

CONGRESSMAN DARREN SOTO

REPRESENTING FLORIDA'S 9TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT



Dear friends and neighbors,

Thanks to the **American Rescue Plan**, five million Floridians have been vaccinated! To keep the momentum going, **ALL adults and 16 and 17 year-olds in Florida will be eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine beginning on April 5th.** There's still a long road ahead, but the end of the pandemic is within our reach. Our community is strong and resilient and I know that if each of us does our part to get vaccinated, we can get through this together.

Today, I hosted a **town hall** to answer all of your questions on how the American Rescue Plan helps our Central Florida community. The nearly \$500 million in direct aid for Orange, Osceola and Polk Counties brings us much-needed resources to ramp up vaccinations, safely reopen schools, assist our small businesses and move our community forward.



For more information on the American Rescue Plan, visit my website [here](#).

Watch our American Rescue Plan Town Hall

In the District

Honoring our Vietnam War Veterans



Today, I was honored to pay tribute to Central Florida's Vietnam War veterans in a **50th Commemoration Pin** ceremony hosted by the **Orlando VA Healthcare System**. As we lead up to National Vietnam War Veterans Day on March 29, let us all come together to thank these heroes for their extraordinary sacrifices in service to our nation.

Remembering a Fallen Hero



This week, Team Soto said goodbye to fallen **Orlando Police Department Officer Kevin Valencia**, who died earlier this month from injuries sustained while responding to a domestic violence call in 2018. Our sincerest condolences to his family and his OPD brothers and sisters.

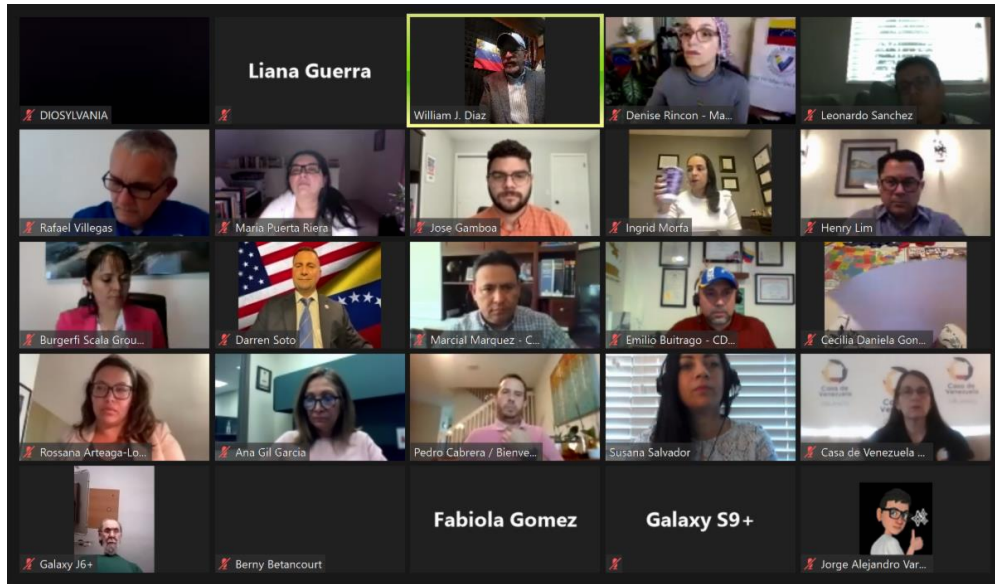
Standing Against Asian Hate with AAPI Youth



The rise in hate crimes and violence against the AAPI community demands more than just thoughts and prayers. This week, I joined **Congresswoman Sara Jacobs**, **Congresswoman Grace Meng** and **Future Forum Members** in an inspiring conversation on how we can work together to **stand with AAPI youth and stop Asian hate**.

[Watch our full conversation here](#)

Talking to Casa Venezuela Orlando about Venezuela TPS



I was pleased to host a town hall with **Casa de Venezuela Orlando** to speak about TPS for Venezuelans and answer specific questions regarding the process. We will continue speaking out to ensure that everyone who is eligible can apply!

In Washington, D.C.

Holding Tech CEOs Accountable



Before the Capitol insurrection, domestic terrorists plotted on Google, Facebook and Twitter. This week, I asked their CEOs to outline their plans for **accountability** and **transparency** to ensure that these types of attacks can be prevented in the future. I also asked Facebook CEO, Mark Zuckerberg, if he would commit to improving Spanish-language moderation systems.

Moving Central Florida's Infrastructure Forward



By modernizing our infrastructure, we can integrate into clean energy, protect safe drinking water, expand internet access and upgrade our healthcare system. It's time to **Build Back Better** and move Central Florida forward with the **LIFT America Act!**

Congressional Art Competition



**HOSTED BY
CONGRESSMAN DARREN SOTO**

An Artistic Discovery

Each spring, a nation-wide high school arts competition is sponsored by the Members of the U.S. House of Representatives. The *Artistic Discovery Contest* is an opportunity to recognize and encourage the artistic talent in the nation, as well as in our Congressional District.

The *Artistic Discovery Contest* is open to all high school students. The winning artwork of our district's competition will be displayed for one year in the U.S. Capitol, along with winners from participating districts around the country. The winning artwork is also featured on House.gov's Congressional Art Competition page. 2nd place winner will be displayed in Kissimmee Office.

For more information, visit:

soto.house.gov/services/art-competition



Guidelines:

Artwork entered may be up to 26"x16" and 4" deep, and not weigh more than 15 pounds. The artwork must represent District 9 and Florida. The winning piece must arrive framed and must still measure no larger than the above maximum dimensions. Each artwork must be original in concept, design, and execution and may not violate U.S. copyright.

Accepted Means include:

Paintings:
oil, acrylics, watercolor, etc.

Drawings:
colored pencil, pencil, ink, marker, pastels, charcoal.

Collages:
must be two dimensional.

Prints:
lithographs, silkscreen, block prints.

Mixed Media:
use of more than two mediums such as pencil, ink, watercolor, etc.

**Computer-generated art
Photographs.**

**Submission Deadline:
APRIL 23, 2021**

CONGRESSMAN DARREN SOTO | WWW.SOTO.HOUSE.GOV | [@REPDARRENSOTO](https://twitter.com/REPDARRENSOTO)

COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution in the District

Floridians who are eligible can pre-register for a vaccine appointment NOW. After registration, individuals will be notified when appointments become available in their area.

The state is frequently updating vaccine eligibility qualifications, so it is best to [visit this website](#) to monitor changes in criteria. Currently, eligible residents include **long-term care facility residents and staff, persons 50 years of age and older, persons deemed medically vulnerable by a physician, health care personnel with direct patient contact, ALL K-12 educators and child care workers, and sworn law enforcement officers and firefighters 50 years of age and older.**

The following people are currently eligible to receive a vaccine:



[Pre-register here](#)

If you live in **Polk** and **Orange Counties**, please continue to use their websites. To register in Polk County, click [here](#). To register in Orange County, click [here](#).

COVID-19 Vaccines by County

As COVID-19 infections rise in Central Florida, we are working with local officials to provide up-to-date information on vaccinations. For more information on your county's distribution plans, please visit the websites linked below.

[Orange County](#)

[Osceola County](#)

[Polk County](#)

COVID-19 Vaccine Hotlines

Orange County

Scheduling: 866-201-3604
TTY: 833-476-1024

Polk County

Scheduling: 866-201-7132
TTY: 833-476-1033

Osceola County

Scheduling: 866-201-6507

TTY: 833-476-1516

Florida has many sites that are providing COVID-19 vaccines to eligible persons. Please be aware that some locations are only serving very specific populations. Appointments may be required and vaccine availability will vary from day to day and week to week, as we work to provide vaccines to the most vulnerable first.

[Click here for a full list of vaccine sites in Florida](#)

[Click here for a vaccine finder](#)

Federal Retail Pharmacy Program for COVID-19 Vaccinations and Community Vaccination Sites

Many local pharmacies and community sites are offering the COVID-19 vaccine to **eligible residents**. As we receive more information, we will update our list to ensure that everyone has access to these vaccination opportunities. At the moment, vaccinations are available at:

Publix

- ALL Publix locations will be offering the COVID-19 vaccine
- Scheduling opens on **Monday at 7 a.m. ET**.
- To register, please click [here](#)

CVS

- To register, please click [here](#)

Walmart

- Supercenter 1086, located at 4400 13th Street, Saint Cloud, FL 34769
- Supercenter 817, located at 4444 W Vine St, Kissimmee, FL 34746
- Neighborhood Market 4159, located at 2850 E Osceola Parkway, Kissimmee, FL 34743
- To register, please click [here](#)

Sam's Club

- To determine eligibility and register, please click [here](#)

Winn-Dixie

- To register, please click [here](#)

FEMA Site - Valencia Community College in Orlando

- Open **7 days a week**, from **7 a.m. - 7 p.m.**
- No appointment necessary

FEMA Site - Orange County Library South Trail Branch

- Located at 4600 Orange Blossom Trail, Orlando, FL 32839
- Walk-up only
- **9 a.m. - 7 p.m.** (or until supply allotments are reached), **seven days a week.**

Orange County Convention Center

- Appointments open on **Monday** at **9 a.m.**
- Open to anyone **40 years of age or older**
- To register, please click [here](#).

FDOH Orange County - Night Lite Pediatrics Urgent Care

- Located at 1267 W Osceola Pkwy, Kissimmee, FL 34741
- Vaccinations be offered by appointment only **Monday - Friday** from **9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**
- Individuals can schedule an appointment [here](#) or by calling **407-569-0220**

Centro Cristiano Dios De Pactos Church

- Located at 1130 Simmons Road, Kissimmee, FL 34744
- Vaccinations provided by appointment only
- Individuals can pre-register [here](#)

Chambers Park Community Center in Osceola County

- Located at 2380 Smith Street, Kissimmee, FL 34744
- Vaccines offered on a first-come, first-served basis
- Opens at **9 a.m.** and closes at **2 p.m.** or when vaccines run out

65th Infantry Veterans Park

- Site will run **seven days a week** from **9 a.m.** to **7 p.m.** – or until the day's doses are depleted
- The site is expected to remain open through the **end of May**

Orlando VA Healthcare System at Lake Nona*

- Located at 13800 Veterans Way, Orlando, FL 32827
- Appointments and walk-ins available
- Opens at **7:30 a.m.** and closes at **4 p.m.**

Orlando VA Healthcare System at Lake Baldwin*

- Located at 5201 Raymond Street, Orlando, FL 32803
- Appointments offered from **8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.** and walk-ins until **1 p.m.**

*To schedule an appointment, call **(407)631-0499, Monday - Friday** from **7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

*Open to all Veterans who receive care at VA **regardless of age.**

*Veterans must be enrolled and eligible for VA health care benefits. Veterans must be able to return to the clinic they received their first shot at for a second dose.

Rental Assistance for Central Floridians

The programs below have been established to help residents in **Polk, Orange and Osceola Counties** with rental and housing costs.

[Orange County Emergency Rental Assistance Program](#)

- For additional information and to apply, please click [here](#).

[Osceola County Emergency Rental Assistance/Mortgage Foreclosure Prevention](#)

- To access the screening form, please click [here](#).

[Polk County Eviction Prevention Program](#)

- To apply, please click [here](#).

Food Drive and Face Mask Distribution Event



FOOD DRIVE & FACE MASK DISTRIBUTION!

1255 La Quinta Dr #212,
Orlando, FL 32809

Saturday
March 27

7:00AM

The graphic features a background image of a person in a blue shirt and cap loading items into the back of a car. The text is overlaid in yellow and white on a dark background.

“We’ve Opened Safely” Program

Osceola County is working to promote safety and consumer confidence as businesses start to re-open in our district. The county is also allocating funding towards an **emergency grant program** for locally owned and independently operated small businesses that have been impacted by the pandemic. Click [here](#) for more information.



FEMA COVID-19 Funeral Cost Reimbursement



FEMA

Under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 and the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will provide financial assistance for COVID-19-related funeral expenses incurred after January 20, 2020. For further information, please click [here](#). We will provide an update once a toll-free phone number is

developed.

Special Open Enrollment

On January 28, in light of the twin health and economic crises caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, **President Joe Biden** issued an executive order creating a **Special Enrollment Period** from **February 15** until **August 15**. Millions of Americans have lost their jobs and their job-based health coverage due to the pandemic. During these challenging times, having health coverage is more important than ever. Thanks to President Biden, there is now a Special Enrollment Period to give you the opportunity to enroll in coverage for the remainder of 2021.



Learn more at [HealthCare.gov](https://www.healthcare.gov).

Tax Day Extension

TAX DAY HAS BEEN
EXTENDED TO
MAY 17, 2021

The Internal Revenue Service has announced that Tax Day will be moved to **May 17, 2021**. For more information, please click [here](#).

I am proud to be your representative and look forward to our continued efforts to improve our district! Please do not hesitate to call my office with any questions or concerns.

In Community,



Congressman Darren Soto
Representative for Florida's 9th Congressional District



Contact Me

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Phone: (407) 452-1171

Haines City

620 E Main Street
Haines City, FL 33844

Lake Wales
201 West Central Avenue
Lake Wales, FL 33853

Veteran's Affairs Office
Lake Nona VA Medical Center
13800 Veterans Way
Across the Patriot's Brew
Orlando, FL 32827

Winter Haven
451 3rd St. NW
Winter Haven, FL 33881

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