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

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

Florida News & Information Resources*
_Tampa Tribune_ (Tampa Bay Online)
http://www.tampatrib.com/
(T 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.foxnews.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://www.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

State and Local Government on the Net

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/
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

http://thomas.loc.gov

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