

**Hon. Franklin Sands**  
**Democratic Leader**  
**Florida House of Representatives District 98**

**Franklin Sands** is the Florida House Democratic Leader and a representative of State House District 98 in Broward County.

Sands, 69, is a native of Brooklyn, New York and attended Brooklyn College, studying the culinary arts. After college, Sands bought a mail-order jewelry company, which he operated successfully. Upon selling the company, he invested in a minor league basketball franchise as well as in hotels and a casino before moving to Florida with his family in 1982.

Sands, currently a businessman, lives in Weston, Florida. He was elected to the Florida House of Representatives in 2004 to represent District 98 (encompassing parts of Broward County (portions of the cities of Sunrise, Plantation, and Weston) and subsequently reelected in 2006 and 2008. Sands served as the (minority) Democratic Whip from 2004 to 2006 and now serves as the Democratic Leader until 2010.

Sands is a prominent advocate for biomedical research, especially embryonic stem cell research. He serves on the Broward County Children's Services Board; the Broward County Coordinating Board for Transportation Disadvantaged Services; the Broward County School Board's Facilities Task Force; and the City of Weston's Charter Review Board.

Sands is Jewish and is married to Leslie Sands. The couple has eight children -- Rob, Roger, Stephanie, David, Dana, Charlie, Alexander, and Jacqueline.