
-  \$450,000 for NeoCity Academy in Osceola County
-  \$500,000 for Valencia College's environmental sustainability efforts
-  \$1,000,000 for the City of Orlando Southeast Government Center
-  \$1,000,000 for the Berlinsky House to become a cultural programming destination
-  \$1,000,000 for the Hope Apartments-Motel Conversion to create affordable housing

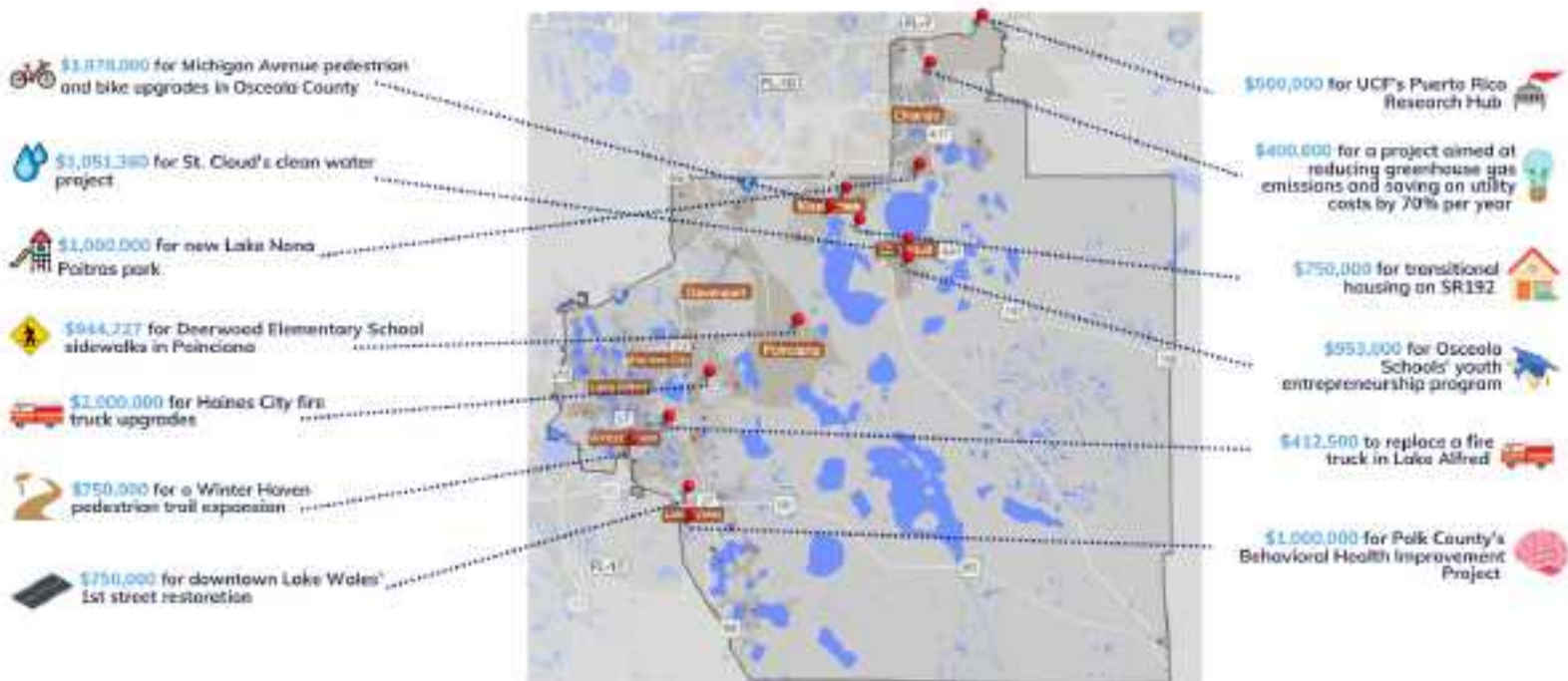


# DELIVERING FOR THE DISTRICT

## DELIVERING COMMUNITY PROJECTS

### PROJECTS APPROVED FOR FY23

- #1 – \$1,978,000 for Osceola County/ City of Kissimmee Michigan Avenue safety improvements
- #2 – \$1,051,360 for City of St. Cloud Hopkins Park and River Road water system upgrades
- #3 – \$1,000,000 for the City of Orlando Lake Nona Poitras Park
- #4 – \$1,000,000 for Polk County behavioral health and mobile crisis services
- #5 – \$953,000 for the School District of Osceola County youth entrepreneurship program
- #6 – \$944,227 for Osceola County/ Poinciana Deerwood Elementary School sidewalk improvements
- #7 – \$750,000 for HOPE affordable housing in SR 192 corridor in Osceola County
- #8 – \$400,000 for Orange County Utilities floating solar project
- #9 – \$500,000 for the University of Central Florida Puerto Rico research hub
- #10 – \$2,000,000 for City of Haines City Fire Department equipment
- #11 – \$750,000 for City of Lake Wales downtown streetscape improvements
- #12 – \$412,500 for City of Lake Alfred Fire Department equipment
- #13 – \$750,000 for City of Winter Haven Southwest Lake Howard pedestrian enhancements







# DELIVERING FOR THE DISTRICT

## PROTECTING CENTRAL FLORIDA WATER

We were proud to include \$60 million for Central Florida water projects in the Fiscal Year 2023 National Defense Authorization Act — recently passed by the Senate and sent to President Joe Biden for his signature. These were originally included in the Water Resources Development Act and later included into the NDAA.

- **Orange County:** \$50 million for water and wastewater infrastructure, including water reclamation and water supply
- **Polk County:** \$10 million for wastewater infrastructure, including stormwater management
- **Osceola County:** Initial authorization for ecosystem restoration projects in Lake Tohopekaliga/Kissimmee Lakefront, Lake Runnymede, and Shingle Creek totaling nearly \$164 million. We will begin seeking funding for this in the next budget.





# SERVING OUR COMMUNITY

## CONSTITUENT CASEWORK AND CORRESPONDENCE

One of the most important things our office is tasked with is constituent casework. Whether it is helping with the Internal Revenue Service, the Social Security Administration, or the Department of Veterans Affairs, we are here to serve you and advocate on your behalf. Since the beginning of the 117th Congress, my amazing casework staff has successfully closed 3,218 constituent cases. Additionally, we are committed to listening to your opinions and delivering a response as quickly as possible. This session, our correspondence team has sent over 60,000 letters to constituents. We hope to continue hearing from you and doing everything in our power to help.

**60,000+**LETTERS SENT  
TO CONSTITUENTS**3,218**CONSTITUENT CASES  
COMPLETED

## WORKING FOR OUR VETERANS

Our office is here to help those who served. In the 117th Congress, we completed over 400 cases for veterans and recovered nearly \$176,000 in rightfully-earned funds. We will never stop advocating for our heroes.

**418**

VETERAN CASES COMPLETED

**\$175,735**FUNDS RECOVERED FOR  
VETERANS



# CONNECTING WITH YOU

## TOWN HALLS AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

As your representative, I am committed to being present in our community and having full transparency and open communication regarding our efforts in Washington, D.C. Throughout the past two years, our team hosted important conversations with our community to address issues and find solutions that encompass all points of view. At our town halls and roundtables, we have had the opportunity to hear from local leaders and constituents about the things we can improve in our district and how we can come together to achieve meaningful change. Receiving feedback about our work on the federal level has also helped us refine our legislative agenda to reflect the needs of our district.

**26**

TOWN HALLS AND  
ROUNDTABLES HOSTED

**800+**

COMMUNITY EVENTS  
ATTENDED

During the 117th Congress, Team Soto visited Orange, Osceola, and Polk Counties and hosted 26 town halls and roundtables. We also attended over 800 events in our community.





**DARREN  
SOTO**

Representing Florida's 9th District



## SIGN UP FOR MY NEWSLETTER

**[soto.house.gov/contact/newsletter](https://soto.house.gov/contact/newsletter)**

## FOLLOW ME ON SOCIAL MEDIA



**@RepDarrenSoto**



**@RepDarrenSoto**



**@RepDarrenSoto**

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**\*NEW ORLANDO OFFICE COMING SOON\***

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE

**DARRENSOTO**

REPRESENTING FLORIDA'S 9TH DISTRICT

