

## Dear Fellow Floridians:

The financial lessons and skills we teach our kids develop the foundation that will help determine their success. It's incredibly important to connect with Florida's youths where they spend the most time: on mobile devices.

This week, my office released the Finance Your Future app, a financial literacy app for middle and high school students. Finance Your Future is a free, interactive course designed to educate Florida's students on core money management skills. It's a remarkable tool to educate our children and give them a strong foundation to create a better financial future for themselves and their family.



The free app is available for download now on both the <u>iTunes App Store</u> and <u>Google Play Store</u>.

Sincerely,



**Stay Connected** 





# **News of Interest**

Palm Beach Post: Florida considers ending fee to freeze credit as Equifax leads gripes

The Ledger: Patronis: Attorney fee limits 'good debate to have'

Tampa Bay Business Journal: Florida's bet on technology, private equity pays off for the state

Palm Beach Post: Florida Supreme Court to air hearings on Facebook Live

Florida Politics: Florida voters want to reform AOB system, Chamber poll finds

# CFO Jimmy Patronis Appoints Robert Doyle to the Treasury Investment Committee

On Tuesday, Chief Financial Officer Jimmy Patronis announced the appointment of Robert Doyle to the Treasury Investment Committee.

Doyle, of St. Petersburg, is the president and CIO of Doyle Wealth Management and he brings more than 22 years of wealth management and financial planning expertise to the Treasury Investment Committee. Doyle earned his bachelor's and master's degree in accounting from the University of West Florida, is licensed in Florida as a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and has received his Personal Financial Specialist designation from the American Institute of CPAs. He has remained involved in his community, serving as a past chairman and treasurer for the Science Center of Pinellas County and is a member of St. Petersburg's Chamber of Commerce, Downtown Partnership, and Investment Oversight Committee. He is also a member of the Financial Analyst Society of Tampa Bay.

Doyle is reappointed to the Treasury Investment Committee for a 4-year term after serving a 2-year term, which ended December 31, 2017.

# Operation S.A.F.E., Be Scam Smart Workshops

Florida Chief Financial Officer Jimmy Patronis invites you to participate in <u>Operation S.A.F.E., Be Scam Smart</u>, a free workshop for seniors, their families, and caregivers.

The Florida Department of Financial Services launched Operation S.A.F.E. (Stop Adult Financial Exploitation) as part of CFO Patronis' **On Guard for Seniors** initiative. Be Scam Smart workshops help inform, empower, and protect Florida's seniors from financial scams and fraud. If you want to make sure your savings are protected,



register for this workshop and get a better understanding of how scam artists and scams work.

#### Be Scam Smart by learning more about:

- How to Spot Fraudulent Behavior Are you at risk?
- Common Scams that Target Seniors Is this too good to be true?
- How to Fight Identity Theft Protect, Prevent, Police

Feedback from seniors who attended a Be Scam Smart workshop:

Find out more about us in the <u>About Us</u> section or <u>Register</u> for an upcoming event, including the following workshops:

#### Thursday, January 25 - Vero Beach

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. United Way of Indian River County 1836 14th Avenue, Vero Beach, FL 32960 Register | Directions | Flyer

If you would like to **request a workshop** in your area, let us know.

### Florida Economic Briefs

#### Florida's Unemployment Rate Up Slightly for the Month but Down the Past Year

In December 2017, Florida's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 3.7 percent, up 0.1 percent from November 2017, but down 1.2 percent from one year ago. Since December 2010, Florida businesses have created almost 1.5 million jobs, including nearly 205,000 in 2017.

Source: Florida Department of Economic Opportunity and Governor's Office

#### **Record Out-of-State Visitor Spending**

<sup>&</sup>quot;Really learned a lot of valuable information." - Jacksonville

<sup>&</sup>quot;This was a very valuable topic of interest in our present world." - Arcadia

<sup>&</sup>quot;I live alone and learned a lot of helpful information that I can share with other seniors." - Zephyrhills

<sup>&</sup>quot;As a result of this presentation I will be more aware of what is going on around me." - Pensacola

<sup>&</sup>quot;The info was very good and eyes opened more than ever." - Ormond Beach

In 2016, out-of-state visitor spending in Florida set a record of \$112 billion, an increase of 2.7 percent over 2015. In addition, visitors generated \$88 billion, or roughly 10 percent, of Florida's total Gross Domestic Product (GDP), up 4.2 percent over 2015.

Source: Visit Florida

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